Catterick Garrison, located in North Yorkshire, is the 'largest British Army garrison in the world' and permanent home to around 12,000 people. It also plays host to a large contingent of soldiers undergoing various stages of training. In fact, recruits joining any of the Infantry Regiments, including The Footguards, The Parachute Regiment and The Brigade of Gurkhas, undertake all their initial training at ITC Catterick. The base is unusual, seeing that a town has developed around and between its various barracks, complete with large supermarkets, a retail park, McDonalds, and all the other modern amenities one would expect – including an Adventist church, where something special has just taken place!

On 8 January this year, the Catterick Adventists celebrated the first anniversary of their establishment in great style, with the baptism of five precious souls – four of whom are actively serving in the British Army. In addition to this, the baptised couples also dedicated their six children to the Lord that day: Hannah, Gloria, Eluate, Aleynah, Estellar and Louisa.

It started like this
It all started with Weisele and Maria Wainiqolo, who were searching for the truth about the Bible Sabbath. Conviction led them to leave their church and begin observing Sabbath at home. Then, at the start of 2011, they invited Pastor Volney Ham-Ying to study and worship with them. As the studies progressed, friends and family returning from postings abroad also began to attend. One mother, Virginia, travelled with her children every Sabbath from the army base near York, not willing to miss a thing. In a direct answer to prayer, facilities within the nearby Marne Barracks were made available for their weekly Sabbath services.

Now back to 8 January, 2012 – and the five candidates are baptised amid great rejoicing: Weisele and Maria Wainiqolo, Mikalele and Virginia Vakalolowa, and Autiko Domonakibau (1st Battalion Scots Guards) – real soldiers of Christ! Leading out in the services, with warm encouragement from God’s Word, were Pastor Cyril Sweeney (NEC president), Pastor Michael Simpson (NEC Church-Plant and Personal Ministries director), and Pastor Curtis Murphy (NEC Area 1 co-ordinator and minister of Newcastle Church).

An invitation
We invite you to pray for our Adventist men and women in uniform – especially those who are assigned to overseas active duty.

2 http://www.army.mod.uk/training_education/training/18145.aspx.

Top photo – back row, left to right: Pastors Michael Simpson & Curtis Murphy, Maria & daughter Aleynah, Pastor Cyril Sweeney, Virginia, Autiko, Pastor Volney Ham-Ying. Front, left to right: Weisele and Mikalele.
Editor’s note: In our next editorial we will look at some ways to know God’s will for your life.

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus in Matthew 6:9, 10, NKJV.

There was no eulation in His voice. A sense of dread settled over Him. He knew He was a ‘dead man walking’, and those four words had sealed His fate.

Whether in acceptance of the past; recognition of the present; or anticipation of the future – these four words can never be said with insincerity or flippantly, because they mean commitment. They disclose our intention to live by God’s rules – irrespective of how inconvenient or painful the outcomes may be.

‘All right, then, have it your way.’

There are only two options in life, and C. S. Lewis has them both covered here. You either do it God’s way or your way.

There are classic examples of this type of behaviour in both testaments – and a good sprinkling of it around us today – but one of the most interesting is found in Numbers 22-24.

Balaam was what the Andrews Study Bible calls ‘an internationally known prophet and diviner’ whom God says, ‘All right, then, have it your way.’

Balaam says ‘I’ll go with you’.

Lewis was right. There are only two kinds of people: those who listen to God and do His will; and those who should teach their donkeys to talk!'
In testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 463 we read: ‘The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace, forgotten by circumstance. . . . This day is just before us. The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls burdened with remorses for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges. I want to urge a prayer for radical times.’

I studied the story of Jacob and one thing stood out. Jacob was always running. First, he runs from his brother Esau; he runs from his uncle Laban; and then he runs back home into Esau. But there comes a time when you have to stop running and face your enemy. But our real enemy is not of flesh and blood – it is principalities and powers. The devil is pursuing the people of God. Just as Peter says he goes about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. But the New Testament never says we should flee from the devil. Paul tells us ‘To flee as fast as you can’ (2 Timothy 2:22, KJV), he doesn’t tell us to flee from the devil on our own. On the contrary, James says, ‘Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.’ After a while you’ve got to turn and face the old rascal, but it’s ‘. . . not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit’ (Ezekiel 4, KJV). Like a child, consistent to carry a baby, a wife, perpetually abused by a husband; a job, if you were threatened by a mob – there comes a time when you say enough is enough, and your discipline, like Esther. ‘I’m going to go where no one has ever gone before, and if I perish, I perish.’ Desperate times call for desperate prayers. Radical times call for radical prayers, and here is the first, in just two words: Banish me

