God hasn’t given up on our cities yet!

Although it may seem otherwise, God hasn’t given up on our cities yet! Why not? For the simple reason that they are still packed with people who need to know about His saving grace.

At first they may appear indifferent, resistant, impervious to truth. But as this brief testimony by Kevin Lynn of Londonderry Church reveals, they are not beyond God’s reach.

Kevin was baptised by Pastor Claudiu Popescu on 15 December last year, during the second week of the Belfast riots. Let him tell his story...

*This is an edited version of his original testimony.*

I’ll be honest, I’ve spent quite a lot of my early life trying to disprove the Word of God. I met a number of Christians while involved with online gaming. They seemed convinced that their Jesus was different to mine. He was a Creator Jesus, and they didn’t believe that He ‘designed’ by natural selection and blind chance.

So I began to look for ways to disprove their silly ideas, first through evolution, then philosophy, archaeology, physics and theology. I suppose I resented this God who felt He had the right to judge me!

So I searched for a way out. Some way that I could comfortably deny this ‘new’ Jesus – this Person who actually wanted to play a part in my life. A Jesus who wanted more from me than a quick ‘dial up’ prayer spiced with a ‘Hail Mary’, two ‘Our Fathers’ and a ‘Glory be’, before I hung up on Him.

Surely this different Jesus didn’t exist? I decided to investigate, so I could comfortably put the matter behind me.

I guess the reason why I’m an Adventist is because I like to be thorough. I’m the type of person who will watch a big news story on Fox, then switch to CNN, then switch to Al-Jazeera – and that’s before I decide to turn on the laptop. This was the method I used, as I set out to disprove this ‘Creator’ Jesus.

So what was it that brought me to Christ, and to this Church? I grew up here in the city. My family and my wife’s family have not escaped the troubles many have experienced while growing up in Northern Ireland. I have felt the hatred tearing our community apart, resulting in displays of some of the worst behaviour that a world lost to the hope of Christ can achieve.

So who’s to blame? Where’s the focus?

Eventually I realised it’s a trick meant to focus our attention here. For me, a Catholic boy growing up in Derry, it took a while to realise that we need to stop looking locally for someone to blame. We need to see the big picture, to realise that the blame doesn’t lie here or there, but, to quote Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV), it lies with ‘the rulers of the darkness of this age’, with ‘spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places’.

I’ve discovered that the Solution to this problem is Jesus. Seriously, as I said earlier, I’ve taken a long, hard look at the Bible. And I’ve spent a considerable amount of time studying the book of Revelation, after I discovered the value of Scripture.

Do you know, I’m pretty sure we’ve got it. Here in this Church, it’s my humble opinion that we’ve understood the message correctly. It is now my sure testimony that I was wrong. Jesus is the Creator! I’ve not led a sinless life. Quite the opposite. I won’t go into detail, but one of the reasons I came to the Adventists is because we offer a kind of ‘university’ course on how to walk the Christian life – how to be sanctified. I place my eternal destiny in the hands of Christ’s atonement alone. I feel our only hope in the heavenly courtroom is Jesus; however, He did say to us: ‘If you love Me, keep My commandments.’ (John 14:15, NKJV.)

And that’s really the end of that argument for me.
**Physical**
- Ask God for self-control
- Eat wholesome food daily
- Take regular exercise
- Ensure adequate nightly sleep of 8 hours
- Schedule quiet time daily
- De-clutter – get rid of excess possessions

**Health tips for a vibrant 2013**

What would you like 2013 to yield in terms of your emotional, physical, spiritual and social well-being? In recent years I have used a ‘Transformation Worksheet’ in my Healthy Lifestyle seminars. Why not give it a try and see the result for yourself?

**Emotional Action:**
- Ask God for wisdom to balance each aspect of your life
- Pray for a positive mindset
- Learn to manage stress
- Assess your thinking
- Practise forgiveness
- Schedule ‘me’ time

**Outcome:**
- Reassurance of God’s empowerment
- Emotional resilience and an optimistic outlook
- Decreased stress and irritability
- Mental clarity and alertness
- Peace of mind
- Space to reflect, de-stress and ‘recharge’

**Physical Action:**
- Ask God for self-control
- Eat wholesome food daily
- Take regular exercise
- Ensure adequate nightly sleep of 8 hours
- Schedule quiet time daily
- De-clutter – get rid of excess possessions

