January can be a rough month. The house is too quiet. The stockings are empty. The tinsel and lights are packed away. All the things you bought in December – at full price – are now ‘on special offer’. You don’t want to see another mince pie – ever! And all your zips, belts and buttons have a firmer grip.

Life feels grey. You stare at the news expecting to see a tsunami, quake or coup – or, at the least, confirmation that the double-dip recession is official!

That’s why early January is a time for encouraging, focused messages from our Church leaders – messages that inspire and orientate us for the challenges that lie ahead. Messages that lever us from our lethargy . . .

2012 – it’s not about us . . .

Around 2005, I was in Australia ministering to teenagers at a camp meeting. Towards the end of the camp, I was invited to the teen leaders’ meeting, which became rather heated. Now I do not remember the details of the discussion or even who the participants were, but I will never forget the words of one of the leaders, who stood and made the impassioned plea: ‘Let’s remember, guys; it’s not about us, it’s about the kids!’

Suddenly, the heat dissipated as they realised that their personal agendas and opinions were subservient to the most important issue of all: their ministry to the teens.

With the arrival of 2012, permit me to take that statement from down under and challenge every single Seventh-day Adventist in the British Union with this: ‘Let’s remember, sisters and brothers – it’s not about us, it’s about the lost!’

Please understand that I am not speaking about the lost in any critical or judgemental way. I am just reminding us that the primary reason we were called to become Seventh-day Adventist Christians is to reach the lost. I am convinced that none of us were called solely for our personal salvation, but that we might also introduce the Saviour to others.

I am planning to move to the South of England this year, but have been horrified over the house prices there as compared to the North. But I read a statement recently which challenged my house purchase criteria.

“We see the great need of missionary work to carry the truth not only to foreign countries, but to those who are near us. Close around us are cities and towns in which no efforts are made to save souls. Why should not families who know the present truth settle in these cities and villages, to set up there the standard of Christ, working in humility, not in their own way, but in God’s way, to bring the light before those who have no knowledge of it? When the Church shall truly have the spirit of the message, they will throw all their energies into the work of saving the souls for
Hope for 2012

I would like to wish our members a happy new year and God’s richest blessings for 2012. At the same time I want to reflect on our 2011 blessings. I give thanks for the way our ministers and lay have worked together to enlarge the Kingdom of God in the South England Conference. We have established three new churches and so far recorded 548 baptisms – I’m convinced the numbers will increase far beyond this once all reports are in.

I am thankful to those ministers who retired in 2011 after years of valued service. Their places have been filled by five new interns and three senior pastors.

I want to express my gratitude for the continued faithfulness of our members. Despite these austere times the tithe increased in 2011 by 1.34%. We give God the glory for his continued provision.

In the past year we have seen our society struggle with the bleakness which expressed itself in the riots in London and elsewhere, driven by the threat of increased poverty and soaring youth unemployment. As a community we can equip the young by giving them volunteering opportunities to acquire skills to be used in the workplace. Let us do what we can to bring hope to the youth.

This autumn we saw people camping outside St Paul’s, protesting against capitalist greed and abuse by the banking fraternity worldwide. This is an ideal time to share the hope and peace we have in Christ, and the freedom his love and grace bring to us. My brothers and sisters, this is a great time to bring hope. During 2012 let us build relationships, communities and churches that reflect the peace of Christ and share the hope we have in our coming. As a conference we promise to provide training to equip the Church to be skilled in outreach. The Personal Ministry department is working on rolling out a School of Evangelism with a variety of training opportunities. The Communications & Media department is organising this.

This year we celebrate the thirteenth SEC camp meeting, and I’m excited to announce that our main speaker will be Mark Finley. Last year many left their booking too late, and were sadly unable to attend camp meeting. So I urge you to book early for this year!

We cannot go through 2012 and miss the largest cultural party right on our doorstep – the 2012 London Olympics. Not all of us may be interested in sport, but we are ideally positioned to take part in all of this cultural celebration.

Many churches are close to the venues, and, although we will not be able to watch within the sports facilities, those areas around the stadia will also see an influx of visitors. Furthermore, our variety of language-based communities and churches could serve us well. I urge you to be intentional in planning your outreach for July and August. The Conference will be providing suggestions for your church on how to utilise the opportunity to meet visitors, community groups, and larger events being planned which may be of interest to your friends and visitors, so please invite them. Our Evangelism expo on 15 January will provide more information.

This new year is a remarkable year, a year in which our churches grow both numerically and spiritually. Let us continue to share the hope, to be better servants of the Good News. 'Let us therefore be faithful servants of our Master Jesus Christ, who is the head of our Salvation.'

Hope for 2012
What does your face say about you?

by David Marshall

Well into my ministry, my niece Joanne (then 6) said, “Uncle David, why were you angry when you preached the sermon?” I wasn’t, of course, but I took to heart that feedback from Joanne rather more than I have any other response to a sermon.

