As I drove towards the National Christian Surfers' Conference on Friday, 15 June, there was a small sadness in my heart at having to leave behind all the fun and real spiritual beauty I had experienced while helping out with the teens at the SEC camp meeting. But here I was, driving through torrential rain in my van, about to go camping near Woolacombe, North Devon, on a weekend along with more than ninety other Christian surfers from around the UK. I was there to represent LIVE-St Austell, an Adventist church-plant where surfing is a significant part of our ministry.

Cornwall is the lively heart of the British surfing scene, and we have managed to meet and make friends with many surfers through our basketball programme in St Austell.

Why go to this national conference?
Christian Surfers is a worldwide organisation focused on reaching the millions of surfers and surfer communities that exist today. Here in the UK we have more than 300,000 surfers, but as the British Surfing Association becomes more organised and focused this number is bound to increase – especially as more and more competitions boost the profile of this sport.

'Not always waiting for the perfect conditions' was the theme for this year's conference, and the event focused on the importance of stepping out in faith and trusting God to bring everything together. Many inspiring stories and testimonies were shared throughout the weekend. The surfers also prayed for one another and shared God's Word together, giving each other encouragement for all they are doing in their towns and communities.

The weekend inspired us and helped us create a new network of friends throughout Cornwall, Devon, and Wales. We feel encouraged to continue what we have started and to trust God to bring about positive results.

New team formed
A final bit of news is that LIVE-St Austell has now teamed up with the group from Newquay and plans are underway for various combined projects, starting with a beach clean-up on 30 June. Projects like this bring our group to the attention of both surfers and the local community, helping us make friends and reach them for Christ. Please pray for our unique mission.

A report by Steven Hulbert, SEC Frontier Evangelist
enough. A BBC News online article dated 2 April 2008 compared recommendations from the Food Standard Agency and the British Nutrition Foundation, which revealed the following:

There are varying recommendations as to how much water is consumed other than as tea or coffee (or other beverages); foods (particularly fruits and vegetables); and as a by-product of chemical reactions in the body.

Good health!

In the next instalment we will review the Mayo Clinic’s recommendations for your total daily intake of fluids...

Golden eight – part 7b

Water: how much is enough?

If you are an adult, your total body weight will comprise of 55-70% water. All our body systems depend on water. For example, our kidneys have a direct line to our bladder via the ureters. They cannot store water – their water is either passed or retained. And the body is regulated so as to maintain a constant water balance. If we lose more water than our body can replace, we get dehydrated. If we drink more water than our body can handle, we may get a bout of water intoxication.

which is equivalent to 1.2 litres. This was, however, based on studies of fluid lost daily by the body, rather than suggested ‘health benefits.’

The British Nutrition Foundation suggests slightly more and advises individuals to take between 1.5 and 2 litres a day. Most people have heard other advice, like drinking eight 8-ounce glasses of water daily (around 1.9 litres). The Mayo Clinic states: ‘Although the “8 by 8” rule isn’t supported by hard evidence, it remains popular because it’s easy to remember. Just keep in mind that the rule should be reframed as: “Drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of fluid daily,” because all fluids count toward the daily total.’

Observations from the Institute of Medicine recommend higher amounts: ‘The Institute of Medicine recommends that men consume 3 litres (about thirteen cups) of total beverages a day and women consume 2.2 litres (about nine cups) of total beverages a day. These guidelines are based on national food surveys that assessed people’s average fluid intakes.’

Art in the park

Why are these unconventional people so special? What do they bring to the party that others don’t?

Have you ever wandered through an outdoor amateur art exhibition? Frame after frame would surround and envelop everything. Landscapes, portraits, still life and nude studies – in every available medium, and combination thereof. It’s all there, but nothing speaks to your soul. Nothing whispers: “Take me home!”

Until, on the fringe of it all, you see something quite common, mundane, even boringly familiar, painted from a fresh perspective. An old frame imbued with new vitality – something that will never seem the same again because of that artist’s special touch.

Such is the gift that the unconventional give society. They help us see the world differently and discover new possibilities of being, thinking and doing.

