Dublin is to become the British Union Conference City of Hope for 2014, said Pastors Ian Sweeney and David Neal at the Irish Mission day of fellowship in Drogheda on Sabbath 6 October. This marks the start of a three-year evangelistic drive in Dublin and across Ireland.

Speaking to an audience of 500 to 600 members and friends from across Ireland, Ian Sweeney explained that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been a predominantly rural Church, making little impact on cities. With more than half of the world’s population currently living in cities, it is important for the Church to develop and improve its outreach to urban areas.

It is with this in mind that the world Church will launch the ambitious ‘Hope for Big Cities’ project in New York City in 2013. In addition to this, each division of the world Church has targeted one ‘city of hope’. The Trans-European Division has chosen London to be its city of hope. Following close on the heels of this initiative, each union will select one city in its territory to be a ‘city of hope’. In the British Union this city will be Dublin.

In the afternoon Pastor David Neal gave more details of what this would mean to the Irish Mission. The mission’s activities over the next two years will be focused on this outreach project. Our initial drive will be to make our congregations more welcoming and friendly to newcomers and to launch new efforts to make contact with the local community. Marian Guly, a member of the Banbridge church, who is from a Roman Catholic background, told of how several informal contacts with the church over a period of time awakened a spiritual interest that led her being baptised after a net-evangelism programme by Mark Finley. David Neal expressed the hope that this story would replicate itself hundreds of times over in the next three years.

The highlight of the project in Dublin will be a double evangelistic campaign led by Mark Finley for ten days each in May and September of 2014. The great aim of this project is that more people will be introduced to a living relationship with Jesus, and that new churches will spring up in Dublin, with many new members across the entire island.

The Sabbath was also a celebration of Adventism across the island, with one of the features being a multi-media virtual tour to the sixteen churches and groups across the Irish Mission. It shared some of the highlights of church life in each congregation.

Stephen Wilson, pastor of Dublin, commented that it was a joy for him to see so many churches sending coaches filled with people. ‘Every church was represented.’

Pastor Ian Sweeney spent some time explaining that he also had Irish roots. His great-grandfather was Irish. Pastor Sweeney’s claim was more than an attempt to find a connection with the Irish members. He reflected on the fact that immigration was a worldwide phenomenon, and that the temptation always existed to dream about the countries that we originally came from. The danger with this is that we sometimes lose sight of the fact that God called us to this new country for a reason. We become caught up with pursuing a more prosperous way of life without recognising that God wants us to become a blessing to the new communities in which we find ourselves.

Reflecting on the impact of the day, Sunny Naka from Dublin Ranelagh said, ‘Pastor Sweeney’s message did it for me! It was a timely reminder of our mission here.

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Good health!

Enhancing Health

by Sharana Platt-McDonald, RN (RM), RHN MSc

Health Ministries director, BGC

Natural pain relief (continued)

This issue concludes our focus on natural pain relief as we revisit the impact food may have on pain.

Dr Neal Bernard’s book, Foods That Fight Pain: Revolutionary New Strategies for Maximum Pain Relief, has received worldwide interest and reviews from the medical community. The following is an outline of some of his research findings:

Anti-inflammatory foods – Dr Bernard’s research found that green, leafy vegetables and legumes (beans, peas, and lentils) contain omega-3 fatty acids which are anti-inflammatory.

Hormonal balancing foods – Women suffering from menstrual pain, endometriosis, fibroid or breast pain may find some relief by avoiding animal products which raise levels of fat and oestrogen in the body. Concerning prostaglandin levels, which are higher in women with pre-menstrual syndrome, Dr Bernard states:

“Prostaglandins . . . constrict the blood vessels in the uterus and make its muscle layer contract, causing painful cramps. It is possible that placenta based foods and low fat intake helped to eliminate oestrogen from the body, subsequently reducing menstrual cramps.

Soothing foods – Bernard found that evening primrose helped to ease the symptoms of arthritis. Flax was also found to soothe pain because of its high levels of omega 3.

Trigger foods – Referring to his own work on foods that trigger arthritis pain and research in The Lancet (12 October 1991), Dr Bernard states: ‘The cajun’s were as common as a glass of milk, a tomato, wheat bread, or eggs.’ When these were eliminated – ‘Many patients improved dramatically; pain diminished or went away, and joint stiffness was no longer the routine morning misery.’ Bernard also found that sugar made some individuals more sensitive to pain.

