Dr Philip Brown opened the proceedings at the 2012 Newbold College Awards Ceremony on Sunday 15 July, his first since taking over as principal of the college. There were sixty-seven graduands, well supported by many family members and friends in the audience. Councillor Mrs Jennie McCracken, mayoress of Bracknell Forest Borough Council, and her consort, Councillor Iain McCracken, were present, as were the Wokingham Town mayor, Councillor Peter Lucey, and Wokingham Town mayoress, Elaine White, Wokingham Town deputy mayor, Councillor Martin Bishop, and Wokingham Town deputy mayoress, Yvonne Bishop.

During her remarks, Councillor Mrs Jennie McCracken said that education cannot be underestimated because of the opportunities it yields. She thanked the students for their hard work, the parents for their commitment and the Newbold staff for their absolute dedication.

The guest speaker was Ms Kristel Tonstad, a graduate of both La Sierra and Harvard University. She currently works as an advisor at the International Law and Policy Institute in Oslo and is a member of the Newbold College Board of Governors. In her address, which was entitled ‘Our Fragile Earth, Our Kingdom Calling’, Ms Tonstad focused on Amos, Micah and Isaiah and their concern for justice in society. She said that responding to your calling is not some distant idea: it means labouring in the Lord here and now, and it has a central part in our Seventh-day Adventist heritage of preparing students for service in whatever shape that may take.

Dr Marko Luki responded on behalf of the graduands and acknowledged the responsibilities laid on them; he vowed that they would remain supportive of the ethos of the college and true to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Marko is the first Newbold College student to be awarded a PhD through its research degrees programme. Along with a number of other Newbold students, Marko attended the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David degree ceremony on Friday 13 July, and then returned to Newbold on Sunday 15 July to have his achievement recognised by Newbold College.

The ceremony was followed by refreshments outside the church centre. Two of the graduates, Fernanda Iniguez and José Caceres, were married just the day before, and so were celebrating their graduation as newlyweds.

Dr Brown said, ‘We wish all God’s blessings on each graduate as they continue to serve Him in an ever-changing world. May you choose to let Him lead you daily – in His way, in His time and for His purposes.’
clearly is how easy it is to receive help – just a simple cry of ‘Help me!’ and instantly there is salvation – but the characters continue their struggle, believing they are not worthy of it.

Strong characters, an enchanting set and a surprising plot all add up to an enjoyable and thought-provoking night out. Don’t miss your only chance to catch this final performance!

For more information and tickets, please call 0800 1123152, or visit: http://thoushaltnot.eventbrite.com – or contact Fairfield Halls, Croydon, CR9 1DG – box office: 02086889291.

Katie Ramharracksingh – Susan Watt – Barbara Brown

Second-guessing

Second-guessing is a term which has recently crept into our English usage, and it simply means ‘to criticise or correct after an outcome is known.’ I have done a fair amount of second-guessing about what happened in the vestibry that Sabbath morning. I have re-run the incident numerous times, and (besides a good chuckle each time) these are my conclusions:

Be able to recognise when you are entering ‘obsession mode.’ It is very easy to become preoccupied with an irritant, an issue, an insult, a painful wound or a disturbed relationship. I think that most of us have a ‘clicking door’ to contend with. Just answer a few simple questions to find out. What is it that irritates me? Who makes me agitated and uncomfortable, and why? Is there a pattern to my unhappy thoughts? Where do they point?

Be aware that a ‘clicking door’ can distort reality.

Something said ‘Leave it alone!’

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devotional

A lesson from the ‘Blade Runner’

by Julian Hibbert

Sport class T44 is one in which disabled athletes can participate. These men and women are usually amputees who have lost a leg from below the knee. Oscar is a double amputee, having lost his legs at the age of eleven months.

What a way to start life! His legs were amputated halfway between his knees and his ankles because he was born without tibiae. It is a terrible setback, as soon as he was able, in early 2004, he took to athletics with immediate success.

This success is partly due to the amazing ‘Cheetah Flex-Foot’ carbon fibre transfalcial artificial limbs that he uses as substitutes for his missing limbs. But there was nothing wrong with Oscar’s ‘backbone’. He literally stood up on his prosthetic legs and took on everything life had to offer.