Just yesterday...

Just yesterday, I met one of these unconventional individuals in the NEC camp bookshop. There was nothing about her that made any initial impression on me. No stylish ‘camp’ coiffure, elegant outfit or recent pedicure.

‘Hello,’ was my opener, as she approached the till. ‘It isn’t a beautiful sunny day!’ But it wasn’t like that for long. They are forecasting cold, wet weather by Thursday. ‘Oh, is that so?’ she replied with a broad, warm smile. ‘The weather doesn’t much bother me. I am too tied up and wrapped up with Jesus to mind much about the weather. Just accept whatever He sends us!’

I had just met my first ‘tied-up-and-wrapped-up-with-Jesus’ person.

Unconventional thinking

As we chatted, it became clear that she was not someone to waste time on our traditional weather pleasantries. For her the great blessing was that Jesus had put another day at her disposal – the weather He packages it in is inconsequential!

Unconventional action

Now, I will be the first to admit that not everything that is unconventional is necessarily good, or even better. Similarly, not every unconventional voice within the Church has its best interests at heart.

So how do we ‘dare to be eccentric’ while staying loyal to our Church?

All tied up and wrapped up with Jesus...

I think the lady I met in the bookshop has the recipe: she was ‘all tied up and wrapped up with Jesus’.

This attitude is brought vividly to life in John 12:1-8 by the actions of Mary, Lazarus’s sister. She was caught up in that experience of John 15:4 (NIV 1984), which is the safest place for anyone to be!

John 15:4 (NIV 1984): ‘... and he is right! The real blessing is life and vitality – not clear sunny skies (much as we do appreciate them).’

Not everyone – especially the unconventional ‘saints’ amongst us.

http://thinkexist.com/quotes/John_Stuart_Mill/
Brave people

by Roy Adams, in Adventist Review, 28 February 2008

Perhaps like many of you reading this article, I feel I’ve lived a very sheltered life. For whatever reason, I’ve managed over the years to find myself well removed from the hotbeds of breaking trouble. During the dangerous civil rights marches and demonstrations of the 1960s, I was always far away from the scenes of the conflict. When the FLQ (political) crisis hit Quebec in October 1970, leading to the imposition of Canada’s War Measures Act, I’d already left the area for Ontario. And while hundreds of thousands risked life and limb, both to the streets of Manila in 1986 in the (so-called) People Power Revolution that toppled President Ferdinand Marcos, my family and I were enconced in relative safety some 90 minutes away from the storm.

My lot thus far has been to watch, from the safety of my television, others getting shoved around, others getting beaten, others getting arrested. My thoughts came to me some time last month as if I were a spectator on the sidelines of history, smugly observing the courage of those who man the barricades, face down the gas and tear gas, and stand up to the pepper spray and water cannon for a cause they support. These thoughts came to me some time last month as I followed reports on a garbage crisis – all things – gripping the city of Naples in southern Italy, where some 100,000 tons of rubbish had piled up in the streets, scandalising the entire nation, and even getting the attention of the European Commission.

What could be more extreme than this? That’s the question a 28-year-old writer went undercover to investigate the Camorra (the local mafia), eventually exposing the group as the wicked culprits behind the garbage crisis. His book, Gomorrah, documented the Camorra practice of combining ‘dangerous toxic wastes’ from companies in the north of Italy with ‘cement, non-metal car parts, and even the remains of the dead . . . ’ and then dumping the lethal trash into landfill in Naples. The billion-dollar business, says Saviano, has created a ‘silent plague that has killed hundreds and hundreds of people.’

After months of hard work and earnest prayer, the Official Adventist Church Olympic Outreach App is here. A team of volunteers has collated all the summer evangelism plans from churches across the South England Conference. These have been uploaded to the iPhone app, a timeline that shows events happening during all aspects of the London Olympic Games.

Devotional

If we’re content to stand down in situations that pose no real threat to life or limb, then how will we face a crisis with real teeth?

With ‘cement, non-metal car parts, and even the remains of the dead . . . ’ and then dumping the lethal trash into landfills in Naples. The billion-dollar business, says Saviano, has created a ‘silent plague that has killed hundreds and hundreds of people.’

