They come in all colours, shapes and sizes, and nothing makes Heaven happier than new believers! Messenger has been flooded with baptismal reports during the past few weeks, so we decided to run them together as a feature in this issue, giving our readers good reason to rejoice at what God has done – with your help!

Some churches have reported large baptisms, others just one or two, but in each case there was a decision for God – a courageous commitment made, probably under difficult circumstances or in the face of intensely negative peer pressure.

As you look at these brave new members, take time to read their names and pray for them. They are not just statistics – they are our ‘new-born’ brothers and sisters in Christ. If they are from your church, why not ‘adopt’ one of them discreetly as your special responsibility. Then you can ensure that they are encouraged, nurtured and retained for eternity!

Baptism and church-plant in Manchester!

Twelve souls were baptized in Manchester following a two-week evangelistic campaign – in total, twenty-three gave their lives to Jesus! The campaign was led by the London Ghana Church at the request of a group headed by Pastor Isaac Amoateng and supervised by Pastor Ian Sweeney.

The renowned Adventist evangelist, Pastor Andrews Lawrence Ewoo, spoke for fourteen nights on the theme, ‘New Life In Christ’. It was certainly a new life for the church-plant that came at the end of the campaign – the Manchester Piccadilly Seventh-day Adventist group.

Candidate names: Florence Aboagye, Emmanuel Amissah, David Brains, Eunice Odua, Jane Addy, Margaret Osei, Francis Agyei, Jacqueline Mclntosh, Jacqueline Dempster, Paula Bryant, Audrey Hopson, Evelyn Manka.

Seven baptised in Lea Valley campaign

At the end of a Spirit-filled three-week evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor Lewis Quaye of Lea Valley (Ghana) Church, seven souls were baptised at the John Loughborough School on Saturday 6 August.

Senior Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boaheng, who conducted the baptismal service, welcomed the members into the fellowship of the church.

To God be the glory!

Candidate names: Mark Oppong Agbel, Osei Acheampong, Peter Jackson Adu, Petrus.
The follow-up examination after six months indicated a significant improvement in the quality-of-life scores in the group which had received training in breathing exercises, compared to the group which had just followed traditional asthma education.

Additionally, the levels of anxiety and depression were also decreased among those who had received respiratory training.

The study, published in the journal Thorax (2008), concluded that, while the research did not demonstrate a decreased need for asthma medication, breathing training could benefit patients whose asthma impairs their quality of life.

So why is correct breathing so important? Deep breathing expands the diaphragm, increasing the flow of air into the lungs and the uptake of oxygen by our cells. Deep breathing is most beneficial when done in natural environments, with clean, open-air spaces, where the air is less polluted. Individuals with asthma, lung disorders and heart disease are more at risk of an adverse reaction from poor air quality. They can experience a range of symptoms, including respiratory discomfort, breathing difficulties and chest tightness.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality and Health Fact Sheet No. 311 (September 2011) highlighted the following facts:

- Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health. By reducing air pollution levels, we can help individuals reduce the global burden of disease from respiratory infections, heart disease, and lung cancer.
- The lower levels of air pollution in a city, the better the respiratory and cardiovascular health of the population will be.
- Indoor air pollution is estimated to cause approximately two million premature deaths annually, mostly in developing countries.
- Outdoor pollution has been estimated to be cause 3.3 million deaths worldwide per year.
- The WHO has set guidelines for reducing air-quality-related deaths. (View these by typing WHO Air Quality Guidelines 2010 into Google.)

In the next issue we will conclude this segment on air with tips for improving air quality.

Good health!
nurture
In the hands of God
The recession and you

by David Marshall, Associate Editor (retired)

Is there any place about which you are patriotic? Say, a country or a town?

Until recently I’ve not been the patriotic type. However, the last time I visited the Netherlands on an overseas trip, I took my usual turning off the A1 and saw Grantham down there in the Wiltshire towered over by ‘the finest steeple in England’, unequalled ‘ever since Somersett’ and I realised that, after thirty-three years’ residence, I’m mightily fond of this little town.

Patriotic? Substitute Grantham and Grantham becomes the focus of your patriotic impulses, then. Let’s call it Hometown.