Initially he started to participate in rugby, water polo and tennis, but in 2003 he smashed his knee in a rugby match. Undeterred by this cruel setback he began training, building up his strength. He was put – God wants us to be passionate in using the gifts He has given us! That’s all He asks in return for His blessings.

A great example To me, Gideon is one of the best examples of someone who went out and did what God wanted – passionately – with what God gave him!

‘Jehovah the angel of the LORD’ finds him threshing wheat in a wine press. He is working out of sight there to avoid detection by marauding Midianites and Amalekites, who are stripping the country bare. ‘How on earth can God expect me to do that? I am a new Christian – they should choose someone with experience. I could never handle that responsibility!’

Gideon is systematically made to see that ‘less is more’. His recruitment campaign nets him 32,000 men, leaving him vastly outnumbered by the invaders. Then God tells him he has too many! He must release everyone who trembles with fear and is suddenly left with only 10,000! But God still is not satisfied, and a final test leaves Gideon with an army of only 300 men!

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In the dialogue between Jesus and Gideon (Judges 6), notice how God is addressing: ‘When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, ‘The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.’’ (Verse 12, NIV)

Gideon is taken by surprise. But that appearance is to be a great exaggeration of his status and ability. He doesn’t feel like a ‘mighty warrior’ at all. “Pardon me, my lord.” Gideon replied, “But how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

The Asian Age reported that the ‘very fact that Oscar will be running in at least half a dozen heats to try and qualify for the 400m final will be a great victory for the disabled in sport. He will also be serving the highest Olympic ideal of being there just to take part.’

Oscar proves a point All this serves to make a vital point, doesn’t it? success is not really determined by what you can do, but how you choose to use the real key to your success is Oscar.

He is a deeply committed athlete with a supreme determination to succeed. Along with this, he is also a dedicated Evangelical Christian.

How good is he? Oscar participated in the London Olympics and challenged for a place in the 400m sprint, a category he in which the Olympic record of 43.49 seconds was held by Usain Bolt. USA’s Olympic best time since January for the same event is 45.20 seconds, so some 11 years after his acid burn, Oscar made his first Olympic appearance. He is not only the fastest of the 7,000 other faithful athletes who haven’t bowed the knee to Baal (1 Kings 19:18), but also the lowest in cost. In fact, he is the only one of those 7,000 to have actually run.

There are other things. He is a deeply committed Christian. From this it says something to me that Jesus judging my contribution to His cause on input, not output!

It is also encouraging to know that Jesus judges my contribution to His cause on input, not output!

Success is not really determined by what you don’t have, but by how you use what you do have.


Why might not the prophets have been keen to do this?

Ibid 9The Daily Study Bible: passing the baton not winning blade-runner’s achievement 526

Who eventually anointed Jehu? (2 Kings 9)

Did Elisha perform any miracles to help the rich?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blade_Runner

http://www.asianage.com/other-sports/

http://records.unitarium.com/

Upon his return the master of the talents said to his servant: ‘You know I am an honest man, in whom there is no dishonesty. So then you ought to hand over to me what belongs to me. Why did you spend my money in bad company and then go off and bury it in the ground? Why did you not then put my money to work and gain interest?’ (Verse 25, NKJV)

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When a man gets depressed!

by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt

B e strong, be assertive, be successful; be a provider and protector for your family; be a leader; be a role model; establish a wonderful loving relationship with a woman; be a fantastic father; and be a godly man. These are some of the expectations men internalise and feel they need to live up to at different points in their lives. However, what does a man do when he cannot provide for his family, and does not feel strong or able to meet the other expectations mentioned above? Does a man cope when he has that sinking feeling within him that leads him to doubt himself, his potential, or his God? What is a man to do when clouds of despair begin to loom over him, weighing him down, and even depressed? Today men are subject to a range of pressures that can cause any man, when he is at a vulnerable point in life, to become depressed. Often a man who cannot provide for himself or his family, or deny that he is depressed for being labelled as weak, may further choose to suffer in silence because he feels he is only man experiencing depression. The reality is, however, that depression is something that may many men will experience in their lives. An article in the Guardian Observer Society, dated Sunday May 2010, entitled ‘Depressed men missing out on treatment’ by Tracey McVeigh, cited the chief executive of Mind, Paul Farmer, who indicated that men are missing out on treatment because depression is seen as largely a female issue, the degree to which the problem affects men is ‘largely hidden’.