Tough love

When the time called for it, Jesus properly laid out the law for the Pharisees and Scribes: ‘If you stumble in safe country, how will you cope in the jungle of the Jordan?’ (Jeremiah 12:5, paraphrased.)

Perhaps ‘brave’ is not the best word for the Christian setting. For in the spiritual realm it’s really not our personal bravery that matters, but the power of God. If we use the word, however, to make the point that often I see in people ‘out there’ a quality I believe God wants His people ‘in here’ to possess, then it’s a different story.

I see it in a prominent opposition leader holding firm under house arrest for more than a decade. I see it in a man standing in solitary defiance in front of a high-powered machine gun in a huge city square. And I see it in a young attorney hanging on to his convictions while languishing in a South African prison for twenty-seven long years.

Brave people – courageous, daring, fearless. Am I a member of their tribe? Are you?

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on active service to India, Asia and the Middle East. One of those, Alex Podobrezky, shared a vision of his time at Nile Union Academy in Egypt. He is now preparing to take up a role at Middle East University in the Lebanon.

Neather, nearer, Pastor Obi Reema shared how the Fallsley church-plant had rapidly become an important part of the Clydeside community. He told how one local councillor, who recently came to the official opening of their new building, has since turned up on a Sabbath morning simply stating, ‘I felt like worshipping today.’ There are now four Scottish friends who are worshipping regularly with them, including a 72-year-old who is now coming to church for the first time since age 7.

Even as he spoke, members of the Fallsley Youth Choir were singing their witness as the Olympic torch passed through their community.

These members clearly were putting into practice the practical message of loving witness shared by BUC executive secretary Pastor Paul Lockham, during the lesson study. ‘Can you command love?’ he asked, noting that ‘loving one another’ is a heart response to the way Christ loves us.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president, took the dangerous step of borrowing someone else’s glasses to start his sermon. The result? The whole congregation was out of focus. He noted, ‘You’re the same people, but through glasses you look different.’ In a two-part presentation he then looked at our Church today through the glasses of Revelation 3 and the message to the Laodicean church. While this can often be seen as a negative message, Sweeney highlighted the fact that, despite the failings of Laodicea, God still loves them. ‘Today our Church is being called to be hot because Christ still loves me.’

During his afternoon presentation Sweeney noted that the problem of Laodicea is that it is a ‘Christless church.’ Christ is on the outside knocking. What is the major problem of the Church today? Sweeney listed everything from the Jesuits to worship style, doctrinal issues and dress codes. However, he stated, the major problem is not these; it is a problem of the heart. And the heart of Christianity is Christ. ‘The Saviour is waiting to enter your heart,’ he stated, quoting the famous Ralph Carmichael song. The appeal was clear: ‘Why don’t you let Him come in?’

Music through the day demonstrated that the message of Christ was in the hearts of a range of talented musicians and singers, including a West of Scotland choir, groups from various churches, and the highlight of the day, a ‘scratch’ youth orchestra from the Glasgow area who brought a smile to every face with their rendition of ‘Soon and very soon’.

As the day closed and chairs and equipment were stacked away, a number took the opportunity to climb the hill to the Wallace Monument. Deep conversations could be heard around the plateau. Many miles of Scottish countryside came into view, and the question on many minds was how to implement the message of the day, opening our hearts to Christ, and sharing His love with our community.

A selection of photos from the day can be seen on the BUC website: http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2012/SMdof/.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Pastor John Arthur OBE was it like a family gathering? At a break during the Scottish Mission day of fellowship on Sabbath 9 June, Stephen Cooper, ADRA director for the Trans-European Division, paid special tribute to the work of his uncle, Pastor John Arthur.

He highlighted the vision that Pastor Arthur had had for ADRA over many years, climaxing in his work in Abasina, before presenting him with a Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of ADRA International. Heartily applause from the congregation demonstrated their thorough approval. Pastor Arthur, who holds an OBE for his service to humanity, stated that he was humbled at the recognition his life of service has received.

