Delgerzaya is a charming 6-year-old. She speaks a totally different language, but she quickly becomes my little friend, sharing her many smiles and showing me the way she lives in her home district of Zavhkan, in rural Mongolia.

Zaya, as her mother, Dashuren, and father, Batu, fondly call her, is suffering from cerebral palsy and a light form of a cognitive disability. That is hard for her mother, who from birth felt the guilt society pressed on her for delivering a child with these illnesses. As a result, many parents in Mongolia keep children that do not live up to the norm hidden from view. The result is that disabled children usually receive limited healthcare and have little or no access to education.

Discrimination and negative attitudes from both adults and children towards disabled children are common, especially towards children with cognitive disabilities.

Recognising this desperate need, in 2010 ADRA-UK started a three-year project aimed at ensuring access to health and education for children in Mongolia with such disabilities. The project is co-funded with the European Commission and implemented by ADRA Mongolia.

Dashuren first heard that ADRA was working with children that have cognitive disabilities while watching a local television station. She says, ‘In our country the situation is difficult if you have a disabled child, and as parents we have many questions but did not know whom we should speak.’ The project is now making a real difference to her family.

"...and add that about all this is taking us ... and have both, independently, reached the conclusion that prophecy is being fulfilled under our noses.

Not prophecy in general, but Daniel 2:41-45 specifically.

Daniel 2

Daniel 2 provides the first of a series of prophecies that span the ages, from his day to the end of time. And each of the subsequent prophecies of Daniel (specifically in chapters 7, 8 and 9) adds something deeper to our understanding of the great controversy, as it stretches down through the centuries. It is Daniel 2, however, that speaks pointedly to the situation that prevails in Europe today.

For some Adventists, however, the steadily expanding European Union had begun to cloud their confidence in this ancient prophecy. The first states to form the union in 1952 were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. They were followed two decades later (1973) by Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Then came Greece (1981); Portugal and Spain (1986); Austria, Finland and Sweden (1995). Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004); and Bulgaria and Romania (2007).

It seemed that Europe was restlessly wriggling under a union of states in direct defiance of the inspired words, ‘In the days of those inspired words, the kingdom shall be divided’ (Daniel 2:41, NKJV).

Iron and clay

In the interpretation of Daniel’s metallic man prophecy, the point is made that ‘as the toes of the foot were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.’ (Daniel 2:42, NKJV)

Daniel’s description is chillingly appropriate – made clearer by the sharp and revealing comparisons about the varying economic strengths of member states.

For more information please visit our website at: http://adra.org.uk

"Caution Concerning Overwork" she states: ‘Remember that man must preserve his God-given talent of intelligence by keeping the physical machinery in harmonious action. It is not work but overwork, without periods of rest, that breaks people down, endangering the life-forces. Those who overwork soon reach the place where they work in a hopeless way.

In more recent times scientists have documented their own findings on the importance of rest and the consequences that can ensue when sufficient rest is not taken. An online Daily Mail health report by Sophie Borldan on 5 April 2011 carried this headline: ‘Working an 11-hour day can increase heart attack danger by 67 per cent.’ The article reported on a study conducted by University College London, which found that individuals with a working day of more than eleven hours increased their risk of suffering a heart attack by two thirds. The research team analysed the average daily working hours of more than 7,000 civil servants at Whitehall over an eleven-year period. Additionally, their medical records and health checks were examined to gather information on their heart health. The study, published in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine, found that 192 of the subjects had suffered a heart attack. It was those working more than eleven hours a day who had a 67% higher risk than those who had jobs with a nine-to-five schedule.

The lead study researcher, Professor Mika Kivimäki, states: ‘We have shown that working long days is associated with a remarkable increase in risk of heart disease’. The report suggested that patients already at high risk – for example, those overweight or smokers – could be encouraged to cut down their working hours.

Use this evidence and tips for ensuring that you get adequate rest and achieve a good work-life balance.

Good health!

"...and in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall not be left to other people;’ (Daniel 2:44, NKJV.)

But his prophecy takes things beyond the chaos and uncertainty of this jittery continent. As far as he was concerned, Europe would never unite under one flag – and he had an answer to this situation back in 1952:

‘And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall not be destroyed.’ (Daniel 2:44, NKJV)

Surely those who have lived long enough – read widely enough – and know the history of Europe must at least have a sense of déjà vu!