Genesis 32:24-25 (KJV) ‘And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the fordJabbok. And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had. And Jacob was left alone. . . .’ Jacob placed families, friends, and possessions on one side, and himself and God on the other. In these last days, the choice will not always be between good and bad; the choice may be between good and better. Banishment means going to a solitary place. Turn off the radio. Turn off the computer. Leave your mobile phone behind. Get rid of the television if you have one. ‘Then Jacob went on his way; and the angel of the LORD went on before him, and kept him all the way to Succoth.’ (Genesis 32:18)

The first extreme prayer for extreme circumstances is, ‘Banish me’. The second radical prayer for radical times is, ‘Break me’.

Genesis 32:24, 25 (KJV) says: ‘And there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.’

What is your exercise? Treadmill? Weight-lifting? Wrestling? They say that nothing respects the body like wrestling. Imagine, then, wrestling all night. Jacob wanted the man to let him go, but suddenly it dawned on him that he was wrestling with the Angel. In the true metaphor, Jacob got the change; but for Jacob it was a struggle. He was wrestling against the very thing he needed the most. The fight was not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers. Jacob must get off him, and gain victory. ‘I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.’ What was that lesson? It was very specific; he received a new name – Israel. Effectively this meant ‘The deceiver has become the overcomer’.

When in his distress Jacob laid hold of the Angel, and made supplication with tears, the heavenly Messenger, in order to try his faith, also reminded him of his sin, and endeavoured to escape from him. But Jacob neither turned away nor turned away. He had learned that God is merciful, and he cast himself upon his mercy. He pointed back to his repentence for his sin, and pleaded for deliverance. As he reviewed his life, he was driven almost to despair; but he held fast the Angel, and aching, penitent cries urged his petition until he prevailed.

I will not escape the experience of God’s people in their final struggle with the powers of evil. God will test their faith, their perseverance, their confidence in his power to deliver them. Satan will endeavour to terrify them with the thought that their causes are hopeless, that their sins have been too great to be covered. They will have a deep sense of the futility of their efforts, and as they review their lives their hopes will sink. But remembering the greatness of their leader, and the success of His promises made through Christ Jesus, the despairsing, repenting faith will not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. They will lay hold of the strength of God, and as Jacob laid hold of the Angel, the language of their souls will be, ‘I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.’

If the first prayer is banish me, and the second prayer is break me, then the final prayer is bless me.

Gen 32:28. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.’

What was that lesson? It was very specific: he received a new name – Israel. Effectively this meant ‘The deceiver has become the overcomer’ and that is what we all need – to be overcomers in the face of all life’s challenges!

I’m in the fight of my life, but my daily practice is break me, and my daily prayer is break me, and my daily pleasure is for God to bless me.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Mary Baker Eddy said, ‘The very Person who could solve his problems. Sometimes we fight against the very thing we need the most.

He can spend the weekend with Andrew Puckering.

Jacob wrestled with the very Person who could solve his problems. Sometimes we fight against the very thing we need the most.

How about this thought from Conflict and Courage, p. 68: ‘When in his distress Jacob laid hold on the Angel, and made supplication with tears, the heavenly Messenger, in order to try his faith, also reminded him of his sin, and endeavoured to escape from him. But Jacob neither turned away nor turned away. He had learned that God is merciful, and he cast himself upon his mercy. He pointed back to his repentence for his sin, and pleaded for deliverance. As he reviewed his life, he was driven almost to despair; but he held fast the Angel, and aching, penitent cries urged his petition until he prevailed.

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See footnote or Genesis 32:28: Andrews Study Bible, NKJV.
Children and Communion

Dear Editor

With due respect to Pastor Rees (MESSENGER, 6 January, 2012) I must beg to differ. . . .

The writer of that Ministry article was a mite careless with his choice of words: ‘Infant baptism’ is suggestive of a baby being sprinkled with a few drops of water . . . have seen many a Communion Service, and by then, if asked, would be able to give a good explanation as to its significance.

And there’s the rub, as Shakespeare would say. How much about the 28 Fundamental Beliefs do we expect intending members to know before we baptise them? Even children in single figures can have correct ideas as to the fact that they are sinners, that Christ died for their sins, and that He rose from the dead, and will come again; when it comes to some others, it can take a lot longer . . .

