How much do you know about *The Great Hope* project? Not much yet? Well, let's change all that.

In a letter that she wrote back in 1905, Ellen White penned these words: 'The Great Controversy should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the leading scenes of this earth's history, it bears a powerful testimony in behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in The Great Controversy, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books.' – Letter 291, 1905.

So that’s about *The Great Controversy*, you say, ‘but where does *The Great Hope* come into the picture?’

Well, *The Great Hope* is simply an eleven-chapter-long abridgement of *The Great Controversy*. Now that the book’s been slimmed down from its original and daunting 719 pages, it is more readable and affordable!

And the plans are to spread it like the proverbial ‘leaves of autumn’ that we see falling all around us. Each division of the world Church has ordered vast quantities of this book to be distributed during 2012 and 2013.

Here in the UK we have not been left behind by these developments. The Stanborough Press has arranged for a large quantity of these books to be available for distribution here in the British Isles.

It will appear early next year in a compact, four-colour format – ideal for easy distribution to family, friends, neighbours and strangers.

It will likely be paired with another outreach booklet to give your witness added impact.

We encourage each member to begin saving for this project, and all our churches to set aside funds for enough copies to use in their outreach activities.

As soon as we know the price (it will be very reasonable) and date of availability it will be announced.

For more information on *The Great Hope* project, please visit the official website: www.thegreathope.org.

**PS:** Did you know that you can download your own ‘high-tech’ version of *The Great Controversy* from the website, as an app (application) for either the iPad or the iPhone? You can also obtain more information on the project from: http://greatcontroversyproject.adventist.org.

**Phew! I almost forgot something really crucial . . .**

*The Great Hope* project is not just about all those billions of people who don’t know anything about Jesus and his plan for this world, or those multiple millions who don’t agree with us about that plan; it is also about you and me!

We need *The Great Hope* in our hearts too – and so our Adventist world leaders want this project to challenge and warm our hearts as well. They want us to experience the urgency and certainty that this book brings.
Air pollution can adversely affect health.

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-14340470


What were the source of countless innovations that enliven and improve all of our lives. The world is immeasurably better because of Steve.

Wow! What a stunning epiphany: ‘The world is immeasurably better because of Steve. Is that for real, or is it just a bit of sentimental hype?

What did Steve achieve?

One of the men best placed to answer that is his official biographer, Walter Isaacson, whose book, Steve Jobs, will appear this month. I found his comments about Jobs insightful. Try this selection:

‘He didn’t invent many things outright, but he was a master at arranging ideas, art and technology in ways that repeatedly invented the future.

‘He revolutionised six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing and digital publishing.’

‘If Jobs didn’t invent everything himself, he sure did lead stories that were the source of countless innovations that enrich and improve all of our lives. The world is immeasurably better because of Steve.’

For Jobs, belief in an integrated approach to the source

Surely, iPods and iPads don’t just happen? Such intricate and highly efficient gadgets can’t possibly be the ‘handiwork’ of a mythical being, can they? Steve Jobs must be more than just a legend! This quirky genius must have been real.

Don’t you find it strange... if Steve said he said it, . . . if Steve said he said it, then why is it so hard for so many to imagine the existence of God?

Surely then, iPods and iPads don’t just happen? Such intricate and highly efficient gadgets can’t possibly be the ‘handiwork’ of a mythical being, can they? Steve Jobs must be more than just a legend! This quirky genius must have been real.

Who makes the innovators? Surely HE is just as real?

The language of religion . . .

Some who eulogised Steve Jobs used ‘religious’ language [Editor’s emphasis]: . . . while Jobs understood us completely. He wasn’t like us. He was better. . . .

. . . if Steve said he said it, then the Great One said it. Jobs didn’t crowdsource. He was the source.

‘History will place him in the pantheon next to Thomas Edison and Henry Ford.’

For Jobs, belief in an integrated approach was a matter of righteousness.

What does this suggest? Possibly nothing – or that many people want something or someone to admire, adore . . . or even worship. Sadly, so many settle for the ‘golden calf’ when, with a bit of faith, they could enjoy the ‘real McCoy’.
W Apart scanning through my book on the origins of dioms I came across the phrase ‘turning the tables’. The expression alludes to a practice in the seventeenth century of reversing the table or board in games such as chess, thereby switching the opponent’s positions. Presumably it was someone who was always losing who thought this would be a good idea. Sadly, though, I’m sure we wish our national football team could do that with the score most of the time.