In fact, of course, a shining face has got to start on the inside. Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) says, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” Proverbs 15:13 (NIV) adds, “Bad news makes the heart ache, but good news brings healing to the bones.” These words hit the mark. They capture the essence of what Jesus meant when he said, “You are the salt of the earth. If salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” (Matthew 5:13). The point was simple but profound. We are what we eat. And what we eat is reflected on our faces. A well-nourished face is a sign of spiritual well-being. When I arrived home that evening, I told my father, “Uncle David, why were you angry when you preached the sermon?” I wasn’t, of course, but I took to heart that feedback from Joanne rather more than I have any other response to a sermon.

In fact, of course, a shining face has got to start on the inside. Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) says, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” Proverbs 15:13 (NIV) adds, “Bad news makes the heart ache, but good news brings healing to the bones.” These words hit the mark. They capture the essence of what Jesus meant when he said, “You are the salt of the earth. If salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” (Matthew 5:13). The point was simple but profound. We are what we eat. And what we eat is reflected on our faces. A well-nourished face is a sign of spiritual well-being.

When I arrived home that evening, I told my father, “Uncle David, why were you angry when you preached the sermon?” I wasn’t, of course, but I took to heart that feedback from Joanne rather more than I have any other response to a sermon.

A well-nourished face is a sign of spiritual well-being. When I arrived home that evening, I told my father, “Uncle David, why were you angry when you preached the sermon?” I wasn’t, of course, but I took to heart that feedback from Joanne rather more than I have any other response to a sermon.

In fact, of course, a shining face has got to start on the inside. Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) says, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” Proverbs 15:13 (NIV) adds, “Bad news makes the heart ache, but good news brings healing to the bones.” These words hit the mark. They capture the essence of what Jesus meant when he said, “You are the salt of the earth. If salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” (Matthew 5:13). The point was simple but profound. We are what we eat. And what we eat is reflected on our faces. A well-nourished face is a sign of spiritual well-being.

When I arrived home that evening, I told my father, “Uncle David, why were you angry when you preached the sermon?” I wasn’t, of course, but I took to heart that feedback from Joanne rather more than I have any other response to a sermon.

In fact, of course, a shining face has got to start on the inside. Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) says, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” Proverbs 15:13 (NIV) adds, “Bad news makes the heart ache, but good news brings healing to the bones.” These words hit the mark. They capture the essence of what Jesus meant when he said, “You are the salt of the earth. If salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” (Matthew 5:13). The point was simple but profound. We are what we eat. And what we eat is reflected on our faces. A well-nourished face is a sign of spiritual well-being.

When I arrived home that evening, I told my father, “Uncle David, why were you angry when you preached the sermon?” I wasn’t, of course, but I took to heart that feedback from Joanne rather more than I have any other response to a sermon.

In fact, of course, a shining face has got to start on the inside. Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) says, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” Proverbs 15:13 (NIV) adds, “Bad news makes the heart ache, but good news brings healing to the bones.” These words hit the mark. They capture the essence of what Jesus meant when he said, “You are the salt of the earth. If salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” (Matthew 5:13). The point was simple but profound. We are what we eat. And what we eat is reflected on our faces. A well-nourished face is a sign of spiritual well-being.

When I arrived home that evening, I told my father, “Uncle David, why were you angry when you preached the sermon?” I wasn’t, of course, but I took to heart that feedback from Joanne rather more than I have any other response to a sermon.

In fact, of course, a shining face has got to start on the inside. Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) says, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.” Proverbs 15:13 (NIV) adds, “Bad news makes the heart ache, but good news brings healing to the bones.” These words hit the mark. They capture the essence of what Jesus meant when he said, “You are the salt of the earth. If salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?” (Matthew 5:13). The point was simple but profound. We are what we eat. And what we eat is reflected on our faces. A well-nourished face is a sign of spiritual well-being.

When I arrived home that evening, I told my father, “Uncle David, why were you angry when you preached the sermon?” I wasn’t, of course, but I took to heart that feedback from Joanne rather more than I have any other response to a sermon.
Untold riches in 2012

As we reflect on what has been taking place in our homes, communities and country – in fact, the whole of the world – we can be confident our country’s greatest privilege is ‘Christianity’. The world is facing an economic meltdown. Phrases like ‘double- digit recession’, ‘bankruptcy’, and ‘catastrophe’ are bandied about by economists and politicians. People are worried about money matters. More and more people live on state benefits. Many are worried about the financial position they may find themselves in at retirement; hence, the high increase in retirement savings, pensions etc. I heard someone say that even the rich are complaining about the state of the economy. (See page 664)

From a financial perspective, these are indeed worrying times – and the forecasts for 2012 are not encouraging. But in spite of all the doom and gloom around us, I have good news for you. We can all enjoy ‘untold riches’. However, just as we cannot subscribe to many of the aforementioned, the Lord could perform a miracle and bless us with money beyond our expectations. On the other hand, if your focus is only on monetary gain, then the following might not be such good news.

