Local MP worships at Tottenham

On 23 June, Tottenham Church held a special recognition service in which they paid tribute to members of the church and the community. Among the dignitaries present were representatives from the local fire and police services and a number of community leaders.

David Lammy, local MP, paid tribute to the church and charged everyone to continue the good work being done. He commented on the warmth of the church and recognised its value as a good place for young people to learn right from wrong. He mentioned five things necessary to build any successful family or church: education, employment, parenting, aspiration and community. He presented awards and posed for photos with those who received them.

In his sermon, Pastor Perry encouraged the church to say ‘thank you’ to all the unseen heroes that are a part of our lives, but also pointed out that, although we may not always be thanked here on Earth, there is a reward for us in Heaven.

All of this, combined with parading Pathfinders and good music, made the day a great success.

COMMUNICATION TEAM
The crow d factor

Murray Murray, Murray . . . Centre court troubadour. Wimbledon has echoed loudly for oracles, but never like this.

Andy was serving for the match of his life for Olympic gold and this country’s honour. Powerful first serves, deft backhand top spinners and forceful passing shots spiced his play. But it wasn’t just about technique. Andy’s demeanour was tangibly different – he had a winner’s composure.

‘Murray, Murray, Murray . . .’ Crowds noise reached deafening peaks in that last game – around 140 decibels – the sound of a jetliner passing low overhead.

Then Murray aced his last serve . . . and the crowd won Olympic gold with their cheers!

The ‘crowd factor’
Almost to a medallist, those who mounted the podium for Team GB marvelled at the crowd support during the London 2012 Olympics. Journalists called it the ‘crowd factor’, and although it was reputedly loudest in the Velodrome, those involved in the track and field events felt it too. Mo Farah, winner of the 10,000 metre men’s gold, described the ‘crowd factor’ during this race as simply ‘unbelievable’.5

Jamie Doward of The Observer called it ‘the performance-enhancing substance that will never show up in a random drug test’.7 Beautifully phrased, Jamie! Jessica Ennis also recognised the power of this intangible force when she ‘credited the stadium’s 80,000 spectators with a personal best to the 200m. “Having this crowd behind everyone makes all the difference,” she said.9

‘Go, Jules! Go, Jules, go!’
During our 12-year sojourn in beautiful Cape Town I became an enthusiastic (but very mediocre) recreational cyclist. For eight of those years I participated in the annual Argus Cycle Tour – 105 kilometres of sun and wind shared by thousands of cyclists.

The tour doubled during that time from 15,000 to 30,000 cyclists, but my best time never improved beyond 04:15:37, an average of 24.65 kilometres per hour.

I often felt off, except once while still in the stalls – before the starting gun! Had a few punctures. Drank countless litres of water and energy drink. But never pushed my bike!

Those races were my first taste of the ‘crowd factor’. Spectators lined the route and cheered us along. They sprayed us with water from their garden hoses to cool us down. Helped to fix punctures and give first aid for those who tumbled from the bike.

During one of these tours I had a remarkable ‘performance-enhancing’ experience. While warmly greeting up one of the numerous heartbreak hills, I heard a bell from the crowd: ‘Go, Jules! Go, Jules, go!’

Someone had recognised me. Somebody was cheering me on. Immediately I sat high in the saddle. Waved my gloved hand. Punched the air. Shouted back my thanks. Then pushed the pedals with renewed vigour!

Paul knew about it too
The Apostle Paul must have attended Greek athletic contests before he met Jesus for they ’had long been popular throughout the Mediterranean world, and the illustration of chapter 12:1 would be familiar to every reader.’5

From his comments in Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV). It is quite obvious that he also understood the power of the ‘crowd factor’: ‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfector of faith.’

The ‘cloud’ of witnesses can also be translated as ‘host of witnesses’ – in other words, a large crowd. The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary pictures the athlete making final preparations to run a race in an ancient stadium, with the spectators seated on benches lining the track tier above tier on all sides.6 From his crowding perspective they must have seemed like a cloud.