Lessons under the African sun

For Bible students it is strange, almost bizarre, to see this costly campaign to preserve the European Union being conducted with such vigour and commitment under the leadership of Merkel and Sarkozy.

They remind me of my own childhood attempts to bind stone, stick and black background clay into something permanent. Crouching patiently over my creations, I watched the African sun lovingly caress its creation, then shape it with a touch.

Their efforts are doomed to fail, not just by a few inches but some 500 years ago: ‘but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.’ (Daniel 2:43, NKJV)

Painted Kaspis, ‘a spokesman for the new coalition government’ underscored this when he told Greek television that: ‘This famous loan agreement must be signed, otherwise we are outside the markets, out of the euro and things will become much worse.’

Yes, the EU’s clay is cracking – how soon before it crumbles to the touch?

Déjà vu

Surely those who have lived long enough – read widely enough – and know the history of Europe must at least have a sense of déjà vu! about this unfolding crisis. Europe has been here before – resisting repeated attempts to forge it into a single unitary empire, kingdom or union of states.

In the past they have used every strategy possible, from a latticework of marriages linking every royal house in Europe, to the bloodiest battles in human history, without lasting success. For the past few decades . . . infusions of capital to develop the ‘wannabe’ economies, and now even bulkier ‘bail-outs’ to keep them in the family.

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Where is this all going?

There are few ‘prognosticators’ out there who are willing to risk a definite prediction for this crisis, but it would be fair to say that most are gloomy.

Daniel’s take on Europe was pretty clear though. He just told it as he saw it, all those dusty prophecies from 500 years ago:

‘...and in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall not be destroyed.’ (Daniel 2:44, NKJV)

As far as he was concerned, Europe would never unite under one flag – and he had an impeccable Source for his information!

But his prophecy takes things beyond the chaos and uncertainty of this jittery continent. As long as we persist in looking at the present moment in the face that only Divinity can live – tomorrow – to a kingdom [that] shall not be left to other people, one which ‘shall stand forever.’ (Daniel 2:44, NKJV)

http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2012/jun/16/greece-wants-overs-euro-end

But, ‘Déjà vu [French pronunciation: [dəˈʒa vœ]], literally “already seen”’ is the experience of feeling sure that one has already witnessed or experienced a current situation, even though the exact circumstances of the prior encounter are uncertain and were perhaps imagined.

During World War II, in those tense months before the Normandy landings in 1944, the Allies played an unprecedented game of deception that fooled the German high command, including Hitler. They were planning a massive invasion of the coast of Normandy, but wanted their opponents to think that the real attacks would be made on Norway to the north, and at Pas de Calais, further to the south. This overall deception was codenamed Bodyguard, and it involved two sub-operations: Fortitude North and Fortitude South. These complex strategies had many components, but they were effectively aimed at diverting Hitler’s forces too thinly to resist the attack that eventually took Normandy’s beaches.

The deception game

by Julian Hibbert

The battlefield was already a decoy in his hand, investing it with an illusionary value and authenticity that captured her attention: ‘You can be so careful in what you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ Genesis 3:4, 5, NIV.

The devil appeared to her with a decoy in his hand, investing it with an illusionary value and authenticity that captured her attention: ‘You can be so careful in what you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ Genesis 3:4, 5, NIV.

The deception is not new. Deception is not new to the

nurture

the influential ‘Saints in Zion’. We strive to draw like them; pray long prayers, and cry out Saul into his couple of them; copy their diet in every detail; even learn to be a little proud of our spiritual successes, as some of them are. We become their clones. But Jesus is looking for much more than this, isn’t He? He wants us to have a form of godliness, but not at the expense of his transforming, sanctifying power.’ (See 2 Timothy 3:1-5.)

What about deception today? Does Satan still use decoys today? He most certainly does, and he has a wide range on offer. I mention a few here by way of illustration:

Peter’s ‘time-setting’ and speculation about ‘the time of trouble’, the passing of Sunday laws, the return of Christ, and so on. These have led many off on a tangent that has harmed their Christian growth.