Then it occurred to me that God is the business of turning the tables, and the Bible’s full of examples. Think of Joseph. After a promising start, one disaster followed another: he was sold into slavery by jealous brothers; propositioned by his boss’s wife; falsely accused because he did the right thing and thrown into jail.

Here, as in many biblical turning-the-tables cases, the reversal of fortune required divine intervention—a miracle. Although the wait had been a long one, there was a sudden and dramatic change in Joseph’s circumstances. A change of heart led to a change of place, from a nobody to a Prime Minister of Egypt!

Things, although appearing to go from bad to worse, hadn’t been spiralling out of control. A divine hand had been shaping events so that, one day, he was able to be a powerful, all-knowing and all-loving leader and use him to reveal God’s greatness and glory to the world.

Another example of the biblical table-turning phenomenon is the dramatic event at the Red Sea. Caught in an impossible, life-threatening situation, the Israelites could have drowned or massacred by the Egyptians. However, the pharaoh’s heart was changed. ‘Don’t be afraid, just stand still and watch the LORD rescue you today!’ (Exodus 14:13, 14, NLT)

Jones intervention was the answer again—and on a spectacular scale! What about Mose1 and Haman? Here was another turning of the tables. The Israelites had burned all their plans in the bag, but God had other plans. The plaques and the pestilence were turned into the instrument of the enemy’s execution instead of the instrument of the former’s execution. Leaping forward to the New Testament, I think of Cephas and his companion travelling the Galilean countryside. They looked to Jesus for help. ‘. . . with the last I was going to do until the Lord put me on the path to salvation. In the meantime Jesus had joined him, and that hope had been dashed by the event of the previous Friday. When the stranger’s identity became apparent, their deep sorrow turned instantaneously to overwhelming joy’

I could mention Naaman, Jairus’s daughter, Peter in prison—just a few of the many whose lives were dramatically changed.

Have you ever wished that God would turn the tables around for you? What is your biggest and sorest problem yet? Will, have I good news for you. While it might not happen immediately, you can be assured that, as in the biblical stories, He’s working behind the scenes in your life, preparing you for good times ahead.

Jesus never promised an easy ride, but when times are tough we have the assurance that the One who called us to follow Him isn’t abandoning us. Paul’s words should reassure us, too: ‘And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.’ (Romans 8:28, NLT) Things might look a mess, but God can and will bring out of chaos and confusion His perfect will for your life.

So this truth can give us mal and tangible hope. ‘If you come to Me, . . . I don’t think there’s any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times.’ (Romans 8:18, Message.) And this hope supports us on: ‘So we’re not giving up. How could we? . . . These hard times are short-lived; comparison good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us.’ (2 Corinthians 4:16, Message.)

So can’t we take a leap of faith into the ultimate table-turning experience for God’s people—the time when we’ll be transformed into His likeness when Jesus returns to take us home.

And while we wait for that table-turning moment we must fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross—‘Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners against Himself, . . . you will become strong and will not fear’ (Hebrews 12:2, 3, NIV).

So don’t lose heart. Things may appear to be in a no-way-out situation, but the moment for the ultimate turning of the tables isn’t too far away. The psalmist said: ‘. . . Venerating may last as long as the night, but daylight comes with the morning’ (Psalm 30:5, NLT). And what a morning that will be!

Sunday
Fancy being a preacher?

For the past eighteen months Colin Woodford, pastor of Middlesbrough Church, has been a regular voice on BBC Radio Tees. On a Sunday morning Pastor Colin has been giving the ‘ten-minute service’ on air, which consists of a short sermon, a prayer, two hymns and a thought for the day. Colin is able to take his own choice of music. Thankfully, we are very blessed to have Paul Lee as the SEC Music director, as he has the most wonderful singing voice and allows us to use his CDs on the radio.

Colin also shares his opinion on what has been the ‘hot topic’ of discussion during the week. The service broadcasts on a Sunday morning and reaches thousands of listeners in the North-East of England.

How do we manage to get Pastor Colin on the radio? You might ask? It’s simple! Tune to your local radio station’s religious channel (probably early Sunday morning between 6 and 8am). Listen to what they’re discussing each week. Then send in an e-mail telling them what your church is involved in within your community, and make the offer that your pastor is willing to talk about your church on station. Just remember to work together with your pastor on this, making sure that he is fully supportive. It’s really that simple.

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Tom, how bad is the crisis in the Horn of Africa?
Many are describing this crisis as the worst in sixty years, with more than 12 million people starving in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

What has caused the crisis?
The rains have failed this year in Kenya and Ethiopia. In Somalia they have failed for the past two years. This lack of rain has led to crop failure and the widespread loss of livestock, as high as 60% in some areas.

