In 1984 the rock musician called Bob Geldof was moved by a BBC news report concerning a terrible famine in Ethiopia. He mobilised colleagues in the music industry and organised one of the biggest rock concerts the world had ever seen – called Live Aid. Live Aid was hosted simultaneously in the UK and the USA, with the BBC covering its entire sixteen hours.

During the broadcast, viewers were shocked into giving cash as Geldof, clearly moved by the horror of the famine, ordered viewers not to go out to the pub – and with an outburst of profanity cried: ‘Give us the money!’

The viewers responded, and Live Aid raised some £30 million. Every year, members and friends of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout the British Isles have an opportunity to raise funds for ADRA-UK (the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in the United Kingdom) from the public.

While the ADRA Annual Appeal has not raised £30 million with one event, there are two special features of the ADRA Annual Appeal about which we should be reminded, and these will give us heart as to why we should support their cause.

Firstly, the Annual Appeal is now in its ninety-ninth year! Our 2012 appeal is not just a flash in the pan – this is our business! The public are often moved to ‘give us the money’ in the wake of devastating tragedies brought on by earthquakes, famines, floods, and so on. ADRA, however, does not simply respond to the latest crisis, but continually responds to the ever-present issues of poverty, hunger, education and abuse that are found across the globe. These issues don’t always make the news headlines, but I am honoured to be able to support the work of ADRA in its daily quest to meet these needs for those less fortunate than myself.

Secondly, in appealing for your support of the Annual Appeal, I am reminded that ADRA-UK is not the only charity. . . . We are the ‘charity’ indeed. Charity is who we are!

When we think of the word ‘charity’ we often think of it, somewhat restrictedly, as benevolent giving. For some, the word ‘charity’ has even become something of a negative word. People say things like, ‘I don’t want to be a charity case.’

However, the word ‘charity’ has a deeper meaning. The apostle Paul wrote (1 Corinthians 13:3, KJV), ‘And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.’ According to Paul, it is possible for donors to ‘give us the money’ without their charity! Collecting money, or giving money, is not necessarily biblical charity.

The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary defines charity as ‘selfless love’ – a translation from the often-quoted Greek word ‘agape’. As the King James Version translators used the word ‘charity’, it was often in reference to the love that we exhibit and have towards other people (for example, Romans 14:13-15, 2 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 4:8, 9).

Charity is the special love that we have for others. The ADRA Annual Appeal is much more than ‘Give us the money’: it is our demonstrating to the public that we are ‘charity’ as we collect funds with our hearts full of loving-kindness for other people.

Charity is much more than just ‘Give us the money’. It is about what we give, but also about the nature of our hearts as we do so!

It is my prayer that the ninety-ninth ADRA Annual Appeal, under the heading of ‘help us to help’, demonstrate that the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles are ‘charity’ personified. It is my prayer, as the public ‘gives us the money’ through door-to-door collection and the many other creative fund-raising strategies we employ, that we may exceed our fund-raising goals and expectations.
Enriching Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RPH, MSc

Golden eight — part 5c

Exercise — What are you doing?

Let’s begin with some questions: what types of physical activity do you enjoy? Do you follow an exercise regime? Can you improve on your current exercise – or lack of it? Browsing through health journals and websites, I made a list of at least forty-eight various exercises we can engage in. The list ranged from aerobics to brisk walks; from dance routines to low- and high-impact sports; and from gym workouts to Wii games. There were exercises you could do at home: at your work desk; indoors; outdoors; in water; sitting; standing or lying down. . . the list was extensive, but none of them included the couch. The message was: do something to get moving – and enjoy it.

On 11 July 2011, NHS Choices information put out a report highlighting the new exercise guidelines issued by the chief medical officer. The report established that: Adults should do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise each week. This is the minimum required to maintain good health. Also identified was that an optimum fitness programme should include cardiovascular exercise to maintain heart health, stretching exercises for flexibility and resistance exercises for muscle strength and endurance. When embarking on or evaluating any exercise programme, three key elements to bear in mind are: frequency, intensity and duration. NHS recommendations on the UK physical activity guidelines (www.dh.gov.uk) give the following guidance:

Frequency – for optimum fitness we should be exercising six times per week.

