Open Day 2 September

By the editor

Say ‘Open Day’ and many BUC members will know exactly what you mean: The Stanborough Press annual book sale. Yes, our Open Day has become one of our Adventist ‘institutions’ here in the UK.

Members stream in from far and wide to enjoy a day at the publishing house. They meet old friends and make new ones. They stock up on books, Bibles and good Christian music, both for their own nurture and to give away to those they love. They also replenish their supplies of vegetarian foods. There is the chance to meet popular UK authors and collect an autograph or two.

Something special

But it wouldn’t be an Open Day without something special. This time we have two special treats in store for you. The first will be a mini concert by Tessera, our own nationally acclaimed Adventist quartet led by Ken Burton (baritone), with the support of Paul Boldeau (tenor), Robert Carr (tenor) and Paul Lee (tenor/baritone).

The second treat will be the presentations by Dr Leslie N. Pollard and his wife Dr Prudence L. Pollard. Leslie is the president of Oakwood University, USA, and a captivating speaker. Prudence serves at the same institution as the assistant vice-president for Faculty Development, Leadership and Quality, along with her various professorships in business and public health. She recently presented a paper at the prestigious Oxford Roundtable, in Oxford.

Both Dr Pollards are accomplished authors, and one of their titles will be on sale among the hundreds of other books you can select from.

Will there be specials?

‘Oh, yes!’ as Churchill (the dog, from the car insurance advert) would emphatically say. Paul Poddar of the Adventist Book Centre has assured us that there will be bargains to be had. So if you are looking for them, come early! The doors will open at 8am and close at 4.30pm.

Don’t bother to pack a picnic because a delicious selection of prepared vegetarian food will be on sale at reasonable prices. There will also be a place to enjoy the food indoors, just in case the ‘jet stream’ is planning the wettest September ‘since records began’!

So plan to be there on 2 September – there is only one Open Day each year; don’t miss it! We’re easy to find at Alma Park Industrial Estate, Londonthorpe Lane, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.
Megapixels of creation

This was taken at the Attenborough Centre, Long Eaton, one of those rare occasions when the sun shone.

It’s been downright dull and much cooler than average - a miserable start to summer, that’s for sure.

Gloomy weather may be a bigger threat than most of us realise. Let me explain.

There he was transfigured in his description of Jesus during the visit of Moses and Elijah:

Who is this ‘Sun of Righteousness’ with ‘healing in His wings’? Matthew helps answer that in his description of Jesus during the visit of Moses and Elijah: ‘There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light’ (Matthew 17:2, NIV).

Matthew’s description. ‘About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.’ (Acts 26:13, NIV)

Then John has those visions that describe Christ’s face as being ‘like the sun shining in all its brilliance’ (Revelation 1:16, NIV), and that ‘his face was like the sun’ (Revelation 10:1, NIV).

So we are left in no doubt that Jesus is the ‘Sun of Righteousness’ and that this symbolism is important – especially in the light of what we discovered earlier about natural sunlight.

If Jesus is our ‘Sun of Righteousness’ it means that He is as vital to our spiritual life as sunlight is to our daily lives:

1. He is the most important spiritual ‘nutriment’ of the ages – not just the decade. Without Him we face the rapid decline of our personal spirituality; our characters won’t develop as they should; our moral ‘backbone’ will weaken and deform; despondency and depression will settle in quickly, snuffing out our hope for better things; and we will lose the ‘cognitive skills’ to distinguish between right and wrong.

2. You cannot store Him up for future use – you need regular, daily exposure to Him. Sources vary as to how much sunlight we need daily, but it seems that most will be safe with 15 minutes a day in summer. This is equally true for the spiritual life – daily, devotional exposure to Jesus through prayer, meditation and Bible study will keep us growing.

3. Beware of those ‘good’ things that keep Jesus out. Sunscreen stops the UV rays from damaging our skin, but it also stops the sunshine from producing vitamin D. Likewise with Jesus – there are some seemingly good things that can block His influence in our lives, like being too busy ‘running’ the local church; or depending on your good works and deeds to make up for a skimpier relationship with Jesus.