While at Newbold College, in my late twenties and early thirties, I remember Pastor Dwight Nelson coming to a week of prayer. In one of his presentations, he shared a story he had read in a local newspaper about a school teacher, Janette Lemmon. She taught all her working life; she never married; she had no children. She was a very good teacher and an old hand in the field. The house was absolutely dirty; with rubbish piled high. They discovered that she had no friends, life was empty and she had no one to discuss the ancient words which Paul used to help his church understand the truth and power of the Gospel. I hope it is yours too, and that of the members I serve.

Dwight Nelson drew a comparison between Janette and us. Could it be that you and I are living as spiritual paupers when we have the inestimable treasures of Heaven available to us through our friendship with Jesus?

The key to that treasure is prayer. Then once you have prayed, open your Bible and make some withdrawals of your own. Ask, and you will receive. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you (Matt. 7:7); ‘Christ gives me the strength to face anything’ (Phil. 4:13). Never ignore the care of the local church. There is no one who will provide ‘the wonderful blessings that come from Christ Jesus’ (Phil. 4:19).

So we have the option of moping, groaning and meaning nothing. Life, everything may be falling apart around us, or we may seem to work in our lives or go our ways! Yes, we can drag ourselves through life, feeling angry, bitter, depressed, discouraged, fruitless and faithless. But we don’t have to live like spiritual paupers – we were born to be princes and princesses. Jesus asked: ‘Why do you say “if you can”? Anything is possible for someone who has faith”’ (Mark 9:23).

Also, I pray that Jesus Christ and the church will forever bring praise to God. His power at work in us can do far more than we ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20, 21). My wish for you during 2012 is that, during the economic depression, you may enjoy the untold riches of God’s treasury today and forever.

New year: new faces

As a child, my larger-than-life Scottish great-grandfather used to take control of the matter. On entering the property where she had lived, they discovered that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours. She could have survived like this, nobody knew. Having managed their way through the mess and filth, they discovered an old bank book stump and visited the bank where the account was held. Imagine their surprise to discover that they discovered that Janette Lemmon had a high-interest savings account, containing over £1 000! Later, it was discovered that Janette Lemmon had a high-interest savings account, containing over £1 000!

Janette Lemmon had a high-interest savings account, containing over £1 000!

New year: new faces

As a child, my larger-than-life Scottish great-grandfather used to take control of the matter. On entering the property where she had lived, they discovered that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours. She could have survived like this, nobody knew. Having managed their way through the mess and filth, they discovered an old bank book stump and visited the bank where the account was held. Imagine their surprise to discover that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours.

New year: new faces

As a child, my larger-than-life Scottish great-grandfather used to take control of the matter. On entering the property where she had lived, they discovered that Janette Lemmon had a high-interest savings account, containing over £1 000! Later, it was discovered that Janette Lemmon had a high-interest savings account, containing over £1 000!

New year: new faces

As a child, my larger-than-life Scottish great-grandfather used to take control of the matter. On entering the property where she had lived, they discovered that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours. She could have survived like this, nobody knew. Having managed their way through the mess and filth, they discovered an old bank book stump and visited the bank where the account was held. Imagine their surprise to discover that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours.

New year: new faces

As a child, my larger-than-life Scottish great-grandfather used to take control of the matter. On entering the property where she had lived, they discovered that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours. She could have survived like this, nobody knew. Having managed their way through the mess and filth, they discovered an old bank book stump and visited the bank where the account was held. Imagine their surprise to discover that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours. She could have survived like this, nobody knew. Having managed their way through the mess and filth, they discovered an old bank book stump and visited the bank where the account was held. Imagine their surprise to discover that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours. She could have survived like this, nobody knew. Having managed their way through the mess and filth, they discovered an old bank book stump and visited the bank where the account was held. Imagine their surprise to discover that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours. She could have survived like this, nobody knew. Having managed their way through the mess and filth, they discovered an old bank book stump and visited the bank where the account was held. Imagine their surprise to discover that Janette Lemmon had a home. There was no toilet, no bathroom, no water, no gas, and electricity supplies for hours. She could have survived like this, nobody knew.
Julian: Victor, I appreciate you taking time for this interview about BUC News – especially knowing just how busy you are! Firstly, please tell our readers a bit about the publishing of an online magazine or newsletter.

Victor: The joy of online news is its ‘immediacy’ and its ‘reach’. When I click ‘publish’, it is there to be viewed by our readers in the UK, and a large audience worldwide. It also gives a considerable non-Adventist audience access to Adventist news, including the media and those on the fringes of the Church – those who still want to maintain some kind of connection with us. By ‘immediacy’, I mean that the news needs to be fresh, and of interest to more than just a limited local audience.

I read, and, therefore, I slog away at it week after week, is that through the news some members gain new ideas about evangelism; others are encouraged by seeing how God is working elsewhere in the country; and those outside our faith community can almost ‘look through a window’ and get a picture of Adventist life and belief. And, Julian, that external audience is one of the reasons why I try and keep BUC News as free from Adventist jargon as possible.

Julian: Not all our readers are familiar with that term, ‘website’. What is a ‘website’ exactly?