Intensity – the appropriate intensity varies in individuals and is dependent on age and medical condition. The exercise should be sufficient to raise your heart beat and make you perspire. Your exercise regime should commence slowly and build up over a period of time.

Duration – Between forty-five and ninety minutes of exercise daily is most beneficial for health. However, if you are a sedentary person or suffer from some health problems, you may find that breaking the exercise time into ten-minute segments (morning, afternoon and evening) is more manageable, particularly in the early stages of commencing an exercise programme.

The UK physical activity guidelines published by the Department of Health (11 July 2011) presented evidence which demonstrates the link between physical inactivity and chronic disease. It was found that sedentary behaviour is an independent risk factor for ill health: so, give the couch a break!

Next issue we conclude with the NHS exercise guidelines for various age groups, and ask the question – are you getting enough exercise?

Good health!

To DBS or not to DBS?

Des Rafferty, ADC director

Another way of making 2012 a most memorable year is the Discover Bible School (DBS) scheme.

With this being the year of the Bible Correspondence School, each BUC church can make a significant difference to its spiritual growth and that of the local community through the DBS scheme.

There are two pathways: DBS 60, for churches with a membership of over 100, or the DBS 60, for smaller congregations.

DBS 100

With the DBS 100 the local church can run a local bible school by purchasing lesson supplies from the Adventist Discovery Centre. Furthermore, the local church will generate contacts within its community, mark its own lessons and keep its own records.

DBS 60

With the DBS 60 the local churches will still develop contacts from their own community, but the ADC will supply lesson free of charge for as many contacts as they have. The ADC will also mark the lessons and return them to the local DBS 60. This allows the local DBS 60 to concentrate on maintaining links and developing friendships with its contacts.

Whichever scheme your church chooses, the benefit will be increased Bible study in the church and in the homes of your contacts. I am encouraging each church to register for one of the DBS pathways and provide an environment for members and non-members to engage in Bible study.

There are currently 134 churches registered on the DBS scheme, with eighty-four on the DBS 60 and fifty on the DBS 100.

This scheme is proving to be a blessing to many churches, and here are some reports:

Last year the largest group was conducted in the Platinum church, where thirteen of the DBS 60 students received certificates after having completed the ‘Focus on Prophecy’ and ‘Discover’ courses. In this instance, the pastor and elders led the church in Bible study on a weekly basis and then celebrated the achievement in a graduation service. Elder Steve Okota said, ‘The study was structured, and captured the imagination of our members, but, above all, it provided an opportunity for the church to study together and grow spiritually. A few months later the leaders of the Hanworth church rejoiced over the group of ten individuals who graduated from their DBS 60. Elder Ricardo Wright said: ‘I am really happy that the students have completed the course of twenty studies and graduated. It is a success story. The course is a great way of getting to know your Bible and Jesus, and what He wants for our lives. I would encourage everyone to do this course of study.’

There are others we could mention, but space permits us to do no more than mention one.

To DBS or not to DBS? That is the question. What will be your answer? For more information on how to run a DBS in your area, please contact the ADC on 01923 672606, or email: ad@adventist.org.uk.

Are you surprised? Are you surprised that Stephen was treated in this way? You shouldn’t be – for the simple reason that those who tell the truth for God will always be in danger. Those who do His will and speak out against injustice and sin are always at risk.

Paul summed it up so well when he wrote about those who had gone before him: ‘If you jostle someone, be sure to do it with the express purpose of being beneficial. . . . You must do good to all, but do to the good things only.’ (Rom. 12:16, 19). Those who do His will and speak out against injustice and sin are always at risk.

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In our post-modern materialistic society, the value of the Communion Service is often questioned. The ordinance of footwashing, for example, is seen by some as a relic of the past. However, Seventh-day Adventists regard footwashing as a part of the Communion Service. What applies to the basin applies also to the footwashing. Some want to open the Lord’s Supper to everyone, but Scripture clearly stands on the side of greater restriction.

The editor wishes to point out that, technically speaking, ‘a typological interpretation of ancient Israel’ does not lead ‘us to understand the Passover as a “little talk with Jesus’ before and after writing your letters – just to make sure that He is also happy with their tone. For this week will be the last on the subject of communion for the foreseeable future. I think we have aired the debate and heard both sides in a fair manner.