4. There is no substitute for the presence of Jesus. It won’t help us to laze on a sun bed, bathed in artificial light. That gets you a tan that’s only skin deep! As one researcher said about sunlight – ‘To the winter, you could stand outside naked for five hours and nothing is going to happen’ – other than your catching a deadly cold! You have to be thankful, at the same time, for the presence of Jesus. He gives deeper meaning to a biblical symbol found in Malachi 4:2: ‘But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings’ (Revelation 1:16, NIV).

So we are left in no doubt that Jesus is the ‘Sun of Righteousness’ and that this symbolism is important – especially in the light of what we discovered earlier about natural sunlight. If Jesus is our ‘Sun of Righteousness’ it means that He is as vital to our spiritual life as sunlight is to our daily lives:

Golden eighth – part 7d

Water – therapeutic external use

‘There are many ways in which water can be applied to relieve pain and check disease. All should become intelligent in its use in simple home treatments. Mothers, especially, should know how to care for their families in both health and sickness.’ (E. G. White, Ministry of Healing, p. 237.)

The Bluebell Practice identifies the following hydrotherapy benefits:

- Improved function of internal organs due to stimulation of their blood supply.
- Hydrotherapy works by using water as a vehicle for transporting heat and cold. Application of warm or hot water causes arteries and veins to expand, bringing additional blood and lymph fluid to an area. Applying cold water causes constriction of arteries and veins, thereby forcing blood and lymph outward. This movement of blood and lymph encourages oxygenation and nutrient absorption, and removes toxins and waste products.

- The use of hydrotherapy involves varied techniques. These include the use of water in any of its three states – solid (ice); liquid (running water); and gas (steam). Among the treatments are hot and cold showers, hot and cold baths for limbs, fomentation (the application of hot and cold compresses), water-soaked towels and sheets, sponge baths for fever, and hot foot baths.

Some hydrotherapy cautions, contra-indications and risks

- ‘Sun of Righteousness’ with ‘healing in His wings’

Dietary advice

- Dramatically increased elimination of waste, assisting detoxification;
- The loosening of tense, tight muscles, encouraging relaxation;
- Increased metabolic rate and digestion activity;
- Cell hydration, improving skin and muscle tone;
- A boost to the immune system, allowing more efficient function;
- Improved function of internal organs due to stimulation of their blood supply.

Good health!

Are you catching enough J-rays?


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Some hydrotherapy cautions, contra-indications and risks (www.thebodyworker.com)

- Hydrotherapy is contra-indicated in patients with skin conditions.
- Diabetics should avoid a full body-wrap and hot applications to feet or legs.
- Sufferers of Raynaud’s disease should avoid cold applications.
- If pregnant or suffering from abnormally high or low blood pressure, hot immersion baths and long hot saunas are not recommended.
- If suffering from rheumatism, sciatica, pelvic inflammation, or bladder or rectal irritation, cold foot baths are not recommended.
- The elderly and young children should avoid full-body hot treatments as they could become exhausted by excess heat.

Good health!

Nobody I’ve met is happy with the weather of the past three months...

Isobel Lang, a Sky weather presenter, summed it up this way: ‘It’s been downright dull and much cooler than average – a miserable start to summer, that’s for sure.’

She added. ‘Worryingly, this is off the back of the wettest April on record and the Environment Agency has said that according to their statistics it has been the wettest April to June ever.’

Implications

This situation has affected a lot of people. Local tourism suffered; crops rotted in the ground; building sites became sodden; and thousands of homes are still blighted by mildew after the flooding.

These are all unpleasant things, but the gloomy weather may be a bigger threat than most of us realise. Let me explain.

Most of us are aware of the link between sun exposure and vitamin D (which is also linked to seasonal affective disorder), a form of depression that is more prevalent in the sun-deprived areas of the northern hemisphere. Now researchers in the US have found that among those ‘with depression, low exposure to sunlight was associated with a significantly higher predicted probability of cognitive impairment.’

So sunlight not only helps to regulate our serotonin and melatonin hormones, which help protect us from depression, but it also promotes blood flow to the brain, thereby helping us think clearly.