The crowd
The ‘race’ is the Christian life. We are the athletes. Who makes up the crowd? Well, Paul had just finished telling us about the crowd in Hebrews 11. They form a shortlist of the Bible’s men and women of faith. People whose lives cry out loudly. We ran too. We took wrong turns. We struggled, stumbled and fell often. We were cut and bruised by life’s hurdles – and often out of breath! But we ran on regardless . . . and by God’s grace we crossed the line!6

There is someone in that crowd who is chanting your name. Maybe more than one! Open your Bible and listen. You may feel drained. Spiritually exhausted, unable to take another step towards the Kingdom. But before you give up, just listen to the ‘crowd noise’ again – someone from deep in God’s Word is calling your name and shouting: ‘Read my story . . . if I could finish, so can you!’
As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say, ‘The Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.’” This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “‘Saddle the colt and place their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “ Hosanna to the Son of David!” Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “ Hosanna in the highest heaven!” When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.” (Matthew 21: 1-11, NIV-U.K.)

I’m sure most of us will see one or two triumphal entries (or exits) over the past six months. Besides the London Olympics, there has been a considerable amount of media coverage of the nation’s celebrations of our Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, with all the pomp and majesty that has gone with it. Of all the royal family, she is the one who retains the greatest respect of the nation for the way she has conducted herself over the past sixty years. It is interesting to hear the commentators talk of all the planning that went into the jubilee events, some of them taking up to three years of diligent work to achieve. For the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem there also had to be preparation – the donkey and the colt in the right place at the right time. But one wonders where they begin to organise such a royal celebration – the generation of ideas, the setting of options, the sequencing, the timing, the security – the planning for the jubilee must have seemed endless. At his brother’s funeral, Senator Edward Kennedy quoted a remark John F. Kennedy had made a few months before his assassination: “Some men see things as they are and ask, ‘Why?’ I dream of things that never were and say, ‘Why not?’” The world needs idea generators, because without them there would be no plans for a better future.

The story is told that one day, John D. Rockefeller popped his head into one of his offices, surprising the bookkeeper who sat hunched over his books. “Get your feet off the floor and up on your desk!” commanded Rockefeller. “Lean back in your chair and start dreaming!” Completely astonished by such an order from his boss, the bookkeeper wondered what in the world he was getting at. But when Rockefeller repeated his order, he gingerly swung his feet up onto the desk, leaned back in his chair and asked politely, “What do you want me to dream about?” Rockefeller’s terse answer was: “Dream about how to make money for the Standard Oil Company. From now on, this is your job!”

What do you dream of concerning your future? What’s your plan? Hopefully, it’s more than Rockefeller’s preoccupation with making extra money. Does life keep you so busy that you don’t have time, as it were, to dream? Do you take it as it comes and, like a leaf carried downstream by the current, simply wait and see where life takes you? Do we simply react to what life throws at us, making up our course as we go along, or do we set a deliberate course for our journey through life? Our plan for holidays, birthdays, Christmas and so on – how much more should we make a conscious effort to steer our lives in a particular direction? If you don’t set an objective, your life will lack direction and purpose. Can you imagine the festivities of Christmas without some forethought, planning and prior action? Or a holiday without any preparation? When do we know? Where are we going? How will we get there? What sort of jubilee celebrations would we have had without clear and intense planning?

We need objectives to give us purpose, direction and a sense of progress as we achieve them in our home lives, our work lives and our spiritual lives. Can you imagine a household without some sort of cohesive planning and direction? The cupboards would be bare, the garden a jungle, and the people would be strangers to each other. Or can you imagine a company without a common purpose, objectives and a plan of how to achieve those objectives? Again, the people in the company wouldn’t know what they were trying to do, where they were headed and how they intended to get there. A home or business without purpose or direction will only achieve a fraction of its potential and, likewise, an individual with no spiritual potential in life has little hope of growth in that respect.

Without an objective there is no purpose. Without a dream there is no passion for better things. And without direction in life, those better things remain just a dream and the ‘Why am I here?’ question remains unanswered. The declaration: “Where there is no objective or direction, is it true in many ways. Don’t let life sweep you along on a leaf floating down a stream; take time out to create a definite plan and then plan to follow that course with determination. Maybe your home lives and our work reflect a definite life plan and may that plan include spreading the good news of the Gospel to the people of the world.