The ordinance of footwashing has baptismal significance and has been regarded historically as a ‘miniature baptism’, a renewal of one’s baptismal vows. A typological interpretation of ancient Israel teaches that footwashing is a type and shadow of the true baptism. The expression of our commitment to Christ by receiving baptism is what qualifies us to partake in this special service. We see this loving warning given through the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah. We see this loving warning given through the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah. We see this loving warning given through the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Here’s the marvellous thing, though – God knew this. He told the people that no one would listen to him, or answer him (Jeremiah 7:27). God knew that His stubborn, wilfully ignorant people would continue to reject His loving warnings. He knew that they would continue to reject His loving warnings.

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A rich industrialist was disturbed to find a young fisherman sitting idly in his boat. "Why ain't you out there fishing?" he demanded. "Because I have caught enough fish for today," came the reply. "Why don't you catch more fish than you need?" the industrialist wanted to know. "What would I do with them?" "You would earn enough money to buy a better boat to catch even more fish and make even more money. You could build a bigger house, buy a feet of boats – and be rich, like me." "Then what would I do?" "You could sit down and enjoy the money. What do you think I’m doing now?" the fisherman asked. "Your letters to the editor: a. keep them as short as possible; b. make sure of your facts before writing them; and c. don’t talk like that. It wasn’t."

It was the poem of a relatively young man who had chosen to let one sad event put contentment beyond his reach. Philip Larkin called Housman ‘the poet of unhappiness’ – and that was a fair summary of his life. He had you will notice, ‘accompanied’ by this ‘contentment’. Learned how? Where?

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Almost Christian

The National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR), as analysed by Kenda Creasy Dean in her latest book, shows that a silent reality already experienced in Europe and now being accepted in North America. There was a time when one was either Christian or not. But in reality, they are lost inside the church. They have formal religion, but no heart. They have embraced intuitional customs with no movement and passion. The apathy level is high, the routine is mundane. They are bored and disengaged. Those disinterested who remain, those who wander, and those who leave are all disconnected from Jesus in some shape or form.

At our core

Stuck while clearing customs at Dulles International Airport in Washington DC, I had the privilege of talking to one of our young people in our youth evangelism director of the Centre for Youth Evangelism, Andrews University. Ten years ago, the idea of the golden compass: three concentric circles, which start with ‘why’ in the centre circle, ‘how’ in the second circle and ‘what’ in the outer circle. Similarly, what is the connection of the modern-day church? It is not grasping the fact that the less connected they are with a church, the less likely they are to stay with their faith community.

Coin, sheep and son

Ten years ago, the message Jim Cressmash that helped to focus my personal approach to youth ministry. His understanding of Luke 15:1-7, a framework to shape my practice around these stories that Jesus told, told of the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son. Each of these three broad groups that are leaving the church but not necessarily lost. The story of the lady who lost her coin represents those who stay but are disconnected from Jesus in some way. She attend every week, but are comfortable texting during services. For those disinterested who remain, those who wander, and those who leave are all disconnected from Jesus in some shape or form.

For the One

Looking at Luke 15, we see that it offers some very practical solutions for these three broad groups. For instance, the shepherd who never noticed one of his sheep was missing unless he counted. In youth ministry, we should have accurate records of all our youth. We need to know when anyone is coming or going. More needs to be done to recover the Gospel, to retain and fall in love with Jesus. The recovery was led by youth and adults who, like the disciples, born with a passion to know Jesus.

We realised, as had Gabe Lyons in his new work ‘Almost Christian’, what the faith of beyond Emerging and Traditional Deep Church: A Third Way must fix our methods and all will be well. Rather, it is about being engaged honestly and emotionally in the future. Those who discovered America did so because they simply were engaged and had the nerve to be first. They were compelled by something greater – a passion unlike anything we have seen.

What does that one engine look like? What is our ‘why’ and ultimate purpose of youth ministry?