Herbal remedies
Among the list of herbs reported to fight pain are the following:
Chamomile – anti-inflammatory (pubmed.gov)
Fenugreek – external poultice for local inflammations (Herb Power – Professor Winston Craig)
Ginger – anti-inflammatory and migraine relief (pubmed.gov)
Rosemary – eases neuralgia and muscle tension, and headaches (National Institute of Medical Herbalists)
Sage – improves aching muscles and inflammation (pubmed.gov)
Turmeric – anti-inflammatory (avoid high doses if on anticoagulants and high steroids) (pubmed.gov)

Always remember that if you have pain you need a diagnosis. This ensures that, whatever treatment options you choose, a practitioner can have a clear picture of your condition, monitor your progress, highlight other treatment options and be alert for any adverse reactions.

If you require additional information regarding pain management you can also contact the Pain Relief Foundation via the website at: www.painrelieffoundation.org.uk.

Good health!
Are we forgetting something?

by David Marshal

“They’re calling this “The Age of Austerity”. When I first heard a politician use that phrase, I rang a distant bell. I was born in an age of austerity. I didn’t understand the word ‘austerity’ but I knew what it meant in practice. The phrase was in use for most of my junior school years. So it must have lasted for at least ten years.

In the 1945-55 Age of Austerity we were said to be paying off the debts we had run up while fighting World War II. The victory won for freedom made our belt-tightening seem, on the whole, worthwhile, so we didn’t blame anybody.

By contrast, the present comparative austerity is blamed by the Lib-Con on ‘the last Labour government’, by the Lads on the Lib-Con disinclination to ‘go for growth’, by the red-tops on ‘the casino-bankers’ and the crisis from which ‘we had to bail them out’, and by the BBC’s Robert Peston on America’s sub-prime mortgage fiasco. What can I say? It’s global. It’s hitting the euro-zone hard. Ask any Athenian and he’ll blame his woes on the German Chancellor. Ask many Africans and they would settle for the economic woes of the Greeks – and, by implication, introduce you to the idea that austerity is a relative concept.

My memories of the Age of Austerity of my childhood feature three meals a day around that scrub-topped, seven-seater dining table – which had room for three or four incomers at weekends. True enough, we all had trim figures in those days, but I don’t recall actual hunger. What I do recall are those scenes at musing around the family table when, however many or however few of us there were, spontaneously and gratefully we gave thanks. My mother had written a verse of grace to the tune of ‘Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow’, and we sang it with gusto.

Gratitude. Is that what we are all in danger of forgetting?

Hello! You guys were praying?” she cried.

“Yes, we were,” said Colson.

“That’s great!” said the waitress so that everybody heard. “I’m a Christian. At least, er, I used to be . . . she continued. “Lost interest. Went to Hawaii. Forgot about it. But when I saw you guys praying I’ve got excited all over again.

Colson wrote later, “Until that night I’d felt awkward about praying over meals in restaurants. Never again.

From the first age of austerity I recall gratitude to God for His provision. I also recall a sceptical visitor asking why God deserved so much of the credit for our daily bread. And I remember my father’s response: ‘Back of the loaf is the snowy flour.

And back of the flour the mill.

And back of the mill are the wheat and the shoe.

And the sun – and the Father’s will.’

What is Jesus’ advice to the persecuted? (Matthew 5)

What is the natural response to persecution? (Psalm 69)

Who is the One who sets up kings and deposes kings? (Daniel 2)

What are we all in danger of forgetting?

It’s strange how some dreams seem to last longer than others.

I saw it was time to get up, and I did. It’s strange how some dreams seem to last longer than others. But then, dreams are not usually important or real, are they?

Imagine being obsessed with a burden for the last, and not thinking about anything else. What kind of a person are you? That is all I can think about. I can’t think of anything else. Then he stopped speaking. 

I saw him crying, and the people who had asked him the questions were crying too.

Thank you. Crying people embarrass me. All this emotion made me feel uneasy. It was a very strange dream. I saw it was time to get up, and I did.

Gratitude. Is that what we are all in danger of forgetting?

The president’s dream

by Patrick Boyle

Some people dream dreams they cannot remember, but remember a lot of mine. Recently I had a very strange one about someone else’s dream. I know you’ll laugh, but I had a dream about a dream the General Conference president had it went like this:

He was sitting in his office with a long queue of people outside, all waiting to speak to him. In turn, each visitor confronted him with his or her serious or urgent questions.

One wanted to know what he was doing to make the Church more aware of the signs of Christ’s imminent return. Another quizzed him on his views about science and a thousand-year-old creation. Another wanted to know, “What is the Church doing about Islam?” One minister even enquired about same-gender relationships. A rather agitated couple wanted to know his views on women’s ordination. Someone else told him that publishing the book Great Controversy was a foolish exercise because people do not read long books!

As the people came out, they milled around complaining that he had achieved nothing. One wanted to know what he was doing to make the Church see that they were losing the battle to young people. Someone else wanted to know why he was allowing the Movement to continue and not encouraging them to change name to something?