Vitamin D

We get most of our vitamin D through the direct action of sunlight on the skin. Previously, its benefits were regarded as important but somewhat limited, but modern research is causing a radical rethink of the role of vitamin D.

‘Long dismissed as being important mainly for strong bones, the so-called sunshine vitamin is now recognised as a key player throughout the body, including the immune system.’

Dr Michael Holick of Boston University School of Medicine, a world expert in the field, claims that: ‘You’re more likely to live longer and you’re less likely to die of serious chronic disease if you have adequate vitamin D on board ... it may well be the most important nutrient of the decade.’

So why should we really have substantial reasons to grumble over our gloomy weather!

Fancy being published?

This was taken at the Attenborough Centre, Long Eaton, one of those rare occasions when the sun shone.

Please keep sending in your ideas for Megapixels of creation. Pictures of nature – landscapes, wildlife, close-ups. You never know your luck, you may get in print. Send them in to me at: ddbell@attenboroughpress.org.uk.

Just remember to keep them ‘hi-res’. Happy snapping!

David Bell, Managing Designer

To see more of your images, go to: http://adventistwebministries-organ-uk.adventist.eu/megapixels
Can we really evaluate people by their appearance, or more particularly by their clothes?

Clothes can be fun, flambayant, fashionable, formal or functional. They can be cute, casual or quite distinctive!

They can be new, never worn, torn, shabby or simply chic. They can be unique, patterned, or uniform, or second-hand, third-hand or out of date! In short, they can all be of these and a great deal more.

How important should they be for us? What emphasis should be placed on them? Perhaps we place too much importance on our appearance, or more particularly by their clothes.

The difference between the saved and the lost at the end will be easily recognisable for those who are watching. The Bible gives several important signs of the last days, and these will be clearly visible. There will be signs in the heavens and distress on earth (Luke 21:25-27).

However, this doesn't mean that we don't need to watch for the signs carefully. Right after telling the disciples that not even the angels know when His return will be, Christ says that the time just before His return for judgment will be like the time just before Noah's Flood — some will be eating, drinking, and marrying, until the coming of the Son of Man (Matthew 24:38-39). Just as the people in Noah's time had no idea what the Flood was about to come upon them, so too the Son of Man will come at the time we least expect it (Matthew 24:44). Before the end, the signs will be unmistakable and planting, just as in the days of Lot (Luke 17:28-30). As God called Noah and Lot (Genesis 6:9, 11), He urges His followers to flee from spiritual Babylon (Mark 13:14-18), resulting in two classes of people: one will be ‘taken’ and the other ‘left’ (Matthew 24:40, 41; Luke 17:34-35, NKJV). As it is to emphasise the need for watchfulness, in the middle of describing the seven last plagues, Jesus takes time out to remind us that He’s coming, whether we like it or not — and will catch some with their trousers down (Revel 16:15!)

Won’t the time of the end be hard to miss? Well, people see what they want to see. There will be those who don’t want the Lord to come, who won’t pay attention to the signs — and, like those in Noah’s day, they’ll be caught completely off-guard (Luke 12:45, 46). Jesus reminds those who do want Him to come again that He will — and although the fact of His return won’t be surprising to them, the timing of it might (Matthew 24:3, 42).

The fact is, the signs will be so apparent, like the seasons (Matthew 24:32, 33; Mark 13:28, 29). The devil will send such plausible counterfeiters that, if it were possible, even the most watchful of believers would be deceived (Matthew 24:24-26). Jesus, describing the condition of the lost and saved, gave as an analogy five wise and five foolish virgins — of all whom fell asleep and needed waking up for the bridal feast. There will be just as many as the disciples did at Gethsemane (Mark 14:37-41).

The difference between the saved and the lost at the end will not be who knows when the Lord will return, but rather who was prepared for the day (Matthew 22:1-13). For the Lord said, ‘You are blind when you judge others by your appearance, or more particularly by their clothes.’