Victor: A website is an electronic collection of related web pages containing images, videos or other digital assets. All publicly accessible websites collectively constitute the World Wide Web (www). Ninety percent of the British public now access the internet on at least a weekly basis – either on their home or work computers, or increasingly on their smart phones. As they do this – it is called ‘surfing the web’ – they are looking at websites of one form or another.

As the web has developed, so has BUC News, which is now just emailed to several thousand each week, but also available on the BUC website and hundreds of other websites. It can also be sent as an RSS feed straight to the news feeds on our computers and smart phones.

Julian: Victor, I am amazed at two things when I read the BUC News – firstly, as you have already mentioned, the immediacy of the news items. Most of it is pretty fresh. Stuff that has just happened! Secondly, you seem to have a wide spread of news from across the UK and Ireland – even from outside the fellow good journalistic rules. Obviously I also keep my eye on the news, and often pick up on stories that appear in local or national media. In addition, we attend and cover significant events – and I will even contact people to prompt them to cover stories that I think should be reported.

Julian: So can just anyone send you news, or must they be ‘accredited’ by their church to do so?

Victor: Anyone can send news, but they should follow the guidelines for BUC News and Messenger on our website. Following the guidelines gives a much higher chance of being published! Most stories come from our Communication secretaries, but all stories will be looked at. The most urgent need is for them to put the most important, interesting, and eye-catching information as the first sentence of the story – and in the next two or three sentences to answer those questions: who, what, why, where and when? They can then expand the story as they choose within the limits.

Julian: Do you have weekly deadlines for the news?

Victor: Yes! Wednesday, 6pm. You would be astonished at how many people will send a story ten minutes before I am about to publish and think that I should still put it in! Sad that will not happen unless it is of massive significance. I start on the next week’s news almost as soon as this week’s edition is published, but come 6am on Wednesday the actual process is as follows. I write and edit stories from Wednesday night till Thursday morning 11am. As there is a 6,000-word limit on BUC News this can be quite a challenge – we get as much as 8,500 words of copy at times. Once this is done, I send it to be proof-read by my extremely eagle-eyed secretary, Mary Kapon. Even when I think I have produced excellent copy, I am surprised and grateful that she still manages to improve it!

This process usually takes about three hours. During that time I am busy selecting photos for the news, updating the photo gallery, and ensuring that all the galleries and links are in place and working. When Mary has completed her task, it is sent back to me for another three hours of work to add the photos, format for the various types of media, upload to the websites and email to subscribers.

Julian: Victor, I personally appreciate that you take the trouble to email me the BUC News. Is this just a little perk – something for editors only? Or do you do it for others too?

Victor: I would do it just for you, but there are many others who receive it by email too. Anyone can subscribe to BUC News in either the illustrated PDF format or the simple plain text format, by sending a blank email to buc_news_pdf-subscribe@adventist.org.uk for the illustrated PDF version, or buc_news_txt-subscribe@adventist.org.uk for the plain text version. If they visit the www.adventist-news.org.uk website they can also read the news there, subscribe to the RSS feed, embed BUC News in their own website or find us on Facebook or Twitter.

Julian: Is this what is called the ‘social media’?

Victor: Yes, and, as the British public now spend around one third of their leisure time online, and within social media, it is important for Adventists to have a presence there. Our Communication secretaries, as well as the Conference and Mission Communication directors and sponsors, for the flow of good stories and photographs. There are guidelines for writing on our website, and I take care to ensure that all submissions are readable and follow good journalistic rules. Obviously I also keep my eye on the news, and often pick up on stories that appear in local or national media. In addition, we attend and cover significant events – and I will even contact people to prompt them to cover stories that I think should be reported.

Julian: I want to thank you for this informative interview. In addition to which, thank you for incorporating an electronic link to each online Messenger into your news. We value this highly. God bless!

Victor: Julian, Messenger and BUC News are two sides of the same coin and complement each other. The online version of Messenger is particularly useful to expatriate Brits around the world wanting to keep up on the news. It is also a fantastic resource when searching back through the archives for a particular article or news item. May I take this opportunity to wish your readers well for 2012!

http://www.adventistnews.org.uk

RSS (originally RDF Site Summary, often dubbed Really Simple Syndication) is a family of web feed formats used to publish frequently-updated works – such as blog entries, news headlines, audio, and video – in a standardized format. An RSS document (which is called a “feed”, “web feed”, or “channel”) includes full or summarised text, plus metadata such as publishing dates and authorship. RSS feeds benefit publishers by allowing them syndicate content automatically. A standardized XML feed format allows the information to be published once and viewed by many different reader applications. Users can subscribe to timely updates from favourite websites or to aggregate feeds from many sites into one place. – from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS


www.adventist.org.uk
Banbridge baptism marks 120 years of Adventism in Ireland
Irish Mission Communication department/Weiers Coetser

The Banbridge official church record contains the following statement:
A meeting of the Seventh-day Adventists of Ireland was called by Elder D. A. Robinson on Sunday, 5 July, 1891. The meeting was held in Parkmount House, Banbridge, there being representatives from Banbridge, Tandragee, Clones, Coleraine and Belfast. On the weekend of 24 September 2011, the Banbridge church celebrated these 120 years of history. ‘We need to be stewards, not only of the present, but also of our past’, says Pastor Weiers Coetser, who has discovered many colourful characters in the story of the Irish Church.