The implacable Jehu, given the instruction to end the idolatrous System of the House of Ahab, which had been killing the Lord’s prophets (2 Kings 9:1-7), embarked on what can only be described as a most ruthless, violent, and bloody campaign. He had the sons of Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, killed (2 Kings 9:5-34), then the rest of Ahab’s household (2 Kings 10:1-17), then finally the entire system of Baal worship – and anyone who still clung to it (2 Kings 10:18-28).

Jehu recognised that he was fulfilling prophecy, and the LORD commended the termination of the House of Ahab, the most evil dynasty Israel had ever seen (1 Kings 16:30-34; 2 Kings 9:23, 26; 10:30). However, Jehu still worshipped the national idol of Israel, and the LORD sent Hazael against him as a result, cutting off Israel’s territory, piece by piece, until the Lord had ploughed them up because there was almost nothing left for them to lose (2 Kings 10:9, 25; 11:17). Their military was on the verge of collapse. They were on the edge of annihilation. The great prophet Elisha had done its very best to save them. But it had failed. They were losing the battle.

Elisha seemed to be dragging his feet with this anointing, the next verse shows why. Hazael was going to do some really nasty things to the Israelites. Hazael, shocked, claimed he wouldn’t dream of doing them – but when he found out he was going to be king of Syria, he wasted no time in becoming the murderer Elisha prophesied he would (2 Kings 8:5-12).

Elisha, understandingly, left his next anointing to one of the sons of the prophets. It seems he didn’t want to turn it once he’d done so (2 Kings 9:1-3). The hysterical, irrational manner in which Jehu’s comrades first denounced the prophet, then acted upon his message to make him king, is recalled:

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If a man is suffering from acute loneliness, symptoms will ultimately emerge. Some of these symptoms are similar, but not identical, to those experienced by someone who is The danger zone

nurture

What happens when men experience loneliness – a ‘must-read’ for everyone

by Pastor Andrew Rushford-Hewitt, NEC

I was during the years between 1982 and 1984, the golden years of the camp meeting experience down at Poole in Dorset. The speaker was Pastor Dick Barron, and the hall was packed. Everyone eagerly await-ed his opening sermon. Then, as he began, Pastor Barron said: ‘O, I’m so lonely!’ Since hearing that recording, I have heard those words resonated in a cacophony of personal experiences from teenagers, young men and women, male and female adults, senior citizens as well as pastors – all of whom have cried out from deep within their souls, ‘O, I’m so lonely!’ Perhaps this is what the writer of Psalm 102,6, 7 meant when he wrote (KJV), ‘I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert. I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top.’

But how can this be? Surely amid all our Adventist activity people cannot be so terribly lonely within our churches, especially men! Unfortunately the truth is feelings of loneliness are not at all uncommon within our churches, even for those among us who are benefitting from the helping and caring professions. If the truth be told, many of them have experienced what I call ‘leadership loneliness’, the strain of leading in the face of opposition and misunderstanding when no one else seems to have caught the vision.

Loneliness

What do I mean by loneliness? Wikipedia.org describes it as ‘a state of mind in which a person feels a strong sense of emptiness, yearning, distress and solitude resulting from inadequate quantity or quality of social relationships’. The reality is that even for young men, loneliness is something that we all should take seriously as it can affect one’s mental health. A recent article by the Campaign to End Loneliness, entitled ‘Measuring Loneliness’, stated that approximately one in twenty adults aged over 16 feel ‘completely lonely’ in their daily lives. Loneliness is something we all should take seriously as it can affect one’s mental health. The Daily Telegraph dated 13 August 2012, in an article entitled ‘Loneliness as Harmful as Smoking and Obesity’, indicated how loneliness affects one’s mental wellbeing and can lead to ‘an increased level of depression’.

Loneliness can be dangerous Recently I was deeply saddened when I was informed of a young man in his twenties who committed suicide due to feelings of rejection, despair, loneliness and depression. Loneliness can also affect older men. An article dated 7 May 2003 in Aging Mental Health, entitled ‘Loneliness, Health and Depression in Older Males’, indicated that ‘social isolation may also influence the experience of depression in older males’. Unfortunately, loneliness is not something that is going to go away. An article by BBC News Health of 9 July 2012 quoted Laura Ferguson, director of the Campaign to End Loneliness, who said that ‘Loneliness is a public health issue to be tackled urgently.’ So, as Christians, if loneliness is so prevalent, where do we see it stemming from?

In the beginning …

Biblically, loneliness can be traced back to man’s pre-Fall state in Genesis 2 – for there in Eden, Adam had a sense of loneliness. This indicates that God created us for social fellowship with each other. Unfortunately, due to Adam and Eve’s sin (Gen. 3) and mankind’s subsequent fallen state, our sense of loneliness is now more acute than God intended. Now, because of sin, loneliness involves estrangement, mistrust, separation and alienation. This doesn’t mean, however, that a person experiencing loneliness is a terrible sinner, but that loneliness is a part of our human condition. Problems that is why we are not surprised when society has emerged with such things as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, social networks that offer a form of connection. Indeed, some may argue that while these connections do have a role to play, they don’t allow people to feel connected on a more personal level.