BARRY GOWLAND

Evangelism Expo 2012

‘Church members are keen on evangelism and ready to serve’, enthused Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, as he watched a record-breaking 1,500 people attend seminars and workshops on that theme during the South England Conference’s Evangelism Expo 2012.

There was hardly space to move on a packed Newbold College campus, as the saints turned out in their hundreds on Sunday, 15 January, to listen to a variety of excellent speakers and wander among the displays.

Pastor Michael Anim, one of those who got there early to enjoy Pastor Frederick Russell’s morning devotional, found that it ‘was spiritually full-length’ – it ‘really hit the spot!’ He found the seminars he attended ‘truly inspiring’ too.

Workshops

Throughout the day there was a variety of workshops to attend – some presented by SEC departmental directors and pastors, and others by competent laypersons. For example, there was Pastor Petro Bahadur’s ‘Islamic Mission Taking Over Europe’ presentation; and Pastor Richard de Lasser’s practical guidance on ‘Raising Financially Intelligent Kids’.

The SEC Education director, Opal Johnson-Christie, invited pupils from the SEC schools to share their observations and thoughts on Adventist education. The overall sentiments they fed back were positive: that in Adventist schools the pupils learn better values and have a sense of purpose; and that spiritually permeates all aspects of their school experience.

According to the BUC Education director, Anne Pilmoor, ‘This is good to hear. . . . we are encouraged by the positive responses our young people have to their learning environments.’

For the youth

This expo was for the youth too, and Jadanna Jones, a youth worker at Newbold Church, felt that: ‘The teen seminars gave us all great, practical advice and left us with a sense of approachability. They made it clear that there was an open-door policy when it came to joining the Teens’ Advisory; young or old can be part of the work they do.’ She added, ‘One great idea was mentoring; making it possible for older, experienced church members to get to know the young people, personally.’

The Olympics

Special emphasis was placed on the Olympic 2012 programme, detailing how members can evangelise, using different forms of outreach in the lead-up to, and during, this summer. Karen Burnet from World Church enjoyed the workshop on the Olympics; it was mind-blowing stuff! It’s an interesting and massive project and through it we have the potential to interact and witness to a huge number of people coming to the UK. It was definitely inspiring.

All ‘Fired Up’

Then, to highlight the Book from which all evangelism originates, Mervyn Weir and his cast presented his production, Fired Up, during the afternoon programme. The drama tracks how the King James Version of the Bible came about, and how it still influences our lives today.

This expo was a great launching pad for the SEC’s 2012 evangelism initiatives.

New departments

Two new SEC departments, Disability Ministries and Media, spoke respectively about the Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) and online evangelism, giving the attenders practical advice on how to reach minorities through media that are specific to their needs.

Elise Staple, Community and Health Ministries director, spoke of how excited she is about the community work happening in Ipswich Church. Then there was the touching testimony of a homeless man who has become part of their community through this ministry.

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* This powerful drama has recently been filmed for cinema and DVD release, and a trailer for it is now available on the Hope Channel website (click on ‘watch the trailer’).

New series for Revelation TV – SEC Communications

Searching for a God to Love mixes presentation with discussion, aiming to encourage viewers to reflect on God, faith and other religious realities. Author and professor, Chris Blake, speaks to the ‘believing unbelievers’: those who believe in God but not in the picture of Him they have been presented. Each episode links to Chris Blake’s book of the same title, in which he presents this loving, caring God that so many have forgotten or misinterpreted, in a relaxed yet striking presentation. The thirteen-week series alternates weekly between presentation one week, and discussion the next. Each episode sees Blake’s talk followed by a discussion between Blake and Pastor Patrick Johnson, senior pastor of Newbold Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For the series, Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, states: ‘The series maintains a balance between creative teaching, ingenious comedy, deep soul-searching and resolute faith.’

* Searching for a God to Love airs Monday nights on Revelation TV (Sky Channel 581 or Freesat 692) and, if you miss an episode, catch up on the dedicated Searching for a God to Love website.

The programmes were filmed by the SEC Media team in a co-operative venture between SEC Media, BUC Media and the Newbold Church media team. Appreciation also goes to the college and church, who both helped to make this series a success.

PASTOR KIRSTEN ØSTER-LUNDQVIST

SEC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DIRECTOR
Happy New Year Christian Stars!
Do you know what special event happens in 2012? Yes, the Olympics. You do not have to take part in these games to be a winner. Let us look at what the Bible says about Jesus being the Number One Winner, and how He can make us winners too.