The difficulty of surviving this drought has been compounded by the increased food prices in the markets and the lack of investment in agriculture and irrigation schemes – as well as conflict and politics. All of these factors combine to create a famine environment. In July, the United Nations declared a famine in parts of Somalia – six regions of the country are now affected.

What is the human impact?
Many hundreds of thousands have had to seek the support of families and friends, who are themselves living under increasing pressure. Other people have fled to refugee camps originally designed to accommodate 90,000, which now house 400,000, with more than 1,300 new refugees arriving daily.

How is all this turmoil affecting the region’s children?
As always it is the children who suffer the most; almost 20% of those under the age of 5 years, arriving in these camps, are severely undernourished. One in every ten Somali children will not celebrate a first birthday. Primary school enrolment is at 23%, which means that those who survive have poor prospects for education.

Tom, you have been there yourself – so tell us what the biggest needs are.
Short-term emergency relief, in the form of food and water, is needed to save lives, but longer-term solutions will be required to prevent a similar situation in the future.

In a drought we often think the solution is for it to rain. But where there has been under-investment in farming and infrastructure, when the rain comes it floods and flows away. Normal rains in many parts of the region are expected to come in October and November – but the return of these short rains will not be enough to help the region recover. The desperate situation for millions will continue well into next year – possibly till August – when a longer rainy season is expected.

What is ADRA doing amid all this human need?
Well, let me start with Somalia: ADRA continues to respond to the emergency situation in Somalia, supplementing their existing interventions with additional emergency projects. One particular project directly supported by ADRA-UK is being implemented in the Nugaal region of Puntland and the Galmudug region of Central Somalia, to help 19,000 people affected by the crisis. The project specifically supports the pastoral communities, with a majority of those helped consisting of women, children and the elderly, who are unable to move with their animals in search of pasture and water. ADRA’s support includes the servicing of two existing boreholes, providing 50,000 jerrycans of drinking water to about 10,000 people for three months; and providing 400 families that have been made homeless with basic equipment such as shovels, water basins, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and a few household utensils. By providing this help, ADRA is reducing the risk of dehydration, water-related diseases and hygiene problems.

ADRA-UK is supporting a second project, located in the Bandar region of Somalia, which has reported some of the worst humanitarian situations in Somalia. Most of the people there are in need of life-saving food and water; with what food is available it is too expensive for them to afford. ADRA will provide life-saving assistance to almost 300 of the most vulnerable families. ADRA is providing this support through a series of vaccinations. It may seem strange to some that ADRA should be working on the health of so many animals when thousands of people are dying as a result of this drought. But if we don’t look after their animals then these people will never be able to stand on their own two feet again.

Sources used: OCHA, UNICEF and UNDP

Tom Pignon is the Emergency Response co-ordinator for ADRA-UK. Here he responds to questions about the ‘Horn of Africa’ crisis and ADRA’s role in that region.
Where has the year gone?
Well, that was the summer.
I want to thank all who sent me photos of their summer. It's been great to see such diversity in nature, and the standards have been high.
Next time we see this spread, it will be for autumn, so please keep the photography coming.
If you feel inspired by all these great pictures, send yours to me at:
dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk
– just remember to keep them ‘hi-res’. Thanks again.
DAVID BELL

   Maria Evelyn Carganilla, Nokia N82.
2. Binfield.
   Andrew Daryl Gungadoo, Nikon D200.
3. Attenborough Centre, Notts.
   David Bell, Fujifilm FinePix S200EXR.
   Andrew Daryl Gungadoo, Nikon D300.
5. Strawberries.
   Alpaca Misty Hill, Canon EOS 7D.
6. Queen’s View, Loch Tummel.
   Deirdre Martin, Fujifilm J250.
7. Sunflowers.
   David Anderson, Nikon D70.
8. Wembury, Devon.
   Jennie Nell, Sony DSC-TX5.
9. Cornwall.
   Grevillea Lynch, Nikon D300.
10. Rothwell, Northamptonshire.
    Ariana Bryant, Samsung PL150.

‘The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.’
Psalm 19:1 (NKJV)

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David Bell.