Loneliness and what men think others will think

‘But what does all this have to do with men?’ I hear you ask. Surely men don’t experience loneliness? Allow me to share some general observations from my counselling and pastoral experience. After speaking with men on this matter, someone described loneliness as an ‘invisible friend that you don’t want, an annoying friend who just keeps coming back’. Yet another described it as ‘just me and my shadow, and sometimes even that seems to leave me’. While some men accepted loneliness, most are not so willing, and herein lies a major problem.

For many men, admitting they are lonely is like admitting that they are weak and socially inept, as loneliness is commonly seen as something associated with women or the elderly. Also, men fear that if they should open up to other men about feeling lonely, they will be seen as weaklings. This fear of what other men will think is a major factor for most men when dealing with life issues. It leads to increased brokenness among men. Roy McCloughry points out in his book, Hearing Men’s Voices, that white men fear what other men will think of them, which they will become even ‘more isolated’.

Young men – free, single and lonely

Another aspect of loneliness for young men is being single and lonely. A single man who was in his late thirties expressed it as follows: ‘Being single at this point in my life is no fun; you see other male friends settling down and it makes you feel miserable because you would like to be in a positive relationship/marriage too. You spend time with them and with your friends but they begin to think that something is wrong with you because you are male and still single! Then you begin to think that those same male friends don’t really want to spend time with you – they have their own families after all – and what’s more, you get tired of feeling like a gooseberry! You know the saying: two’s company and three’s a crowd!’

Thus, for some single men, singleness brings its own share of loneliness, and for a male divorcee it can sometimes be even more problematic, due to the issues surrounding divorce and re-marriage, including the stigma associated with having had a broken marriage.

Married and lonely

But what of men in marriage? can they be lonely also? Indeed, loneliness in marriage can happen when a man and his wife have failed to connect on a more intimate, emotional, social, and spiritual level, or when he feels misunderstood. At various times during my ministry men have expressed frustration and a sense of loneliness when their wives have been pre-occupied with their careers, or church life, or just totally absorbed in their care for their children. In such instances some men have experienced disappointment and felt loneliness when they seem to be edged out of the parenting role.

Regrettably, if a man feels lonely in marriage he may begin to drift away from his spouse rather than towards her. In such cases, if the matter is not worked through with the spouse, or if counsel is not sought early on, then alienation can lead to marital breakdown and a door of temptation can be opened that may lead to extra-marital affairs.

The family man and loneliness

Loneliness can also be experienced by fathers and husbands who face the pressures of supporting and caring for their families – especially in the light of our current economic climate. For example, the financial pressures of holding down a job to provide for the family, the growing and often unpredictable emotional needs of the children; the complexity felt in trying to meet his wife’s emotional needs, coupled with the expectation that he be the priest of the home. Add to this his need to be a spiritual model in the church, along with the ‘Great Expectations’ he may feel he has to live up to for his wider family, friends and community – not to mention his own internal expectations for himself.

All of these factors can bring immense pressure to bear upon a man’s shoulders, while his greatest inner fear is that he will fail and be seen as a failure. This fear of failure only increases his sense of isolation.

One family man who felt the fear of failure and the loneliness associated with the weight of expectations explained what taking a shower meant to him. ‘A shower is something that haunts many. Arecent article by the Campaign to End Loneliness, entitled ‘Measuring Loneliness’ describes it as an ‘unpleasant feeling in which a person feels a strong sense of emptiness, yearning, distress and solitude resulting from inadequate quantity or quality of social relationships’.

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Dr Steve Thomas, SEC Youth director

Any sincere effort to establish present attitudes and future trends within our faith community deserves commendation and attention. For this reason we have decided to publish some key conclusions from the recently completed ‘SEC youth and teens 2012 survey’. The final document was compiled by Paul Thompson* (SEC Youth Advisory), but we have had to edit it for summary purposes. Please contact the SEC Youth department for the full electronic copy.

*Paul Thompson is the executive vice-chairman of Experts Credit.

T his is one of the most in-depth random youth and teens surveys carried out in the last ten years, during which 1,298 youth and teens were asked to paint a vivid picture of their current church life. The evidence suggests that they are genuinely interested in the future, well-being and growth of the Church – but not without reservation. For example, 77% of those surveyed believe that it is a good/great idea to redesign Sabbath services to make them more innovative and interesting, to help new converts join the faith. Without this, in their view, we will not achieve our true potential growth.