A report of the Scottish Mission triennial session, held on Sunday, 10 June 2012, at Crieff, Scotland.

‘Take a chance with us!’ BUC president Pastor Ian Sweeney’s morning devotional, humorously looking at the ‘ignoble report’ for useless scientific research projects, pointed out that, in all we do, we must be a relevant people. The result? ‘Take a chance with us!’ pleaded Edinburgh delegate, Patrick Dillon. In the middle of an honest debate on church growth and reaching out beyond our cultural comfort zones he stated, ‘Can’t get through to Scottish people? I’m Scottish. God got through to me.’ Baptised in 1998, Patrick is regularly to be found witnessing on Princes Street, Edinburgh, along with his new friends from the African community that make up the majority of Edinburgh members. He was, perhaps, the most important statement of the day, and provoked lots of positive discussion. However, it was but a reflection of the emphasis in every report and every discussion throughout the seven hours of the session.

Pastor argued that we are ‘too defensive’ as a Church, adding that we have a commission to go forth. Stephen Barrett-Peacock emphasised that he works daily surrounded by Scottish people, and would love more Scottish accents in the Church. Donovan Matambo from Edinburgh asked, ‘What are we doing to equip an army that is ninety-percent immigrant to reach out to the Scottish?’ One answer came from Cedrene Botha, who noted their involvement with a local sports club where they are building bridges in a community that is almost exclusively Scottish or English.

BUC president Pastor Ian Sweeney’s morning devotional, humorously looking at the ‘ignoble report’ for useless scientific research projects, pointed out that, in all we do, we must be a relevant people.

With eighty-one delegates seated at the start of business, BUC executive secretary Pastor Paul Lockham noted that behind every statistic is a story. With an increase from 426 to 523 over the past three years, his particular joy was to note sixty baptisms. Part of the reason for this, as BUC treasurer Victor Pilmoor noted, was that the Scottish Mission executive committee had made a conscious choice to run with a deficit budget over two years in order to employ an extra minister. However, even with a little increase of 12%, this would be a challenge to maintain in the long term.

Amid positive reports and questions on various departments’ activities, the main purpose of the day went on in the background. The reporting committee met for most of the day to select an executive committee and sponsors. Near the close they reported with a list of sponsors that added emphasis to Youth and Pathfinder ministry, and also added a sponsor for Community Services, an increasingly important part of ministry in the mission.

The voted leaders for the next three years are:

**Sponsors:**
- Children’s Ministries: Mrs Jennifer Oroko; Church Growth: Mr Obi
- Youth & Teens: Pastor Marcel Ghioalda
- Health Ministries: Pastor David Hatch; Pathfinders & Adventurers: Pastor Clifford Herman; Associate Pathfinders & Adventurers: Mr Filip Bajc
- Communication: Pastor James Botha; Community Ministries: Mr John Wibby; Family Ministries: Mrs Karen Holford; Health Ministries: Pastor David Hatch; Pathfinders & Adventurers: Pastor Clifford Herman; Associate Pathfinders & Adventurers: Mr Filip Bajc; Prayer Ministries: Ms Beavan Sanderson; Trust Services & Stewardship: Pastor Bob Rodd; Women’s Ministries: Ms Judith Martin; Youth & Teens: Pastor Marcel Ghioalda.

The day concluded with the voting of a Scottish Mission Vision and Outline of Goals statement highlighting spiritual nurture, mission outreach, community bridge-building and leadership development. A selection of photos from the day and an audio recording of Pastor Sweeney’s devotional are available at: http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2012/SMsession/.
return to the Brean Sands venue seems to have contributed to the good attendance, with shorter distances to travel no doubt being a significant factor. In fact, when more coaches arrived on Sabbath they even had to use the foyer as an overflow for the morning service.

Nostalgia
This year’s event marked the thirtieth anniversary of camp meeting at the local conference level, and there were many nostalgic moments during the week.

One of the highlights was the screening of a video about the history of camp meeting, produced in collaboration by the SEC Communication and Media director and the General Conference (www.secmedia.org).