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The response

I truly believe, as a Seventh-day Adventist, that we should not associate with paganism in any way, be it in symbols or rituals, and yet many of us wear wedding rings, which I understand were used in pagan ceremonies.

I will be attending the funeral of a close relative in a few days’ time and flowers will be placed on her coffin by her family. Your letter has helped me to see the importance of approaching such matters in a Christian manner.

I have since discovered that it was introduced as a way to appease the spirits of the dead.

I was recently informed about certain pagan symbols being used on money. The US dollar note, for instance, displays an eye over a pyramid. So in all seriousness, I cannot ask myself the question, should I refrain from using or holding US currency when necessity demands that I travel there?

I refer you to the ‘Thursday-day Adventist Students’ Source Book we read that the names of the days of the week that we use in England with their pagan derivations from the Saxons, who used them to give honour to their own deities.

When those who hear and see the light on the Sabbath take the matter to heart, they will keep God’s holy day, difficulties will arise; for efforts will be brought to bear upon them to compel men and women to transgress the law of God. Here they must stand firm; that they may not violate the law of God, and if the opposition and persecution are desperately kept up, let them not heed the words of Christ: “When they persecute you in this city, flee to another.”

O nce again, I would like to thank you for your email. It seems to me that the facts behind the pagan origin of the Olympics are indisputable. I suppose my challenge on a personal level, as well as that of a leader, is where do I draw the line? I want to avoid pagan connections, and yet they seem all-encompassing.

You asked the important question, ‘Where do I stand?’ My answer is that I stand for using the religious zealots are seeking to enforce the Sabbath, but we must not be strict in regard to the electrical equipment in the churches. I would like to challenge you on whether to accept the Sabbath in all its aspects.

I think it is rather sad, however, that he had to spend a few days since EDI. Whitcomb, of Europe. Good advice. I would like to see more opportunity for those who are seeking to enforce the Sabbath, but we must not be strict in regard to the electrical equipment in the churches. I would like to challenge you on whether to accept the Sabbath in all its aspects.

Dear Editor

I totally agree with the sentiments expressed by Pastor Sweeney in the BUC News, no. 791, 10 November, 1960. I think that the response throughout the world to the Olympic phenomenon has been so positive, with people seeing something good to focus on for a change.

The churches in the SEC have been able to use the event to reach a wide audience in all sorts of ways.

Who knows what good has been done? We have so much negativity in the news media. What’s so wrong with seeing happiness expressed?

Thank you for your letter.

Dear Editor

At the entrance to my vet’s surgery is a notice: ‘Do not use mobile phones beyond this point’. Why? The simple answer is that they will interfere with the electrical equipment in the surgery.

When we enter church, whether it be a cathedral building or a humble barn-like structure or even a hired room, we go to worship God, to sing praises, to listen to His Word. A congregation usually consists of people of all ages and different backgrounds. Nothing should occur that would hinder the missionary work, the whipp will be used outside of the hands of the pagans.

When we enter, I am not always with sincere thanks an anonymous donation of £100 for the ‘Gift Bible’ project, received in August.

One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he has worsened his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he has worsened his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he has worsened his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he has worsened his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows that he has worsened his own cause.

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Ancient methods bring success
by Brenda Mays

Two years before we landed in Albania as missionaries for Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM), God had put the people of this little country on our hearts. We prayed for the people who had suffered under the brutal dictatorship of Enver Hoxha for nearly five decades. He had outlawed God in Albania and put him self in God’s place through a careful plan of control, propaganda and fear. When he finally died, many of them came to realise that the one they had idolised for so long had deeply deceived them.

The atheistic brainwashing had been very effective. Satan’s fingerprints were all over this tiny nation. Our prayers began to focus on asking God to heal them and give them a longing to know Him and an ability to trust Him.

A different approach
We didn’t hold evangelistic meetings or hand out tracts when we arrived. Instead, we set out to understand their hearts. We studied their history, culture, felt needs and worldview but, most importantly, we spent time listening to them, genuinely sympathising with them and getting to know them as our close friends.