The mere presence of certain symptoms, though, does not mean that one is depressed. All too often as Christians, we approach the subject of depression with spiritual presumptions which lead us to reject the thought that we could be depressed. Unfortunately, we associate depression with a sense of sin, failure or even demonic possession. We therefore need to realise that depression is a human experience that anyone may go through due to external and internal factors that affect our normal thought patterns, emotions and day-to-day functioning. It is an experience that both men and women may be subject to, even Christian men. Furthermore, through my voluntary work as a counsellor with Mind, my pastoral work and my connections with SACCMA** in Scotland, it has become clear to me that depression affects not only people in their forties and older, but increasingly young people as well as increasing number of young men. At this juncture, I should point out that depression takes different forms, from mild to severe – and can last from months to years. It can come suddenly following unexpected life crises, or slowly, almost imperceptibly.

Signs of depression in men

A man who is depressed may present himself as having feelings of low self-worth, leading to experimentation with risky or dangerous behaviour. He may lose his job or be fired, feel that his family life is going to hell, lose interest in activities he used to enjoy, or even consider suicide. He may have trouble falling asleep or sleeping too much. He may have loss of appetite or gain weight. He may have trouble concentrating or remembering. He may have trouble making decisions. He may feel irritable or depressed most of the day. He may have trouble performing physical tasks. He may feel too fatigued to work or perform normal household tasks. He may have trouble performing sex roles. He may have trouble enjoying sex. He may have trouble thinking or concentrating. He may have trouble understanding new information. He may have trouble doing everyday tasks. He may have trouble performing household tasks. He may have trouble doing his job. He may have trouble performing sex roles.

Some pointers

If you know a man who is working through his depression or may be depressed, here are a few pointers.

1. Accept that you are going through depression at this moment. Until you do, you won’t move on (Proverbs 14:10).

2. Know that God will take you through – He is your Shepherd, and He will guide you through the shadows (Psalm 23).

3. Seek help. Others can help you regain your focus, balance and zeal for life (Proverbs 13:10). Contact your pastor, elder or wise and trusted friend. Ask friends to pray for you and support you through this period of your life’s journey.

4. Seek professional counselling, preferably from a Christian (Proverbs 15:22). You can also rely on the NCB’s Rainbow Christian counselling service by calling 01617403682, Mondays and Thursdays, 6-9pm – or email them at cc@nciadeventor.org.uk.

5. Consult your doctor, who may be able to put a few measures in place to aid your recovery – such as time off work, arranging a counsellor, or medication if needed.

6. Find at least one friend who you can open up to and just do normal things with, such as going for a walk, playing a game together or having coffee. Also engage in regular exercise such as walking, swimming, cycling, football, and so on.

7. Work at working through your depression while knowing that God’s Grace is sufficient. Adjust your diet to more beneficial foods and routines. Try the NEWSTART principles and rest.

In conclusion, as men we need to understand that there is no shame in being depressed. As a Church we need to accept this, and help to remove the discrimination that can be associated with depression by taking more openly about it. As men, we need to be bold enough and man enough to share our experiences of how God has brought us through tough times and how we came through the other side, and what we think others will think of us, when the truth were to be told we feel the same. So let us accept our human frailties and God’s omnipotence. Let us put our faith in what the Bible promises, our lives and hopes, and that the extent to which God will be glorified as we share our failures and victories, our lows and highs, to the extent that God’s mercy is expressed.

*Author of 101 Proverbs for Life and Wisdom for Men from the Book of Proverbs.

**SACCMA – Shepherd Africa Caribbean Mental Health Association – is a successful voluntary organisation that delivers a range of mechanisms to persons in the area of Mental Health Support.

On the other hand, inner feelings of insecurity may render him unable to face others or carry out day-to-day tasks and responsibilities, leaving him with a sense of apathy and despair. Life may no longer mean anything, he may find it increasingly difficult to motivate himself to fulfil his need to spend time with God in study, prayer and worship. Sadly, when a man gets depressed, he loses his connection with the Church today – anybody would think that Saturdays were all about communicating with someone important! of God during church? Then after the service we can go and talk, text, phone, or otherwise communicate with our friends. In the church, we can and should be a ratchet during church. When the Israelites worshipped God in the desert, do you think this sort of thing would have been tolerated? I can also relate to the article by Julian Hibbert in the same Mississauga issue entitled ‘Please Jesus, don’t come back on a Sabbath morning’ for the same reasons.