Dear Editor

When reading David Marshall’s article ‘Why are religious people often insufferable?’ (Messageries of 8 June), I was reminded of a quotation by Andy Rooney, the late American commentator who said, ‘I’m pro-life, but I like the pro-choice people more than I like the pro-life people as a commentator.’

Julian Hobbert’s editorial ‘It has an expiration date’ was thoughtful, but he should re-read Psalm 90. While not an equal of the kingdom of man’s days being 70 or 80 years, it should be noticed that the psalm itself is written by Moses, who did not even begin his ‘real’ life work until he was 80! (N.B. According to Genesis 6:3, God seems to have established the human lifespan at 120 years.)

HANS VON DINGEL

By ‘ratiocination’ we mean the ability to identify whether or not we have clear, objective and reliable reasons for whatever belief we entertain. Often, we may have ‘reasons’ which are not genuine reasons because they are founded on assumptions or biases. So, the question is whether or not we have clear, objective and reliable reasons for whatever belief we entertain. Often, we may have ‘reasons’ which are not genuine reasons because they are founded on assumptions or biases.

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A fragrant, smiling waitress walked into a hotel breakfast room. I was visiting, and this was a bowl of cherries embroidered on her T-shirt. What a start to the day! Just suppose that every group of people who attend Churches that characterize? There are many ideas about church development flouted in conventions like the annual West Point lectures in the USA. It is little wonder that some preach like drill sergeants! To me, such events imply desperation. To suggest that weaknesses can be cured by the legislation of science or boot camps is surely naïve.

Paul speaks of transformation happening through the renewals of our minds rather than structures and strategies. Many churches have become the rituals of predictable people with predictable results. Growth, however, is related to changed, the chemistry of personal character, Spirit-led creativity and passion. This is difficult to cultivate artificially, but it is easily shackled.

Freeing ourselves
Some of our problems can be addressed by doing new things, but more can be done by freeing ourselves from some of the crushing authoritarianism around us.

1. They are inclusive, recognizing that other people wish to express their creativity just as we wish to express ours. There is not a one-man band, rather a choir with an equal who sees himself as a creator of harmony and rhythm.
2. They have people who are real even if their tastes are surreal! Take care of them.
3. They respect individuality. Forced labour may break rocks, but it rarely breaks new ground. Stand aside and allow people to do things their way.
4. They recognise that popularity arises from the open expression of opinion in harmony, and not indulging populism. Delight-filled churches care and engage.
5. They adopt a no blame game. Change begins with ourselves; we are responsible for the current state of affairs. We choose to make the church delight-filled.
6. They are high-trust environments. People are allowed to take risks, they are allowed to fail – and failure is accepted kindly, not with anger or gossip.
7. They are high-praise and low-criticism environments. People grow with genuine appreciation. Focus on the wave, not the undercurrents.
8. They are volunteer-friendly. The load is lightened better by your volunteer, and they do so because the ‘turf barriers’ are low, because they have chosen to act and can depend on creation in our Kindergarten Sabbath Schools. Indeed, this is a strength. Many churches return to ensure that their children experience this delight. What happens as time goes on? Sadly, many drop out. This is not so suggest that adults and teenagers should derive delight from the infantile, but that the effort to mediate how children should continue appropriately for every age group.

Fun, delight and laughter
Individualism has helped us believe that God is experienced uniquely. That we have a ‘direct, dedicated line’. However, we know that where two or three gather in Christ’s name, God’s presence is invoked. Equally, where two or three are gathered there will be fun, delight and laughter. This is the contagious outcome of social engagement. Original inspiration, that animation is evidence of the Spirit when it is shown in our mode, both formal and informal, in committees, discussion groups, prayer, study groups. This is not just about ‘feeling good’, for in truth, we are in conflict. What is needed is not a board member. Leaders are continual learners.

What kind of power?
If you want to insult church members, just call them ‘power crazy’. Something inside them seems to either die, or erupt, or transform. What kind of power?

Power to the People
A power to the People is a song written by the late John Lennon of, Beatles fame, released in 1971. All Power to the People was an early 1960s documentary on the ‘60s Civil Rights movement. Both used a phrase which has become a powerful political slogan or rallying cry.