This celebration also coincided with the thirty-year anniversary of the current Banbridge church building, built by Maranatha Frontier Missions in just fifteen days: a feat that drew attention in the Belfast Telegraph, the Irish News, and the Banbridge Chronicle!

Two former pastors attended, Pastors John Ferguson and Ron Edwards – Elder Michael Hamblin notes that Banbridge has had a series of good ministers. On Sabbath Rachel Donaldson, a third-generation Seventh-day Adventist from Banbridge, was baptised – her grandparents were converted to Adventism shortly after their marriage.


Church-plant bears fruit in Huddersfield
For the first time ever, the Huddersfield church hosted the baptism of four candidates from neighbouring church-plant in 17 September 2011. More than 100 people witnessed the baptism of Marjorie Bellarantine and Beverley Henderson-White from the Fartown company, and Celso Pinto D’Assuncao (19) and another individual from the Rochdale church-plant.

An accident on the M62 delayed the arrival of Pastor Fred Mapo to conduct the baptismal sermon, however, prayers were answered when Pastor Paul Haworth, the NEC secretary, unexpectedly walked through the door. Pastor Haworth spoke about God’s unchanging law and love, and Pastor Mapo was able to conduct the baptism.

One of the candidates said, ‘The welcome of the church … touched my heart deeply, for it was my most memorable day’.

Community Ministries Day at Holcombe Road
October 29 was Community Ministries Day at Holcombe Road, with the theme, ‘Reach Out and Touch Somebody’s Hand’. Local ward councillor Lorna Reith thanked volunteers for their help during the recent riots.

Pastor Kevin Jones spoke about prayer and praise, and Adaia Bwoga and True Harmony gave praise in music.

Six people baptised in Newport
At Newport Church on Sabbath, 15 October, six young people from Hereford and Newport Churches were baptised together!

The church was full: some visitors came to church for the first time to support their school friends.

Benjamin Obbo (33) had been baptised a Roman Catholic as a child; then, however, he learned about biblical baptism and wanted to become a true Christian. He visited several churches, but, once he was invited to visit Newport Seventh-day Adventist Church by his friend, he knew that this was the church where he wanted to stay.

Jack Snell (24) had travelled almost 8,000 miles to Malaysia to do humanitarian work – God had him to the Seventh-day Adventist school, where he learned about Jesus and became a Christian. Imagine Jack’s joy as he found our closest church in Hereford was close to his home!

At Newport Church on Sabbath, 15 October, six young people from Hereford and Newport Churches were baptised together!

Families left to right: Sister Sonia Greenidge, Elder Solomon, Pastor Wilfred Blake.

The church was full: some visitors came to church for the first time to support their school friends.

‘I’ve been looking forward to this day’, said, ‘The welcome of the church . . . touched my heart deeply; for it was my most memorable day.’

One of the candidates said, ‘The welcome of the church … touched my heart deeply, for it was my most memorable day’.

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!

New opening times
Your Adventist Book Centre would like to draw your attention to new opening times for its shop in the BUC headquarters – the Watford-based shop will now be open from 12:30 to 5pm on Monday through Thursday, and from 10am to 2pm on Fridays.

Bible Land tour – 20-27 February 2012
Take the trip of a lifetime on a tour to the Holy Land. Walk where Jesus walked, and see the Bible come alive!
Contact Pastor Ian Lorek on 07713 457593. References will be required.

SHILOH HARMITT, COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY has a 2/3 bedroom flat available for rent. For more information, please email: shiloh_harmitt@adventist.org.

The Torquay church to Cherie Ford, who worked tirelessly in organising the programme. 'Jesus Loves Me, This I Know'! A special mention should go to Victor Marshall and Elder H. Prime who put together a true 'Mission Impossible' team (Brother Powell, Brother J. Kumar, Brother Barry, Brother C. John, and Brother Kenneth Richards) and tasked them with making the necessary repairs within just fifteen hours to ensure that the entrance could be widened on the following Monday morning.

The concerts take place on the sixth Sabbath of every quarter, starting at 7pm. The next concert is on 12 February. Aspiring musicians may contact Mervyn George Bryan on 07789 512301 or visit: www.jesussays.co.uk or: www.ecolife4u.co.uk.

Early on Sunday morning 2 October they met, and worked tirelessly until 7pm, fed by Sister M. Williams. Members of Cannock Seventh-day Adventist Mission held another quarterly concert on 12 November, attracting more than eighty local residents with communal singing, an impressive professional performance and testimony for Christ, and free refreshments. Mervyn Bryan, the manager of the charity EcoLife4u, gave a brief talk, and invited those present to join the Cannock members in worship each Sabbath morning – and at least one accepted the invitation!

The church has recently changed worship times to Sabbath morning, until 7pm, fed by Sister M. Williams. Visitors are always welcome.