But Pastor Perry, one of the early agitators for a South England Conference camp meeting, was not to be outdone, and on the Saturday night, during the concluding interview, he and Pastor Anthony had the audience in stitches with their reminiscences of that first camp. They told of how the rain was so heavy that it poured down inside the main tent, and that the Adventists bought out the local shop’s entire stock of wellington boots.

There was also a presentation of photos from past camp meetings – of both pastors and members – much to the amusement of the congregation.

Camp meeting’s ‘school’
Caroline Kamara was present at the first camp meeting as a 10-year-old child, and she recalled not only the wellingtons and the dreadful weather, but that Starborough School had allowed them to attend camp meeting in school term, on condition that they ‘kept up with their studies’ in a special classroom that was set up for this purpose!

Pastor Emmanuel Osei and his team of pastors and Bible workers. Pastor Steve Riley’s morning sermons were also deeply appreciated, according to Amos Onchiri from Milton Keynes Central: ‘Pastor Riley’s message made the concept of grace so simple to understand. It was touched by his sermons.’

The Friday morning anointing service demonstrated just how many of our members desire healing.

Plain-speaking Brennen
The plain-speaking and witty Pastor Barrington Brennen was an instant attraction on the topic of family life, dealing boldly and practically with intimate subjects normally considered taboo. Zenzo Kumah of West Bletchley Church said: ‘He is so plain that it’s not difficult to understand the topic he is talking about. He took the “taboo” out of these topics!’

Bible study
This year’s Bible study programme was conducted by Dr Roy Adams, author and former associate editor of Adventist Review and Adventist World. He used a friendly approach, with simple stories and personal experiences, and a quiet passion that displayed his desire for us to respond to the call of being evangelists, called by God, to deliver the message to the lost.

Children and Youth ministry
Unlike thirty years ago, the younger children did not have school while at camp, but the BUC’s Malika Bediako made sure their programme was exciting and inspiring. The juniors enjoyed Richard Aguiera, an architect by profession, who devotes his spare time to helping children with those tough questions that Christian children have to deal with in school and society.

It’s not only the junior youth who enjoyed these presentations. Pontins staff sat in eagerly on the sessions and I was looking forward to my turn to be on duty here.

‘The teens’ venue was the place to be Thursday night’, according to Pastor Ian Sweeney, who, alongside Pastor Sam Davis, was the main speaker for this group. Pastor Sweeney was not reflecting on his own sermons, but on the powerful testimonies that the teens shared, and how they experienced families being ripped apart by death, divorce and disease.

One teen shared her experience of surviving a stabbing: another young man told about his friend’s blood running through his hands, as he was holding him after he was stabbed. Twenty teens decided to be baptised in their local church. The teens were not the only ones affected by the testimonies, praise, worship and preaching. The Pontins staff joined in the singing, asking the leaders about God and prayer.

Dr Robert Bushner was the main youth speaker, and through his popular style he was able to inspire and challenge the youth not to be deceived by Satan.

Back to Finley
As always, Pastor Finley took his listeners with him; before moving on, he would repeat the main points covered, to ensure that none of his audience got left behind.

Pastor Emmanuel, who was watching the screen in the overflow area in the foyer, said he still felt involved and enjoyed it: ‘It was wonderful. This man has touched my heart. Everything about this service is nice. I’ve been to many services, but this is spectacular.’

We give the last word to Ms Garnes, from Balham Church: ‘Absolutely fantastic. Makes you think; makes you want to do better; makes you want to study more and get more into God’s Word.’

This, and much more, was the SEC camp meeting 2012 – make sure you don’t miss the next one!

A video screened in honour of Pastor Cecil Perry’s long service to the Church drew this response from him: ‘I did not ride with a golden “flotilla”, but this is my diamond jubilee as an Adventist in this Church!’ (Video will soon be available at www.secmedia.org.)

Pastor Finley
The evening speaker, Pastor Mark Finley, took the congregation through the book of Revelation, bringing to light the central focus of Christ throughout the book; reminding the church that, in the great conflict between good and evil, God will win.