Some ideas of ‘Power to the People’ often reek of revolution, radical change and a paradigm shift in cultural behaviour. The slogan is bold, brave and strong, and frightens leaders. But Jesus Christ, the greatest Labourer, lived, we live, uses this concept of the empowerment of ordinary people in His last speech to His disciples before returning to His Father.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth’ – Acts 1:8 (NKJV).

This ethos requires intent.

The Holy Spirit – its outworking becomes entrenched: when the creative majority become stifled by the vocally empowered minority, when young people are alienated by their elders. Leadership requires that we take risks and the rap that goes with them. We are required to facilitate and deliver creative innovation and ensure the delight of the participatory majority.

We seem to understand and apply the principles of delight creation in our Kindergarten Sabbath Schools. Indeed, this is a strength. Many churches return to ensure that their children experience this delight. What happens as time goes on? Sadly, many drop out. This is not so suggest that adults and teenagers should derive delight from the infantile, but that the effort to mediate how children should continue appropriately for every age group.

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Our Church has a – and only when

Although Jesus offers Christians power, there is a condition attached to it. As a Christian, you will receive power

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Leicester fans the flame!
Based on a report by Philip Herbert

On 2 July the Olympic Torch Relay wound its way through Leicester, on a route that passed the Leicester Central Adventist church. Positioned directly in front of the church doors – waiting for the torch bearer and his entourage – stood the Leicester Women’s Gospel Choir.

Then, as the torch approached, the choir – supported by a group of enthusiastic members – burst forth with their own ‘Olympic’ song: “This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine!” The crowd was delighted and an announcer on one of the passing buses commended the choir for its contribution.

Not to be outdone by any of this, other members, assisted by the Pathfinders, handed out flyers advertising their church’s forthcoming outreach programme, ‘Life After Rock ‘n’ Roll’. This event will feature Pastor Louis Torres (president of the Guam Micronesia Mission) who was the bass guitarist with Bill Haley and his Comets. Torres will tell of his time with this legend, the ‘father of Rock ‘n’ Roll’, and others he rubbed shoulders with during his eight years in serious show business. He will then share the remarkable truths that have changed his life for the rest of the series.

The Leicester Women’s Gospel Choir has been run as a community outreach project in the city by Greg Smith (Leicester Central Church) and Maxine Chambers (Kaine Management Group) for the past two years.

Leon was there too!
Adapted from the BUC News of 29 June, 2012

On 27 June, Leon Squire of Lincoln carried the Olympic Relay torch proudly through the streets of Hogsthorpe, near Nottingham. This 16-year-old is truly an example our Church can be proud of. He turned down a potential football career with Lincoln City because of his Sabbath convictions. Then he did the same with athletics. This was a tough move, for according to his mother he is possibly the fastest sprinter of his age group in the UK today.

Despite the fact that Leon suffers from supraventricular tachycardia, the main symptoms of which are a rapid heartbeat and dizziness, he remains a keen and accomplished sportsman. In fact, things are looking up for him – he has been offered a football scholarship with a professional club, Boston United FC, which plays Wednesday rather than Saturday matches! Faithfulness also has rewards!

Leon says: “I enjoyed taking part in the Olympic Torch Relay and found it a wonderful privilege to be part of such a great event.”
MOHAP launched at SEC Prayer Ministries retreat

by Janet Hamilton (MOHAP founder), assisted by Dr Emmanuel Osei (SEC Ministerial and Prayer Ministries director) and Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Health, Disability Awareness and Women’s Ministries director)

The weekend of 29 June to 1 July saw the birth of a dynamic new ministry called Ministry of Healing and Prayer (MOHAP) which ministers to the terminally ill and chronically sick – churched or unchurch. Held at the De Vere venue, Denham Grove, Uxbridge, it was attended by approximately 200 enthusiastic people.

Janet Hamilton, an elder at the Basingstoke church, is the visionary behind MOHAP, and since December 2011 she has been working with Dr Emmanuel Osei (SEC Ministerial director and Prayer Ministries director) to make it a reality.