Small SEC group joined 700 leaders and lay at The One Project in Seattle in February. The One Project is a gathering of Adventists who are passionate about placing Jesus at the centre of all we do in our Church. The aim of The One Project is: ‘celebrating the supremacy of Jesus in the Seventh-day Adventist Church’.

Small SEC group joined 700 leaders and lay at The One Project in Seattle in February. The One Project is a gathering of Adventists who are passionate about placing Jesus at the centre of all we do in our Church. This was the third One Project gathering, with attendance surging from seventy to more than 700 since the first meeting in Atlanta in February 2011. British-born pastor, Japhet De Oliveira, the co-director for The One Project, made this comment: ‘Focusing two days on Jesus in our past, present and future was simply the best thing to do. With more than 700 leaders from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe and the USA, it was really good to have so many from England. Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch would like to host a One Project gathering in 2013. There are three gatherings a year: one in Australia, one in Europe and one in North America.’

Each of the ten presentations was followed by round-table dialogue about the centrality of Christ in all aspects of the Church and faith. ‘These discussions are an integral part of the gathering’, explains Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, SEC Communications director, who has served as a table facilitator at the three gatherings. According to her: ‘Each dialogue is unique to that table, but the Holy Spirit clearly guides in each group to similar thoughts and conclusions throughout the hall.’

SEC members were pleased that one of their pastors, Eddie HydeHo, was one of the selected preachers, and he drove home the need to ‘rearticulate the way we speak to the world so that the world can hear.’ He also reminded the gathering that the Adventist message does not need defending – it needs living.

Pastor Sam Davis, South England Conference president, was more than impressed with the One Project. ‘It sounds incredibly simple, but it was our “ah-ha” moment. We accepted that Jesus should be the one engine for our church, and we also acknowledged that the energy that started the Seventh-day Adventist Church was a deep desire to see a new Church.”

What if we gathered our Church’s leaders and the nerve to try something different. With that nerve must come focus. Erwin McManus in his recent book ‘Start With Why’ draws on a fundamental text like John 3:16 (ESV) to provide us with this perspective: Why – ‘For God so loved the world;’ How – ‘that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him’ – ‘should not perish but have eternal life.’

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Clearing the Ground inquiry: Preliminary report into the freedom of Christians in the UK

Key finding

The issues in the UK face problems in living out their faith, and these problems have been mostly caused and exacerbated by social, cultural and legal changes over the past decade.

The inquiry

The Clearing the Ground inquiry was set up in the light of high-profile court cases and media reports suggesting Christians are marginalised in the UK. The inquiry sought to determine the extent of these problems, what caused them, and what needed to be done in response.

The aims of the inquiry were:
- To clarify the situation that Christians in the UK face in the public sector
- To identify any particular challenges that Christians face – in particular, identifying what aspects of legislation have created these challenges.
- To identify what changes could be made to address these challenges.
- To encourage Christians to continue to make positive contributions to all aspects of society.

The inquiry was overseen by Christians in Parliament, an official All-Party Parliamentary Group, and the committee included MPs and peers from the three main parties and from a range of Christian traditions.

The inquiry took oral evidence in three sessions from key organisations, denominations and experts. Written evidence was submitted from a further forty groups and individuals. The full report and all the evidence can be accessed online at: www.eauk.org/clearingtheground

Contact

- Christians in the UK are not persecuted. To suggest that they are to is to minimise the suffering of Christians in many parts of the world who face repression, imprisonment and death if they worship, preach or convert.
- The recent wave of Christians in the courts does not, in and of itself, demonstrate that Christianity is badly treated.
- However, the frequency and nature of the cases indicate a narrowing space for the articulation, expression and demonstration of Christian belief.
- Some of the legal activity associated with campaigning and media coverage have been unevenly and possibly counterproductive to the positive perception that Christians play in society.

Religious illiteracy

- There is a high level of religious illiteracy which has led to many situations where religious belief is misunderstood and subsequently rejected. This comes from a social and cultural minimisation of Christianity in public life.
- Religious illiteracy has led to legal restrictions on the way that faith can be expressed. Recent changes have compelled Christians to provide services that they had never previously offered and which may be contrary to their beliefs.