Hometown—say, for a few years—and you return to Hometown. It has been devastated, as it was one of those August riots that did for the shopping centres of a number of Midlands towns. The windows have been smashed. Homes have been torched. Church rooks and civic buildings... Now they had their lead stripped away, have fallen in. Every sign of life has been stolen. Every building has been looted, including the church. The spire has been toppled, and in place of the stained-glass windows there are ugly black holes.

There is no sign of a single human being in the ruined and rubbled-over township. The only sign of life is feral cats and dogs. If that had happened to the place in which all your instincts of belonging had been invested, how would you feel? That’s just how the people of Jerusalem felt when they returned after the Exile. In their absence they had fondly thought of it as ‘Zion’ and themselves as ‘the people of Zion’. That notion had kept them going.

On their return it was tough to locate streets, let alone individual homes. There was no sign even of the most imposing buildings. There was Temple Mount, but no sign of the Temple.

Summed up in a few words, their feelings were: ‘God has abandoned us. He has forgotten us ever existed.’

After that there might have been a time of quiet while God absorbed their anger. When it was over, God’s reply was impressive. ‘Can a mother forget her baby and have no compassion on the child she has borne? She may forget you! See, I have engraven you on the palms of my hands’.

One of the Lord’s bedroom messages! Yes? In the best possible sense: strong language! That strong language remains true even when our lives have been reduced to heaps of rubble. When we blame God for everything and, in our anger, think he has forgotten us — those are the words he wants us to hear.

God is love. Mother-love is earthly love at its strongest and purest. But God’s love for his people is infinitely stronger because infinitely purer. God’s attachment to his people is bonded with a strength beyond the finest of mothers.

Can a mother forget her child? If that had happened to the human being in the ruined and rubbled-over township. The only sign of life is feral cats and dogs.

The most important thing to remember is not that you know God. It’s that God knows you. Your name is cut into his hands, the very hands in which he holds you. You are never out of his mind. His attention doesn’t wander and his care never falters.

‘God has not promised skies always blue, Flower-stream pathways, all our lives through; God has not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God has promised strength for the day, Rest for the labour, light for the way. Grace for the trials, help from above, Unfailing sympathy, undying love.’

(These two verses are from the work of Annie Johnson Flint.)

The editor invited Rudy Dingjan, Church Growth director of the Netherlands Union, to continue our series on membership retention by sharing his personal experience regarding postmodernism and worship.

D

espite the fact that I am a ‘baby’ boomer from 1952, my three children — born in 1976, 1979 and 1982 — have made me an ‘expert’ on postmodernism! To keep my expertise in shape, I only need to stay close to my child who has just graduated from high school.

But, as a Curitiba (on left) sings again...

When Remo (1978) started attending school, he started singing in church.

He had friends there, and he never really got God out of his system. But he stopped singing completely. Why? I think it would rise with the congregation, and look at the little red hymnal from a distance, but no sound would leave his lips. At this moment, however, he is the worship leader of the Uniek church-plant in Utrecht, Netherlands, and sings his heart out. How come?

Especially towards the end of the credit crunch, the young people were floundering. ‘I realised that, after thirty-three years’ residence, I’m mightily fond of this little town.

We know God because he first knew us, and because he continues to know us.

And who do our young people identify with? With their parents and church-plant leaders.

The most important thing to remember is not that you know God. It’s that God knows you. Your name is cut into his hands, the very hands in which he holds you.

I am happy we never pressed him to sing anymore. He is now the worship leader in the church he first knew and loved.

He is now the worship leader at the church he first knew and loved.

To them, worship can never be a performance, a going-through-the-motions, or the singing of words without meaning and experiencing them.

Content counts

On when Facebook I asked for reactions. Erik wrote to me: ‘If you also practise what you preach, I will appear. . .’ It’s not just singing some songs; the content of the songs counts.

To postmoderns, worship must relate to daily life. The acid test for worship is whether it results in concrete actions and attitudes.

I often see that churches and church-plants that accommodate postmodern people will support social work, not only with their money, but by actually going to help out.

Directness

Authenticity calls for directness. No beating about the bush. Lofty intangible wording and extensive formulas will not be part of their prayers, nor of their worship lyrics.