The faults of our Adventist leadership, from congregational level up to the General Conference president. ‘Leadership bashing’ is a crude but popular decoy. It is Satan’s delight to see us fall for it.

Eve is not alone. Scripture provides other examples of those who chose to follow decoys. Let’s examine one from the New Testament.

Jesus’ decoy was a special weapon – a truth, a lie – that has a long tradition of opposition to war and violence.

The devil is one of the simplest forms of military deception is the decoy, which may be defined as follows: The decoy is a low-cost device intended to represent a real item of military equipment. They may be deployed amongst their real counterparts, to fool enemy forces into attacking them and to protect the real items of equipment by diverting fire away from them. So the decoy’s value is that it is pretty cheap and worthless, and that it wastes your time and resources trying to find it.

So the decoy is a special weapon – a truth, a lie – that has a long tradition of opposition to war and violence.

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A special relationship

The town of Jabel Gibail enters the biblical narrative of distinct importance: Israel has just emerged from a civil war, in which one of the smallest tribes, Benjamin, took all on the other side to protect a tomb of the Rechabites – and lost, badly, becoming all but annihilated in the process (Judges 20). The surviving Benjaminites are all men, and the other Israelites have sworn not to let their daughters marry them (Judges 21:1, 7, 16, 18). It seems the tribe of Benjamin could become extinct (Judges 21:5, 6, 17). The Israelites decide that, since Jabel Gibail didn’t provide soldiers for the war against Benjamin, Jabel Gibail should provide wives for the Benjaminite survivors (Judges 21:5, 6, 17).

Jabel Gibail may have been, as the name suggests, in the land of Gibal – the region east of the Jordan river, where Reuben, Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh lived – technically also part of the Promised Land (Genesis 15:18), but given to them by Moses on condition that they help their brother tribes to take their portion (Numbers 32:33-42). The tribes who lived there had Ammonites for next-door neighbours (Joshua 12:1, 2, 13:7-10, 23-25), and in the prophet Samuel’s time those neighbours came knocking – possibly to test the authority of Israel’s new king, Saul, who didn’t yet have the complete confidence of every Israelite, and who was more than a little nervous himself (I Samuel 19:1-17). Ammonite king wanted to use the town as an example, to humiliate Israel (1 Samuel 11:2).

King Saul, however, had been well aware of the role that Jabel Gibail played in his tribe’s history, and, since he was probably descended from Jabel Gibail’s women, he knew the story all too well! He seems to have learnt nothing uplifting during his three-and-a-half years with Christ. He is a failure . . . but Christ specialises in redeeming failures! (See 1 Samuel 11:3-6.) Filled with the Spirit of the LORD, 330,000 of the children of Israel were united for a common purpose once again – not to destroy one’s own time this, but to save one of their own (1 Samuel 11:7-10). The result was a complete victory, cementing Saul’s position as king (1 Samuel 11:11-15).

The people of Jabel Gibail never forgot the timewhen Saul called out the entire nation to come to their aid. After the battle of Gibeon, the corpses of Saul and his sons were paraded in the land of the Philistines – but the brave men of Jabel Gibail stuck into enemy territory, retrieved them, cremated them, and gave their bones a decent burial (1 Samuel 31:8-13, 1 Chronicles 10:8-12). There was no in-between for them! David, about what they’d done. How would David react? Remember that for much of his adult life, the ‘special’ relationship was an outlaw by the people of Jabel Gibail (1 Samuel 24:1, 2; 2 Samuel 2:4).

David reacted with kindness, blessing the people of Jabel Gibail for the loyal way in which they honoured their master (2 Samuel 2:5). Even though Saul was an enemy to them, David recognised their faithfulness. Saul did well for Jabel Gibail – Jabel Gibail did well for Saul – David did well for Jabel Gibail. ‘Cast your bread upon the waters,’ said David’s son, Solomon. ‘For you will find it many days after. Give a serving to seven, and leave it; for seven years will not know what evil will be on the earth.’ (Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2, NKJV) In other words, do good to all you meet, and make every relationship a special one.

What did Jesus say about giving and receiving? (Luke 6)

John 9:33, 34, NKJV.