The Annual Prayer Co-ordinators’ Weekend Retreat was amalgamated to include the launch of MOHAP. The programme comprised praise, worship, prayer and anointing, devotionals, inspirational testimonies, lively discussion and health presentations. The majority of the attendees were Prayer Ministry co-ordinators (approximately 150), but they were joined by individuals with various illnesses, thereby putting the focus of the weekend on ministering to the terminally ill and those burdened with chronic diseases. The aim was twofold: firstly, to teach Prayer co-ordinators how to pray and minister effectively to those with serious, life-threatening or incurable conditions; secondly, to minister to the sick who were in attendance.

Friday evening was both uplifting and inspiring, and all were encouraged to affirm that if God was able to work wonders in times gone by then He can do the same today.

Sabbath provided a feast of inspiring presentations and heart-warming testimonies. Attendees heard the challenges and traumas, the battles and victories, the mountain tops and valley experiences, and could only conclude that wherever they go, God will continue to reveal His love and care for them.

On Sunday the weekend culminated in a one-to-one ministry for individuals requesting anointing, pastoral counselling and prayer. A number of dynamic conferences and local pastors arrived on Sunday morning to join Pastors Ewuo and Osei in a personal and private ministry to those in need. Simultaneously, in the main hall, an inspiring and moving prayer, praise and testimony service was led by Mrs Laura Osei to maintain the momentum for those not requesting an anointing, or those waiting to be anointed or prayed with, or requiring pastoral counseling.

As the hotel was solely booked by Adventists, a request was made for sacred music to be played in the restaurant over the weekend in place of the regular secular music. The staff expressed their pleasure with the sacred music and could be seen at times waving their arms rhythmically in the air, particularly to one of their favourites, ‘Lord I give you my heart, I give you my soul’. As a result, a recording of the music was promised to the restaurant team. They expressed delight that some of their favourite Christian songs were going to be given to them for their continued listening pleasure and the enjoyment of other diners long after the departure of the Adventists.

The response

Three non-Adventists who attended the retreat remarked on how blessed they were to be there. They were prayed for by both the group and privately, and subsequently stated that they were going back to their local congregations and communities to share the vision. They were already planning to attend the next MOHAP event.

Several of our members signed up to gain more information in regards to the development of this ministry and to introduce MOHAP chapters in their local congregations. Others felt that this ministry was timely and long overdue, and expressed interest in becoming more involved and receiving appropriate training to equip them accordingly.

Pastor Ewuo was so impressed with the concept of MOHAP that he promised to introduce it to the Ghana Union Conference.

It is envisaged that MOHAP will include an annual weekend retreat and quarterly day retreats. Additionally it is hoped that local MOHAP chapters will be formed within local churches and small groups to cater for the needs of the sick on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. MOHAP will continue to be shaped and formed over the coming months under the leadership of Dr Osei and Janet Hamilton.

As a next step, a one-day MOHAP retreat is planned for Sunday 7 October 2012 to be held at Newbold Church. (Please contact the SEC Ministerial department for more information – tel: 01923 232728.)

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It is envisaged that MOHAP will include an annual weekend retreat and quarterly day retreats. Additionally it is hoped that local MOHAP chapters will be formed within local churches and small groups to cater for the needs of the sick on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. MOHAP will continue to be shaped and formed over the coming months under the leadership of Dr Osei and Janet Hamilton.

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Jubilee weekend, 1 to 4 June, saw almost 500 Adventurers and their leaders gather at the Walsby Forest Activity Centre in Newark, Nottinghamshire, for the annual NEC Adventurer camporee. Campers came from as far as Newcastle and Northampton. The weekend started with vespers, taken by the Nottingham club, and the Sabbath programme began with morning watch, taken by clubs from Area 3. Clubs prepared for the opening ceremony by getting into their full dress uniforms, and once lined up the company were told that there was to be a special arrival. They marched to a large gravel area where they awaited the BUC Youth director, Pastor Nathan Stickland, and the camporee speaker, Pastor Steve Palmer – by helicopter! They were welcomed by the NEC Pathfinder director, Pastor Alan Huss, and an honour guard formed by the NEC Area co-ordinators.