It's not often that you would describe a church service as fruity, but it's all a bit fruity! The Phoenix Hall was brightly decorated with large, colourful fruits. It’s not too late to prepare! So get planning and celebrate the opportunities God has provided.

Last year, Loughborough Church decided to ask for community support for the ADRA shoebox appeal. A local school, a WI group and the children who attend the church’s monthly Bible Stars Club were all delighted to help by filling boxes to send to Mali.

Loughborough Church usually collects around thirty boxes from its small membership, but this year, support from the local community has enabled the church to send seventy-five boxes! People were really pleased to have the opportunity to give. ‘We’ve always wanted to do this, but never knew where we could take a box to,’ said one parent.

My daughter has really enjoyed choosing things to send’, said another. ‘She was amazed that some children do not have the things we take for granted, like a toothbrush and soap.

This year, church members plan to enlist the help of even more members of their community and see if they can double the seventy-five!

More than a double helping of shoeboxes!

Last year, Loughborough Church decided to ask for community support for the ADRA shoebox appeal. A local school, a WI group and the children who attend the church’s monthly Bible Stars Club were all delighted to help by filling boxes to send to Mali.

Loughborough Church usually collects around thirty boxes from its small membership, but this year, support from the local community has enabled the church to send seventy-five boxes! People were really pleased to have the opportunity to give. ‘We’ve always wanted to do this, but never knew where we could take a box to,’ said one parent.

My daughter has really enjoyed choosing things to send’, said another. ‘She was amazed that some children do not have the things we take for granted, like a toothbrush and soap.

This year, church members plan to enlist the help of even more members of their community and see if they can double the seventy-five!

Annual disability conference
The fifth annual joint national disability co-ordinators’ conference, organised jointly by ASNA and the BIUC, took place on 13 November 2011 at the Oxford Four Pillars Hotel. Twenty-five delegates were blessed by the message from Pastor Terry Messenger and workshops from Nigel Nichols, Pete Wimninl and Grace Walsh, and Marie Besley led worship with flags and ribbons.

Grace Walsh encouraged delegates to reach out to those suffering with mental illness, and Nigel Nichols assured everyone that God created all of us – not one of us is an accident. Pete Wimninl spoke about communicating well and the importance of making ourselves understood to those with disabilities.

It was a wonderful day for gaining new insights into mental health issues, learning more about ministering to learning-disabled people, and enjoying a sweet and colourful worship.

This year’s conference will be held in November.

Mission impossible
The Burgessgrove church members needed to finish widening the entrance to their Sanctuary before 9 October, when it would host a wedding ceremony – but a week before the nuptials, the workmen found dry rot in the floorboards, which another company would have needed two weeks to remove!

Faced with the time constraint of the upcoming nuptials, Pastor Victor Marshall and Elder H. Prime put together a true ‘Mission Impossible’ team (Brother Powell, Brother J. Kumar, Brother Barry, Brother C. John, and Brother Kenneth Richards) and tasked them with making the necessary repairs within just fifteen hours to ensure that the entrance could be widened on the following Monday morning.

Early on Sunday morning 2 October they met, and worked tirelessly until 7pm, fed by Sister M. Williams.

Joseph Kumar had worked the night before, and came directly to church for the task at hand, labouring until it was time for him to return to work again the following day. He did not leave until the work was fully completed!

Preparation for Olympic outreach in Cambridge
The Cambridge church recently became the first of eight churches engaging in Olympic outreach to be granted ‘Gold Church’ status. On 19 November the church held a special programme celebrating the 250-day countdown to the Olympics, challenging members to engage in health outreach.

The Cambridge pastor, Colin Stewart, gave the sermon: he also represents the Adventist Church on the ‘More than Gold’ executive committee, which is a gathering of Christian churches and organisations planning Christian outreach during and after the Olympic Games.

Cambridge members later enjoyed a sports social after sunset, planned by the students studying sports, in conjunction with Cambridge Youth leader, Natasha Powell.

There are just over 200 days to go until the Olympics now, and it’s not too late to prepare! So get planning and celebrate the opportunities God has provided.

Concert with charity in Cannock
Members of Cannock Seventh-day Adventist Mission held another quarterly concert on 12 November, attracting more than eighty local residents with communal singing, an impressive professional performance and testimony for Christ, and free refreshments. Mervyn Bryan, the manager of the charity EcoLife4u, gave a brief talk, and invited those present to join the Cannock members in worship each Sabbath morning – and at least one accepted the invitation!

The concerts take place on the sixth Sabbath of every quarter, starting at 7pm. The next concert is on 12 February. Aspiring musicians may contact Mervyn George Bryan on 07789 512301 or visit: www.jesussays.co.uk or: www.ecolife4u.co.uk.

The church has recently changed worship times to Sabbath morning, until 7pm, fed by Sister M. Williams. Visitors are always welcome.

Scottish women’s autumn retreat
Scottish women gathered again for their retreat in the Atholl Centre, Pitlochry, from 14 to 16 October, to hear Isobel Webster speak about ‘The Place of Living in the Christian Life’.