It is quite clear that they misunderstood the nature of His Kingdom, viewing it as an earthly one requiring some tough loyal administrators to make it succeed. It is obvious, as well, that this competitive spirit derailed their steps right up to the Last Supper, where no one was willing to be the least and wash each other’s feet.

It makes one shudder to think that so close to Jesus he could be so far astray by a decoy, but it happened as these spiritual leaders became obsessed with position, status and power and forgot that if anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all (Mark 9:33, 34).

The deception game

by Julian Hibbert

The plan worked. In fact, Fortitude South was so successful that Hitler regarded the Normandy invasion as a feint: he kept his Panzer units where he expected an attack, and away from Normandy, until the battle was decided – in Normandy.

D D D
Mind your language

A beginner’s guide to first contact with an endangered species

By Pastor John Surridge

president of the Welsh Mission

For example: upon being introduced, a dinner-party guest might identify himself as a National Health Service worker. It’s only as he leaves that you discover he is a neurosurgeon. A glittering sports trophy, hard-won after some national competition, will more than likely be kept at the bottom of a drawer. Public display is vulgar. Even if she is by far the most interesting person at a party, a British woman will defer attention from herself and pass the conversation on to someone else. Lightheartedness is to be shunned. At a meeting, singling out a new British guest and asking her to stand would be an unforgivable social gaffe.

Punctuality is a reflection of orderliness, and tolerance is viewed with the intense loathing usually reserved for more serious crimes against humanity. Ask a British person for his view of Heaven and he will describe a society where the trains run on time. Time is a commodity. The British expect other people to value and respect their own time. Meetings that go on longer than necessary are severely frowned upon. Church services come in for particular temporal scrutiny; anything over an hour and you will find your British visitor fidgeting, frowning and frequently consulting his watch.

British people are self-effacing and self-deprecating. For example: upon being introduced, a dinner-party guest might never ‘say it like it is’. Thus a prison sentence is a ‘bit of bother with the law’; a severed limb is a ‘mere flesh wound’; and bankruptcy is a ‘slight cash-flow problem’. Those who do ‘say it like it is’ (with the exception of the entire population of Yorkshire) are looked down upon as being un-British. The direct approach adopted by TV evangelists is considered to be, at best, distasteful.

1. British people are self-efficacious and self-deprecating. For example: upon being introduced, a dinner-party guest might

2. The British are masters of understatement and, unless backed into a corner, will never ‘say it like it is’. Thus a prison sentence is a ‘bit of bother with the law’; a severed limb is a ‘mere flesh wound’; and bankruptcy is a ‘slight cash-flow problem’. Those who do ‘say it like it is’ (with the exception of the entire population of Yorkshire) are looked down upon as being un-British. The direct approach adopted by TV evangelists is considered to be, at best, distasteful.

3. Courtesy is deeply ingrained in their culture and the British have developed a complex, euphemism-rich language system for ensuring courtesy at all times. Those especially skilled in this art can inflect the most cutting insults while still remaining perfectly courteous. If you have to resort to open rudeness then you are either pitted for being linguistically challenged or despised for being socially inadequate.

4. The British are very private people. They have an intense dislike of people invading their personal space (imagine a circle around them; radius: one metre), and their homes are their caddies. You don’t call on British people without an invitation or a good excuse, and even then you should be prepared to stand at the door, have a brief conversation, and leave without being invited in. You never talk to them about personal things. The only safe topic of conversation is the weather. Politics and religion are strictly out of bounds.

5. The British are very tolerant of people who are different, though this tolerance should not be mistaken for a desire for friendship. In return they expect tolerance from others. They will tolerate a wide range of different views, but will never dis- close their personal convictions. Truth is not something you can ‘have’; it is either a private opinion or, at best, the balance of probabilities. We’ll believe in the Higgs mechanism when we have it down to a five-sigma level of probability – but we’ll never know for sure of course. Anything that smacks of dogma is rejected out of hand.

6. Orderliness and good organisation are qualities that the British value highly. Punctuality is a reflection of orderliness, and tolerance is viewed with the intense loathing usually reserved for more serious crimes against humanity. Ask a British person for his view of Heaven and he will describe a society where the trains run on time. Time is a commodity. The British expect other people to value and respect their own time. Meetings that go on longer than necessary are severely frowned upon. Church services come in for particular temporal scrutiny; anything over an hour and you will find your British visitor fidgeting, frowning and frequently consulting his watch.