We can be winners like Jesus when we copy the way He spent time talking with and obeying our Heavenly Father. Do the wordsearch, and know how and when you will be a winner. Find the **bold** words in this message from 2 Timothy 4:7, 8:

> I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Now there is for me a crown of righteousness which Jesus will award me and all those who long for Him to come again.

Winning athletes listen to their trainers. Who did Jesus listen to so He could win? Unscramble these words:

**SHI** THA**F**ER  
**NI** BAVE**E**N

Do this dot-to-dot to find a clue to what Jesus experienced so that we can be winners in God’s eyes.

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Think of four things Olympic champions may give up doing so they can train.

When you have joined them all up draw a double line from 2 to 12 and 10 to 6.

**N O P D H B G F**  
**N W O R C L A A**  
**J F H A K L F I**  
**J E D W E A H T**  
**Y E S A P Y U H**  
**S C I U T N V I**  
**X A B N S J B M**  
**D R O C C T K K**

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**E E O B O E I E O I**  
**A A E E A I E**

Write in the circles with these letters to find out how much He loves you.

What makes a winner? Put a circle around the phrases that describe how you can become a good athlete:

- Eat properly
- Be lazy
- Not sleep enough
- Practise regularly
- Fool around
- Ignore your trainer
- Remember to pray

It seemed Jesus had been beaten when He was put on the cross. Read John 2:18-22 to find out how many days He was to remain dead, and fill in the blank above.

Jesus died so:

John 3:14-16

Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars Children’s pages – or from their parents – is welcome.

The address is children@adventist.org.uk – Heather Haworth, Children’s Ministries director, BUC

Dawn Thompson
**Baptism in Tamworth**

It was a happy occasion in Tamworth on Sabbath 19 November 2011, because three souls gave their lives to Jesus Christ: Paulette Bennett and Dennis Byron were baptised by Pastor Milan Gugleta, assisted by Elders Danny Reid and Suyree Mullings; Veta Irving, Paulette’s mum, was given the right hand of fellowship.

We would like to ask God’s blessing for Veta, Paulette and Dennis as they begin their new walk with Jesus Christ.

PAULINE NEWTON
COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

**Campaign and baptism**

Pastor Marshall, the minister at Burngreave Church, Sheffield, held a ten-day campaign during the month of October 2011, at the end of which a soul was baptised – Stephanie Edwards. The impact of that campaign is still being felt, as baptisms are continuing!

**Know your health numbers!**

The Tottenham church hosted the Area 6a health fair on 27 November 2011, co-ordinated by Health Ministries leader Janette Joseph and advertised in two London papers and in flyers. Elsie Staple, SEC Health Ministries director, was there to support this community outreach with twelve experienced health professionals from across the area. A representative from Haringey’s NHS Consortium saw the advertisement and came to forge links with the Adventists, and many local health-conscious people attended for free-perspective, blood-sugar, BMI, cholesterol, height, weight and peak-flow tests. Fitness instructor Kenroy Malcolm led a group of all ages through a series of keep-fit exercises, after which freshly squeezed juices were available to quench the thirst.

As a community outreach programme, the health fair was deemed a huge success!

DOREEN I. FRAY

**Baptism inspired by a song**

Ranelagh Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dublin witnessed the baptism of Brenda Kachidza by Pastor Ben Pontanar on 21 January 2012. Inspired by a song titled ‘Four days late’, she made a commitment to Jesus Christ for the rest of her life, come what may: doubts and challenges notwithstanding!

IPHITHULE MHLANGA

**Stoke Newington drop-in centre celebrates ten years**

For the last ten years, Hackney’s homeless have looked forward to a weekly Wednesday lunch, courtesy of the Stoke Newington Church Community Ministries department’s outreach programme – The Open Door Drop-in Centre. This ten-year anniversary was recognised on Sabbath 16 July 2011. The speaker for the day was Dr Richard de Lisser, under whose ministry the centre was opened. The service was also attended by the local councillor, Daniel Stevens, and some of the users of the Centre.

Prior to the opening of the centre the Community Ministries department was part of the feeding programme run by Area 6c, in which food, clothing and other necessities were taken out to the homeless on the streets of London each week. Eileen Lorton suggested opening a centre at the church, and the centre was opened on 1 August 2001 by a former mayor of Hackney, Councillor Siddique Khan.

On opening day five users turned up, but as the project proceeded an average of sixty people used the centre each week – and at one session seventy turned up.

The church provided initial funding, but for the last six years funding has been provided by the local council.