Readers’ gallery
Megapixels of creation
Summer collection 1
**Baptism in Bristol**

On Sabbath 10 September Ella, Daniel, Zofia, Violet and Petra gave their lives to God in baptism at the Lodge Causeway church in Bristol. Ella grew up in an Adventist home; engaged couple, Daniel and Zofia, were both brought up as Adventists, and realised how important God was to them after coming to Britain; Violet is experiencing peace of mind and happiness that she has never felt before, after securing work-free Sabbaths and being able to come to church for the first time; and Petra was introduced to the church through faithful friends. We can all be encouraged by God’s hand in these stories!

**Grimsby Church baptisms**

On 27 August, the Grimsby church held a baptismal service for Gloria Kincer and Marie Morgan, in which they gave their lives to the Lord. Gloria first came to the church during the Net ’96 seminar, and has been coming to church faithfully week after week, handing a helping hand in the children’s department for two years. The Grimsby members heartily welcome them both into their church family!

**West Midlands rally day**

On Sabbath 9 July, Adventurers and Pathfinders from the West Midlands gathered excitedly at Staveley Road, Wolverhampton, for the march to Dunstall Park Racecourse to begin. Approximately 600 participated in a well-organised parade, thanks to Anton and Aaron Stewart and the West Midlands Drilling & Marching team, accompanied by marshals and the police. Police officer Matt Walker wrote the following: “It was a real pleasure to help out from the policing side of the event and all the Adventurers and Pathfinders were immaculately turned out. They are a fire group of well-mannered and considerate persons, and I enjoyed speaking among them during the parade and also meeting some of the senior guides afterwards.” As a result, he will give support to gain funds to help purchase more equipment for West Midlands Pathfinders. Praise the Lord! During the march, leaflets were given out and well received, and the parade entered Dunstall Park, the drummers drumming! A beautiful racehorse started galloping outside the main doors, adding an unusual spectacle to the day.

**Pathfinders in Paradise**

Holloway Pathfinders, led by their drum corps, recently marched through the streets of Holloway to Paradise Park, where they could witness of Jesus’ love to many locals, who watched their presentation and asked many questions. The Pathfinders invited some of them to church, and they will be doing more witnessing throughout the year.

**Loughborough harvest festival**

At the harvest festival service at Loughborough Church the children shared many new songs, and members also enjoyed the hymn ‘Now Thank We All Our God’, which holds special significance for one of the Loughborough families, as it was written by the vicar of the village where they live. Gifts of non-perishable food were taken to The Carpenter’s Arms, a Christian hostel for men struggling with addiction in Loughborough. The organisation also operates Joseph’s Storehouse, and gifts will be used both in the hostel and as food parcels for local families in need. Staff were amazed to see so many donations!

**The significant three**

On Sabbath 20 August, the Paisley company saw three young people take a stand for Jesus by getting baptised. Earlier in the year, Bertha Mukuma had approached the minister for Paisley, Obi Iheuma, and expressed a wish to be baptised before her tertiary education. The other two candidates, Chiyokoma and Chinnyanta Kabaso, entered the world together as twins and encouraged one another to love Jesus as they got older. The three young candidates were baptised by Clifford Herman, senior pastor for Glasgow.

**In the steps of Mary Jones**

On Sabbath 3 September, two members of the Rhyll church – Lilith Davies and Barbara Griffiths – joined twenty walkers to commemorate the courage of 15-year-old Mary Jones, who, in 1800, walked barefoot over the mountains from Llanfihangel-y-Pennant to Bala to receive her copy of the Bible in Welsh. As a result of her commitment, in 1804 William Wilberforce helped to form the first Bible society. After the last 6 miles, present-day walkers held a Thanksgiving service in Capel Tegid, Bala, which holds a painting of Mary Jones receiving her beloved Bible.

**Grimsby harvest with a difference**

Tins of soup, beans, desserts, packets of cereals, rice and pasta formed the bulk of the Weston-super-Mare church’s harvest festival display – they were sent to a local charity, ‘Somewhere to Go’, which provides a safe place and a meal for people who are homeless and have drink, drug or mental issues. The offering, £238, has been sent to ADRA-UK to be used in relief work in the Horn of Africa.

**Development at Windsor Street South**

In September, construction work finally restarted at the Windsor Street South church, having been placed on hold for two years after being redesigned to facilitate a two-storey building. Pastor Richard Jackson wishes the extended building, which will seat more than 500 and incorporate a youth hall, classrooms, a senior citizens’ room, a sick bay and a mothers’ room, to serve both the church and the wider community. Please keep Windsor Street South in your prayers!
Scottish Mission day of fellowship

The annual highlight in the Scottish Mission calendar took place this year at the Wallace High School, Stirling, on 10 September. More than 300 members and friends gathered on a day of fellowship to hear guest speaker Dr John Webstie, dean and professor of Theology at the La Sierra University in California, deliver presentations on the Sabbath. Mission Church-plant sponsor, Pastor Jimmy Botta, introduced Focus on Mission, a topic that was taken up by the newly-appointed BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney.