The opening ceremony began with a prayer and an introduction to the camp masters, Levon Johns, Faye Cadagon, and Kathleen Lopuzusnisky. Pastor Stickland also gave a speech, saying the helicopter journey was too short!

The camporee theme was “Joseph’s Journey”, and Pastor Palmer began his discourses on the life of Joseph for the Sabbath message. Despite damp weather, Adventurers enjoyed activities such as crate stacking and the assault course. Some activities were moved into the marquee. There was also an opportunity for Adventurers to interact with real reptiles and farm animals in a safe, hygienic environment. The sheep shearing demonstration seemed pretty stressful for both sheep and shearer! The Sunday activities concluded with Pastor Palmer completing Joseph’s Journey. At the closing ceremony on Monday, what all Adventurers (especially the leaders!) wanted to know was who would get the award for best club. This year, after hotly contested inspections of uniform and campsite, the Great Brickkiln Street club got the vote by the narrowest of margins over Windsor Street.

Once the awards had been completed the camporee was officially closed by Pastor Huss, and campers said goodbye to friends old and new – and vowed, God willing, to see each other next year! **NEC AREA CO-ORDINATOR, FAYE CADAGON**

### Kingdom increased by four at Sydenham

On Sabbath 26 May, Sydenham Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated the baptism of Sheila Simpson, Errol Stanbury, Moye Ubues-Brooks and Shammyee Dennis – and their families and loved ones shared songs, Bible texts and encouragement during the well-attended service. We praise God for rescuing these lives, and thank all those involved.

**OSWALD JONES**

### Baptism at Great Yarmouth

On Sabbath 24 June, Great Yarmouth Church was beautifully decorated and packed with family, friends and church members to celebrate the baptism of Ruben Da Silva Gaspar by Pastor Rio Espulgar. Ruben was initially introduced by his mum to Pastor Rio during a routine home visit. They became friends, played sports together, chatted about life goals and faithfully studied the Bible. Yarmouth members thank the Lord for this young man’s commitment and welcome him into the church family.

**GREAT YARMOUTH COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT**

### Let’s Zumba on the street!

A feisty Zumba class and knife-juggling performance were two of the many activities held on Chester Road for the Clapton Community church’s street fair on Sunday, 8 July, Vern Griffiths, from the neighbourhood, commented, “I heard the music start up and we came over. The kids have had a great time!”

The church’s Pathfinder drum corps opened the festivities by marching around the local area, bringing traffic to a halt and intriguing onlookers. “It was amazing just to see all these young people out on the streets”, enthused Pastor Kevin Johns, Pathfinder director at the South England Conference. “It was a beautiful example of evangelism and reaching out to the community.”

From a ‘sunshine’ boutique filled with perfumes and clothes, to an arts and crafts area, to a ‘healthy juicing’ stall – those visiting had lots of choice!

One local catering company, ‘The Cooking Pot’, sold vegetarian Indian cuisine. Caterer Jurmiieet Kaur explained: “The money is going to an orphanage in India that we want to build.”

Sebastian, a professional juggler who performs in the West End, entertained the crowd for almost an hour with a sense of humour and knife-juggling skills, ending by juggling metal knives while balanced on a cylinder!

David Burnett, pastor of the Clapton Community church, said, “This is what we all need to do! . . . As a church, we can’t be just indoors; there are times we need to be outside. And the good news is that this is only the first of five events to come!”

Communication leader and event organiser, Kandi Cox, enthused, “The reason we had this fair was really to bond with our community . . . letting them know we’re here. At the moment we have a big church which has been empty for many years, so this was really to open our doors and let them know that we are here!”

**SEAL COMMUNICATIONS**

### Class of 2012

The graduating class of John Loughborough School celebrated with a thanksgiving service, ‘Aspiring to Greatness’, at the Balham church on Saturday, 7 July.