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Southport is a coastal town just 16.5 miles north of Liverpool, with approximately 90,000 inhabitants—and it was there that Tony Moore of the Biblical World Ministry began a series of lectures for the public on Monday morning, 25 June.

Why in the morning? Simply because many people are only free then! Did it work? Yes, they had nine non-members that morning and twenty-nine for evening attendance. The attendance trend continued for the first three presentations, entitled ‘Amazing discoveries in the land of the Nile’.

This was followed up immediately by a twenty-eight-episode documentary series called ‘Tracing the footsteps of Jesus’, also by Tony Moore. Each episode begins with a beautifully filmed documentary narrated by Moore, which is then followed by him leading the audience through a section from one of his four workbooks and some application questions.

Curious about the attendance? The organisers thought that the overtly religious nature of the series would put people off, but, to their surprise, morning attendance the first day included thirteen guests, with another thirty-three at the town hall in the evening.

After watching the enthusiasm and participation of the guests, this is what Pastor Mike Simpson had to say: ‘The entire process takes about one hour and fifteen minutes. I must confess that I get a natural thrill when God’s truths are presented and I am able to see minds slowly open as the Holy Spirit unfolds truth to them. It’s just beautiful to see. There is nothing like it.’ After the first two weeks of the five-week programme guest attendance began to fluctuate between six and ten in the morning sessions, and thirteen and twenty-two in the evening.

Who attended?
A fluctuation like this is not strange for such a long series, but what is unusual is the fact, as Pastor Simpson puts it, that ‘all attendees are from the majority population, a group that most find difficult to attract to public meetings.’

He went on to state that he has not found it difficult to attract this group in his ‘many years of experience in projects like these’. He feels the problem lies in a negative mindset that we have developed (among all segments of the Church) that blacks can’t effectively evangelise among the UK’s majority population.

He also feels strongly that an ‘immediate, sustainable strategy must be implemented to sustain the work in the few areas where we have gained a foothold in reaching the majority population.’ Along with this he is also suggesting that his conference should ‘look seriously at cross-cultural ministry’ and ‘allocate resources to this most needy area of God’s mission’.

What are the results?
After five weeks and fifty-six outreach missions, the group that attended on the fourth Sabbath of the series was:

Southport’s three ‘apostles’: Ebenezer Daniel, Tony Moore and Michael Simpson.

Based on a report by Pastor Mike Simpson
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presentations the project has built up a contact database of more than fifty people. There were twenty-two guests in attendance on the last Sabbath of the project, and fifteen of them have signed up for the next series that started on Sabbath 4 August. This is a series entitled ‘Unfolding Daniel’s Mysteries’, presented by Pastor Simpson with the help of Pastor Ebenezer Daniel, who is the local minister.

The wider impact
Pastor Ian Sweeney has stressed that the Church needs to make a discernible impact in the community – not just in the lives of individuals. How does the Southport mission measure up in this respect?

According to Pastor Simpson, near the beginning of the project, he received a call from the senior vicar of the Church of England who had seen their advert in a local newspaper. He had a question: ‘What is the intent of the programme?’ After our pastor’s answers, which included a brief summary of our fundamental beliefs, the vicar said: ‘We appreciate you Seventh-day Adventists; like ourselves, you are soundly orthodox – it’s only that we have a different day for Sabbath.’

Well, the differences may be more substantial than the vicar thinks, but listen to this from Pastor Simpson: ‘The following Sunday, in his main service, he held up the newspaper with our advertisement on the front page and said: “These people are putting Saturday and Sunday on the programme!” After our pastor’s answers, which included a brief summary of our fundamental beliefs, the vicar said: ‘We appreciate you Seventh-day Adventists, like ourselves, you are soundly orthodox – it’s only that we have a different day for Sabbath.’

The course covered all aspects of evangelism, from the planning of a series to the teaching and follow-up Bible studies. It was not all theory, however; for every evening the group observed Pastor Torres in action in Leicester Seventh-day Adventist Church. There was also the opportunity to put theory into practice by going door-to-door in the community, making contacts and building friendships. The group learnt that while flyers and hand-outs produce ‘suspects’, personal contact produces real ‘prospects’ for the Gospel. They also learnt that we are all preachers, as every conversation we have that uplifts Christ is considered preaching. Pastor Torres stated that evangelism is not an act, but rather a cycle, and likened the process to that of the crop cycle: prepare, sow, cultivate, harvest, preserve – then start all over again!