Uplifting early morning worships, praise sessions, the Sabbath afternoon walk and the prayer sessions all led them to feel the presence of God, and the Saturday evening social was a chance to let their hair down!

All boxed up
With the help of Stokesley Primary School, Middlesbrough Church sent just under 400 shoeboxes to ADRA last year for the children of Mali. God sends us opportunities every day to share our blessings and then delivered three shoeboxes to the church, saying that she would get her family and neighbours involved next year!
Miraculous escape inspires rock-solid faith

In 2008 Mrs Diamond Sathe went to India on maternity leave with her 5-year-old daughter Simren and 6-week-old baby girl, Sanjana. This is her story:

We were driving home in the dark when we hit some large bricks in the road, lost control and smashed into a tree. The locals left us for dead until my mum started crying for help. They helped my daughters out, and then us, but it took one hour to get my dad out. We went straight to intensive care, and we all needed operations. We were in hospital for a long time.

“Back in England, my husband was shattered but could not leave as we had been burgled the day before. However, God looked after us in other ways: local newspapers reported our “miraculous escape”, stating that my baby daughter had been “saved by angels”.

“I lost my job as a staff nurse due to my disabilities, but I have been moved to testify of the Lord’s saving grace – his love for sinners like me. Our trials have given us a much closer walk with God. ”

Ivy Thompson was the pianist, watchful for talented young members whom she felt could be nurtured into playing the piano to God’s glory. By then their three children had grown up: Ian, who worked at the Stanborough Press for many years and now works at the NEC office; Cyril, who lives in Australia and their youngest son Philip, who continues to care for his father, having cared for both his mother and his father for many years.

As Cyril and Ivy aged they moved to the village of Lowdham, where Ivy turned her hand to helping out the Methodists in the village with her musical abilities. Increasing infirmity brought a diminution to life. She lived to draw, to draw and paint, and to read and write, but due to her diminishing eyesight was unable to enjoy these activities in later years. Ivy died on 11 October 2011.

The funeral, held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel in the village, was attended by family, friends, church friends from Newark, Sutton-in-Ashfield and Grantham, and Methodist church members. The service was conducted by Pastor Peter Jones, the newly elected NEC president, Pastor Cyril Sweeney, also officiated at the service, along with Pastor Melvyn Ellis. Those who knew Ivy and knew their Lord are assured of meeting Ivy again.

The family express their thanks to those who have given them support with cards, messages of sympathy and phone calls. Philip Thompson’s response to the sadness has resulted in a closer walk with God. We thank God for his work in the family.

Birthday celebration at Leicester Central

Congratulations to Sister Olga Clarke, who celebrated her birthday at Leicester Central on 19 November 2011 – still sharp and alert at 91.

Injustice and violence denounced in Enfield

God deplores injustice and violent crime, and both were condemned at the Dugdale centre in Enfield on 5 November. The Edmonton Church Drama group put on a play about overcoming slavery and discrimination, and the Metropolitan Police gave a powerful presentation on the horrors of knife crime. May the Lord preserve us all from these evils.

Manchester South, members and visitors.

Four golden wedding celebrations

Congratulations to Brother and Sister Maynard of the Leeds Central church, Gladstone and Dorothy Evans at the Manchester South church, and Ruth and Frank Blewitt and Jim and Gill Huzey of the Stanborough Park church, who all celebrated golden wedding anniversaries recently – Jim and Gill on 3 September, Gladstone and Dorothy on 1 October, Brother and Sister Maynard on 21 October, and Ruth and Frank Blewitt on 29 October. Their respective churches recognise their unwavering love and dedication to each other and to the Lord, and wish God’s continued blessings on their marriages, which are a testament to God’s gift of marriage in Eden.

Injustice and violent crime denounced in Enfield

God deplores injustice and violent crime, and both were condemned at the Dugdale centre in Enfield on 5 November. The Edmonton Church Drama group put on a play about overcoming slavery and discrimination, and the Metropolitan Police gave a powerful presentation on the horrors of knife crime. May the Lord preserve us all from these evils.

Milestone in Torquay

Seventh-day Adventists have been worshipping in Torquay since the 1920s, and on 22 October they celebrated the seventy-first anniversary of the dedication of their church in Warren Road. Members of all ages and nationalities celebrated, including Dr Harry and Christine Leonard, Margaret Shipton and Anna Sanders, Charlene Kehoe, Don Antoni and Oystein Clarke and her three daughters, and Mrs Doreen Clement, the oldest member at 87.

Jim and Gill Huzey of the Stanborough Park church.

Obituary

Ivy Thompson (1919-2011) d. 11 October.

Ivy Knowles was born in 1919, at York. Along with her mother and brother she accepted the Adventist message after attending a campaign. Her brother Cyril was later to become a pastor – suggesting a more-than-usually active church family. The Second World War brought Ivy south, to the Nottingham Chilwell Army Barracks. She started attending the Nottingham Sherwood church, and this is where she met Cyril Thompson. They married, and Cyril later became her husband.