The Mission president, Pastor Bernie Hofted, made a presentation to the director of the US Thistle Foundation, Betsy Ross, who was in Scotland to view improvements to the Aberdeen church that were partly funded by the foundation. Her visit also identified other potential projects in which the foundation might participate.

The young people’s music was greatly enjoyed!

You can view photos at: http://scottish.adventistchurch.org.uk.

JOHN WELBY

Evangelism at the Harringay Food Festival

On 18 September, months of planning culminated in a day of fun, food, fellowship and evangelism. The Harringay Food Festival 2011 was the second of its kind, but the first in which Area 6a Seventh-day Adventist churches worked to win souls for Christ, co-ordinated by SEC Community and Health Ministries director, Ellie Staple and Area 6a Health co-ordinator, Melvina Kirwan.

A normally vehicular section of Green Lanes from Urmstville Road to St Ann’s Road was cordoned off and ‘pedestrianised’. Colourful stalls lined both sides of the street as traders, shop-keepers, charities and churches offered their wares to tens of thousands of people from the community and beyond.

God’s hand was on the churches’ ministry: local organisers acceded to each of their requests, and they were offered one vegan and vegetarian foods stall; one smoothie and juicing stall; a food-stall, producing a variety of ‘raw food’; a craft stall; and even a petting zoo!

One of the highlights of the day was that people are hungering and thirsting for Christ. The Great Controversy and Ministry of Healing, both offered for free, were snapped up by passers-by almost immediately, followed closely by Desire of Ages and Steps to Christ. Winter clothing also sold well, and there was huge demand for health checks.

Many consumers enjoyed the vegan food, which didn’t have too much salt and was very delicious. Others asked for recipes. Yet more suggested that members should open a shop, and those were directed to Harringay or Tottenham Seventh-day Adventist churches.

The smoothies and juices were an immediate hit, but the tofu vegan cheesecake sold out first!

NATALIE SIMON

Job vacancy at ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK is looking for an experienced Accountant to join its team.

Qualifications:

- Experience in accounting, book-keeping and payroll
- Excellent attention to detail
- Experience in both budget and forecast preparation
- Ability to work to tight deadlines
- Good knowledge of Excel
- Excellent organisational skills
- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing

Closing date: 1 December 2011.
Newbold principal begins with campus prayer walk

Newly arrived principal, Dr Philip Brown, concluded his devotional at the first staff meeting for the new academic year at Newbold by inviting staff to accompany him on a prayer walk around campus.

As staff walked through the campus they paused in front of each main building. While in front of Salisbury Hall, Gifford Rhamey (Theology lecturer) prayed for staff members and students and their interactions based in and around this building over the year ahead. A little further into the walk, and while facing towards Moor Close, Annet Johnston (Admissions & Records officer) prayed for staff responsible for estate services, food services, grounds and caretaking. The walk continued onto Murdock Hall where Abigail Weight (Senior Management accountant) prayed for all staff and student interactions, as well as student recruitment, IT support and related services based in this part of the campus. Staff concluded the campus walk in the vicinity of the library and residence halls, where Cedric Vine (Theology lecturer) prayed for library staff, as well as for those living on campus and those serving in these locations.

As Dr Brown reminded those present, prayer is less about using God per se and more often about getting us in a position where God can use us. His devotional was based on Romans 8:26 (The Clear Word) which reads: ‘We don’t even know how we should pray or what we need, and when we think we do, we don’t know how to say it right. The Holy Spirit takes our deepest thoughts and longings and puts them into the beautiful language of heaven, pleading with God for us as if we were right there.’

Micklefield Community Gospel concert

‘Fearfully and wonderfully made’

‘If all your DNA were stretched out into a line it would reach to the moon and back 8,000 times’ was one of the fascinating facts with which Dr Alastair Noble peppered his lecture in the Moor Close Chapel on Sabbath afternoon.

Dr Noble, a former research chemist, who is also a lay preacher and church elder in the Evangelical Brethren Church, is the director of the recently formed Centre for Intelligent Design based in Glasgow. He conveyed how the complexity of DNA, with its ‘information-rich system’, thrills and excites him, and gives him an insight into the mind of God. He contends that living systems look designed — because they are designed.