We didn’t go door-to-door or speak memorised lines. Since we were to live in this community for a long time, we needed to learn the natural Albanian way to make friends. Authentic relationships build trust, and since trust is the key to the heart, we began there.

“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” (1 Cor 9:22, NIV)

Perhaps some would consider our approach unconventional, but in reality we are attempting to get back to the original New Testament model of evangelism. When it comes to the Bible, the ancient can be thoroughly modern and relevant.

This went on for several months and Sean was slowly accepted as a member of this close-knit circle. Questions about Sean’s faith often came up. They didn’t know into which category Adventism fell, but they thought it must be close to Islam, because Sean didn’t drink alcohol like the Christians they knew. When he revealed that he also didn’t eat pork, they became even more convinced. Mustafa’s father, the imam, was very warm and accepting of us. He told Mustafa that the Adventists have loving hearts and that was the most important quality in any kind of true believer.

One day, Mustafa’s son came running to the bazaar to call his father to the hospital. They had found the imam on the floor, unconscious but unable to speak or move. Sean went to comfort his friend at the hospital and asked Mustafa if he could pray for his father who had had a massive stroke. Mustafa agreed. After that prayer, the old imam managed to speak his first words since the stroke. He asked to be taken home to die in peace.

The next day we visited the home and found Mustafa’s father on the couch with all his sons and their families around him. He was dying, and the family was obviously distressed by his suffering. The old man was restless, and Sean asked Mustafa, once again, if he could pray for his father. Mustafa couldn’t grant permission now without the consent of his brothers. They went into an adjoining room to discuss the matter and then gave their approval.

Sean’s prayer was simple. He held the old imam’s hand and asked God to grant him rest and comfort. Immediately, the imam became silent. The brothers rushed to their father’s side, pushing Sean out of their way. We were worried. Had the imam died at the moment a Christian had prayed for him, it would have been tragic timing. But very soon, one of the brothers exclaimed that he was alive and his breathing was normal. We breathed a sigh of relief and went home. The next day, Mustafa called to let us know that his father had passed away in the night. ‘He was able to sleep peacefully after your prayer, and we are so grateful to God for that.’

The funeral was held that very day. It is Albanian tradition to have a meal together after the burial. In stricter Muslim families, the women don’t go to the burial but have a meal together instead, and then the men eat together when they return from the burial. Sean and I were surprised and honoured to have a place reserved for us at the family table at both dinners. In fact, Mustafa had reserved the place at his right side — the place of honour — for Sean.

Mustafa makes a decision
One evening, months later, Mustafa and his wife asked us to meet them at a restaurant, as they had something to discuss with us. It didn’t take long for Mustafa to get to the point. ‘I know that you are on God’s road, and I want to walk beside you on that road.’ He asked Sean to teach him the Bible and pray with him each morning. After some time, Mustafa and his wife, son and daughter decided to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and they were baptised in a nearby river. Since then, Mustafa has become a deacon in the church and has begun to share Jesus with his friends and relatives.

There have been a few more baptisms since then and there are sometimes close to twenty people worshipping together on Sabbath in our living room.

We have decided to build a public meetinghouse — a church building just outside our city. Our members and even a few visitors have volunteered the labour. This will certainly enhance the feeling that this is their church — an Albanian church. It will also give added status to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in this region. We have raised nearly enough funds to purchase a suitable plot of land and we are confident that God will provide a way to build an attractive and comfortable centre to which members will want to invite their friends.
On 4 August, the Great Brickkiln Street church celebrated fifty years of Jamaican independence and fifty years of faith. The core focus of the Sabbath programme was ‘the Jamaican contribution to the growth of Adventism in Wolverhampton’. The Sabbath was packed with the celebration of memorable activities directed by Pastor Steve Palmer, Eseata Steele and their committed team, starting with a very lively Sabbath School discussion.

Eseata summarised the development of the Adventist church in the Wolverhampton area, showing how one congregation had given birth to another as the work grew. This was followed by a thought-provoking sermon on faith preached by Dr Herbert Griffiths, a leading authority on UK Afro-Caribbean history.