I remember a young woman from an unchurched background in Copenhagen’s café church, who would participate in the conversational prayers of her small group with expressions like: ‘Yes Lord, you are my Number One.’

The lyrics of their worship music will have sentences like: ‘I would be like you, O my King.’ But they will also include complete language, passionately expressing adoration, thanksgiving and love to God. Whereas some traditional hymns contain almost complete lectures or Bible studies, you will not meet these in contemporary worship songs.

To be able to match their ‘insides’ and ‘outsides’, postmoderns will look for the music styles in which they can most intensely experience what they sing. The majority find this in contemporary music styles. But others might use Gregorian chants, for example, because that is their language of music.

‘Having a match between your ‘inside’ and your ‘outside’ affects the way you worship. Your body language needs to express what is in your songs. Dancing, clapping or raising your hands, shouting, jumping, and protrasting yourself— but also sitting down and being silent, are seen as quite appropriate, as long as these actions really express what you experience inside. This means that you cannot exert pressure to make everyone act in the same way. Respect for another one’s experience is of utmost importance within the postmodern context.

Rules of engagement

Whether we like it or not, these are the accepted rules of engagement postmoderns work with. And, as far as I am concerned, they are quite biblical! To Jesus there was no greater sin than hypocrisy. Integrity and honesty are values the Bible upholds. Only the 144,000 can sing the Song of the Lamb, because only they have gone through their unique experience.

So how can we make sure that the non-churched and our young adults can have a genuine encounter with God in our Adventist worship services? Give them room, respect their experience and invite them to have input in the worship. They do not want their fathers to have become their faith, relationship to God and experience. Try this and you might be surprised — you may be rejuvenated too!
And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.’

Matthew 28:18-20, NKJV.

Norwich baptises four

On Sabbath, 10 September, an excited and joyous Norwich church witnessed Pastor Bertie de Nysschen baptise Musah Nkomo, Andrea Chua, Christel Mohan and Christoff Mohan: four new, young, precious members!

Brighton and Hove and Worthing baptisms

The Brighton and Hove church and the Worthing church combined their worship on Sabbath 23 July when three young men were baptised: Bunnet Gupo, Humphrey Katotoka and Dr Trevor Askwith. Bunnet had been a regular attendee at church, but made his decision after studies with Pastor Leslie Hill. Humphrey Katotoka came from Zambia to study at Sussex University. Regular attendance at the Brighton and Hove church, and studies with Pastor Hill, led to his baptism. Dr Trevor Askwith had been an atheist, but during his doctoral research at Birmingham University he contacted Pastor Milan Gugleta to learn more about the faith of a fellow student. They met weekly in a pub to study the Bible, and he gained a conviction of Jesus’ deep love for him. The student who sparked his curiosity in the Bible, Louise Hill, became his wife.

Candidate names:

Thames brings new life

Adriana Stancu’s dream to be ‘baptised in a river’ came true recently at a service in the River Thames. The officiating minister was Vlado Godina, assisted by first elder, Nigel Nicholls, and well-supported by the Oxford congregation. Adriana is from Romania, but has found a warm new family at Oxford.

Twenty-four baptised in London campaign!

Dr Alanzo Smith conducted meetings on ‘Building Stronger Families and Relationships’ at the London Ghana church from 20 August to 3 September. The enthusiastic audience poured into the church night after night. Melody Obeng, a visitor who made a last-minute decision to be baptised, said, “I did not plan to get baptised any time soon. But when I heard the story about the 16-year-old girl who died two weeks after refusing to give her life to Jesus, I asked myself: What am I waiting for? After all, tomorrow is never guaranteed.”

Candidate names:
Anika Austin, Althea Bailey, Angelina Barclay, Daedria Duncan, Arnold Champo, Ashante Samuels, Josette Peterson, Rebeccah Hawthorn, Delroy Lindsay, Natahsha Lindsay, Wanda Halley, Beverley McKenzie, Nokuthula Moyo.

Leeds/Bradford harvest of twenty-five!


Palmers Green baptisms

Pastor Victor Hubert ran a unique series of meetings in Palmers Green called ‘The Journey’, during which he experimented with a post-modern approach to evangelism. He was ably assisted by the church pastor, Musunza Holmes, who baptised Yvonnie Robinson-Solom and Tamara Runes, with more to come. One person who came directly from the community also requested baptism.