By the end of the training the evangelists were enlightened and ready to return to their various churches for God’s service.

BUC residential evangelistic training
The BUC has just completed two intensive training sessions designed to equip our members for various forms of evangelism. Here are the reports . . .

Evangelism
by Hyacinth Bishop

We are told in the Bible that we are all preachers of the everlasting Gospel with a royal command to go and be fishers of men. During the week commencing 15 July 2012 the BUC arranged training for this purpose. This course, with approximately twenty-one people in attendance, was offered by Pastor Louis Torres and his wife, Carol at the DeMontfort University in Leicester, and was designed to equip church members for evangelism in their local communities.

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Literature evangelism
Based on a report by Juliet St Rose Wong Chong

Held simultaneously with the evangelism training was that for the literature evangelists. Their training was co-ordinated by Pastor Egan Brooks, whose training team for the week consisted of: Elisabeth Sangüesa (Stanborough Press Marketing director), Pastor Peter Sayers (NEC LE sponsor), Roger Blake (SEC LE sponsor); and Paul Thompson (executive vice-chairman of Expertis Credité) and his wife, June.

The twenty-five literature evangelists in attendance were not only exposed to excellent classroom training, but they were taken out into the suburbs of Leicester for the real thing – cold canvassing – calling on potential clients without an introduction or referral. Bravely they went from door to door, gathering a variety of experiences about which to testify the next day.

In addition to a day full of lectures and practical training, the literature evangelists were also eager to promote their work. Each night at the series conducted by Pastor Louis Torres and his wife, Carol. Truly, at the end of the week they knew why the training session theme was ‘Saved to serve others’.

NEC joint leadership summit
by Pastor Sidney Almeida

A highly successful leadership summit was held from 18 to 20 May at Daventry for NEC church leaders and pastors. Organised by Pastors Michael Simpson and Richard Jackson, and Grace Walsh, it featured Pastor Alex Royes as the main presenter, supported by Dr Brighton Kavukh, Professor Winston Craig and Pastor Ian Sweeney.

The purpose of the summit was to bring together the local church leadership with their pastors so that they could share the same vision in resourcing and training the membership. Among the things that featured prominently in the discussions were: how to nurture the relationship between the pastor and his head elder; how to resolve conflict between them and promote reconciliation; and how to make sure that in our leadership we first connect with God before trying to connect with others.

The participants were enlightened and greatly blessed by this summit, but not all questions were fully answered. ‘What should we be doing to reach the majority population group of the country? What are we personally doing to reach the local community around us?’ These are issues that still need to be pondered on. . . . Perhaps we will have our answers by the next leadership summit.
NBTA lauds Adventist role
by Sharon Platt-McDonald, director for Health, Disability Awareness and Women’s Ministries

Caring for others and saving lives are key principles of the Christian faith. So when the writer was invited to be a member of a new national board supported by the Department of Health, she agreed. This national board, NBTA, is the National BAME Transplant Alliance – the co-ordinating voice for black, Asian, and minority ethnic transplant donations. She was invited because of her influence in the Adventist Church, and as a Christian representative.

The board wishes to raise awareness about the following:

- People from these communities are three times more likely to need an organ transplant than the rest of the population – but less than 2 percent have recorded their wishes on the NHS Organ Donor Register; and
- While around 90 percent of white patients in need of a bone marrow transplant may find a match, for the BAME population the matching rates can be as low as 40 percent.

The group will raise awareness of inequalities and promote donation. They will also support other charities and advise them on getting the message across.

The NBTA’s official launch on 4 July 2012, at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, was attended by Anne Milton MP who gave the keynote address, Alesha Dixon, Colin Salmon, and Gladys Knight.

In her launch address, NBTA co-chair Kirt Mod presented the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a ‘leading example of what can be done to raise awareness about the need for organ donation within the BAME community.’

Public Health minister Anne Milton said: ‘Giving an organ or bone marrow is a chance to save someone’s life. It is tragic that nearly 200 people from black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds die each year waiting for an organ. Lower levels of donation mean those in need of an organ transplant often wait up to twice as long.’

We want everyone to join the NHS Organ Donor Register and discuss their wishes with family members. We want potential donors to come forward and show they are life-savers.