**Recreational life**
The results support the view that recreational events build the Church (66%) and that we have failed to capitalise on the key social media tools to bring the message home to the new iPhone and Blackberry generation.

Basicall, the survey is telling us to offer more social and recreational events to make church life more enjoyable for young people.

**Spiritual needs**
However, despite the zeal and enthusiasm of the youth, a worrying red flag was raised by the question: ‘My spiritual needs are being met by the congregation I attend.’ Sadly, 39% felt they were unsure, disagreed or strongly disagreed that the Church delivers what is required to sustain their long-term spirituality. More worrying is whether this figure is a growing, long-term trend, as no data exist against which to measure it. We now have a stake in the ground, however, and this will feature as a key statistic in future surveys.

This involved a number of issues. Are weekly sermons having an impact? Are Sabbath School lessons and other forms of training equipping them to tackle the key challenges facing young Britons today? Is the Church enabling them to cope with high-profile social issues such as crime and gang culture, binge drinking and drug misuse, teenage sexual health and pregnancy, exam pressure, unemployment and negative stereotyping, and hanging out with nothing to do and nowhere to go?

Of those surveyed, 66% felt that worship services helped only to a small extent, or not at all, in the day-to-day issues of life.

Are the pastors ‘in touch’?
So where do the pastors feature in the lives of our youth in the Church today? Are they in touch? A recent ministerial workers’ survey, which sought to measure pastoral perception of youth spirituality, revealed the following to the question: “My youth spiritual needs are met by being met by the congregational pastor.” Eighty-eight percent were in agreement.

By stark contrast, the survey showed that nearly 70% of our youth conclude that worship services add only marginal value to their Christian experience. Why is this? A study for themselves and to fulfill the whole responsibility for weekly spiritual input in their lives, yet in all sincerity our youth seem to be fulfilling their needs.

The challenges revealed in the survey should be seen as opportunities for change, to take the Church forward. Although the youth appear to be struggling to find their place in the church in its current shape, the facts reveal that they have an unquenchable, earnest desire to bring others to the message. Providing the Church is willing to change direction, this should be a win-win situation.

One of the questions relating to evangelism was, ‘Would you be prepared to invite friends or relatives who do not now attend a worship service?’ Sixty percent said they would, and have done so in the last twelve months. Twenty-five percent, however, were not prepared to do so until the Church made real changes to the style and content of worship service messages, and other youth with the real-life issues facing youth in society today.

**Outreach**
Our youth also have a desire to become engaged in front-line evangelism and community ministry. Seventy-five percent of those surveyed would like to become involved in UK or overseas mission activities delivering aid, working with the poor and homeless, assisting drug rehabilitation programmes, or working with battered women or sexual abuse victims. A further 21% agree that it is a very good idea.

Despite the survey revealing an intrinsic desire to be involved, the results also showed an underlying tension. Many youths would like to be allowed to establish their ministries in church and this is a root cause of frustration. The current Church model does not readily accommodate ‘out of the box’ concepts, and many youths complain about bureaucracy, overregulation and lack of funding when they try to get their ministries off the ground.

Sixty-eight percent of our young people would like the freedom to establish their own ministry groups; however, only one in ten of these percentage are able to do so at present. Lack of funding and underinvestment in youth outreach were cited as a root cause.

**Conclusion**
In Britain today, we have the opportunity to make a real change before it is too late. To invest in our youth spiritually and financially, and give them the emotional security and freedom to take our Church in the UK forward, however, we must act now and we must empower them today.

The history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church reminds us of young people, driven by the Holy Spirit, being able to preach, teach and lead in the establishment of the end-time Church. God’s hand has led the Church in the past; therefore let us not fear. We must define a clear role for the young people in the Church, and let them take their place and lead.

Dr Steve Thomas, SEC Youth director
Ripples of goodness in Long Eaton
by the editor

Many of us are painfully aware of the plight of many smaller charities in the face of the Government’s public spending cuts. Canaan Trust is one of those charities that fell before this slashing sword of austerity and, although still supported by their local council, they face dark days ahead.

The trust is dedicated to providing ‘the homeless with somewhere they can come to start the process of rebuilding their lives’. Something it has been doing tirelessly in Long Eaton (Nottinghamshire) since 1995.

On Saturday evening, 29 September, I attended a benefit concert arranged by Long Eaton Adventist Church on behalf of this trust. And what a success – not only did they raise £1,307 for this worthy charity, but they also created ripples of goodness in that community.

The event was a celebration of giving. The Gospel singing group, Palmers and Friends, gave their talent for the evening. TESCO and ASDA gave refreshments, and so on. The church members devoted time as parking and door attendants, ticket sellers and ushers, and for a host of other essential duties. The local mayor, Jennifer Hults, and her consort, Bob Hults, gave up their precious time to attend in an official capacity.

In fact, there were 180 people in attendance and they all seemed to enjoy themselves. One visitor said, ‘When is the next one?’. Another: ‘We need more of this happening in our community to bring us out!’

At the heart of the event was Pastor Roman Smejkal and his enthusiastic team, showing that Adventists can make a difference while making good friends.

Well done!

Diamond wedding anniversary – Ron and Rachel Surridge

Sunday 12 August 2012 marked the diamond wedding anniversary of Pastor and Mrs Ron and Rachel Surridge.

They were married in Binfield on 12 August 1952 and left to live in Ipswich, where Ron served as an intern with Pastor S. G. Hyde. After a period of five years of study in America they returned to England.

Like many ministerial couples of the nineteen-fifties and sixties, Ron and Rachel spent a number of years as missionaries in West Africa. Ron worked as a teacher and pastor in East Nigeria, Ghana. Rachel worked as a teacher, mainly teaching the children of other missionaries, but also her own two boys, Robert and John.

In 1969 Ron gained a Master’s degree from Manchester University before serving as a departmental director at the British Union Conference and then as minister of the Stanborough Park church. Again Rachel served as a teacher, this time at Stanborough Primary School. Further periods of service included the Trans-European Division (Youth director), Northern Ireland and the North England Conference (President), and a period of teaching at Newbold College.

In retirement Ron and Rachel have remained very active, both in their local church at Grantham and in the various churches they have visited around the North England Conference.

Prayer and Faith Conference

18th-22nd February 2013
STANBOROUGH PARK SCHOOL WATFORD WD25 9JT
£15 per person
Plates and utensils provided. Drink and food in your own containers.
PHONE 01923 222 128 EMAIL depjohn@adventist.org.uk
www.secyouth.co.uk

Ripples of goodness in Long Eaton

Twelve baptised in ‘The Better Option’

Two weeks of compelling ministry by Pastor Joseph Smith, from the Northern Caribbean University (supported by his wife, Orchid), exuberant praise and worship and a health awareness segment constituted ‘The Better Options’ – an evangelistic series at the Willesden church between 1 and 15 September.

The nightly messages to a packed sanctuary were streamed live, preceded by ‘cutting edge’ health presentations on the heart, the prostate and children’s holistic health. Worship started with a video (www.willesden-adventist.com) and praise.

In the first week, Pastor Smith focused on a relationship with God and living a life that counts, ‘The Need for Promoting the Better Option’, ‘The Better Option to Happiness and Freedom’, ‘The Better Option to Crime and Violence’ and ‘The Name for the Better Option’. Hearts were stirred and three were baptised on Sabbath, 8 September: Claudette Gentles, Fabian Cummings and Monesi Molapo.

The second week, messages included ‘The Better Option to Debt’, ‘The Better Option to Obedience’, ‘Experiencing the Better Option’, ‘The Urgency of Embracing the Better Option’ and ‘The Better Option in Service and Commitment’. The baptism of a further nine individuals came on 15 September, the final day of the series: Tamar Deleón, Jhewayne Estereño, Joshua Jackson, Jermaine Lyndon, Joan Malcolm, Andrew Gjelajo, Kemique Scarfliter, Marvina P. Wilson, and Arthur Yambyayamba.

Final words of encouragement came from Orchid Smith, in her beautiful poem on ‘stepping’ with Christ, our truest friend.

The campaign concluded with Tina Brooks and Joyce David leading the Willesden choir in a rendition of ‘The Hallelujah Chorus’. An exclusive interview with Pastor Smith can be seen at: https://vimeo.com/49983352.

Prayer and Faith Conference

Baptism in the surf

Pastor Chris Peake, area leader in Cornwall and Devon, said: ‘Jake Jackson joined the team as an unbaptised volunteer. . . . Belonging to a group that was just living out their Christian faith in an honest and authentic manner brought Jake to faith. . . . Jake learnt to belong before he believed.’

www.willesden-adventist.com

Well done!
First trip to Kenya for Curative Music Foundation

A special fundraising programme was held at Edmonton Church on Saturday, 6 October, for the Curative Music Foundation Ltd. London Adventist Chorale member, Vivegy Fifi McKenzie-Cook, told of her first trip to Kenya for the charity, which lasted from 23 May to 14 June.

The charity, launched in May 2012 by Fifi and husband Terrence, was created to help African children and young people to learn music. The couple’s plan is to build a music centre in the small town of Dolo Dolo, in Naivasha.

Fifi spoke of how God has constantly been leading the project: ‘My friend has her own charity. . . . almost immediately she said that they already had 13 acres of land and that we could put the music centre there for free. I didn’t expect this! It was like an answered prayer.’

Making Seventh-day Adventist education more affordable

Many Seventh-day Adventist parents in the UK would love to send their children to an Adventist school, but may think this too expensive. The good news is that Seventh-day Adventist education at Stanborough Secondary School may be more affordable than you think. Stanborough fees are already reduced, and all scholarship students are entitled to a 30% discount. Additionally, Stanborough Secondary School is offering scholarships and bursaries for the second year running. Last year 13 multi-award scholarships and bursaries were awarded.

The examination will take place on 25 November, 8-9pm, for prospective students applying from 7, 8, and 10 in September 2015. The maximum award is worth a 30% reduction in tuition fees. Candidates must register and pay an administration fee of £15. To find out more about the eligibility criteria, please contact Mrs Joanne Portfield at stbro@adventist.org.uk or call 01923 673 244.

The Women’s Ministries also targeted the youth. Women were taught how to check their breasts for abnormalities. Other themes included ‘Last-chance Parents’, how to handle children and be supportive, men as role models, and clothes and fashion.

First aid training

As soon as the North England Conference Session ended, departmental directors Grace Walsh and Pastor Alan Hush engaged in first aid training in the conference room in the Zulla Road office on Sunday 7 October. Ten students gathered to complete this vital part of Master Guide training. The first aid qualification is now recognised outside the Church: accredited by First Aid International, the course gives competence and confidence in basic first aid skills.

Pat, from Nottingham Central, has had reason to use first aid skills twice in her life, and found the Nottingham course was more than a simple refresh.

Grace Walsh, NEC Health director, says, ‘It could help to save a life on this earth for those. . . . also leading people to spiritual salvation.’

Music summer school at Stanborough Park Church


Music workshops taught by professional musicians included the guitar, clarinet, ocarina, harp, and piano, as well as choir sessions. On the final day a very successful lunchtime concert was arranged for the parents.

The second summer music school at the church, was organised by Jee Ahn, director of the Stanborough College of Music, who aims to make this department of the church a music centre of excellence for the local area.

New opportunities for students

Students interested in the British Union Conference’s new opportunities for young people are encouraged to apply.

Scholarships & Bursaries

The British Union Conference invites applicants for the position of Primary Headteacher, effective from 1 January 2013.

Stanborough Primary School is a dynamic Adventist school, with a Christian and multicultural ethos. It is popular with both the Seventh-day Adventist constituency and the local community, and has thrived under the leadership of Mrs Hassan; the BUC now seeks a suitably qualified educator and school leader to succeed her. The successful candidate will be a practising Seventh-day Adventist and is expected to demonstrate:

- Vision and leadership skills to motivate and inspire the staff in fulfilling the mission of the school.
- Sound grasp of educational leadership and management principles and the ability to be an effective professional leader and team builder;
- The skills to manage and develop the curriculum and to meet the needs of pupils, the expectations of the church community and national initiatives;
- The ability to work with parents in developing school policies, formulating the strategic plan and managing the school’s improvement strategy for raising achievement;
- A successful track record in contributing to the creation of an effective teaching and learning school community;
- An understanding and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy and practice of education; and
- Good interpersonal, managerial and interpersonal skills.

Further details and an application pack are available from: Mrs Anne Pilmoor, Education Director, British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Hatfield, Herts WD25 1AZ. Tel: 01723 672351. Email: apilmoor@adventist.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 22 November 2012

Music summer school at Stanborough Park Church

Nurturing your future through Quality Education

Register Now:

- Multimomial awards, up to 50% off tuition fees
- Candidates: Year 7, Year 9 or Year 10 prospective students
- Examination: 25 November 2012, 14.00 to 17.00.

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Dundee’s International Day

International Day at Dundee Church on Sabbath 6 October started with a concert led by Pastor Neil Robertson fired challenging statements at the Sabbath School class: but his context was the great controversy and God’s unfolding love.

Dundee Lord Provost Bob Duncan, accompanied by his wife, led a colourful ‘parade of the nations’ with national flags, before all sang ‘We Have This Hope’.

Morning and afternoon programmes featured prayers, Scripture readings, music, poetry and talks, many in different languages. Pastor Marcel Gheoalina gave a action-packed children’s story on honesty and a sermon on not settling into mediocrity after miracles take place in our lives.

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Men’s Ministries

The Women’s Ministries also targeted the youth. Women were taught how to check their breasts for abnormalities. Other themes included ‘Last-chance Parents’, how to handle children and be supportive, men as role models, and clothes and fashion.

Friday night’s teen-focused topic focused on how, when teens fall in love with Jesus, nothing can stand in their way. The teens helped us to reflect on how the behaviour of older members affects them.


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Divine Hour, Valerie Bernard gave a thought-provoking sermon on not setting into mediocrity after miracles take place in our lives.