Candidate names:

Thirteen Holloway Church baptisms

The ‘Change is Coming’ evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Kirk Thomas and singer, Anthony Whigham (USA), at Holloway Church, climaxed in the baptism of thirteen people on 20 August. Here the candidates pose with the evangelistic team. Candidate names:
Anika Austin, Althea Bailey, Angelina Barclay, Daedria Duncan, Arnold Champo, Ashante Samuels, Josette Peterson, Rebeccah Hawthorn, Delroy Lindsay, Natahsha Lindsay, Wanda Halley, Beverley McKenzie, Nokuthula Moyo.
Hello Christian Stars!

Faithfulness, as one of the fruits of the Spirit, can be a little tricky to understand. Being faithful means keeping your promises, being a loyal friend (even when it is hard to be loyal!), being trustworthy and doing the things you said you would do.

Second, he stayed faithful to God’s Word by only eating the foods God had told him were good for him. It must have taken great courage to turn down the king’s fancy food; to stand out and be different to the rest of the people.

Third, Daniel stayed faithful to his responsibilities. He was wise, hard-working and trustworthy. In fact, he was so faithful that at least two kings asked him to look after their kingdoms.

Daniel’s story reminds us that we should:

Firstly, be known for our faithfulness to God.

Secondly, be known for our faithfulness to God’s Word.

Thirdly, be known for our faithfulness to our responsibilities.

Use the clues to help you complete the crossword. The important words in the crossword can be found in Daniel 6:4. The text tells us what Daniel’s enemies said about his faithfulness.

Across
1. People who work against you
2. Mistakes, wrong doing
3. Law
4. A Hebrew boy who remained faithful, even when in captivity in Babylonia
5. Trust, have confident belief in the the truth
6. To report dissatisfaction; reason to moan

Down
1. People who work against you
2. Mistakes, wrong doing
4. A Hebrew boy who remained faithful, even when in captivity in Babylonia
5. Trust, have confident belief in the the truth

Even Daniel’s enemies could not find any fault in Daniel. Could our enemies say the same about us?

Faithful heroes in the Bible: See if you can match the right hero with the right clue.

Daniel
Abraham
I was a faithful disciple of Jesus. He asked me to take care of his mother after his death.

Moses
I was faithful to God, even after I became a queen.

John
I stayed faithful to God and would not even let a giant frighten me.

Abel
I would rather be eaten by lions than be unfaithful to God.

Mary
My brother killed me in anger because I offered a faithful sacrifice to God.

David
I was faithful to Jesus after he told me I would never be thirsty if I drank the water he gave me.

Esther
I travelled to an unknown destination when God told me to leave Ur.

Ruth
I was faithful to my promise to lead my people to the Promised Land.

Faithfulness is the longest name of a fruit of the Spirit. See how many words you can make out of its twelve letters. Just as there are lots of letters that make up this word, there are lots of ways you can show faithfulness. When you read the story of Ruth in the Old Testament you will find many ways to be a faithful friend. Ruth chose to believe in God, so he helped her look after the lonely widow, Naomi. When you help to look after a lonely person, remember to pray for the gift of faithfulness.

Faithfulness Wordbuilder:

Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars Children’s pages – or from their parents – is welcome. The address is children@adventist.org.uk. Heather Haworth, Children’s Ministries director, BUC.

Anne Pimmoor & Heather Haworth
Open day report
by the editor

On 11 September, while the world remembered the Twin Towers, The Book of the Year Press held its annual open day in Grantham. The event was more than just a massive book sale. It was a chance for hundreds of visitors to meet old friends and make new ones.

The visitors also inspired an inspiring service, a family life presentation and some excellent Adventist singers.

Many children, and some ‘sporting’ adults, joined in the face-painting fun arranged by our Design department. There were also long queues at the various food stalls, such as the one run by granovita.

Total sales
At the beginning of this year it was clear that publishers and bookshops would be in for a rough time, especially with music and book retailer HMV planning to close sixty outlets in twelve months – ‘roughly ten percent of the group’s UK High Street presence’ – including twenty Waterstone’s branches.