The church continues...

**Vacancy: School Chaplain/Bible Teacher**

To start as soon as possible; preferably April 2012. Salary: MPS, will apply (depending on experience).

The Governing Body wishes to appoint a Seventh-day Adventist School Chaplain with teaching experience. We are looking for a candidate who has a pastoral background, and will be approachable, confident, dynamic and enthusiastic; with a passion for school improvement and raising standards. The successful candidate will:

- Take an active part in developing and maintaining the spiritual aspect of school life, including assemblies, RE/Bible Emphasis Week and Week of Prayer;
- Contribute effectively to the promulgation of the Seventh-day Adventist Christian ethos throughout the school;
- Have QTS and up-to-date professional knowledge;
- Be an excellent classroom practitioner with the ability to inspire students and integrate the Bible into all curriculum subjects;
- Be able to develop and maintain the Religious Education curriculum;
- Have proven ability in the teaching of Religious Education, with particular emphasis on the teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs.

For an application form, contact the school on 0121 693 7742. A visit to the school is welcomed.

Closing date for applications: Friday 2 March 2012, 2.30pm.

The successful candidate will be subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its children and expects all staff to share this commitment.

**New group in Swindon**

A Portuguese-speaking group now meets every Sabbath at Swindon Seventh-day Adventist Church, Whitty Grove, off Cheney Manor Road, Rodbourne, SN2 1NA. All are welcome.

Email: iasdwilon@hotmail.com for details.

EMERSON FERREIRA
Adventists participate in Cardiff’s Christian community
Llandaff Cathedral, near Cardiff, hosted a Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 20 January for the success of Christmas – The Story, a play that had run in the city centre throughout December. Leslie Wood from the Ystrad Mynach church read one of the prayers at this service, and, along with Miriam Wood, had taken part in the play at the Tabernacle, a large Welsh chapel in the centre of Cardiff’s shopping area. From Monday to Saturday the presentation began with prayer and a performance at 10am.

The huge undertaking involved eight sets of players and Christians from many denominations, and was advertised by leaflets and radio interviews.

People were invited off the street to come and watch – parents, carers, children and the homeless.

‘What a wonderful way to praise the Lord’, says Leslie. ‘Now we know why we were impressed to move to Wales!’

Miriam Wood

Surprise party for church treasurer
Treasurer Pearl Walker was happily surprised by her son Steve and husband Pastor Mike Walker recently, when Mike organised a surprise party at the Great Yarmouth church to celebrate her 70th birthday!

Communications

Joseph, king of dreams
Several residents from the Preston community came to the church on 5 and 6 November 2011, to watch the youth give a modern adaptation of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. They blended drama with youthful comedy to portray a witty yet accurate biblical account of the life of Joseph, serving as a spiritual reminder to church members, and a powerful testimony to the Preston community that trust in the Lord really is rewarding.

Alana Ambrose-McGonigle

Oxford Church health expo
In summer 2011, the Oxford Adventist church ran its second health expo in the town hall, using the theme of WELLNESS – Water, Exercise, Love, Lifestyle, Nutrition, Environment, Sleep, Sunshine. More than 100 local people attended, giving very positive feedback – a number of the visitors could not believe the event was free! Church members were encouraged by the attendance, and by interest in the literature stands. For further pictures, please visit the Oxford Church website, www.oxfordadventist.org, or visit the facebook page.

Sophia Reynolds

Great Brickkiln Pathfinder investiture
On 19 November 2011, members of a packed Great Brickkiln church celebrated their Pathfinders’ investiture. Badges and presentations were given to young Pathfinders and Adventurers before three youths each presented a mini sermon and the Pathfinders gave a drilling and drumming display for the local community.

Delva Campbell

May your best present be Jesus!
The children’s Christmas play at Loughborough Church, held on Sabbath 17 December, had a very clear message – the young actors and singers challenged their audience to really engage with the story of Jesus’ birth on a personal level. The children had all worked very hard to prepare and put on an excellent performance.

Twenty-four non-Adventist visitors from the community and elsewhere joined the congregation, and some returned for the church’s carol service the following Sabbath. Jesus is the best present they could possibly have!

Vivienne Barratt-Peacock

SEC teens’ end-of-year social
On the night of 31 December 2011, more than 100 teens from across the SEC celebrated the arrival of 2012 with games, shows, and food at the Advent Centre, organised by the Holloway Youth department in conjunction with the SEC Teens department.