AYS, taken by Patsy Reid, included scenarios to raise awareness of breast cancer, and the special offering will go towards breast cancer research.

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Newcomers to Grantham

On Sabbath 6 October, Newark Church joined Grantham
Llangollen Group. They were there to celebrate harvest, and also for the dedication of Abigail, baby daughter of Rebecca and Matthew Sammy. A full church welcomed friends and family from across the country.

The recipients of the harvest gifts are the Grantham Foodbank and the Yorkshire Children’s Trust. They were asked to give thanks to God for their generosity.

Pamela Marie Sobieradzki (1944-2022) d. 22 June.

Pamela came from Wales, travelled to London to study, married Edward O’Neill and eventually lived in Colchester. She was a student who searched for truth, who kept an open Bible, an open dictionary and an open mind. She loved to meet with other women for many years. She visited Wales, London and Bath with her mother for many years. She travelled to Wales with her husband and son, and travelled to Wales with her parents for many years.

The people attending passed by Joseph Swain was remarked upon especially for its lyrics. Jesus becomes real during distress.

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY

The Halifax community met at St Hilda’s Church, Halifax, where they always have a warm welcome. The Halifax congregation met at St Hilda’s Church, Halifax, where they always have a warm welcome.

Super Sabbath School

On 6 September, Sabbath School at Holloway Church was upgraded to Super Sabbath School as SEC Personal Ministers director, Pastor Kim Kernan, transformed ministry from its usual class format into a number of pastors in our churches today. Richard also left a legacy as an author, having written and published two books: The Power of a Double Portion and The Olympic Christian.

Pamela was suffering from cancer. She was brave and trusted in her Lord. She passed away on 22 July. We believe that ‘nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (Romans 8:39). We will be one of God’s jewels in His Kingdom.

Pamela leaves Edward, her husband, and two daughters, Megan and Lorraine, knowing that God’s promises will come true.

Pastor Richard Anderson Holder (1956-2012) d. 18 September.

Richard Anderson Holder served in the South England Conference as a pastor for more than twenty-seven years. Born on the sunny island of Barbados on 18 April 1956, Richard attended the Colridge School and Victoria Park Secondary School until he came to the UK in 1980 to reside with his family. In 1979, Richard married his beloved Connie Cornelius of Greensboro, NC. They were blessed with four children: Daniel, Nathaniel, Hadasah and Candace.

With his sharp mind and creative ability to express the Word of God, Pastor Holder was indeed a gifted and eloquent preacher and well-travelled minister. Richard had a well-rounded worldview and could appreciate and relate to different cultural settings. He was respected by both church members and other ministers. Pastor Holder was instrumental in training a number of young ministers during those thirty years. He was a man of integrity and dignity, and a great sense of humour.

Interestingly, Pastor Holder was not only gifted in speech but was also very skillful and exceptionally gifted with his hands. He designed and made Crystal Clear Communion Sets, which are used by a number of pastors in our churches today. Richard also left a legacy as an author, having written and published two books.

Salutations and Farewells in the British Union Conference 1981-1985

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Going for Gold

A sporting challenge commenced at 9.30am on 8 September when the youth of Wednesfield Church (Wolverhampton) took their places on the starting line.

Their trainers, Jonathon McCool and Febbie Sulumba, engaged the spiritual athletes, family and friends in the art of running the Christian race.

Among the track events were a pledge to Christ and a ‘skit’ performed by some of the athletes. Other athletes joined the praise team and choir, and after lunch a health challenge was presented by Joseph Platt.

Dr Michael Hamilton (Prayer Ministries director, TED) expanded upon the theme, ‘Lord, Make Me Whole’, by reminding attendees of God’s healing power, and Dr Christopher Levy (emergency physician and lifestyle doctor) gave a presentation on chronic diseases. Sharon Platt-McDonald (Health director, BUC) enthusiastically outlined how diet, positive thought patterns and willingness to forgive can improve our physical health, while Janet Hamilton (MOHAP founding director) facilitated a short interactive discussion on our sovereign God.

One lady, after nearly a year of extreme chronic back pain, put her trust in God and waited. One morning, weeks later, she awoke and the pain had completely gone and never returned. Another individual testified at the end of the day, ‘I came in with a request for healing and I’m leaving healed. Praise God!’ The day was punctuated with corporate prayer, and Heather Haworth (Prayer Ministries director, BUC) reverently facilitated personal prayer sessions.

A number of pastors attended, some specifically to minister in the anointing service, introduced by Pastor Emmanuel Osei (Prayer Ministries director, SEC).

The next MOHAP day retreat will occur in January 2013—please look out for adverts in the Messenger and on the SEC-BUC events pages. For MOHAP queries, contact Janet Hamilton at: mohaprayen@gmail.com or on 07407 692 256.

JANET HAMILTON