It came as no surprise, then, when we found our open day sales total roughly ten percent down on that of last year. This is to be expected as long as the recession continues to erode the money our members have to spend on religious literature and music.

There were 987 till transactions that day. The literature sold included 169 Bibles; 1,555 Spirit of Prophecy books; 332 Sabbath School study guides; 492 children’s books and 1,498 calendars.

Books change lives
All in all, 6,996 books were sold, many of which were for evangelistic distribution, while others were bought for personal growth and spiritual guidance.

It is difficult to know just where the influence of these books and Bibles will end, but we are sure that they will have a very positive impact on many lives in the months ahead – after all, books change lives, don’t they?

Books change lives!
Why not give out some too?
Try this great offer... today!
Buy 50-99 copies of When God said Remember at 50p each, and get the same Steps to Christ (illustrated edition) completely free!

Buy 100 copies or more of When God said Remember at 50p each, and get the same Steps to Christ (illustrated edition) completely free, along with free post and packaging.

Contact ABC Sales on 01476 539900 to place your order.

Dear Editor

This is an ematic request. Though we share a common faith, our backgrounds and experiences are all unique. We differ in age, religious tradition, ethnic background, and so on. I am a native-bom Englishman of 68, of nominally Methodist background, and I lean towards the more simple type of worship, with the public exposition of Scriptural text, having the result of the time. I admire what we seem to be ‘the golden age of English language hymnody’, in which the figures of Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, James Montgomery, Thomas Kelly, the Frances Ridley Havergal and Fanny Crosby loom largest, together with contributions from the Celtic Tom, courtesy of the Scottish Psalter, William Williams and Matthew Bonar. As one whose father was an organist, again my readings are very much in that praise accompanied on an organ, voiced very much as J. S. Bach would have relished it.

Another complicating factor is a division that arose in Pentecostalism as to what was acceptable in the worship of One God. I am a Presbyterian, and I, with others of the same denomination, find these two positions to be illogical.

There are two positions, one that 1 Corinthians 10:23 states that ‘all things are lawful for me’, and another that ‘all things are not to me for good’. It seems to me that Paul, in his epistle, is not making a general statement, but that he is specifically referring to the practice of eating meat offered to idols (1 Corinthians 10:25).

One thing we can be sure of is that the Bible is the supreme authority in all matters. The Lord Jesus Christ said, ‘... in anything whatsoever ye shall ask when ye pray, ye shall receive’ (Matthew 21:22).

I therefore believe that it is the duty of every Christian to seek to understand and obey the Word of God. It is our duty to pray for guidance, to seek to understand the Word of God, and to obey its teachings.

May God bless you and your work.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

De: ‘Ted Wilson’s first year’

Pastor Neve’s article, ‘Ted Wilson’s first year – a pastor’s review’ (which appeared in Spectrum 19 August and Spectrum 28 July), was very thought-provoking. It’s reassuring to see such a wholehearted endorsement of the traditional values of our Church.

It is difficult to know just where the influence of these books and Bibles will end, but we can be sure that they will have a very positive impact on many lives in the months ahead – after all, books change lives, don’t they?

In all, 6,996 books were sold, many of which were for evangelistic distribution, while others were bought for personal growth and spiritual guidance.

It is difficult to know just where the influence of these books and Bibles will end, but we can be sure that they will have a very positive impact on many lives in the months ahead – after all, books change lives, don’t they?

Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe that it is the duty of every Christian to seek to understand and obey the Word of God. It is our duty to pray for guidance, to seek to understand the Word of God, and to obey its teachings.

May God bless you and your work.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Dear Editor

I’m sure you’ve been caught up in an argument before. The apostles argued too (Luke 22:24) – after all, no one’s perfect (1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 1:21)! Paul had to...
Worthy is the Lamb

This year at one of the largest festivals in Britain, the St Paul’s Carnival, Bristol revellers heard a Gospel concert at the Bristol Central church. The six-hour concert was organised by Dennis De Cordova (chair of Community Sounds Limited and a member of Bristol Central) and was entitled ‘Worthy is the Lamb’. Visitors and church members alike enjoyed the sacred music: supporting singers came from Gloucester, Wolverhampton and London churches.