The afternoon programme started with the presentation of a cheque for £635 to the Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support Project by Sister Macintosh, on behalf of the church.

Then it was my turn. Then it was the writer’s turn to interview five local members concerning their experience of adopting another country as home. What was the church like back home when you left Jamaica? How did you find it here? Has it changed over the years, and how?

Their frank answers were a source of great entertainment – and food for quiet reflection.

Of particular interest were the stories of how they became Adventists. One lady, Mother Smith, said: ‘I was a Baptist till I came to England. I was invited to an Adventist meeting by the person I boarded with. And she stayed, of course!’

George Amore was another who found a new faith under these northern skies. ‘I came from Kingston and remember Adventist churches there. But as soon as I got here I was invited to the Adventist church by a co-worker – a tailor. He kept me going week after week, answering all my many questions.’

Speaking about her religious culture shock, Mother Adair said that, ‘the atmosphere in the church was quite different, but when we started doing things like in Jamaica it was good!’

The packed programme was organised by the Adventist church in the British Isles. Karen Clarke also interviewed Miss Myrtle Roole, MBE, a church member, welcomed by the Queen for her service to the Jamaican Union Conference. In the words of Pastor Richard de Lisser: ‘It was a very special day of fellowship for Jamaicans from all over the UK. Fifty years in the making! We are already looking forward to coming together again next year, at the same time, for a second Jamaican day of fellowship.’

Coincidently, during the evening concert with performances by The Moodies, Loren Brothers, Mark Bunny and others, there was even more cause for celebration as it was announced that Jamaican athletes, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Veronica Campbell-Brown, had taken gold and bronze, respectively, in the women’s 100 metre finals at the nearby Olympic Stadium.

The packed programme was organised by a group of Jamaican Adventist professionals called JAWorks, which includes Pastor Richard de Lisser, Sheli McKenzie, Andy Peynado, Larry Simpson and Joan Reid. This first event for the newly established group was to celebrate Jamaicans coming together and their work for the Church in the UK.

The programme of celebrations was organised by the Great Brickkiln Street church, St John at Hackney, Ealing and the Windrush and Jamaicans’ entrance into, and contribution to, the Adventist Church in the British Isles. Karen Clarke interviewed Miss Myrtle Roole, MBE, a church member, and contribution to, the Adventist Church in the British Isles. Karen Clarke interviewed Miss Myrtle Roole, MBE, a church member, recognised by the Queen for her service to her local community in Stratford.

Karen Clarke enthused: ‘I was very honoured to be able to interview Miss Roole, it was very important that we acknowledge her for her work. We’ve been privileged, because we saw her mission work as we grew up, and seeing that meant we’ve been that much closer to her and her goals. We really do consider her to be a torch-bearer in her own right!’

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Former Rock ‘n’ Roll musician visits Leicester Central

Leicester Central church enjoyed a series of presentations on ‘Revival’ delivered by Pastor George Kumii, 7-13 July. This was followed by an outreach series entitled ‘Life After Rock ‘n’ Roll’ by Pastor Louis Torres, former bass guitarist with Bill Haley and the Comets. In this series he recounted his show business experiences with Bill Haley – the father of Rock ‘n’ Roll – sharing his gripping personal journey as a Rock ‘n’ Roll star, the problems of the drug scene and how he survived it to become a Christian.

Pastor George Kumii said, ‘We were delighted to have Pastor Torres share his amazing story of transformation with us – a story of hope for all.

There was much rejoicing as the series culminated in a baptism of twenty-three candidates, who had been prepared through baptismal study groups. KDSD in Discipleship and Sabbath School experiences – where there was time to explore what the Adventist Church believes, and come to a personal decision.

Pastor Louis is the president of the Guam-Micronesia Mission and has a wealth of experience as an evangelist, international lecturer, musician and writer. He has written a number of books, including Gaining Decisions for Christ, Great Stories for Gaining Decisions, Bathosome and Disturbing Bible Passages and Left Behind in Sincerely Taken. He and his wife, Carol, are co-founders of the Mission College of Evangelism, from which have sprouted other schools, such as ARISE, Amazing Facts School of Evangelism, Switzerland Mission College and Josia School of Evangelism.