The evening was opened with prayer and continued with fun and fellowship – our young people also brought their unchurched friends to see how the Church socialises together. Thoughts and prayers were uttered by Newbold Theology student Julian Young, trainee pastors Matthew Herel and Andrew Davis and the SEC Teens director Dejan Stojkovic in the countdown to midnight.

The SEC Teens director plans a similar event to end 2012.

Baoirse Daly
SEC Teens Assessment

A first for Manchester Central
On 17 December the Manchester Central Pathfinder Club hosted its first investiture programme – Pathfinders led Sabbath School with a pre-recorded video and lively discussion, and in Divine Service the drumming of the North West Drum Corp and a message on forgiveness from Clive Palmer preceded an award of honours to all members of the club. In addition, three young girls – Safiya McKenzie, Shardonia Lewis and Tryphena Rowe – were invested as Voyagers.

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Delva Campbell
Birthday celebrations at Leicester Central

Congratulations to Sister Olga Clarke, who celebrated her birthday at Leicester Central on 19 November 2011 — blessed with a fertile mind and a witty sense of humour, she has made many friends over the years. As a nurse she has been a rock of support to many, and a gracious host as well. May God continue to bless her — still sharp and alert at 91.

Every little helps

Clutching her well-preserved article from MESSENGER (21 August 2009) telling of how Olivia Medditch (then just 7 years old) had kick-started Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist Church into regular fund-raising for a church building, Etta Smith, of the Grantham church, presented Olivia with a £50 donation.

Prepared to serve

On 18 December 2011, David Amore, a dedicated member of the Great Brickkiln church in Wolverhampton, flew out to South Korea to teach English and Bible classes to a variety of age groups for two years. Sharing Christ as a missionary has been his lifelong ambition. The church prays for God to give spiritual guidance to David during his stay in Korea.

obituary

Elsie May Phillips (1920-2011) d. 15 September.

Elsie was born in Bermudonny, Ayrshire, and was the oldest of three sisters and two brothers. When she was 20 she went to work on the farms in the Rickmansworth area and soon joined the Women’s Land Army. She was very proud when in 2008 she received her Land Army Medal and Certificate, signed by the then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown. During her time on the farms she came into contact with Seventh-day Adventists and was baptised in 1937, joining the Edgbaston church. That same year she joined the staff of the Stanborough Press in Watford, working as an engraver and later in the bindery. Following the disastrous fire which destroyed the Press, she moved with other Press staff in 1966 to Grantham, where she lived for the rest of her life.

Elsie enjoyed travelling to visit friends in Europe and North America, reading, listening to classical music and the companionship of her dogs. She studied her Sabbath School lesson every day, and was cheerful, kind and patient: a stalwart of the Grantham church as Community Services Leader, committed to charity work, including the animal toy service. She often used her own home to store bulky charity donations, and often gave more of her own. For several years she volunteered at the Special Needs Camp at Shoeburyness. Her home was near a local park, and, when she met with people who were living rough there, she took them hot meals, and blankets or clothing, and talked to them about God. It was in this park about twelve years ago that she broke her hip. She never fully recovered from this, and was forced to accept a little more help than she would want, but she rarely complained, and continued to live in her own home until she had a fall just six months before her death.

Elsie’s love for and faith in God was unshakeable; and she often spoke of Christ’s return. She remained the only Adventist in her family, but prayed ceaselessly for each family member, as well as her friends and church members, especially the pastor. Her funeral was conducted by Pastor John Ferguson at Grantham Seventh-day Adventist Church on 26 September when about 100 people attended, including a number from the local community, followed by burial at Grantham Cemetery. Those of us who knew Elsie expect to see her on that wonderful morning when Jesus returns in glory.

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Deaconesses ordained at Hope Community

On Sabbath 21 January, four ladies were ordained as deaconesses in the packed Beckenham Hope Community Seventh-day Adventist church by Pastor S. Matthias Esson: Coreen Williams (who heads the department), Elizabeth Wilkinson, Pheobe Kyeyune and Diana St Hill.

Sylvia Bernard, who serves mostly in Balham.

What’s Christmas all about?

Birthday celebrations at Leicester Central

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What’s Christmas all about?
On 3 December, Tottenham Church dedicated its new Children and Youth Sabbath School Division library.

Ninety-nine percent of the age-specific books were ordered from the ABC, and bought with donations from church members. Aurora York-McKay from the Hampstead church and the children themselves read out loud for the dedication.

The church thanks God for this library, which is being used enthusiastically every week.

DOREEN I. FRAY