ANGELA FLETCHER

Vegetarian cookery outreach

The ‘Eating Better, Paying Less’ vegetarian cookery club, run by members of the Weston-super-Mare church as a community outreach, recently completed its third year of successful programmes with a vegetarian barbeque on 1 August. More than thirty members ate a very enjoyable spread of food in the comfort of the church hall. The club will start its fourth year of programmes on 6 October. Nearly twenty members of the public regularly attend, and some have come to several Christmas and Easter programmes, Harvest Festival services and social events. Some are even fundraising for the new church hall! Please keep this project in your prayers.

CYNTHIA SOUTHCOOTT

Congratulations

On Sunday, 26 June, Douglas Cox married Olivia Bowerbank in a beautiful ceremony in St Peter’s Church, Lenten. Douglas is the youngest child of Graham and Christine Cox, of the Grantham church. Graham retired from The Standborough Press Ltd after a lifetime of service to the Church – more than 48 years. Olivia’s parents, Malcolm and Delia, run a craft-shop in Grantham. On behalf of the Press family we wish the happy couple God’s richest blessings.

EDITH

A workshop for single adults

‘My Lord and I: the single life – what next?’


DATE – Sunday 27 November 2011
VENUE – Northampton SDA church, 74 Highford Avenue, Spinney Hill, Northampton, NN3 6BQ
SPEAKER – Annell Smith from Socialight Ministries
TIME – 12.30pm

All singles over 25, whatever your circumstances, are welcome.

To reserve your place at the event and the delicious meal (£4) to three friends from the Grantham church who recently completed their medical studies: Dr Samuel Cunningham (MB ChB) – Liverpool; Dr Katie Cunningham (BA Hons, MB BChir) – Cambridge; and Dr Anna Holden (BDS) – Birmingham. We wish them well in their chosen careers.

CYNTHIA SOUTHCOOTT

Corrigendum:
The third sentence of David Alexander Porter’s obituary on p.15 of MESSENGER 30 September should have read as it was originally submitted – ‘He served as elder for some years and as treasurer for much of his working life, during which time funds were raised by the faithful church members and under his wise stewardship to build the Cambridge church about fifty years ago.’

MESSENGER

Area 2 youth retreat

The Area 2 Youth Federation had its first youth retreat from 20 to 22 May, at the Hill House Christian Centre in Bridgwater. Youth from the Bristol Central, Gloucester, North Bristol and Lodge Causeway churches focused on the theme of being chosen by God and chosen for a purpose. Andre Crawford led a Bible study on the remnant, and prayer and worship were central to the weekend.

Throughout the weekend there was an ongoing Bible quiz, and the winners won books by Ellen G. White!

Go to: www.a2yf.com to stay updated with Area 2 youth.

ESTELLE HAYWOOD

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CYNTHIA SOUTHCOOTT

Outreach at Kent County Show

On the weekend of Friday 15, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 July the Kent County Show took place at Detling showground near Maidstone, with health checks given by Seventh-day Adventists.

This event was originally a demonstration of the county’s finest agricultural exploits, but in more recent years it has expanded to incorporate shopping, charity stands, entertainment, show jumping, demonstrations of public services and local community association information stands. The Adventist stand was first envisaged by two sisters from the Canterbury church seven years ago.

The free health checks at a large public event were so popular, staff struggled to keep up with demand last year. This year, weather hampered visitor numbers, but a steady stream of people flowed through constantly. Crucially, church members were also able to distribute our biblical literature to an estimated further two hundred people each year! Praise the Lord!

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CYNTHIA SOUTHCOOTT
Aberdeen affirms God as Creator
On Tuesday evening 16 August, twenty-three souls gathered to hear Bernad Brandstatter speak on origins. An anastigmat from Loma Linda University, Dr. Brandstatter has presented talks on the topic at academic conferences and churches worldwide. Dr. Brandstatter assured attendees that evolution is under serious attack these days—from other scientists. Following a survey of important thinkers like Jerry Fodor and Timothy Eastman, Brandstatter concluded that our Church should preach the first angel’s message, and call for the whole world to worship a Creator God.

Joey Ramirez

Funds raised through Gospel concert
On Saturday evening, 6 August, eight members of the Cannock church raised £200 in aid of the East Africa famine appeal. The fundraising concert, organised by Sharmaine and Yvonne Lee, was held at the Cannock George V Hotel.