7. In Britain, tea is the national drink. It is consumed in vast quantities and is used at every social function without exception. It is unthinkable for a British person not to be offered tea (usually several times) when invited to a meeting, formal or informal. The popularity of tea in British culture cannot be explained by chemical analysis alone. The beatific smile that spreads across the face of a British worker who returns home to sip his tea, while stretching his slipped feet before an open fire, is a much more complex matter. As his eyes close he is being transported back in time, back to the age of Empire, when white-sailed clippers brought their rich cargoes of silk, spices, and tea from the four corners of the earth, all under the authority and protection of the Union Jack.

8. Given their liking for tea it is not surprising that the British have a fear of any space where access to toilets might be limited. Upon entering a new building the first thing they look for will be the ‘facilities’. As they probably had two cups of tea before they even left the house, they will not be comfortable until they have ‘tami-larised themselves’ with whatever provi-sion there is. In keeping with item 3 you should be prepared for a variety of explana-tions when a British person ‘excuses himself’, if he says that he is going to make a telephone call it would be inappropriate to ask whom he is phoning. Upon his return you will find that he has made a comprehensive and immutable judgement about both the building and his hosts, all based on the quality, cleanliness and accessibility of the ‘facilities’.

9. British stoicism is legendary. Maintaining a stiff upper lip in the face of adversity is an admirable and cherished character trait. It is only under adversity that the British truly shine. They work better together and may even be more open to human interac-tion under such conditions. If you want to make friends of the British, look out for the opportunities offered by earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters.

10. The British love their traditions. A roast Sunday dinner, fish on Friday, and turkey at Christmas are accepted norms. These traditions are intrinsically linked with the British sense of identity and are indicative of a deeper underlying nationalism. They may not display flags and hold parades in the rather extravagant manner of their distant cousins ‘over the pond’, but watch carefully on Remembrance Day or at the Last Night of the Proms, for example, and you’ll see that the British are fiercely loyal to their country, their history and their heritage.

* The Higgs boson is a hypothetical massive elementary particle that, according to the Standard Model, is needed to explain why some elementary particles have mass. The Higgs mechanism provides a mechanism for unifying the electroweak and strong nuclear forces. Aur use a ny why other elementary particles have mass. www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higgs_boson.
Another year!

2012 already, where has the year gone? This spread has been very successful throughout 2011. I have received many favourable comments from readers, and many contributions, so, once again, thank you very much.

For 2012 Megapixels of creation will take on different themes based around creation and nature, not just seasons, so please continue to send me your photography, scenes, flora and fauna, birds, animals and insects – anything that you feel portrays the power of creation.

If you have enjoyed all these great pictures, how about sending me yours, to:

dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk

– just remember to keep them ‘hi-res’.

DAVID BELL

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

James 5:7 (NIV)

Please visit:
www.adventistpictures.org.uk/megapixels

for more pictures.
Rough Sleepathon 2011

Edmonton, Holloway and Oxford Churches were venues for the Rough Sleepathon organised by the SEC Community Ministries department at the beginning of December.

The Community Ministries director, Elsie Staple, said that this experience would help us to appreciate what people living on the streets of England have to endure, especially during the winter months, when temperatures can drop below freezing.

The churches involved in the Rough Sleepathon were able to offer their bathroom facilities, which would constitute a luxury for the homeless. As both the London churches were on main roads, participants were able to collect money for the cause and raise publicity as onlookers asked about what was happening.

Members young and old settled down in blankets and boxes as early as 10pm! The members sleeping rough were hoping that, as well as experiencing the plight of the homeless, they would be able to raise funds for a mobile unit – a dream of the Community Ministries department. This unit would allow us to feed the homeless, as well as sell healthy foods to those able to buy them.

The department is hoping to take this mobile food unit to Olympic events to raise awareness of our ministry.

For more information about how you and your church can get involved in your area, please contact Elsie Staple at the South England Conference on: 01923 232728.

Feeding the homeless (and the homeowners!)

Area 6a Adventist churches fed the residents of Harringay for a second time last year by distributing literature on Sabbath 10 December and selling produce on Sunday 11 December.