Year 11 students joined families, teachers, church members and visitors for a full day of programmes led by the school. Opal Johnson-Christie (SEC Education director), Keith Boldeau (pastor of the Bathum church), Earl Ramharackingsh (SEC treasurer) and Matthew Herel (intern pastor and school chaplain for John Loughborough) made encouraging remarks to the pupils.

Students Christiana McCormak, Khro Hamilton and Kwarteng Sarfo told the children’s story, reminding younger children that ‘caring is sharing’, and Sharrel McKenzie, Sarah Dwus, Bian Brooks and Rochelle Parkes-Cope from Year 11 gave a song of meditation.

Sam Gungaloo of Newbold College addressed the students on Sydenham and said, “It was amazing just to see all these young people out on the streets”, enthused Pastor Kevin Johns, Pathfinder director at the South England Conference. “It was a beautiful example of evangelism and reaching out to the community.”

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**SEAL COMMUNICATIONS**
Minnie’s birthday

On Sunday 8 April, Minnie Harding of the West Bromwich church celebrated reaching 99 years with a nice meal with Susan and Jim, her beloved niece and husband. Though housebound, she is regularly visited by many church members. She thoroughly enjoys the Pathfinders’ singing when they call on her. It is a joy to be with Minnie, as she has a sunny disposition and is always smiling.

We thank God for bringing her thus far in her walk with Him.

JUDITH CUMMINS

From Massachusetts to bonny Dundee

Dundee Church opened its doors and heart to the Youth Ensemble of New England on Monday, 2 July. The community and members thrilled to the music of Albinoni, Bach, Beethoven, Vivaldi, ... Connie for her son when he was a baby. Every heart in the audience was moved, so ‘thank you’ to the youth of New England!

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Leicester Central PAEB investiture

On 7 July 2012, fifty-one of Leicester Central’s eighty PAEBs (Pathfinders, Adventurers and Eager Beavers) were invested. PAEB club members and junior counsellors aged 4-18 marched into the church, accompanied by the drum corps and supported by family and friends.

Under the theme, ‘The Race for Life’, club director Pauline Matturi said the club’s purpose was ‘turning tiny beings into wonderful people – and after songs, the Olympic theme was continued in a play by the Pathfinders, ‘The Christian Life Race’, which emphasised that there is no room for complacency.

Pauline Matturi summed up the activities of 2011-2012, acknowledging Adventurer leader, Beverley Lake and Pathfinder leader, Glynis Dublin, in particular – as well as junior counsellors and PAEB club members.

The awards were presented by the Area co-ordinator, Daniel Flemmings Danquah, before Pathfinders witnessed in the town centre.
Happy with Jesus in Dublin

On 2 July, Dublin Adventist Church ran its first Holiday Bible School. Lydia and Jeason Kanagaraj have hoped to run the week-long programme since they arrived in Ireland seven years ago. On stories from Creation to the Second Coming, forty-eight children sang praises, enjoyed crafts, played games and have hoped to ‘Happy With Jesus’.

Alexandra, whose parents are new Adventists, enjoyed the activities so much that she took materials about Jesus home to share with her friends. One of the parents said her 4-year-old son Esathu asked: ‘Mummy, if we ask nicely can we go to the VBS next week again?’ How wonderful it is when our children are excited to spend more time with Jesus!

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African skies!

Holloway Church on Saturday 7 July was full of bright colours, smiles and bongo drums for ‘African Skies’: a fundraising concert organised by Rumbidzai Sibhole and Hasley Mckercle-Sealy to raise money for Mboe Church in Zimbabwe, so that its members (mostly farm workers) can complete its building work. They currently worship in a school classroom, but are in desperate need of their own church.

Over £550 was raised, with more donations still to come. We pray that the people of Mboe Church will be blessed! If you would like to donate or find out more, please contact Rumbi at: rumbis@hotmail.com.

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Netherfield SDA Church Community Services Day of Fellowship

With Grace Walsh and the Birmingham Ladies’ Choir

You are invited to join us on 1 September 2012 for a day of worship and praise!

Time:
10am for a full day’s programme
Venue:
the Baptist church, Kenrick Street, Netherfield, NG4 2LE
Potluck lunch
All welcome