Actor David Harewood states: ‘I know how important it is for people from ethnic minority backgrounds to donate their blood, organs and stem cells. By becoming a donor, you have the potential not only to save someone’s life, but to change the lives of their friends and family too.’

For more information, visit the NHS Blood and Transplant website at: http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/uk/campaigns/other_campaigns/other_campaigns.asp

Baptism at Leeds Central

The Leeds Central church family was blessed on 26 May with the baptism of Raphael Chisholm. Raphael was supported by his family and friends in taking this important step; certain life experiences and the support of his friend, Ashley Dulbin, had shown him that Jesus is the answer. NIE Personal Ministries director Pastor Simpson performed the immersion.

Basingstoke revived again

Revive us again! This was the prayer of Basingstoke members and friends from the Guildford, Oxford and Reading churches who attended the ‘Revive Us Again’ meetings. Basingstoke members wanted a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit and eagerly studied ‘Revive Us Again’ by Pastor Mark Finley, given to all those who attended the meetings. Each of the six sessions over the two weekends of 13-21 July focused on a chapter of the book. Local Pastor Sinisa Horvat conducted one of the sessions and Pastor Evangelist Ray Patrick the rest.

Members felt spiritually rejuvenated and more able to face obstacles, and wish to hold regular Bible studies and prayer meetings. Plans to accommodate these suggestions are in progress.

Stewardship summit

On Sabbath 23 June 2012, more than forty Stewardship leaders, treasurers, elders and pastors converged on the Brixton church for the second SEC Stewardship summit. The congregation swelled to more than 600, with people from as far as Bristol and Chelmsford.

The leaders had come to listen to the associate director of the Stewardship department for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Dr Larry Evans, preach a sermon entitled ‘You can take it with you’, encouraging the congregation to look at what we can take to Heaven: not money, but the richness of our character, forged through our relationship with God.

The next day, the Stewardship leaders met at the Advent Centre to listen to Dr Evans’ further presentations: ‘The Three Angels and the Wall Street Protectors’, and ‘God’s Response to Greed’.

The Stewardship summit ended with these leaders ready to lead God’s people!

Dr Richard de Lisser
SEC Stewardship and Communication Director

Baptism on 21st birthday for Marcel

Marcel Cailin, a Romanian who came to Wales aged 15 and able to speak only a little English, was baptised by Pastor Dranca at Croscombe on 17 June – his 21st birthday! Martin Pugh, a Croscombe member, had been invited to visit a Romanian orphanage to carry out repairs through the work of REACH, an Adventist-affiliated organisation. Martin met Marcel and was impressed to offer him a home in England, foster him, and adopt him as a son.

Marcel soon became proficient in English language, and qualified as a carpenter and joiner, giving him a full-time job. He has attended Croscombe Adventist Church regularly, where he is respected and loved. The Croscombe minister, Pastor Dranca, studied with Marcel for six months before baptising him in Martin and Elizabeth’s indoor swimming pool, which is used by Richard, their other son, who suffers from muscular dystrophy. Elder Sieg Edwards welcomed him into membership.

Baptism in the sea at Clacton-on-Sea

Kingsley Patterson used to smoke and watch TV in the garden shed while his wife Carol had Bible lessons in their house – however, Kingsley, who is in his 70s, got fed up with this and saw the good things his wife was doing! He decided to get baptised, and Pastor Sam Duazo performed the baptism for him in the ocean at Clacton-on-Sea in June this year.

HANDS – making the Gospel accessible

ASNA is pleased to announce the re-launch of the ASNA project HANDS, developed to increase access for people living with deafness. The re-launch took place during the tenth ASNA AGM on 24 June at the Starborough Park church. Guest speaker Dr Larry Evans (featured in the front row, middle) GC liaison for International Deaf Ministries, stated: ‘The value of a person begins in their heart, not in the use of their limbs, speech or hearing.’ He encouraged ASNA to continue its work to reach everyone with the message of salvation in a form that is accessible to all.

The HANDS project is supported by ADRA UK and the South England Conference. It aims to increase the number of qualified BSL signers in the Church community, raise awareness of people living with deafness and provide resources to make the Gospel accessible for all.