Philp Herbert

Croydon ‘Revive and Stay alive’

The Croydon church held this series from 18-26 May under the ministry of Pastor Brent St Jean from the Dominican Republic. It resulted in fifteen baptisms: some were siblings and two were engaged to be married – to each other!

According to the writer, ‘Many of the candidates were already engaged in Bible study with members of the church prior to the Revival series.’

Based on a report by Andrew Pull

Natasha jumps for the children

Dear Editor

On Tuesday 24 July I participated in a skydive for Dreams Come True, a charity that seeks to make special things happen for children and young people with long-term and terminal illnesses.

I have always wanted to do a skydive and as I was booking the place at the North London Skydive Centre I decided to do it as a sponsored event. I chose Dreams Come True, because I work with children and young people who face the difficulties some of the Dream children face.

Thanks to the support of my family, friends and members of the Grantham Adventist church, I raised £515 for Dreams Come True.

Sincerely Taken

Andrew Cox

Harrow enjoys diversity

The Harrow church celebrated a successful international day of fellowship on 5 May, showcasing the diverse nature of their congregation.

The heart of the programme was a series of presentations about how God is working in the homelands of those present and how some of them became Adventists. Some of the countries represented were India, France, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Romania.

The Romanian choir, renowned for their mastery of brass instruments, performed a range of items, including special pieces from their homeland. Pastor Peter, the main pastor of Harrow church, closed the event with a sermonette. All of this was followed by an ‘amazing’ banquet of international delicacies.

Erich Lamana

1,000 doors and more

Rugby church’s recent outreach involved distributing 400 DVDs and 600 books (The Great Hope and When God Said Remember) in preparation for an evangelistic series Pastor A. Bruce will present in October this year. There was a good response from the community, with many requesting further contact. The youth and children were also involved and seemed to enjoy the outreach as much as the adults.

Alberto da Silva

Baptism at Great Brickkiln church

On Sunday 29 April there were blessings in abundance at the Great Brickkiln church. The congregation witnessed three people – Godfrey Olotu, Zhane Simpson and Phumi Simelane – being baptised by Pastor Peter Jeynes and welcomed into the fellowship of the church.

Zhane and Phumi, both active members of the Pathfinder club, had Bible studies with the Youth ministry leaders. Karen Campbell and Helderberg Jackson. Phumi invited several of her school friends to witness the event.

Godfrey explained how he had once walked with God but somehow had fallen away when he left his home town in Africa. He had migrated to the Western world, seeking wealth and fortune. However, he expressed gratitude to his wife who had prompted him to return to the faith. Godfrey’s Bible studies with an elder of the church, Algie Henry, brought him to his decision for baptism.

Dedication at Sheffield Manor

We are used to big baptisms – but how about a ‘big’ dedication? Sheffield Manor tried this recently under the leadership of caretaker-pastor, Peter Jeynes.

They dedicated ten children and one parent! This heart-warming ceremony was largely due to an excellent community visitation programme under the leadership of two elders, Carlton Lee and Andrew Yusubian.

Peter Jeynes
Dear Editor

When the news of Dr Derek Beardsell’s death reached me, I was looking through some slides I took when he was president of the Welling church. On 17 March, members, relatives and friends gathered at the Welling church to witness the baptism of thirteen people at the end of a two-week series of meetings conducted by the evangelist Gary Harrison, with the theme: ‘Going for Gold – in the year of Jubilee.’ Night after night the church was filled to capacity as Harrison covered topics such as: ‘Back to Eden’, ‘What Is Sin?’ and ‘If the Dead Could Speak’.

At the start of the campaign Pastor Bernard Akakpo offered a prize of a Family Bible and a cake to whoever brought the most people to the meetings. Liz Pickart won both prizes for bringing sixteen people to the meetings on a regular basis, seven of whom were among the thirteen people baptised:

- Pastor Bernard Akakpo conducted the baptism, which was the first one to be held in the Welling church.
- The candidates were: Natalie McLaren, Alfie Morris, Sophia, Sian, Cheyenne and Saphire Faucher, Liam Hunt, Olivia Celestini, Theodore and Jason Samuel, Gawher, Michel Dantzie and Bridgette McDonald. Welling members would like to thank the North Wembley church for the loan of their portable baptism pool.