Early services
Large numbers attended the early morning prayer and praise services led by Pastor Emmanuel Osei and his team of pastors and Bible workers. Pastor Steve Riley’s morning sermons were also deeply appreciated, according to Amos Onchiri from Milton Keynes Central: ‘Pastor Riley’s message made the concept of grace so simple to understand. It was touched by his sermons.’

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SEC camp meeting 2012
With standing room only on the opening night, the South England Conference camp meeting of 2012 looked set to be a great success – and it was! What follows is a brief synopsis of the event.

by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, based on reports by Jon Gendle and Sam Davies.
When South England Conference president, Sam Davis, opened the ordination service he noted that some people had eaten lunch in their seats, so keen were they not to miss the service.

The four ordinands were presented in the following sequence:

Dr Ebenezer Sackey smilingly introduced Kwadwo Kwarteng-Ampofo and his wife Comfort. For years, Kwadwo had travelled from Newbold to London to worship each Sabbath with the Lewisham group, which eventually became the London Ghana church. After just a year Kwadwo was asked to join the team of leaders. He went wherever he was sent; showed the spirit of leadership and evangelism; and gave Bible studies night and day – helping out in all the churches that they opened.

Lewis and Grace Quaye were introduced by Dr Andrew Lawrence Ewoo, who had flown from Ghana for the occasion. He recalled how, in 1987, while ministerial secretary of his union, Lewis entered his office looking for a place where he could serve. Within just two months, he had seen the qualities of dependability, teachability and humility in Lewis, and a church was placed in his care.

Pastor Duarte introduced Juan Carlos Patrick and his wife, Malie, reminding Juan that ‘a man can have no greater honour than to be accepted by God as a minister of the Gospel’ and urging him to ‘uplift Jesus as the only hope for sinners.’

Dejan Stojkovic and his wife, Deana, were introduced by Pastor Japhet De Oliveira (who had also flown in from the USA) and Ian Sleeman, after a crowd of young adults and clapped them to the platform in a style befitting a pastor who has specialised in working with youths and young adults.

Reflecting the sporting theme of the Olympic year, Pastor Sleeman observed that ‘Ministry is not a hundred-yard dash; it is a marathon’, and that ‘Ministry successes can drain you as much as ministry failures. . . . You are responsible for your own actions and your own response, but not the response of others.’

Mark Finley used the charge of Paul to Timothy in his second letter as the basis for his ordination sermon.

‘In these four chapters we have the essence of ministry: in chapter one, the essence of ministry is to know the Master; in chapter two, to know the message; in chapter three, to know the moment; in chapter four, to know the mission.’

He continued: ‘The minister is an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of Jesus Christ. You know you are called, because you cannot do anything else.’

Among his other points Finley stressed that churches ‘expect authenticity and genuineness’ and that the pastors needed to ‘above all else, know Christ . . . God has not called you simply to watch over the faithful but to call the unfaithful to repentance.’

Quoting William Carey, he concluded: ‘Attempt great things for God, and expect great things from God . . . May this be your calling, may this be your destiny.’

Pastor Cecil Perry prayed the consecratory prayer and the charge was given by BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney.
Waiting for the Second Coming – at Brecon
by Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

This year’s spring Brecon Camp was delayed for a week to coincide with the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Pastor Stephen Eastwood, a ‘missionary kid’ born in Australia but who grew up in England, flew in from California (where he has lived for seventeen years) to speak on the Second Coming of Christ. ‘God is moving’, he said. ‘If we don’t go along with Him then He’s going to move with other people. Jesus also experiences the pain of the delay for His return, Stephen said. ‘I can picture Him going to the Father in Heaven and asking, “Is it today? Can I go now?”

Other denominations and theologians are now accepting the biblical teachings on the Sabbath and the Second Coming. Stephen said, ‘but the issues that Jesus talks about are more to do with feeding the hungry, being hospitable to strangers, and visiting the sick and the prisoners. Sometimes the narrow way is to go where the world is, and carry Jesus with you.