Accommodation of religious belief

- It is evident that in some cases considerable effort is made to accommodate religious belief, with employers willing to make arrangements to ensure that employees do not have to participate in activities which would infringe their convictions.
- In many cases, there is a failure to achieve substantial accommodation - both in failing to take the cases to even attempt to understand or accommodate belief and its manifestation.

Findings

- In the experiences of Christians in the UK seeking to live out their beliefs and speak freely illustrate a very real problem in the way religious belief, and in particular Christianity, is understood and handled. The problem is a pressing challenge to our ideals of pluralism and society.
- The way that the media cover many of the cases and the associated issues is often poor, and it contributes to perceptions of a polarisation between Christianity and public life.
- The inquiry made the following specific findings:
  - The Equality Act 2010 fails to deal with the problems between different strands of equality policy.
  - Court decisions have relegated religious beliefs below other strands and effectively created a hierarchy of rights.
  - The place of religious belief suffers because companies, institutions and the government do not take sufficient action to accommodate it.
  - The 1986 Public Order Act, and specifically Section 5, places too low through its prohibition on insulting language.
  - The policing of the Public Order Act and other legislation demonstrates a lack of understanding of what is a legitimate expression of Christian belief.
  - Government departments handle religious belief in a complex and confused manner, and lack sufficient co-ordination.
  - Advice to government departments on how to handle religious belief in the public sector varies, and in many cases fails to grasp the nature and implications of belief.
  - Guidance from professional bodies on religious belief is often too low through its prohibition on insulting language.
  - The Equality and Human Rights Commission should be reviewed and restructured to better include and represent religious beliefs.

The problems that Christians face are far from universal, but they do represent a trend towards a reduction in the space given to religious belief in public life. As a result this leads to an assumption that religious belief should be a private activity.

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Money, stewardship and your child

by Jacques Ven ter

A s a pastor, I have found the mirror analogy has become ingrained in my thinking: 'The law is like a mirror; it cannot wash our sins away, but it does point them out.' Now, as a parent, the mirror analogy has taken on a new meaning. For I am now the mirror that my child looks into. Suddenly I find myself in a position where my child, and any other child whose life I significantly influence, forms his or her image of God in the context of his or her relationship with me.

Whether we like it or not, consciously and unconsciously parents and guardians communicate their images of God to their children. It means that when your children look at you, it is as if they are looking into a mirror that shows them what God is like.

This process is so natural that we are often unaware of how we actually teach our children. Have you ever sat back for a moment and thought of your own habits and attitudes? To what extent do these strengthen or contradict the values that you want to establish in your child?

Let’s take it a step further. Have you recently considered what your attitude is toward financial stewardship and how your child perceives it? In an unstable, capitalist economy, like we have today, financial stewardship based on sound biblical principles is one of the most important skills you can teach your child.

As a parent you teach your child how to work with money — whether willingly or unwillingly. Children acquire money values and habits through the decisions, habits and attitudes of their parents. These have a particular influence, not only on the way in which your child handles his or her money, but also on their stewardship of God’s money. Here are some practical tips on how you and your church can engage in this matter.

Set an example. To teach children how to be good financial stewards, you have to set the example. They often complain that parents tell them what to do, but do not follow their own advice. For example, if you want your child to give tithe cheerfully it has to start with you. And the way in which you communicate with your children has a great influence on the values they choose to adopt.

Consistency plays a big part in influencing your children has a great influence on the values they choose to adopt.

Hope. Live ahead, see opportunities, and rise above the situation by opening new possibilities for others, thereby helping to make the community whole again through giving and sharing. Love. Give yourself, back to your community, and serve others by providing for their needs and fulfilling their lives. In this way you will be giving thanks to the Lord who gave you these skills.

If you can help your child to integrate these three concepts into his or her approach to money, and into the world of buying and spending, you as a Christian parent will have laid the foundations for a future Stewardship Champion of God, who can make a difference for Christ.

Further resources:
http://www.adventist.org.uk
http://www.adventist.org.uk

‘The worst of sinners’

I used to think that Seventh-day Adventists were the worst of sinners, but now I know that they are lovely Christians! This comment was received at the Christian Resources Exhibition in Exeter, when a gentleman visited the Seventh-day Adventist stand. He confessed that he had the wrong impression at one time, but, after staying at a friend’s house where he met a Seventh-day Adventist, he realised that we believe in the saving love of Jesus and His principles. Thank you to that member who portrayed the love of Christ, which broke down the barriers this gentleman might have perceived! This is one of the reasons why we wanted to have a stand, so that people could talk to us about our beliefs and receive our positive witness.