His conclusions were backed up by the evidence presented by Professor John Walton, who shows that DNA sequencing has uprooted Darwin’s ‘Tree of Life’, and proved that homology* is not evidence of common descent. ‘Life’, he said, ‘could not have originated by random chemical combinations.’ Professor Walton agreed that there have been mutations in animal life, but that in 150 years of intense experimentation not one species has changed into another.

Professor Walton, an Adventist, is research professor of Chemistry at St Andrews University in Scotland, and has published over 270 research articles in academic journals, as well as writing three books. Both men were invited by ASI-UK (Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries) to conduct this Creation seminar, and those who filled Moor Close Chapel to overflowing were given solid grounds for questioning the trustworthiness of the darwinian explanation of the origins of life.

In thanking Professor Walton and Dr Noble for their excellent presentations, ASI-UK president, Jim Cunningham, said that all had been informed and inspired, and the knowledge gained should challenge us to renew our efforts to ‘Share Christ in the market place.’

Those interested in knowing more about ASI-UK should visit the website: www.asi-uk.org or contact the secretary, Christine Manners-Smith, by e-mail: manners_smith@yahoo.com.

COMMUNICATION DEPT

*Homology is the biological theory, put forward by Richard Owen in 1843, which holds that ‘Organs as different as a bat’s wing, a seal’s flipper, a cat’s paw and a human hand have a common underlying structure of bones and muscles.’ (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homology) (biology)

NEC Family Ministries dept & Singles Ministries presents:

A workshop for single adults

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


VENUE – Northampton SDA church, 74 Highland Avenue, Spinney Hill, Northampton, NN3 6BQ

SPEAKER – Annell Smith from Socialight Ministries

DATE – Sunday 27 November 2011

TIME – 2-5pm

ENTRY – £5 per person, or £10 for family of four.

Join like-minded people at the Northampton church for fellowship, discussions, a delicious meal and activities.

Praises According to Richard Smallwood

Harlaxton SDA Church in Grantham (with D & J Butts Promotions) invites you to our 2nd annual event ‘Praises according to Richard Smallwood’.

Date: 18 November 2011

Venue: The Back Tower 48 Tafflaw Park Road London NW7

Time: 3:30 pm

Artists: Matthew Allen

Oliver

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Join like-minded people at the Northampton church for fellowship, discussions, a delicious meal and activities.

Praises According to Richard Smallwood

Harlaxton SDA Church in Grantham (with D & J Butts Promotions) invites you to our 2nd annual event ‘Praises according to Richard Smallwood’.

Date: 18 November 2011

VENUE – Northampton SDA church, 74 Highland Avenue, Spinney Hill, Northampton, NN3 6BQ

SPEAKER – Annell Smith from Socialight Ministries

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Youth outreach in Stoke-on-Trent

On Sabbath 17 September the Stoke Youth department decided to have a special outreach event in its community, and went to Brindley Court Care Centre for the Elderly (ten minutes drive away from the church).

After praying in the car park, youth were directed to the (rather full!) garden room, where all the residents sat ready for the programme. The theme was Creation/Creation; the programme lasted an hour, and consisted of traditional congregational hymns like ‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’ and ‘How Great Thou Art’ (a favourite song of Brother Kowarin, a faithful and hard-working church member, who is currently residing in the centre). There were also Scripture readings, instrumental clarinet and violin pieces, mime displays and songs.

At the end of the programme, Stoke youth presented the centre with a CD of religious music, and gave each resident a bookmark.

All were blessed as a result of the experience, and the Stokeyouth are certain this is just the beginning of their friendship in this part of their community.

Hannah Gaynor

Youth programme without walls

On Sabbath 13 August, the Birmingham Fellowship church held a youth programme in the nearby Hamstead Park. Families play on the vast green, and youth use the multi-purpose court, so it was a fitting venue to meet people who would not normally walk through the church doors.

The youth secured a generator from the local tool hire company, which they used to power their sound system, enabling them to project their messages around the park. It was a blessing to see the young people sing and speak with boldness in public. The programme was designed to use different presentation methods, so that younger members of the church could reach out and share their faith. The young people performed Pathfinder drills in uniform, the youth choir sang, and Nuledi Nicola presented a sermonette on the importance of God in one’s life.

The programme culminated with a door-to-door distribution of leaflets in the neighbourhood, advertising a forthcoming tent campaign. The value of such activities is the aspect of making our church programmes portable. If our neighbours won’t come to our meetings, why not take our meetings to them?

Hannah Gaynor