The marquee was decked out in flags, balloons and bunting, and the campers sang ‘God Save the Queen’ before sharing a Jubilee lunch and the Jubilee quiz (put together by Ross Maudiment). We would like to thank all who helped – particularly Liz and Andy, who ran the kitchen, and Pastor Jeremy Treemer, who was in overall charge. Our autumn camp will run from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 September if you’d like to come, please contact Jeremy on: 029 2083 2559.


Eleven baptised at Manchester South
On Sabbath 6 May, Manchester South Church celebrated the baptism of eleven souls, in a day themed on commitment. Puni had been grieving the loss of her husband and seven months pregnant, and was in despair as to how to repatriate her husband’s body to South Africa. Several members of the Gorton church who lived in her neighbourhood offered prayers and support, both in her home and at the Chapel of Rest. Arranging a monetary collection, the church enabled Puni to repatriate her husband.

Overwhelmed by their love, Puni began attending the Gorton church, shortly followed by Bible studies and her baby’s dedication on 28 April. Shortly after, she decided to be baptised. Tanaka, a student from Zimbabwe, knew no one, but felt welcomed by the strong student fellowship and was soon adopted into the church family. Tanaka took Bible studies, culminating in her baptism.

TWO BAPTISED AT WAKEFIELD
On Sabbath 2 June, two were baptised at the Wakefield church: a small boy (Serumu Adjenughure) and a young lady (Metyia Ikowa). With them in the picture are Pastor Barry Stokes and NEC president, Pastor Cyril Sweeney.

STONEBRIDGE PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING DAY
Praise and thanksgiving were offered at Stonebridge Church on Sabbath 7 April. Osvelle Bhalwathwa from Stratford Church took our Sabbath School lesson, with Paulette Marceny singing and Tavanna Green giving a beautiful personal mission story. During Divine Service, Pastor Mannix introduced the theme of the day. Marie Fletcher led a season of prayer, and Mark Bunney and Janine offered powerful music. The sermon was delivered by Pastor Ray Patrick, who is also the head elder of Stonebridge Church: he said we have to go through storms, but they can make us stronger, and if we hold on to God He will always deliver us.

National vegetarian week at Barnsley
Barnsley church members made full use of national vegetarian week (21–27 May) by opening the church on two afternoons and evenings for the public to come in and taste a variety of vegetarian dishes.

Free recipe sheets were offered, along with copies of Vibrant Life and FOCUS health specials. Also available were information books and leaflets supplied by the British Heart Foundation.

All who sampled the various dishes made very favourable comments. Twelve members of the public have already signed up for a follow-up course based on NEWSTART, which will be beginning shortly.

Two baptised at Wakefield
On Sabbath 2 June, two were baptised at the Wakefield church: a small boy (Serumu Adjenughure) and a young lady (Metyia Ikowa). With them in the picture are Pastor Barry Stokes and NEC president, Pastor Cyril Sweeney.

Wolverhampton’s triple Jubilee celebration
On Monday 4 June, Wolverhampton Central celebrated the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, Jamaica’s fiftieth year of independence, and the church’s fiftieth anniversary.

The event, ‘Building Our Community for God’s Glory’, was co-ordinated by the community centre and the Youth department, and involved the wider community, with a steel band, Pathfinders drumming, live music and games, and food.

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The message of the Stonebridge health and temperance day was brought to us by Joanne Lindsay, who used as proof Jesus’ words from John 10:10 (NW): ‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full’. Joanne also reminded congregants that, if we truly desire it and seek the Lord, He will provide for all our needs – so there is no need to worry (Matthew 6:25-34).

Health and temperance day at Stonebridge
The message of the Stonebridge health and temperance day was brought to us by Joanne Lindsay, who used as proof Jesus’ words from John 10:10 (NW): ‘I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full’. Joanne also reminded congregants that, if we truly desire it and seek the Lord, He will provide for all our needs – so there is no need to worry (Matthew 6:25-34).