On this historic day, in the year of the Jubilee and the Olympics, the new members signalled that ‘Going for Gold’ as found in Jesus is more true than obtaining the praises of man.

Enjoy your visit to the Alcorn website (Picture supplied, but of too poor quality for publication.)

**Your voice makes a difference**

by Pastor Victor Huibert, BUC Communication director

‘What difference can I make? I’m just one voice.’ How many times have you heard that said? Yet we live in a democracy. MPs look to serve their constituents and also look to get re-elected, which means that they do listen to their constituents’ views. This is most clear when the Conservative Party is in power, but Prime Minister David Cameron is pressing ahead with plans to deliver a same-sex ‘marriage’ by 2015, despite reports that the issue is causing a drop in grass-roots membership of the party. That drop — according to the pressure group Christian Concern — could impact the next General Election. Backbench Tories are joining with senior party members to warn Mr Cameron on the issue.

Dr David Marshall is pressing ahead with plans to deliver a same-sex ‘marriage’ by 2015, despite reports that the issue is causing a drop in grass-roots membership of the party. That drop — according to the pressure group Christian Concern — could impact the next General Election. Backbench Tories are joining with senior party members to warn Mr Cameron on the issue.

Dr David Marshall was contacted by one of his Adventist constituents back in March and the MP writes, ‘If more people expressed their outrage and dismay at the way the Government is handling the proposal to redefine marriage then we may get a good outcome.’

While the result may not always be positive, as seems to be the case following the consultation in Scotland, the opportunity to write and express your view in the hope of change is surely better than the alternative.

**Inspire Share Witness**

Two TV channels to share the best of British and International Adventist programmes with your friends:

**Revelation TV** (Sky 581 or Freesat 692) A Christian TV channel sharing Adventist programming twice a week. Monday 8:30pm, repeated Sunday 1pm.

**Hope Channel Europe** (Hotbird 2: 11642M Hz, 13°E) Two hours of English programming daily:

- English: midnight – 2am
- Russian/Ukrainian: 2am – 8am
- English: 8am – 2pm
- Russian/Ukrainian: 2pm – 7pm
- English: 7pm – midnight

Highlights from the UK include:

- ‘Inspire’ — sharing inspiring life journeys:
  - Monday: 12:30am, Wednesday: midnight, Friday: 8pm & midnight
  - Sabbath: 9am and 7:30pm.

- ‘ViewPoint’ — discussing issues of life and faith:
  - Monday: 9:30pm, Wednesday: 8am.

**Faithtalks**

- Faithtalks — sharing Adventist programs twice a week: Thursday 8:30pm, repeated Sunday 1pm.
- English: 7pm – midnight

**Inspire Share Witness**

Visit the Hope TV UK website for on-demand programming and exclusive BUC News reports and features: www.hopetv.org.uk

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**Baby dedication for Grantham**

Kevin and Amber Cox (and family members from both the UK and USA) recently dedicated their first child, Ainsley, during a service at the Grantham church on 23 June. Ainsley’s grandfather is Graham Cox, former employee at the Stanborough Press.

**Thirteen baptised in Jubilee Going for Gold celebrations**

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Barnsley health course

Following on from the national vegetarian week outreach, the Health department of the Barnsley church recently presented a six-week NEWSTART course, both for the public and its own members. It consisted of illustrated talks about various health topics and how to live a healthy lifestyle, together with cookery demonstrations and an opportunity to taste a variety of nourishing vegetarian meals.

Recipes of all dishes used and a brief outline of each presentation are posted on the Barnsley church website. The course proved so popular that monthly meetings are planned after a summer break, as well as weekly ‘relaxation classes’ in the autumn.

All those who came along to the meetings expressed the view that the course had been instructive and helpful. They also had a good time tasting the food! One member of the public who was present at every meeting has already attended church twice since then and expressed the desire to ‘visit again’.

HAZEL SCH OLES, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY