On Sabbath 29 September around 200 people gathered at the Pavilion in the charming spa town of Llandrindod Wells for the annual Welsh Mission day of fellowship. The speaker was Irish Mission president Pastor David Neal.

His theme was ‘To Win the Prize’. Although not an athlete himself, David confessed that his interest in sport had increased dramatically due to the Olympics and Paralympics. Speaking of how he went out to see the Olympic flame as it passed by his office in Banbridge, he said, ‘There’s something special about a symbol of hope coming to your district. It’s inspiring and it brings life to a community.’ In some respects this was similar to the ‘Follow the Bible’ project that culminated at the General Conference session in 2010. He then related the story of the Queen’s coronation in 1953, and how she had been presented with a Bible by the Dean of Westminster. At that time the Archbishop of Canterbury had said, ‘We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords.’

Citing a number of Christian athletes who openly professed their faith, Pastor Neal quoted from Hebrews 12, which refers to another ‘cloud of witnesses’. Like them we too must ‘throw off everything that hinders and run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith’ (verse 1, 2, NIV).

The Sabbath School included encouraging reports of health evangelism (in Newtown and Newport), a barbecue to which the public were invited (in Rhyl), a major shelter project for the homeless (in Cardiff), and an update on the FreeBible project (now running across the UK). In the afternoon there were reports on the Special Needs Camp and the youth’s exciting trip across Europe with Pastor Jovan Adamovic this summer.

Throughout the day there was also lots of good music – as one would expect in Wales!

In his final talk, intriguingly entitled ‘Snake-handling for Beginners’, Pastor Neal showed how we should study the Bible. Beginning with the story of a Pentecostal snake-handler who, like his father before him, had died in church of a deadly snake bite, Pastor Neal asked some serious questions about our use of the Scriptures. He concluded with a list of guidelines which will prevent us from falling into the excesses of literal, and metaphorical, snake-handlers: read different versions; use a concordance and dictionary, and various commentaries; use the writings of Ellen White; and always pray that God will interpret the text for you.

This is the sixth year in a row that the Welsh Mission day of fellowship has been held in Llandrindod Wells – with beautiful weather on each occasion.

For more pictures from the day, plus an audio recording of Pastor Neal’s sermon, visit the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org.
Enhancing Health

by Sharen Piat-McDonn, RGN, RRN, RN, NSc
Health Widows’ advisory, NIV

Natural pain relief

The last instalment of Enhancing Health featured concerns from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), which warned that people suffering certain types of headaches could be in a vicious cycle where their headaches worsen because of medication overuse. In the light of these increasing concerns about the side effects of long-term pain medication, many patients are looking to natural alternatives for pain relief. In fact, there are now ongoing studies into the efficacy of exercise and food as possible pain relievers.

An online article by Total Health (21 May 2012), published in Pain®, carried the headline: ‘Exercise as a form of pain relief’. Research from Heidelberg University, Germany, found that athletes can develop a vicious cycle where their headaches worsen because of medication overuse.

When we exercise, our body releases endorphins – hormone-like substances produced in the brain that not only give a ‘feel good’ factor but act as the body’s natural painkillers.

What hope is there, however, for the less athletic or those unable to undertake moderate exercise due to frailty, chronic illness or disability? How about a visit to the kitchen? Dr Neil Bernard’s book, titled: Foods That Fight Pain: Proven Dietary Solutions For Maximum Pain Relief Without Drugs, is an insightful read. Highlighting the power of food to tackle pain, Dr Bernard states: ‘Nutrients work against pain in four ways. They can reduce damage at the site of injury, cool your body’s inflammatory response, provide analgesia on pain nerves themselves, and even work within the brain to reduce pain sensitivity’.

Available from amazon.com, Dr Bernard’s book also highlights the different types of food that can be used to fight the different types of pain. He states: ‘Nice or peppermint oil, for example, can soothe your digestive tract. Ginger and the herb feverfew can prevent migraines. . . . Natural plant oils can reduce arthritis pain. Cranberry juice can fight the pain of bladder infections. Vitamin B6 can increase your pain resistance, to name just a few’. In the next issue we will reveal more.

Good health!

Ins't nature wonderful?

I took this photo on the beach at Snettisham, Norfolk, on the edge of the Wash. Please keep sending in your photos for Megapixels of creation. We are due to run another spread from ‘pictures of nature’ – land-s, wildlife, water, close-ups.

You never know your luck, you may get it printed. . . . Send them in to me at: david.bell@stanboroughpress.org.uk - data remember to keep them res Happy snapping!

To see more of your images, go to: davidbell.advantureimages.megapixel.org

Megapixels of creation

Annually, on the second Sunday of November, it is our custom to remember those men and women ‘who gave their lives in the two world wars and subsequent conflicts’. This year, Remembrance Sunday falls on November 11, Armistice Day, and will be marked as usual by a variety of parades and services.

The day traces its roots back to the First World War, to the moment the guns fell silent on the Western Front, on the ‘1st hour of the 1st day of the 1st month in 1918’. At that precise moment each year, it is customary to observe a two-minute silence in honour of the fallen – including the thirty-nine who have died this year in Afghanistan.

The ‘corn’ poppy

The ‘corn’ or ‘Flanders’ poppy (Papaver rhoeas) has become the symbol of this remembrance. ‘Why? Probably because these bright red flowers were the first sign of new life, as spring and summer came to those tortured belgian battlefields in 1915.

The corn poppy’s seeds can lie dormant for years until the earth around them is disturbed, for example, by the digging of fresh graves. It is the sight of these poppy-covered mounds that inspired Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae (Canadian) to pen these lines:

‘In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.’

Fortunately, many of us will purchase and wear a plastic poppy this November – in remembrance.

But she’s dead!

‘Yes, that’s right. The last veteran of World War I was Florence Green, a British citizen who died last year at the age of 110.’ She was our last living link with that dreadful conflict. All we now have left are sepia photographs, scratched and jerky films, and vast numbers of books about the event. Will that be enough to keep our brave forebears ‘in remembrance’?

And when we are gone, will our children respectfully pause, with bared heads at 11am, on Remembrance Sunday? Will they tell their children about the courage and sacrifice of our grandparents? Will they bother to buy plastic poppies?

‘They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.’

- From: ‘For the Fallen’, by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)
devotional

The perfect exchange

by Pastor Ronald Edwards, retired pastor

While crossing a busy intersection on foot one day, a small, flat circular object caught my eye. Curious, I picked it up. Initially I thought it was a penny, but having been ground incessantly beneath the tyres of innumerable vehicles, it was impossible to tell with certainty just what it had once been.

So curious, I took it home. There I tried rubbing it with ‘Vim’, then tried scraping, but still it would not reveal the secret of its identity. So I dropped it into the bottom of a small glass, covered it with vinegar and left it a full day. Then, after rinsing, I could see minute traces of copper shining there and there. On one side parts of the original outline of the Queen’s head were visible; on the other, nothing. Yet that was enough to tell. It was a penny. It was totally unfit for circulation, however. No one would have wanted it in either their pocket or their purse. Now, a penny is not worth much – the smallest British coin in current circulation – yet, why waste it? So I took it to the bank.

During a recent service at my home church, I had the opportunity to listen to the following account of some witnessing done by one of our elderly members, Winifred Cowley. Winifred is 97, and, because coming to the front of the church would have been difficult for her, her daughter, Liz Holden, told her story. This is what she said:

I had this experience while recovering with a relative in a nursing home in Bourne. I was there for ten days while my daughter and son-in-law were away on holiday. The surroundings were very pleasant and I had a nice private room, which I really appreciated. At the same time, however, I was free to join the other residents in the dining room or lounge as often as I wished.

The room above mine was occupied by a gentleman who appeared to have some form of dementia. All through the day he would keep crying: “Help, help!” It seemed that the only time he stopped was when he was asleep. I tolerated this incessant crying, which to me was like never before (Nehemiah 1:3, 4; 2:1). Perhaps, unwilling to be beaten, we may augment our endurance by more precise and detailed descriptions (as did the Pharisees of Jesus’ time), sacrificially depriving ourselves of this and that necessity. Yet all of this is to no satisfactory end. It only demonstrates more surely our complete incapacity to become what we know we ought to be.

Finally, in our helplessness – if we are wise – we bring our faulty, flawed, disqualified ‘righteousness’ to God. A righteousness we have vainly attempted to restore, and which is known fully only to ourselves and God. He does not take us and ‘polish us up’ a bit more than we have already managed. Like that lady at the till who takes that old, muddied ‘coin’ of our righteousness; and in return gives us the ‘mint-coin’ of the flawless righteousness of Jesus Christ. I shall never see that 'damaged coin' again. It has been sent to the Bank of England and been destroyed. Just so, our sins are ‘bombed’ by Jesus on the cross, then buried with His body in the tomb, and left there when He arose.

As we accept that in repentant faith, they never shall condemn us again. Now, Jesus is in our place in Heaven, representing us before His Father. We are accepted by God on His account: just like that ‘mint-coin’. What if I now err? My heart’s whole purpose, having repented, is to serve God. Yet, I am conscious and unconsciously, I err. Can I ‘tarnish’ or ‘scratch’ the ‘mint-coin’ of Christ’s character that now represents me in Heaven, as Man. He is seated at the right hand of His Father, representing me. Nothing I do can affect His righteousness, which is credited to me, on His account, by the Father. As long as I remain repentant and dependent upon Jesus, that ‘mint-coin’ of His righteousness will stand in place of my imperfection.

I could hardly believe my eyes, but it did occur to me that God must have arranged our meeting. Which only goes to prove how much He loves and cares for everyone. It also showed me that, when we allow the Holy Spirit to prompt and lead us, He can use even our humble abilities, no matter how old or frail we are!
Try listening to atheists

by Grenville Kent

I shouldn’t have told the taxi driver I was going to the atheist convention. ‘So they’ll sit around saying there’s nothing up there,’ he said in a Middle Eastern accent, fingering his prayer beads. ‘These people are mad!’ ‘It’s a bit more than that . . .’ I started to say.

These people want two men to marry each other, but they can’t have any children, which proves they’re wrong. These @# $ % people ought to be shot. He drove on angrily, making the wooden cross swing faster from his rear view mirror. Did he remember that the Man on it never forced anyone to obey, and was killed by religious intolerance? I kept quiet. Some beliefs are more like prejudice, out of reach of reason. Is this what atheists put up with? If you were parented or taught by a believer like this, atheism might look open-minded and attractive. Inside, comedians started carpet-bombing religion: ‘Forget Jesus. The stars did so you could be born; ’Smile, there is no hell.’ ‘God is not my drug of choice’.

The conference is called ‘a celebration of reason’. Reason is worth celebrating, and I want a faith that is reasonable, not blind. But where did we get reason? Did mere matter become conscious on its own? Did the human brain, easily the most complex object we know, assemble from chemicals by chance alone? Or is it more likely that our reason came from another Mind? I’m producing a film about this in the Big Questions series.

A number of ex-Atheists say hello, including two former teachers and a former minister. Some are converts, some are just looking. I bump into an Adventist mother and son. He is a science student who asked the pastor to come around and help with some questions he was facing at university. The pastor never came, so he assumed Christianity had no answers. I’ve heard this story so many times: the bright kid goes to university and no one has developed the intellectual side of his faith, which stays at school level, and he outgrows it. His mum is at the atheist convention, despite concern from some church friends, to listen to the questions, and to work on answers with him. I feel a deep love for them. I need to reach them, friendly dialogue. Peter (1 Peter 3:15, paraphrased) ‘Be always ready to give a reason for the hope you have’. A reason (apologia in Greek) means a reasoned defence, a logical case for something. So Oxford, called God’s Undertaker: Has Science Buried God? I find some atheists want honest dialogue, while others take cheap shots and attack straw-man arguments, acting like intolerant fundamentalists – but I’ve heard some Christians do the same. Is anyone actually listening fairly? We need respectful dialogue, not tribal warfare. Atheists have reason and intellect. But where did we get reason? I’m producing a film about this in the Big Questions series.

Christian apologists like John Lennox, Lee Strobel, William Lane Craig, Ravi Zacharias, John Dickson or Alister McGrath. (You can find their talks on YouTube.) Most times when I talk to an atheist, I realise my ignorance on yet another topic, and go home to dig deeper.

Three, ‘Do this with gentleness and respect’. I need to respect people who have prayed and felt unanswered, trying to feel they’re on a mudball hurtling through space, unguided, unprepared, wanting to make their own meaning by choice and to live their lives as best they can. I need to respect their intelligence in how we present Christianity. If a loving Father is calling them home, how could I represent Him by arrogance? I need to take a different road from my taxi driver. And so I sneak into the convention centre’s prayer room – it’s not like anyone was using it – and ask for love and logic as I interview celebrity atheists. I pray that I’ll really listen, and make films for my church. I need to begin to answer the real questions of this growing segment in Western countries. God wants to answer their questions as He did for ‘Doubting’ Thomas, and enjoy their reason, their individuality.

Outside, Muslim protesters were chanting that Christopher Hitchens, the atheist writer who recently died, would ‘burn in hell forever’. A Christian group carried signs about eternal hell, homosexuals and ‘church gossips’. I asked them politely how an infinite punishment for a finite crime would be just, and some actually thought about that. At least they were emphasising that Jesus died because He loved atheists and wanted to save them. Inside, hell often featured. One student told me, ‘God is the cosmic Saddam Hussein, but worse, because at least a dictator leaves you alone when you’re dead. God has you forever!’ Mainstream Christianity really has to rediscover biblical teaching on hell, or church elders will keep producing atheists.

I notice the T-shirts: ‘Science fills you to the moon. Religion fills you into buildings.’ ‘Forget Jesus. The stars did so you could be born; ’Smile, there is no hell.’ ‘God is not my drug of choice’.

There are some of the terms used to describe Empowered, the BUC’s Women’s Ministries conference held on Sunday 9 September. That day the Stanborough Park church was alive with the sound of 170 women from all around the British Isles, who, in the words of a lady from the North England Conference, had come to ‘be empowered in a warm and safe environment’.

The event was the brainchild of Sharon Platt-McDonald, organiser and host and BUC Women’s Ministries director, who was ably supported by her team. The aim of the programme was for women to ’reach other women, restore lives and reflect Christ’.

The day began with a welcome from Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president, who was followed by his wife, Jennifer, an experienced health practitioner who, though generally shy and retiring in public, delivered a powerful and meaningful devotion, encouraging the attendees to be ‘all they can for God.

Throughout the day there were several plenary sessions. ‘What’s Your Story?’ was the opening presentation delivered by Helen Pearson, a PR consultant. Most times when I talk to an atheist, I realise my ignorance on yet another topic, and go home to dig deeper.

Three, ‘Do this with gentleness and respect’. I need to respect people who have prayed and felt unanswered, trying to feel they’re on a mudball hurtling through space, unguided, unprepared, wanting to make their own meaning by choice and to live their lives as best they can. I need to respect their intelligence in how we present Christianity. If a loving Father is calling them home, how could I represent Him by arrogance? I need to take a different road from my taxi driver. And so I sneak into the convention centre’s prayer room – it’s not like anyone was using it – and ask for love and logic as I interview celebrity atheists. I pray that I’ll really listen, and make films for my church. I need to begin to answer the real questions of this growing segment in Western countries. God wants to answer their questions as He did for ‘Doubting’ Thomas, and enjoy their reason, their individuality and their company. Forever.
Hello Christian Stars!

Besides the National Anthem being played at the medal award ceremony, another tune was played. Did you recognise it? This was the theme music from the film about the 1924 Olympics, *Chariots of Fire*.

The two team-GB runners it featured were Eric Liddell, a devout Christian who raced for God, and Harold Abrahams, a determined Jew who overcame racial prejudice.

Our Bible star had to make a commitment to God and overcome being a foreigner. These clues will help you know who it is. She:

- Lived in Moab,
- Sorrowed as a young widow,
- Decided to follow God’s plan for her life, and
- Forms part of an Old Testament story.

If you want to check the answer, look up the eighth book in the Old Testament:

“In the Book of Ruth there is a text that has become well-known and often used in the wedding service. Use the clue boxes to work it out. For example, "I am your father's son, your brother's son, your nephew, and a steward of your father's house. I have come to you, because the Lord has commanded me to do so." (Ruth 1:16, paraphrased)”

Like Eric Liddell, Ruth devoted herself to doing God’s will in her life. Discover what she did, and who went with her, by finding the four words in the house.

Ruth not only moved town; she went to a different country. Like Harold Abrahams, she had to overcome racial prejudice. Although ‘a foreigner’, Boaz saw in her a woman of God and a loving daughter-in-law to Naomi.

It is not surprising that Ruth became his wife. Generations later we find in Luke 3 that Jesus was born into their family. Find their son, grandson and great-grandson in verses 31 and 32. Put their names in the medal.

Like Eric and Harold, and this year’s Olympic and Paralympic medallists, Ruth was determined to do her best.

You too can pray for God to guide you to make the right choices in your life.

Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars Children’s pages – or from their parents – is welcome. The address is children@adventist.org.uk. Heather Haworth, Children's Ministries director, BUC
Witnessing in South Cumbria

On 31 July, eight young and eager volunteers from around the NEC came to Dalton-in-Furness for the IMPACT South Cumbria project, now in its second year.

The volunteers, under the leadership of Joseph Philpott (SEC Task Force worker) and the local pastor (Ian Philpott), were taught different evangelism techniques and then sent out to knock on doors and street-witness in Barrow-in-Furness. The project lasted for three weeks, culminating in a mini-campaign held over three nights at a local community centre. The title alone, ‘Know Your Future’, drew a lot of curiosity! People were also able to watch the pre-recorded series online.

Twenty-nine members of the community came over the three nights; with eleven people making a decision to join a small group, which has now begun, and five people requesting in-home Bible studies.

The volunteers also went to the park to mix with local teenagers, resulting in some of them coming back to the Dalton church, where the male volunteers were staying, and having Bible studies and watching prophecy DVDs.

Some volunteers could even be found talking about their faith to the regulars outside the pub.

There are so many testimonies of how God worked over the three weeks, with many lives being touched and changed. We give God the glory for giving us the privilege of being part of His work.

Four baptised at Edmonton youth and teens tent campaign

On 4 September, the Edmonton church began its two-week youth and teens campaign entitled ‘Being Known for Making Him Known’ in Jubilee Park, Edmonton, with housing praise and worship led by Edmonton youth and teens, followed by a Sabbath School discussion and preaching from Kenwyn Richards and Ricky Gillin.

Trevor Johnson provided an afternoon workshop, followed by Pastor Eddie Hypolite’s evening service, which used humour to express how much God loves us. Sunday morning’s drama and music workshop was led by Marsha Morrison, and a community health fair was led by Melvina Kirwan and her team. The evening message was given by Elder John Matiu from Hackney Church. The campaign and health fair continued throughout the week with preaching from Adrian Lee, Kenwyn Richards, Gershon Allen and Asher McKearie.

The second Sabbath’s message was provided by Pastor Petras Bahadur, concerning how we can reach out to Muslims by showing the similarities between the Bible and the Koran. An afternoon Creation debate was led by Robert Haye, and the evening programme was led by the London Youth Federation praise team, with the message preached by Pastor Dejan Stojkovic.

The Sunday morning workshops were business and careers talks led by David McQueen, Paul Thompson and Kirstyn Lobo, who later said she would also like to start coming to church. The health fair continued until the evening service, with the Word preached by Costa Vaggas on our imperfections and God’s perfect plans for us.

Another week of evangelism and health fairs continued, with messages provided by Andrew Fuller, Sherron McKenzie-Cook, Malka Bedako, Pastor Eddie Hypolite and Pastor Kevin Johns. The final Sabbath concluded with preaching by Warren Gillin and the baptism of four precious souls – Rawlings Sam, Winnie Nsimbi, Seneve Mpsi and Victoire Mpsi.

Jema Hucuma’s baptism

On Sabbath 16 September the Swansea church said welcome and farewell to Jema Hucuma all in the same day. She declared her love for the Lord and was baptised by Pastor Jovan Adamovic at the Waterfront Apostolic Church, and left the next day for Portsmouth University to study pharmacy. We wish her God’s blessing as she begins a new chapter in her life.

‘Jesus Paid it All’

From 23 June to 14 July, youth came to Hanwell Church from north and south to hear the Word of God preached through Andrew Fuller and Dean Cullinane. Due to the mass ‘Social Media’ invitations made by the ‘Preaching Place’ ministry, which included a video promotion on YouTube and Facebook, youths were able to invite their friends by simply sharing the video on each other’s Facebook pages. This proved to be hugely successful.

The campaign yielded thirty-three souls in total for baptism, of whom fourteen to date have joined the Church through two baptisms: one on 26 May, the other on 14 July. Nineteen are being prepared for baptism. Several candidates were being prepared for the baptism scheduled for the last day of the campaign on 14 July; however, the mother of one candidate, Tamara Flary, was scheduled to come from the USA before the end of May and wanted to see her daughter get baptised. Tamara therefore requested an early baptism, and her mother, having arrived, decided to join her daughter in getting baptised also!

Wayne has been threatened with the sack for refusing to work on Sabbath: but he trusts that if he loses his job the Lord will provide something better.

Hereun Abdullah, a former Muslim, read the Christian book, How to Win Over Depression, which touched her heart. Although her parents rejected her because of her new-found belief in Christ Jesus, she started reading the Bible and going to church.

David became a Christian after receiving Bible studies on Facebook. Of Hanwell Church, David said: ‘I felt at home, as I received a warm welcome and many members introduced themselves to me. . . . I knew God was speaking directly to me.’ David’s mother now regularly attends church, with his older brother coming to Bible study.

On 14 July, the last day of the campaign, seven more joined the church through baptism and one on profession of faith. Brian, a 23-year-old youth from West London, had been on the ‘streets’ as a gang-ster. Brian was totally convicted of the truth as he attended the campaign night after night; he decided to become fully dependent on Christ. Brian’s new-found joy is studying his Bible daily. The change in his life appeals to many of his ‘street’ friends.

Young people came to hear the truth preached straight from the Bible. It is the continuing Bible studies that will finish this Gospel work.
Team Jesus in Bristol

After the Olympic and Paralympic Games, in Bristol the Gospel took centre stage. Between 1 and 15 September, for the first time, all four Bristol churches – Central, Lodge Causeway, North and South – organised a joint campaign at Broadmead Baptist Church entitled ‘Secure Your Destiny’, with international evangelist Pastor Lawrence Dorsey Snr, who is also the senior pastor at the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Los Angeles.

The meetings covered last day events and were attended by visitors from other denominations, who described the messages as ‘dynamic’ and ‘powerful’. Singing evangelist Beverly Dorsey (Lawrence’s wife) sang most evenings. One phrase struck a chord, referring to the unified efforts of the four churches: Team Jesus.

More than forty individuals expressed an interest in Bible studies, many of whom were young people. Those baptised were Chiluba Chipula, Marsha Cochrane, Natasha Denecheau, Hayden Hudd, Laetitia Lacroix, Biancha Musamadya, Daniel Odmuza, Sipho Mipha, Memory Sihole, Joy Okute, Cherie Ford and Marcia Thomas.

Mary Jacobson

Inspire Share Witness

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

Revelation TV (Sky 919 or Freesat 652) A Christian TV channel sharing Adventist programming twice a week: Thursday 8:30pm, repeated Sunday 1pm.

Hope Channel Europe (Beeb 14/15, www.hopetv.org.uk) Thirteen hours of English programming daily:

- English
  - midnight – 2am
  - 2am – 4am
  - 4am – 6am
  - 6am – 8am
  - 8am – 10am
  - 10am – 12pm
  - 12pm – 2pm
  - 2pm – 4pm
  - 4pm – 6pm
  - 6pm – 8pm
  - 8pm – 10pm
  - 10pm – 12 midnight

Highlights from the UK include:

- ‘In Conversation’, sharing inspiring life journeys: Monday, 12:30am, Wednesday, 8:30pm, repeated Sunday 1pm.
- ‘ViewPoint’ – discussing issues of life and faith: Monday, 9:30pm, Wednesday, 12:30am.
- ‘Faithtalks’ – tackling the basic issues of faith and Christianity, Thursday, 12:30am, Friday, 8:30pm.

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

Newport’s fourth annual health fair

by Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

On Sunday 23 September the Newport church held its fourth annual health fair at the Eveswell Primary School near the church. Nearly fifty members of the public visited the event, most of whom took part in the health activities on offer.

Newport members were particularly grateful to exhibitors who came to support the event this year. NEW START, led by NEC Community Service director Grace Walsh, had eight stalls. The Phillips Memorial Trust, Sight Support, The Welsh Refugee Council and the Samaritans were also represented.

The excellent free food at lunchtime was a big attraction, prepared by the Newport Health Ministries team and members and staff from Eveswell School. Welsh Mission Health sponsors Lil and Irving Saunders support the Health Fair every year, and their medical expertise and culinary skills are much appreciated.

The enthusiasm of Tony Trigg, site manager for the Eveswell Primary School, was evident as he eagerly showed visitors around the classrooms. Together with his wife and daughter he also enjoyed the health fair itself.

This year Pastor David Rancier invited visitors to complete a satisfaction survey as they were leaving: ‘There was no negative feedback at all,’ he said, ‘unless you count those people who weren’t happy with their cholesterol levels!’

Pictures from the event can be seen on the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org

Health screening at Portsmouth

Portsmouth Church conducted free community health screening as part of a ‘Community safety, health and fun day’ at The City of Portsmouth Girls’ School on 30 June. Health professionals and volunteers encouraged attendees to adopt a healthy, holistic lifestyle.

Community members and pupils visited a number of stations for health screening, advice, spiritual counselling and a relaxing massage – and health-promoting freebies in an eco-friendly reusable tote bag printed with the church’s name, contact details and the Lord’s assurance in Jeremiah 30:15, that He will restore our health.

A number of copies of the recent health edition of the FOCUS magazine and books and leaflets supplied by national health charities were handed out to attendees, along with spiritual tracts and books such as Steps to Christ, The Great Hope and When God Said Remember. Attendees were very appreciative.

The opportunity to conduct this screening event arose during a similar health fair earlier this year. One of the attendees – the city’s neighbourhood watch chairwoman – was so impressed that she invited the church to conduct a health-screening programme at the school. The church was delighted to share healthful living and the Good News of Jesus with the wider community.

Sandy Jackson
The Big Tidy-up – keep Britain tidy
Manchester Southern Asia’s Adventurers and Pathfinders have been involved in community service this year. During the summer we participated in two ‘Big Tidy-up’ events on 20 June and 16 September and Adventurers and Pathfinders could complete their requirement on community services. Both adults and young children participated in tidying up all kinds of litter from the Adwick and Rusholme neighbourhoods in Manchester. During one of the events the BBC filmed and interviewed the group.

Flags for the Kingdom
In August a group of Seventh-day Adventist home educators, who meet monthly in Warwickshire, enjoyed some activities inspired by the Olympics.

We talked about people coming from different countries to support their teams and how they were proud to display their country’s flag, and how the colours and designs on flags have meanings. We then talked about how, although we belong to the United Kingdom, we also belong to another kingdom: that of Heaven. The children, aged up to 15 years, were then challenged to design a flag for the Kingdom of Heaven. The results were diverse and well thought out.

For more about Seventh-day Adventist home educators, contact Neal Lawrence (BUC Home Education advisor) at: homeschooling@adventist.org.uk or on 01686 651067.

The Worcester church is happy to announce that Roxan Pinho has gained her BSc (Hons) in Psychology, and Neily Williams has passed his studies for the Diploma of Higher Education in Adult Learning. Up to the time of their writing they were both unemployable, jobs were hard to come by: and to make matters worse, Glen suffered a vision problem—loss of the retina—which continued throughout his life. With his father a sea captain in the Merchant Navy, Glen was born to the sea. At age 16 he got his first job on a ship, and Glen sailed all over the world until 1947, when he was discharged because of eyeight problems.

Glyn’s mother, Mary, was a Seventh-day Adventist, and it was when she passed away that Gladys woke up spiritually. He started attending church and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1949. It was at the Adventist church in Chiswick that Glyn met his wife Haf. ‘She was the best thing that happened to me’, he said to us, and they lived happily in London together for twenty-five years. Haf and Glyn were faithful members of the Central London church.

When Haf became ill with Alzheimer’s disease, Glyn cared for her at home for three years. Then they decided to move to Scotland, to Rothesay on the Isle of Bute, where they lived until Haf’s death in 1999. Glyn was a faithful follower of Christ. When, latterly, he could not attend church, he loved to watch the Hope Channel and keep up with what was happening in his church around the world. On his coffee table lay his large-print Bible and lesson book, alongside his shipping magazines. ‘The sea was in Glyn’s blood, and conversations always included a story about life on the ocean waves.’