Pastor Lorek obtained a stand and Pastor Rafferty, Adventist Discovery Centre director, very kindly sent professional-looking displays and a selection of cards to distribute. There were a number of free books, DVDs and LIFE info magazines on display as well. These were given out by Anne Buckley, Ruth Morris and Helen Savage from Torquay, and Michael Bowden and Stella Jeffery from Exeter, over the two days of the show. One retired Methodist minister told Pastor Lorek how much he had appreciated the free Ministry magazine, which he used to receive through the post on a regular basis.

There was a warm atmosphere at the exhibition between exhibitors and the public, and we pray that the seeds sown will bear fruit as we await the Second Coming of Jesus.

The Baptism of Joape Suluaqalo

On Sabbath 4 February, Joape Suluaqalo was baptised at Grantham Seventh-day Adventist Church by Pastor John Ferguson. Joape, a young Fijian serving in the British Army, was initially introduced to the Adventist message by his aunt, Lilie Tagiteu. Last year he married an Adventist girl, Maikale, who faithfully studied the Bible with him. His baptism was witnessed by his aunt and cousins, as well as friends from the Fijian community at one of the nearby military bases.
To the manor born again
The baptism of seven young people – Jeremiah Jordan, Jasmine Philip, Camille Philip, Betsy Pollard, Joshua Berry, Aaron Yesudian and Zain Waite – was wonderful for the Manor Seventh-day Adventist church in Sheffield. Pastor Trevor Thomas preached, and Pastors Andrew Rashford Hewitt and Bob Rodd took the service. We thank God for these young people’s commitment, and encourage them to go about their Father’s business!

ANDREW YESUDIAN

Adventist and Baptist children share Sabbath School classes together
On Sabbath afternoon 24 December 2011, Netherfield members were treated to an enthusiastic performance of the Nativity story by both Seventh-day Adventist children and the children from the Baptist church where Adventist members worship each Sabbath.

Since 2001, the children from both churches have studied the Sabbath School lessons together, and each Pirithon Sabbath they present a programme to the church. In addition, they are active in reaching out to the community, holding table displays at community events, distributing literature, visiting a local retirement home and singing.

This is all enabled through the very dedicated work of Anni-Marie Norman, children’s leader, Shirley Dixon, Val Jones (the Baptist elder’s wife) and Doreen Grundy (a Baptist deaconess). Through the mouths and example of our united children, God’s love is being proclaimed.

SHIELLA WILKINSON

The Ezra Etchells Memorial Garden
Reading Central held the official opening of The Ezra Etchells Memorial Garden on 31 December, in honour of Ezra Etchells, a devout member who passed away in 2008 and left his estate to the church. He was well known for his relentless door-to-door collecting for different charities, most notably for Ingathering.

ITUMELENG OSUPENG

Helping kids learn
On 19 November 2011, children at the Great Brickkiln church participated in a Sabbath School programme themed on our Church’s pioneers, including Ellen G. White. The children were tested on Bible teachings, and they seemed to enjoy the occasion.

DELVA CAMPBELL

Wimbledon International Church opens doors for homeless
Wimbledon Church, in connection with the YMCA and a group of churches in Merton, pioneered a scheme for seven churches to aid the homeless for five weeks in January 2012. The church hall was opened up on Saturday evenings, and the guests would leave on Sunday morning – then, on Sunday evening, they would go to another venue.

Twelve guests at a time would be given dinner and companionship, play table tennis, and watch TV or a DVD – the guests had showers, which were a real blessing to them. One of the guests said this restored his faith in humanity. In the morning the guests were given a cooked breakfast.

When one guest arrived, he simply said, ‘I am hungry’ – this moved Wimbledon members deeply, because they realised he had nothing. The church has become more known in the community, and on a number of occasions Wimbledon members were able to share their faith. Too often we have been known for things we can’t do – we need to show that we love people as Jesus did.