For further information, or to register an interest in the HANDS project, email info@asna.info or call 07769383677.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS (SEC DISABILITIES MINISTRY CO-ORDINATOR/ASNA TRUSTEE)

JANET HAMILTON (ELDER)

Baptism of Jamie-Lee

On Sabbath 30 June, Jamie-Lee Hilton was baptised at the Chelmsford church by Pastor Sam Davis. Jamie-Lee is a teenager who decided to give her life to the Lord before moving to Australia with her parents and brother in August this year. She felt it vitally important to be baptised in her church, in the presence of church members who had shaped her life so positively. She has been an inspiration to many other teens and youth who are preparing for their baptism, including her brother Ryan. Her baptism was attended by family, friends, pastors and leaders from the SEC, BUC and TED.

TREVOR HARRIS

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JANET HAMILTON (ELDER)
814 baptised on Scottish youth mission trip
by Daniel Johnson

On 27 June, six Adventists from Aberdeen (Kimber Fairlie, Tarrick Haynes and Daniel Johnson) and Inverness (Michael, Elliotia and Ziporah Walker) left Edinburgh for Lima, Peru.

Some, being their first time abroad, found the surroundings quite unfamiliar – they had to get used to international traffic laws, and an extremely friendly culture. On the second day the group flew out to Jujuy, their final destination.

They met other students and organisers from America, and preached on the first Friday evening in separate churches. After much prayer, it was much less fearful than they originally thought – despite the devil trying to disrupt the meetings.

The nearby evangelical church blocked the road to Daniel’s church with a tent meeting – but after prayer, there was heavy rain and the thick mud shut them down. Michael’s translator struggled to translate a sermon about the Sabbath, and decided to back out. Almost all the rest had technical problems during their sermons, and one student’s voice disappeared four different times during the sermon.

All of these problems, however, were rectified through prayer. One night, the most powerful witch doctor in the Amazon appeared at their hotel – but the group prayed, as did the churches back home, and no one heard from him or his partner again.

On the last Sabbath the speakers took Sabbath School and spoke about Heaven, finishing with an appeal. Then, following a powerful sermon from the local pastor, 814 came forward to give their lives to Christ in baptism! Each of the speakers saw those from their churches being baptised as a result of the Lord using them. Each one returned to Scotland even stronger in the faith and motivated to spread God’s Word.

With Jesus in the vessel . . .
On Sabbath 26 May the Palmers Green Youth department set sail with forty-six passengers on a boat trip along the River Lee from Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, some 30 minutes from our church.

The ‘vigorous exercise sessions certainly put us through our paces! Part of Yoakley Road was blocked off, the ducks added to the excitement! It all gave a context to what the disciples must have felt: ‘With Jesus in the vessel we can smile at the storm’.

Equipped to Serve
From 5-9 July Hebron Hall Christian Retreat Centre was the venue for the first health summit in the Welsh Mission, attended by members from the Mission and visitors from Jamaica, Nottingham, Gloucester, Stevenage, and Yeovil.

The theme – ‘Equipped to Serve’ – provided members with the skills and resources necessary to be effective witnesses. Topics included ‘Forgiveness As Healing’, ‘Stress Management’, ‘Food Hygiene’, ‘Nutrition and Health’ were well presented.

Christine Hutchings (Health Ministries representative at Yeovil and ‘Prince William’ lookalikes in cardboard masks.

Despite the heavy rain and another street party in the high road, there was a very large crowd – someone estimated it to be nearly 500 people!

Music was supplied by a DJ and the drum Corps, from which the crowd insisted on an encore – some visitors said they were drawn to the event by their drumming.

The event took a lot of planning, preparation and support, and was a great success. Now that the ice has been broken, members look forward to seeing visitors from the community coming through the doors!

Ivana’s ordination – Stoke Newington
On Sabbath afternoon 8 June, Stoke Newington Church celebrated the ordination of Ivana Mendez as elder.

Members from other churches joined Stoke Newington Church for this ordination conducted by Pastor Wilfred Blake, a former minister of our church, and assisted by Pastor Miltakazi Nebefele of the Ssureway Community church and the Stoke Newington elders.

Special items were rendered by Alletta St Omere and the church choir. Pastor Blake, in his sermon ‘Consider yourself for serving’, admonished us that whatever we do for God must be done for love. Elder Lascelles McKenzie read the charge to Ivana and then presented the certificate.