Stonebridge praise and thanksgiving day
Praise and thanksgiving were offered at Stonebridge Church on Sabbath 7 April. Osvelle Bhalwathwa from Stratford Church took our Sabbath School lesson, with Paulette Marceny singing and Tavanna Green giving a beautiful personal mission story. During Divine Service, Pastor Mannix introduced the theme of the day. Marie Fletcher led a season of prayer, and Mark Bunney and Janine offered powerful music. The sermon was delivered by Pastor Ray Patrick, who is also the head elder of Stonebridge Church: he said we have to go through storms, but they can make us stronger, and if we hold on to God He will always deliver us.
Jubilee weekend at Sutton Church

Sutton Church had a busy weekend for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. On Sabbath there was a Jubilee theme in the children's story, by Sue Anscombe: she made heavenly flags and wooden crowns for the children, telling them that the greatest Jubilee party of all would be in Heaven with Jesus.

On Sunday, the chairman of Ashfield District Council, Councillor Kenneth Knight, and his wife Janice were invited to our special Jubilee dinner, and to plant a commemorative tree. Members of the public who had attended our previous outreach programmes were also invited to the dinner. Councillor Knight and his wife both said they had enjoyed the evening and would like to be invited back soon.

To mark the 60th Jubilee of

Jubilee service at Hemel Hempstead

On Sabbath 2 June, Hemel Hempstead Church held a Jubilee service, with lavish decorations, cupcakes, poetry, entertainment, the Hallelujah Chorus, and a reading of the Queen’s 2007 Christmas Speech. The children sang, and the Kindergarten group, using tiny bells, gave us the tunes of Big Ben.

Karen Plaatjes preached that, as Christians, we are on display and people are watching us; we need to be conscious of this as we live for Christ – just like the Queen!

JOHN BUTTERS

Erdington members ‘see red’ for charity

Portsmouth members ‘see red’ for charity

Portsmouth members celebrated Wear Red Day on Sabbath 25 February – supporting the national Red for Heart campaign, led by the British Heart Foundation, by wearing red clothes or accessories to church.

The church undertook many activities in February to create heart-health awareness: its Health Ministries leader, Mary Jacobson, presented a health seminar on heart-healthy lifestyles on the same day, followed by a healthy food-tasting event.

MARY JACOBSON

Jubilee Ingathering for ADRA

Erdington’s Ingathering for ADRA-UK saw church members collect £4,976.11 this year. Don Parker collected the most – £2,684.48, about 54% of the church’s total – by concentrating on the good friends he has made over the years. Don, in his spare time, works as a voluntary driver for the Bee Line charity in North Warwickshire, taking patients to clinics, hospitals and GP’s surgeries and talking to them as he does so. When Don told one generous 83-year-old lady about the worldwide humanitarian work of ADRA, she donated £40!

Don, in his spare time, works as a voluntary driver for the Bee Line charity in North Warwickshire, taking patients to clinics, hospitals and GP’s surgeries, and golden crowns for the children, telling them that the greatest Jubilee party of all would be in Heaven with Jesus.

Weeping may endure but joy does come

Stories of pain, healing and restoration

Three beautiful women’s stories, one a product of rape, one a pastor’s wife in a broken relationship, the other… your story. The truth about them, the truth about you.

The Pain reflex presents Mable Dunbar PhD and Shirley Haangala at the Luxurious Whyboston Lakes, 31 August to 2 September

Affordable

Book now as places are running out fast!

Contact: 0741 227 0613/0775 863 0434/0741 351 2554

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG
Stanborough Secondary School vacancy
Marketing/Fundraising Volunteer
Closing date for applications: 3 August 2012
Adventist Volunteer ID number: TED.STS.2012.07

Stanborough Secondary School is seeking a highly motivated individual to assist the school with marketing and fundraising from September 2012 for 12 months. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced marketing volunteer or student to gain valuable work-based experience as a fully contributing team member.

For more information, please visit: www.adventistvolunteers.org

Lowestoft Church Jubilee fundraiser
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Members and friends rallied on Sunday 3 June to erect tents and a bouncy castle at Lowestoft Church, children’s attractions, refreshments and the barbeque. In addition to the funds raised, many from the neighbourhood saw our church for the first time.

John W. Sampson

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The church wishes to thank the organisers, including Joyce, and also the community members who attended.

John W. Sampson

New book of the week
Hidden Words: book 6

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