If you have any questions about the scheme, please call David Souch on 0208 4262688.

DAVID SOUCH

Burns night at Crieff
On Saturday evening, 28 January, Crieff Church celebrated a Burns supper, organised by Malcolm Logan, with the Selkirk Grace, haggis and haggis, which was addressed in traditional style by Robert Clinton. Traditional music was performed by Steve and Jenine Logan and Gordon and Yvonne Baines.

CHRISTINE BAUWENS

Music 4 Children
Residential Sacred Music Weekend
Fri 30th March - Sun 1st April 2012
Venue: Malvern St James School, Worcestershire, WR14 3BA
Cost: £65 for 1st Child
£60 per sibling

To Book:
visit: www.necadventist.org.uk/music.html
or call 0115 9506312
Deadline: 8th March 2012, 12pm
oBITuARY

PASTOR ROBERT JAMES SurrIDGE, PHD
(1957-2011) d. 17 December.

Robert Surridge was the eldest son of Pastor Ronald and Mrs Rachel Surridge. He was born in Tacoma Park, near Washington DC, while Ron was studying at Washington Missionary College, and hence was eligible for American citizenship—something he made use of later in life.

Five of Robert’s childhood years were spent in West Africa, where his father served in a missionary capacity, and the adventure that Robert had during this time, together with his brother John, had a profound impact on him.

Robert’s secondary education was completed at Stanborough School, where Hughes Dunn and David Marshall were particularly influential, as were the sometimes radical ideas and methods of John Peace.

Robert particularly enjoyed attending the Stanborough Park church, where he was mentored by pastors such as Vr. Kiewlin, Balmer Elias and Barry Gan. It was here that he felt his first call to ministry, and for a number of years he was an active volunteer with the street witnessing group. In fact his first “vocations” were reached from a soapbox to passing members of the public in Bemid Hiempst. St Albans and Welwyn Garden City.

After sitting his A-levels, Robert left home and worked for three months on an Israeli kibbutz, but upon his return he declared his ambition to become a minister, like his father.

Robert enjoyed the academic challenges of Newfield College, where lecturers such as Jan Paulsen, Barry Loosan and Mike Prouse encouraged him to explore in depth the beliefs he had accepted on faith.

Robert also had an active social life at Newfield College, and it was here that he met Dawn Noorbergen, who would later become his wife. They were married in July 1982 and began their ministerial life in Norwich, where Robert was the assistant pastor.

Robert then served in the South England Conference office where he developed and ran a number of evangelistic programmes, mainly based around trips that he made to Israel, Turkey and Egypt. In addition to the practical evangelistic material that resulted from these trips, Robert was also inspired by the research of ancient Laodicea to resume his academic studies, eventually gaining a PhD in New Testament from King’s College, London.

During his final years of ministry in England Robert pastored the St Albans and Waltham Abbey churches, where, for a time at least, he had the privilege of being the Newfield College principal, Dr Jan Paulsen, as one of his mentors.

In 1999 Robert and Dawn, together with their two children, Martin and Jack, moved to California where Robert began eight years of ministry in the Elmshaven church. This was followed by four years in Yuba City.

Despite living in America Robert made frequent trips back to the United Kingdom, where he spent time visiting his family and friends. He retained a deep concern for the Adventist work in the British Isles, and at the time of his death from a sudden stroke Robert had actually been planning to return to ministry here.

The members of Robert’s family have received a great deal of support from their wider church family during this difficult time. They would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all of those who helped them through the pain of separation, which was temporary, from their loved one.

FOCUS ON hope

The First Focus magazine of 2012 has been published and is now available for purchase! This issue focuses on the issue of hope—hope when jobs are scarce, hope when the future seems bleak, hope in the Bible and the glorious hope of Christ’s return.

There will be three more issues of FOCUS this year—we hope that you will be blessed by them all, and share them with your friends and neighbours.

Take this opportunity today by speaking to your Personal Ministries secretary, or phone the ABC on 01476 539900 from 8am to 5.30pm, Mondays to Thursdays.