Church members had been invited to participate in this festival on Mattison Road after the success of the Summer Harringay Food Festival held in September, and soon started attaching their church addresses to books and magazines.

On Sabbath they offered Spirit of Prophecy literature, books on Sabbath-keeping, magazines on health and lifestyle choices, and child-friendly books (and even gave gifts to ‘Santa’!) – and then on Sunday they sold vegan soups, fresh juices and smoothies, and some warm winter clothes.

An ice rink was set up in the school playground, and even fellow stall-competitors came along to have a browse. Seasonal hymns were sung and spiritual music was played to passers-by, and The Cosmic Conflict and Final Events DVDs were shown on a projector.

Leftovers were donated to the church 50 metres away, which daily operates a night shelter and soup kitchen for refugees, asylum seekers and the homeless.

The proceeds of the sale will be donated to the SEC Health and Community Ministries department to go towards the purchase of a mobile unit. For further details, or to make a donation, please contact Elsie Staple at the SEC office, 25 St John’s Road, Watford, Herts – or email: estaple@secadventist.org.uk.

ELISABETH CARNELL

Harrow baptism

On 22 October 2011, five precious souls were baptised at the nearby St Albans church, Ezra and Sheeba Sankar, and Peter and Riashita Nongrum with their eldest son Christopher.

Family influence and Christian education helped them to make their decision for Christ. Sheeba’s near relation had been educated at an Adventist school in India, and Bible studies with Elder Robin Peck gave them a clearer understanding of the Church’s aims and outlook.

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HILMER NAPTHINE

St Albans church: Ezra and Sheeba Sankar, and Peter and Biastina Nongrum with their eldest son Christopher.

At the annual Grantham toy service on 3 December 2011, toys were received by Sarah High and Sarah Patel of Home Start, and more will be delivered to the Kingfisher Ward, Grantham Hospital.

Food parcels were distributed to elderly neighbours, to people in need and to a local luncheon club for people with disabilities.

Wendy Wamsley inspired both men and ladies of the church to knit 175 hats and thirteen blankets for the Premature Baby Units of Lincoln and Nottingham Hospitals.

Funds raised throughout the year by the Community Services team, led by Pam Davies, were presented to representatives for the RNLI, Macmillan Nurses and Grantham’s St Barnabas Hospice. Pastor John Ferguson received a gift on behalf of the street pastors as a ‘thank you’ for the work they do in Grantham on Sabbath days.

In his address, Pastor Ferguson used the 2011 John Lewis TV advertisement to remind congregants of the best gift ever given – our crucified and risen Saviour.

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ELIESABETH CARNELL
Pupils reach out to community

Pupils at Dudley House School, Grantham, have been following Jesus’ example by reaching out to others in their community: taking food to the Grantham Foodbank, giving scarves, hats, gloves and socks to the homeless, raising money to buy Lifestraws (water purification devices) for children in Uganda, and sending shoesboxes bulging with goodies to MKDA. The children’s school council has also raised over £300 for Children in Need.

During the last week of term the children brought Christmas carols to the Avery Lodge Retirement Home, St Barnabas Hospice and the Grantham Choral Society concert, and amazed those who listened with their outstanding performance!

Their Christmas play reminded a packed church about the true meaning of Christmas. They also collected just over £145 that will be given to help Grantham Church set up a soup kitchen for the homeless in the area.

It is lovely to see our young children so enthusiastically helping others, and we commend the school for the excellent work it is doing!

JENNY SUTTON

Dudley House School

Independent education for children aged 3-11

• Do you want the best possible Christian education for your child, where Adventist values, standards and principles are at the heart of the learning experience?

• We believe that each child is unique, and our staff are dedicated to helping all students achieve their full potential.

We would welcome the opportunity to show you what our vibrant school has to offer you and your child.

For further details, contact us at:
1 Dudley Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9AA
01476 400184
www.dudleyhouseschool.co.uk

Toy service at Sutton

On 3 December, toys were donated by members of the Sutton-in-Ashfield and Chesterfield churches to Lieutenant Margaret Gargett, from the Salvation Army, who passed them on to SureStart in Sutton and in Huthwaite.

Members were assured that many children in the area would not have had any presents at all, were it not for the churches that participate in this programme. The gifts from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Salvation Army and some local businesses make their Christmas fun possible!