Glyn passed away on 8 July 2012. Death held no fear for him. He looked forward to being together with Haf in God’s Kingdom and to having restored eyesight. For Glyn, it will be a very different view of things. Glyn’s funeral was held at the Crieff Seventh-day Adventist church on 11 July, organized by Pastor Doug Sinclair and Pastor Ronnie Hole. With Ann Kemp, Glyn’s niece, giving his life sketch. Buried in Crieff Cemetery beside his beloved Haf, Glyn now awaits the Resurrection Morning. Together with Glyn’s niece Mary and her family, their church family at Crieff look forward to seeing him again that day.

The Mosers’ golden wedding anniversary
Stanborough Park members Doctors Eric and Susan Moser celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the end of May. They first met as students at the Christian Medical College, Vellore in Tamil Nadu, India.

They worked as doctors for forty-three years in India and England, and they keep themselves busy in retirement with hobbies and church activities. Susan leads the singing band, which visits a different local care home each week, as well as visiting old and sick church members.

Balham Church’s 90-somethings
Balham Church has six members who are over 90 years old: each with quite a testimony.

Marie Graves (91) grew up in the Moravian Church, becoming an Adventist in England after taking Bible studies from members who came to her door to witness to her, and has been a member ever since.

Joseph Henry Stockpole (92) came from an Anglican background, but a family friend used to take him and his sister to an Adventist church on Sabbaths. In 1955 he sometimes attended a Mystic Science group, but Adventist family members invited him to church and he was baptised into the Adventist Church in California.

Louise Fuller (90) was brought up in an Adventist family and was baptised in 1940, one of the pioneers of the Balham church when it opened in 1969.

John Marshall (92) and Nell Marshall (91) went to school together and both were raised up in the Anglican Church. Soon after their marriage in 1946, Nell joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but John remained quite hostile to Adventism until 1983, when an Adventist sheep-dipper, Dick Baron, came to London. John drove his wife to church but this time decided to stay for the service, and to everyone’s surprise gave his life to Jesus and got baptised!

Beryl Lindsay (93) was brought up as a Methodist and introduced to Adventism through Sister Gentes, who regards her as ‘her mum’. They lived in the same block of flats in the 1970s and studied the Bible together. Beryl was baptised in 1987 during a campaign at Brinton Church, after finding the Adventist Church to be more of a family.
Sixty years of marriage
Paster Roy Burgess and his wife Sheila, members of Stanborough Park Church, recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in the Isles of Scilly. The event was reported by the Watford Observer with the headline, ‘Church meeting led to a diamond life’. Roy and Sheila first met as teenagers when her family began attending Stanborough Park Church.

They married at Stanborough Park Church on 18 August, 1952 and began ministering and teaching across the country. They have now two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and maintain an active retirement – Roy still preaches regularly around the country.

Holocaust survivor at Stanborough Park Church
Members of the Seniors Club at Stanborough Park Church heard 91-year-old Holocaust survivor, Freddie Koolter at their fortnightly meeting in October. The club is run as an outreach activity and has about seventy regular members, one third of whom are church members and the remainder from the local community.

The audience listened spellbound to his story, which was a mixture of adventures, escapes, and skirmishes with the Nazis. Freddie has made it his mission to tell his story to the young so that the story of the Holocaust is not forgotten. For him it was most unusual to be speaking to people nearer his own age! He and his daughter, who accompanied him, commented on the ‘lovely atmosphere’ they found at the club.

J-walking in Crieff
On 23 September, friends, neighbours and members of local towns were invited by Crieff members to come J-walking, as the church and grounds were transformed into a theatrical set with nine biblical characters telling their stories of how they had met Jesus.

Simple, evocative sets with appropriate theatrical props: including John the Baptist, Peter, Mary the mother of Jesus, the Samaritan woman at the well, Martha, Lazarus, Simon of Cyrene, Thomas and the disciple John, who recommended that the group read his Gospel. Each visitor was given a Gospel of John and invited to attend the ‘Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus’ evangelism series starting in October.

They enjoyed meeting the pony too!

After looking around an exhibition taking them back to Bible times, there were also activities for the children with games and puzzles – for more photos of the event, see www.crieffadventist.org.uk.

Photo of cast by John Wilby.

Stanborough Park Church
Members of the Seniors Club at Stanborough Park Church heard 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Freddie Koolter at their fortnightly meeting in October. The club is run as an outreach activity - Roy Burgess and his wife Sheila, members of Stanborough Park Church, recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in the Isles of Scilly. The event was reported by the Watford Observer with the headline, ‘Church meeting led to a diamond life’. Roy and Sheila first met as teenagers when her family began attending Stanborough Park Church.

They married at Stanborough Park Church on 18 August, 1952 and began ministering and teaching across the country. They have now two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and maintain an active retirement – Roy still preaches regularly around the country.

Holocaust survivor at Stanborough Park Church
Members of the Seniors Club at Stanborough Park Church heard 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Freddie Koolter at their fortnightly meeting in October. The club is run as an outreach activity and has about seventy regular members, one third of whom are church members and the remainder from the local community.