FOCUS on Paul

The first Focus magazine of 2012 has been published and is now available for purchase! This issue focuses on the hope of Paul—a prince of the highest rank, a dude who turned over a new leaf, a dude who became the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Take this opportunity today by speaking to your Personal Ministries secretary, or phone the ABC on 01476 539900 from 8am to 5.30pm, Mondays to Thursdays.

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Get fit to serve
Do you want to make a difference in other people’s lives? Would you like to become equipped and empowered to live a transforming agent in society for Christ’s sake? Then this programme is for you!

The International Institute of Christian Ministries (IICM) is offering a Certificate course at Newbold College this summer, 19-26 June 2012.

The main presenters are:
• C. Raymond Holmes, director of the General Conference Sabbath School & Personal Ministries department;
• Jonathan Kuntaraf, national executive director of Adventist Community Services of the North American Division;
• Sung Kwon, international advisor to the General Conference Sabbath School & Personal Ministries department and
• May-Ellen Netten Colón, director of Adventist Community Services International and assistant director of the General Conference Sabbath School & Personal Ministries department.

The course topics include:
• Theological, Historical and Ethical Concepts of Holistic Ministry
• Community Assessment and Social Capital
• Programme Development & Performance Measurements
• Effective Ministry
• Ministering Across Cultures: Organisational Leadership & Team Engagement
• Volunteer Engagement: Human Resources
• Financials and Accountability
• Fundraising Fundamentals
• Grant Proposal Writing
• Micro-concepts of Urban Ministry
• Risk Management & Hard Issues
• Volunteer Engagement
• Ministering Across Cultures: Essentials of Church Disaster Preparedness & Reponses

Registration Fee:
• £110 Early-bird registration fee 10% off (by 15 April)
• Other costs: accommodation and meals at Newbold College are offset at an additional cost.


For more information, please contact Heidi Kuntaraf, IICM, 19-26 June 2012.

Contact ABC Sales on 01476 539900 to purchase your copy at £11.45 plus p&p.

New book of the week
The Road I Travel
C. Rayeold Holmes
Join Pastor Holmes on the road he travels – the narrow road, the way of Christ. Avoid the spiritual counterfeits, and ensure that your walk with God is genuine and based on the Word!

Contact ABC Sales on 01476 539900 to purchase your copy at £11.45 plus p&p.

.REACT TO READ

Adventure in Egypt

During half-term week, twenty-six children enjoyed a trip to Egypt in the hall of the Weston-super-Mare Seventh-day Adventist church – transformed into an Egyptian landscape with murals of pyramids and palm trees, a royal residence, and an oasis (refreshment area) for the Pyramid Rock Holiday Bible Club. The children spent the mornings learning about the Bible story of Joseph. Deep appreciation needs to go to the team members, some used annual leave for the programme.

Of the twenty-six children, only nine were from the church. The remainder had been invited by the church children. God blessed the team of helpers with an attendance beyond their expectations!

Asked what she had learned, one child responded: ‘I have learned that God is a Helper, Planner, Provider, Forgiver and King.’ Another said: ‘I now know that God is with me, wherever I am, even though I might not realise it.’

On Sabbath morning, the children demonstrated songs and Bible verses they had learned during the week. It was encouraging to see so many non-Adventist parents in attendance. Their response was overwhelmingly positive, saying they would be more than happy to send their children again. The children too wanted to know when another Bible club would take place, and they have been invited to come to Sabbath School!

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The Small Business Show

Birmingham seventh-day Adventist Church, 27 May 2012

Calling business owners and entrepreneurs: be part of an exciting show! Come and find out how a bright idea can become something big! Get advice and listen to entrepreneurs and motivational speakers.

Come and showcase your business; expand your customer base; sell and negotiate orders; network with other business owners.

There is limited availability. Don’t delay. Act now!

For more information, contact Louise on 07949044723, or email: Louise@edenic.co.uk

DIMENSIONS OF A WHOLE MAN

YOUNG MEN’S MINISTRIES RETREAT

Spiritual, Physical, & Mental

TO GUIDE, DEVELOP & EMPOWER YOUNG MEN (AGED 21-35) TO BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE LEADERS

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE PASTOR CIVIL SWEENEY, PASTOR ANDREW RASHFORD-HEWITT & OTHERS

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