EUNICE MASON

A Chinese view of England

On 24 November, Stanborough students saw England through Chinese eyes after a party of 117 students and teachers from Hong Kong arrived to participate in lessons and discover culturally significant cities like London, Cambridge and Oxford.

The exchange students had been keeping journals of their impressions about British culture – one student said: ‘The best thing about the school is that the meals are very healthy.’

Another student commented: ‘There is a large green area and lots of trees; I loved playing football there because we do not have so much space in Hong Kong.

Even the architecture caught the students’ attention: ‘The houses look like candy houses in the story of Hansel and Gretel. They are very attractive.

However, the most interesting part was to hear their reflections about faith. ‘The school has a strong spiritual culture. They always pray before meals, assemblies and even classes. In our school there is no religious culture. I think that’s why Stanborough students are calmer than us’, one student shared. The same student finished his powerful testimony by saying: ‘After visiting Stanborough School, I think that we should learn how to treat other better. . . . We should also try to accept each other’s differences.’

JANICE BISHOP

Children go fishing at Leeds Central

The Leeds Central children’s day was held on Sabbath 5 November 2011, with the theme of ‘Go Fishing’; more than forty under-15s sang, recited poems, and acted in sketches, all co-ordinated by Rochelle Wilkinson and others.

V. MAYNARD

Congratulations

Congratulations to Liam Phares, Rico Phares, Elijah Phares and Alexis, who were dedicated to the Lord in Birmingham on Sabbath 26 November. May God bless them and guide the direction of their lives.

ROHEET SUBRAI

Annual toy service golden jubilee

The Stanborough Park church held its fiftieth toy service on 10 December: the annual toy service was started in 1961 by the late Alf Kelly, following the example of Ealing Church in West London. Alf, who was awarded an MBE in 1996 for his community work, was determined that local children should not go without toys at Christmas – and he persuaded church members to donate new toys, which he would distribute himself.

The Stanborough toy service is the longest-running one in the Adventist Church, and is continued by Alf’s daughter, Pat Walton.

Every year the mayor (or occasionally his deputy) has attended, now accompanied by the chairman of the council.

The toys are now distributed by social workers, health visitors, community workers and Watford Women’s Refuge. One beneficiary is the local children’s centre. Manager Vicky Attazziad writes: ‘The service is extremely valued by the families who have benefited. . . . For some, it makes the difference between the child receiving a present and having nothing.’

JUNE COOMBS

The NEC Youth, Sabbath School & Children Ministries brings ARME Bible Camp to England

Thursday, 5 – Monday, 9 April 2012

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ROHEET SUBRAI
Community Christmas party

The Sutton-in-Ashfield church held a Christmas party recently for the community members who have been participating in the church’s walking club, soup kitchen and cooking classes. Sixteen visitors from the community came to enjoy the festivities!

Donate £5 to the ADRA Horn of Africa Appeal. BERT SMIT, CEO, ADRA-UK

With a compatible smartphone to donate £5 to the ADRA Horn of Africa Appeal. Just scan the barcode below.

Horn of Africa Appeal by SMS

Marjorie and Peter Sindal.

‘Each one, teach one’

The Lay Preachers and Stewardship Certificate Courses culminated on Sunday 4 December in a graduation service at the Advent Centre in London.

Pastor Kirk Thomas (SEC Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director) was joined on the platform by the SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, Dr Terry Messinger (SEC secretary), Dr Richard De Liester (SEC Stewardship director) and Pastor Eglan Brooks (BUC Evangelism director).

Seventy-five certificates were presented – five for the completion of the Stewardship course and seventy for completion of the Lay Preacher course. Antonio Belgrave said, ‘At the beginning of the year, studying to be a lay preacher wasn’t even a dot on my radar . . . I am now trusting God.’

CERTIFIED TRAINING FOR ADVENTIST-MUSLIM RELATIONS

Training for Muslim Evangelism

The Adventist-Muslim Relations department at the South England Conference is organising a four-part training course on Islam for pastors and lay people who would like to learn how to reach Muslims in their local communities.

The four-part course, which is heavily subsidised, will cost only £50! The cost includes material, lunch, a new book (the AMR Manual) and certificate on completion.