The service concluded with a consecration prayer by Pastor Nebefele.
Elizabeth reaches 100

Mrs Anne Elizabeth Beattie, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 29 January 1939, in a town near the Hungarian border in Romania. He was brought up in the Protestant faith in a town on the outskirts of Przemysl. At the age of 17, he left Poland and moved to London, where he worked as a cycle builder. His first contact with Seventh-day Adventists was through a friendship with a young Adventist girl.

Steve Search was born on 29 January 1939, in a town near the Hungarian border in Romania. He was brought up in the Protestant faith in a town on the outskirts of Przemysl. At the age of 17, he left Poland and moved to London, where he worked as a cycle builder. His first contact with Seventh-day Adventists was through a friendship with a young Adventist girl.

Steve Search (1939-2012) d. 23 June.

Henrik’s dedication. A legacy that Henrik will leave is the legendary Waffle Wednesday cycle ride each day. His first contact with Seventh-day Adventists was through a friendship with a young Adventist girl.

Steve Search (1939-2012) d. 23 June.

Joan was the wife of the late

Joan Catherine Gallivan (1926-2012).

Her father, Roderick, was a farmer, and she grew up in a rural setting. Joan attended local schools and later went on to study in India, where she met and fell in love with her husband, Dr Terry Gallivan. After Terry’s death, life was lonely for her; however, it was enlivened and brightened by her grandchildren, of whom there are seven: three from her daughter Kathryn, and four from her son Richard.

John Ball, a long-time friend and colleague, paid tribute to their granny. Emma was in Australia and unable to be present.

Key stage 1 Practitioner urgently required

To Steve’s wife Zaria, their
daughters Volna and Iolana, and Andrew, their husband, and the grandchildren Jake, Orn, Theo, Barney, and Ilo (in a few weeks they lost both their grandparents) we commend the love of God and the love that knows how best to comfort broken hearts — and we thank you all at the Second Coming.

In respect to our older readers, we have increased the size for the obituaries, and will continue to do so as space allows.

Steve continued to run his business, but it was no longer as busy — and when he suffered a stroke in 1994 his working days were virtually over. From this time on Steve’s health gradually deteriorated, but he enjoyed being around family and friends. When Iloana was working, and following his outings. Zaria was always ready with a smile and a warm handshake — in ‘sickness and in health’ as she faithfully looked after him over the last years of his life.

His faith was deep, and Steve attended the Croscombe church until prevented by ill health. To Steve, the most meaningful story in Scripture was that of Joseph — his faithfulness to God and the belief of those whotrusted him as a ‘false god’. Steve always referred to this story with deep affection and gratitude.

The sadness he suffered in early life, it is a witness to his faith that he never bore grudge or grievance to anyone — and indeed he had a good sense of humour. He leaves behind a wife and family, but they trust in God, and we commend them to His good care in the days to come.

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Portsmouth Church conducted a free community health expo during the community May Fayre at St Mary’s Church, Portsmouth, on Bank Holiday Monday 7 May from 10am to 4.30pm. Health professionals and volunteers from the church encouraged attendees to look after their physical, mental, social and spiritual health. Seventy-five people visited the health stations and received advice, counselling, healthy treats and recipés and a relaxing massage.

Copies of the recent health edition of the FOCUS magazine, the little books of health by Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Health Ministries director) and literature supplied by other health charities were handed out to attendees, along with spiritual tracts, Bibles and books such as Steps to Christ, The Great Hope and When God Said Remember.

The church’s pastor, Robin Lewis, and Health Ministries leader and Area 3 Health co-ordinator, Mary Jacobson, designed freebies and an eco-friendly tote bag printed with the church’s name, contact details and the Lord’s assurance in Jeremiah 30:17 that He will restore our health.

Attendees were very appreciative, and some gave their contact details, requesting information on future health seminars or courses to be presented by Mary at the church on upcoming Sabbath afternoons.

The annual expo always attracts new attendees, reaffirming the immense potential of such initiatives to establish our presence as a caring and compassionate faith community, as well as developing useful contacts. For example, the neighbourhood watch chairwoman was so impressed that she invited the church to conduct a health screening programme at another upcoming fair in the city. Another attendee, a local GP, offered to volunteer her service at future expos. The expo also served as a useful opportunity to train members from nearby Adventist churches to carry out similar community health outreach initiatives in their localities. The church was delighted to share the blessings of healthful living and the Good News of Jesus with the wider community.