The audience listened spellbound to his story, which was a mixture of adventures, escapes, and skirmishes with the Nazis. Freddie has made it his mission to tell his story to the young so that the story of the Holocaust is not forgotten. For him it was most unusual to be speaking to people nearer his own age! He and his daughter, who accompanied him, commented on the ‘lovely atmosphere’ they found at the club.

J-walking in Crieff
On 23 September, friends, neighbours and members of local towns were invited by Crieff members to come J-walking, as the church and grounds were transformed into a theatrical set with nine biblical characters telling their stories of how they had met Jesus.

Simple, evocative sets with appropriate theatrical props: including John the Baptist, Peter, Mary the mother of Jesus, the Samaritan woman at the well, Martha, Lazarus, Simon of Cyrene, Thomas and the disciple John, who recommended that the group read his Gospel. Each visitor was given a Gospel of John and invited to attend the ‘Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus’ evangelism series starting in October.

They enjoyed meeting the pony too!

After looking around an exhibition taking them back to Bible times, there were also activities for the children with games and puzzles – for more photos of the event, see www.crieffadventist.org.uk.

Photo of cast by John Wilby.

Stanborough Park Church
Members of the Seniors Club at Stanborough Park Church heard 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Freddie Koolter at their fortnightly meeting in October. The club is run as an outreach activity - Roy Burgess and his wife Sheila, members of Stanborough Park Church, recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in the Isles of Scilly. The event was reported by the Watford Observer with the headline, ‘Church meeting led to a diamond life’. Roy and Sheila first met as teenagers when her family began attending Stanborough Park Church.

They married at Stanborough Park Church on 18 August, 1952 and began ministering and teaching across the country. They have now two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and maintain an active retirement – Roy still preaches regularly around the country.

Holocaust survivor at Stanborough Park Church
Members of the Seniors Club at Stanborough Park Church heard 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Freddie Koolter at their fortnightly meeting in October. The club is run as an outreach activity and has about seventy regular members, one third of whom are church members and the remainder from the local community.

The audience listened spellbound to his story, which was a mixture of adventures, escapes, and skirmishes with the Nazis. Freddie has made it his mission to tell his story to the young so that the story of the Holocaust is not forgotten. For him it was most unusual to be speaking to people nearer his own age! He and his daughter, who accompanied him, commented on the ‘lovely atmosphere’ they found at the club.

J-walking in Crieff
On 23 September, friends, neighbours and members of local towns were invited by Crieff members to come J-walking, as the church and grounds were transformed into a theatrical set with nine biblical characters telling their stories of how they had met Jesus.

Simple, evocative sets with appropriate theatrical props: including John the Baptist, Peter, Mary the mother of Jesus, the Samaritan woman at the well, Martha, Lazarus, Simon of Cyrene, Thomas and the disciple John, who recommended that the group read his Gospel. Each visitor was given a Gospel of John and invited to attend the ‘Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus’ evangelism series starting in October.

They enjoyed meeting the pony too!

After looking around an exhibition taking them back to Bible times, there were also activities for the children with games and puzzles – for more photos of the event, see www.crieffadventist.org.uk.

Photo of cast by John Wilby.

Stanborough Park Church
Members of the Seniors Club at Stanborough Park Church heard 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Freddie Koolter at their fortnightly meeting in October. The club is run as an outreach activity and has about seventy regular members, one third of whom are church members and the remainder from the local community.

The audience listened spellbound to his story, which was a mixture of adventures, escapes, and skirmishes with the Nazis. Freddie has made it his mission to tell his story to the young so that the story of the Holocaust is not forgotten. For him it was most unusual to be speaking to people nearer his own age! He and his daughter, who accompanied him, commented on the ‘lovely atmosphere’ they found at the club.

J-walking in Crieff
On 23 September, friends, neighbours and members of local towns were invited by Crieff members to come J-walking, as the church and grounds were transformed into a theatrical set with nine biblical characters telling their stories of how they had met Jesus.

Simple, evocative sets with appropriate theatrical props: including John the Baptist, Peter, Mary the mother of Jesus, the Samaritan woman at the well, Martha, Lazarus, Simon of Cyrene, Thomas and the disciple John, who recommended that the group read his Gospel. Each visitor was given a Gospel of John and invited to attend the ‘Tracing the Footsteps of Jesus’ evangelism series starting in October.

They enjoyed meeting the pony too!

After looking around an exhibition taking them back to Bible times, there were also activities for the children with games and puzzles – for more photos of the event, see www.crieffadventist.org.uk.

Photo of cast by John Wilby.

Stanborough Park Church
Members of the Seniors Club at Stanborough Park Church heard 91-year-old Holocaust survivor Freddie Koolter at their fortnightly meeting in October. The club is run as an outreach activity and has about seventy regular members, one third of whom are church members and the remainder from the local community.

The audience listened spellbound to his story, which was a mixture of adventures, escapes, and skirmishes with the Nazis. Freddie has made it his mission to tell his story to the young so that the story of the Holocaust is not forgotten. For him it was most unusual to be speaking to people nearer his own age! He and his daughter, who accompanied him, commented on the ‘lovely atmosphere’ they found at the club.