The course will take place on the following dates:

- 25 January, 3 June, 9 December
- Venue: The Advent Centre, 12 Crawford Place (off Edgware Road), Westminster, London W1H 5HD.

This very special course will cover History of Islam, Expansion of Islam, Spiritual World of Islam, Cultural Barriers, and Bible Studies for Muslims. Places are limited, so please register for this course on time to avoid disappointment!

Please e-mail: abi@secadventist.org.uk or call the South England Conference on 01923 232728.

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 ordination of elders and deacons

On Saturday 9 July 2011, the Balham church ordained five elders – Sharon Cameron, Anthony Fuller, Roger Squire, Kirk Mathesson and Sally Brown – and two deacons – Aston Brown and George (Paul) Brown.

Sharon Cameron felt the Lord’s leading from a very young age; Anthony Fuller would never have imagined being called to the ministry, but is currently a trainee pastor at Lewisham . . . in 1992, and preached his first sermon in 1995; and Sally Brown has found utmost joy in visitation and evangelism.

Jesus aids schoolwork!

Francine Knight, whose family was recently baptised at Manchester Piccadilly Church, is only 13 – but she’s already won seven awards at Wright Robinson College. These awards created the opportunity for her to spread the Adventist message in her school, as both teachers and students kept asking her for the reason behind her success. Her answer to them was: ‘JESUS.’

Celebration of marriage service

On Sabbath 19 November 2011, a packed Norwich church held a celebration of marriage service. Audrey and Peter Thirkill (who have been married for sixty-three years) helped the younger generation to understand what goes into a good marriage – especially prayer as a couple!

God bless them all.

obituary

Jean Margaret Vallance (1926-2011) d. 17 October. Jean was born in Bristol, and lived with her parents in various locations in Somerset. She left school when she was 15, and passed secretarial examinations before working in government departments. During the 1960s she had her own flat in Bristol, and worked in Weston-super-Mare for the rotary club and also as a photographer.

Following the death of her mother in 1986, Jean moved to Street in Somerset. Jean had always been very interested in spiritual matters, and her interest was further aroused when a VOP card was posted through her letterbox. In the time that followed, she became a keen student and passed many of the available courses. In due course she was visited by Pastor Mike Joy, who spent many fruitful hours studying with Jean, and Jean eventually decided to make her commitment. Jean’s health had often been very fragile, and in view of this she offered the right hand of fellowship, until health problems intervened, she was a regular member of Graysome Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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The divine pronoun

For the past few decades now, The Stanborough Press Ltd and Autumn House (Europe) Ltd have been employing lower-case usages of the divine personal pronoun (‘he’, ‘him’, ‘you’, ‘thou’, and so on) with reference to Members of the Godhead—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—in accordance with similar usages in our most respected literal translations of Scripture: the King James Version, the New International Version, the English Standard Version, the Revised Version, the New Revised Standard Version, and earlier editions of the New King James Version, as well as familiar paraphrases such as the Good News Bible, the New Living Translation, the Contemporary English Version, Phillips’, New Testament and the Message—and lastly the Oxford English Dictionary. Since January 2011, the lower-case pronouns have also been used in the Stanborough Press publication of the Sabbath School study guides. However, the world Church, in accordance with the New American Standard Version, more modern editions of the New King James Version, the Amplified Bible and our very own Clear Word paraphrase, as well as the writings of Ellen G. White, has been employing upper-case renditions of the divine pronouns (‘He’, ‘Him’, ‘You’, ‘Thou’, and so on)—we feel that this accords our Sovereign Lord more of the respect that we all owe to Him, and so the managing director of The Stanborough Press has authorised the universal use of upper-case divine pronouns in all our publications from this time forward. May our Lord’s name be glorified in all our work.

ANDREW PUCKERING

New book of the week

The Delay
Marvin Moore

Our very name, ‘Seventh-day Adventist’, reflects such hope in Jesus’ soon return—but how much longer must we wait? Marvin Moore, a keen student of Bible prophecy and end-time events, answers your questions on the latter case, the time of trouble, the growing power of the papacy and other signs of the end.

Contact ABC Sales on 01476 539900 to purchase your copy at £13.75 plus p&p.

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