Artists included Ehsa Duare, Kis Curtis, Yvonne Lee and others. One of the organisers reminded attendees that ‘Giving support and care to those in need is an integral part of spreading the Gospel message’.

The Donut Man: IS COMING
A Highlight of Your Child’s Journey with Jesus Christ

Saturday 5 November 2011, 7pm.
House on the Rock
49 Tunfell Park Road, London N7 OPS
Sunday 6 November 2011, 3pm.
Newbold SDA Church
St Mark’s Road, Bracknell RG42 4AN

Tickets cost £5 for children 4 years and under, £8 for over 5s and adults.

To purchase, please ring 01923 232728 or email cm@seventhadventist.org.uk

Surprise Tribute for Pastor Leslie and Jill Hill
The Brighton and Hove church and the Worthing church surprised Pastor Leslie Hill and Jill Hill for a tribute programme at the Oasis Christian Fellowship on 23 July, before Pastor Hill’s retirement at the end of August. Following a blessed triple baptism service and press photographs took Pastor Leslie and Jill and the baptismal candidates for a photo shoot!

In the meantime, everyone else swiftly decorated the hall with retirement banners and streamers before Pastor Leslie and Jill re-entered to a standing ovation. Travellers from around the country from Pastor Hill’s previous churches, and tributes of thanks and appreciation were sent from around the world. Freeman Gump and Dr. David Marshall, among others, gave personal tributes.

At the end of August, the churches at Brighton and Hove and Worthing held their own retirement gift presentations. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Leslie and Jill for their faithful service by God’s grace has seen both churches grow substantially during their tenure. We wish them a very happy and blessed retirement.

End of an era
Oxford Adventist Church said goodbye to one of its founders and supporters, Mr. Dennis Porter, this summer. Mr. Porter, a historian and preacher who had been in charge of the seventeenth-century archives at the Bodleian Library (part of Oxford University), moved to Australia in August. Mr. Porter served the Oxford church in many capacities and preached in many churches across the Union.

Obituaries

Denis Young (1919-2011) d. 21 August. It is with sadness that we report the death of Denis Young, a well-loved member of the Stanborough Park church. Born in Highgate, London, after the end of the First World War, he was to serve his country in the Home Guard in the Second World War. His family moved to Walsall, where he met Maureen Pierce—the lady who became his wife. Shortly after their marriage they became members of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Walsall.

Denis’s skill as a welder was called into service during the war years, repairing Lavender and Lancaster aircraft. In this capacity he was required to fly all over the United Kingdom on urgent missions. His skill in this capacity came to the rescue of the Stanborough Press when their large cast-iron guillotine cracked and split into two pieces, creating a major problem for the press. Despite the belief that cast iron could not be welded, Denis did the job. The squared machine served the press for several years, and when it was replaced it found a good home on the second-hand market.

Denis is mourned by his wife Maureen, daughter Jill and grandchildren Jule and Andrew.

The service was conducted at Stanborough Park church by Pastor Patrick Boyle, assisted by Terry McKenna, a church elder who gave a comprehensive outline of Denis’s life. The committal took place at the Victoria Cemetery, Maunens’s brother, Jeff, a Church of England minister, told of how, when their home was bombed during the war and their parents lost their lives, it was Denis who rescued him from the rubble. We miss this Christian gentleman and fellow believer.

He rests in peace waiting for the promised return of the Prince of Peace, in whose Kingdom there will be no more death, pain, sorrow or parting.

John Bradley Tolman (1954-2011) d. 16 June. John was born in London and was adopted shortly thereafter, along with his older sister, Carol. By Elid and Bill Tolman, a loving Adventist couple from Chippenham.

From early on it was evident that God had blessed John with an outstanding musical talent. He was just 4 years old when he began playing simple hymn tunes. By age 7 he was playing piano solos at the New Gallery Centre in Regent Street. Seven years later, he even auditioned for the popular BBC radio programme, ‘Opportunity Knocks’.

In 1969, John gave his life to God at Billy Graham’s London evangelistic crusade and was subsequently baptised by Pastor John Shaw in 1969. John’s devotion to God led him to help others develop their musical talents. He played leading roles in forming a number of choirs, including the internationally renowned London Adventist Chorale.