Ivy Thompson was proud that she sang in the Stanborough Park and New Gallery choirs in the 1950s – not that Ivy was a proud lady. Ivy was known as the quiet girl at school. Her care for the young people whom she taught in Sabbath School, and for older members, revealed quiet grace, wisdom and an ability to encourage people for God.

Unmarried life carried the couple from Nottinghamshire feet to Watford and then back to Nottinghamshire, to the Sutton-in-Ashfield church. Cyril was the elder and

Birthday celebration at Leicester Central

Congratulations to Sister Olga Clarke, who celebrated her birthday at Leicester Central on 19 November 2011 – still sharp and alert at 91.

Injustice and violence denounced in Enfield

God deplores injustice and violent crime, and both were condemned at the Dugdale centre in Enfield on 5 November. The Edmonton Church Drama group put on a play about overcoming slavery and discrimination, and the Metropolitan Police gave a powerful presentation on the horrors of knife crime. May the Lord preserve us all from these evils.

Milestone in Torquay

Seventh-day Adventists have been worshipping in Torquay since the 1920s, and on 22 October they celebrated the seventy-first anniversary of the dedication of their church in Warren Road. Members of all ages and nationalities celebrated, including Dr Harry and Christine Leonard, Margaret Shipton and Anna Sanders, Charlene Kehoe, Don Antoni and Oystein Clarke and her three daughters, and Mrs Doreen Clement, the oldest member at 87.

Jim and Gill Huzey of the Stanborough Park church.

Obituary

Ivy Thompson (1919-2011) d. 11 October.

Ivy Knowles was born in 1919, at York. Along with her mother and brother she accepted the Adventist message after attending a campaign. Her brother Cyril was later to become a pastor – suggesting a more-than-usually active church family. The Second World War brought Ivy south, to the Nottingham Chilwell Army Barracks. She started attending the Nottingham Sherwood church, and this is where she met Cyril Thompson. They married, and Cyril later became her husband.

Ivy Thompson was proud that she sang in the Stanborough Park and New Gallery choirs in the 1950s – not that Ivy was a proud lady. Ivy was known as the quiet girl at school. Her care for the young people whom she taught in Sabbath School, and for older members, revealed quiet grace, wisdom and an ability to encourage people for God.

Unmarried life carried the couple from Nottinghamshire feet to Watford and then back to Nottinghamshire, to the Sutton-in-Ashfield church. Cyril was the elder and

Birthday celebration at Leicester Central

Congratulations to Sister Olga Clarke, who celebrated her birthday at Leicester Central on 19 November 2011 – still sharp and alert at 91.

Injustice and violence denounced in Enfield

God deplores injustice and violent crime, and both were condemned at the Dugdale centre in Enfield on 5 November. The Edmonton Church Drama group put on a play about overcoming slavery and discrimination, and the Metropolitan Police gave a powerful presentation on the horrors of knife crime. May the Lord preserve us all from these evils.

Milestone in Torquay

Seventh-day Adventists have been worshipping in Torquay since the 1920s, and on 22 October they celebrated the seventy-first anniversary of the dedication of their church in Warren Road. Members of all ages and nationalities celebrated, including Dr Harry and Christine Leonard, Margaret Shipton and Anna Sanders, Charlene Kehoe, Don Antoni and Oystein Clarke and her three daughters, and Mrs Doreen Clement, the oldest member at 87.

Jim and Gill Huzey of the Stanborough Park church.
Bible weekend at Hill House

Seventeen friends came to the Hill House Christian Centre near Bridgwater for a Bible weekend last year for the sixth year running. They studied “The character of God” in four studies from Friday night to Sunday morning, focusing particularly on his divine, and sometimes correctional, love.

It’s what you stand for

Pastor Holder and the elders of Holloway Church invited David Adams and Pastor Herel to be ordained as elders on Sabbath 29 October 2011. Pastor Holder said that being available as elders constitutes “a demonstration of wisdom, not a flash of intelligence; it’s not where you stand, but what you stand for.”

New NEC Ministerial secretary

Pastor Richard Jackson was appointed to serve as the Ministerial secretary of the NEC on 3 October, taking over from Pastor Edgerton Francis, who has held this position since September 2008. Pastor Francis will continue to serve as director of Trust Services for the NEC, as well as pastoring the Bulkhead church in Nottingham. We appreciate the dedicated service of Pastor Francis over the last three years, and request continued prayers for his health and his wife Cynthia.

Pastor Jackson is working with Pastor Francis during the transition, and will continue to pastor his local congregations.

NEWCE COMMUNICATIONS

New book of the week

Pictures of Jesus in the Stories He Told

David B. Smith

Enjoy these lively, modern-day takes on some of your favourite stories of Jesus! The author is well qualified to unwrap the classic parables, as former head sermon writer for the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry, pastor and author of the Bucky Stone Christian adventure series for teens, he writes about our Saviour with a refreshing simplicity, clarity and depth.

Contact ABC Sales on 01476 539900 to purchase your copy at £12.25 plus p&p.