On 27 August, 1978, John married Donna Grace Smith, with whom he later had two daughters, Leah and Carla. Ten years after his wedding, he emigrated with his family to Canada and set-up home in Vancouver.

Following the break-up of his marriage, he moved to Toronto where he later met Phyllis. They married on 19 October, 2002.

After five years of being happily married to Phyllis, John was diagnosed with an aggressive form of stomach cancer. He courageously battled it for three difficult years, during which he sent regular information to family and friends all over the world via the Care Pages website. This connection to his family and friends became a personal witness to his deep unwavering faith in God. He always believed that God would heal him, but he also accepted God’s sovereignty and will. Facing death was not easy for him, but he felt that he had much more to accomplish in his life.

When it became clear that God was ready for him to rest, John took great comfort in the words of the songs of hope and promise from his well-marked church hymnal. He took his final breath and began his rest on Sabbath afternoon, 18 June.

The funeral was held at the Dixon-Garland Funeral Home in Markham, Ontario. Presiding ministers were Pastors Ernest Lawrence, Stanley Peat, Sid Llands and Frank DeHoff. John died eagerly looking forward to the Resurrection morning. John is lovingly remembered and survived by his wife, Phyllis, daughters Leah and Carla, grandchildren Avery, mother Ina, sister Carol, stepchildren Nadi and Ross and a host of friends around the world. He rests, awaiting the Resurrection morning.

Margaret Robertson and family wish to thank all those who contributed to the total of £250 collected for the British Heart Foundation. They also wish to convey sincere thanks to all those who have helped and sent messages of support.
Cooked with love
One hundred and twenty meals served with love have been prepared recently by members of the Bristol Central church for the needy in the community. The finger-licking two-course meals are prepared to a very high standard, and a free haircutting and shaving service is also provided by barber and Personal Ministry leader, Elder Clive Campbell. This feeding ministry operates during the vital holiday season – Easter, August, Christmas and the New Year – when the largest feeding organisations are closed. Feeding Programme co-ordinator Jeanette (Marie) Campbell said that she is involved in this ministry because Jesus showed and shared his love towards me; in return I am just giving back to others what God has so generously given to me.”

ANGELA VICTOR

Prayer line ministry available
Chanda Mulenga of Chelmsford Church is currently running a prayer line for broken homes, praying for deliverance, restoration, and healing the pain. This is an ongoing prayer line that will be available every Sunday between 8 and 9.15am. The prayer line number is 08448 360 360 (calls cost 2p a minute at a BT rate).

Alternatively, email: ChandaMulenga@gmail.com, or attend in person at the church: 43 Roman Road, Chelmsford, Essex CO2 8JH (every Thursday between 6 and 7.30pm).

ANGELA VICTOR

On 31 July, sixteen people carried out a sponsored walk through a local nature reserve and raised funds for the Ethiopia and Sudan famine appeal. As the group journeyed on, tracts and booklets from the Personal Ministry department were offered to ramblers and cyclists as they passed by. Most accepted, and the brief interactions were pleasant experiences.

The money raised was forwarded to ADRA to relieve the suffering caused by the famine in Ethiopia and Sudan.

JESUS CAMPBELL

An immediate opportunity has arisen for a Communication & Media assistant to join a fast-paced environment
Based at the office of the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Watford, you will report to the Communications director. This full-time opportunity is ideal for someone looking to further advance his or her already-grown career in the field of communications and media.

The job role will include:
- Web management
- News reporting, writing and editing
- Photo editing and database development
- Researching and co-producing programmes for television and the internet

You will work with a highly motivated team, but will also be required to work without close supervision. The ideal candidate should be a self-starter and reliable, and have a heart for people and be committed to respecting the values and ethics of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation.

Depending on qualifications and experience, the salary would range from £22,601 to £25,100 per annum. The job will be involved in a varied and interesting workload.

All necessary checks will be carried out, and the successful candidate will be required to have the right to work within the UK. A full driver’s licence will be a necessary requirement, as the job will involve local travel.

For an application pack, please email: jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk. A current CV will be requested.

The South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is an equal opportunity employer.

Application deadline – 7 November 2011.