**Spiritual Action:**
- Begin and end the day with God in prayer and devotion
- Memorise promise Scriptures and repeat often
- Pray for daily strength
- Pray for a forgiving spirit
- Connect regularly with a prayer partner

**Outcome:**
- Increased faith in God and more reliance on Him
- Assurance that God has a ‘word’ for every situation to sustain and assist you
- Peace and hope in times of challenge and trouble

**Social Action:**
- Associate with a mentor/prayer partner/buddy
- Share in a ministry, outreach or community initiative
- Make time for family/friends
- Enjoy fun and relaxing activities/hobbies
- Learn something new

**Outcome:**
- Good social and emotional support with added inspiration
- A sense of purpose and the achievement of common goals
- Enriched sense of belonging, value and connectivity
- Balance and diversity in your life
- Self-development and increased productivity

Good health!

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**Enhancing Health**

_by Sharon Flett-Ncolmé, RGN, RM, RMN, MSc Health Writer, freelance, WIC_

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**Fast food**

This astonishing picture was submitted by Peter Dutton of Crosscombe Church. He had put his budgie outside for some fresh air, but the sparrowhawk thought he had opened up a new ‘fly-through’ restaurant.

Please keep sending me your pictures of all things nature. Send them in to me at: debn@stanthorntonpress.org.uk. Just remember to keep them ‘hi-res’ – Happy snapping!

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**To see more of your images, go to:**

http://adventuresinministry.org.uk/advastoolkit/megapixels

*Pictures sent in to us for hi-res. Happy snapping!*

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**Action:**

**Outcomes:**

- Body in balance
- Good body maintenance
- Improved overall health and longevity
- Increased energy and zest for life
- Rejuvenation
- Body in balance
- Good body maintenance
- Improved overall health and longevity
- Increased energy and zest for life
- Rejuvenation

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**Editor**

_What would you like 2013 to yield in terms of your emotional, physical, spiritual and social well-being? In recent years I have used a ‘Transformation Worksheet’ in my Healthy Lifestyle seminars. Why not give it a try and see the result for yourself?_
Thought Alice, and she went on. "Would you like the name: however, it only grinned a very wicked smile, very much like the kind of smile I had sometimes seen on the faces of people who are talking in their sleep."

"In other words, is our behaviour sometimes an invasion? I can't imagine what it must have been like then, as I have difficulty even with signposts, but I suppose, because of petrol shortages and road signs are not always the help that we were expecting."

"Not to stretch a point too much, we can see the Cheshire Cat and the devil. Apart from the teeth and long claw, he, too, would fall all into a false sense of security, making us believe that it doesn't matter much which way we go."

I have absolutely no sense of direction and road signs are not always the help that they're supposed to be either. I have particular difficulty with B roads. Have you ever noticed that, if you're lucky enough to find a signpost in the next crossroads or T-junction, the town or village doesn't give you a mention and you're supposed to know by instinct which way to go? If there's a choice of two, I will invariably take the wrong one and then have to backtrack.

During the war in May 1940, all signposts were removed to confuse the enemy in case of an invasion. I can't imagine what it must have been like then, as I have difficulty even with signposts, but I suppose, because of petrol shortages and road signs are not always the help that we were expecting."

"And that depends a good deal on you want to get to," said the Cat. "I don't much care where . . ." said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat. "-- so long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation."

"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough." (Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll.)

"Where are we heading? Do we have an ultimate destination? Are we striving purposefully towards it (like one of Tony Benn's signposts) or merely drifting, going with the flow (like a weathercock)?"

Not to stretch a point too much, we can see the similarity between the Cheshire Cat and the devil. Apart from the teeth and long claw, he, too, would fall all into a false sense of security, making us believe that it doesn't matter much which way we go.

"The Cat only grinned when it saw Alice. It looked good-natured, thought: still it had very long claws and a great many teeth, so she felt that it ought to be treated with respect."

"Cheshi-Puss," began Red, rather shyly, as if she did not at all know whether it would like the name, or the hair on its tail, or the claws, or the eyes, or anything else.

"Come. It's pleased so far," thought Alice, and she went on. "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat. "-- so long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation.

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"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough." (Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll.)
At the end of 2011 I asked God to show me how I could witness for Him from the comfort of my own home. He impressed me to send out inspirational text messages based on my reflections of the goodness of God in 2011.

It worked. The response from both Christians and non-Christians was overwhelming. So I pledged to continue with weekly reflections. A selection of my text messages has been published in tract form by the BUC Women's Ministries department as Reflections from a Country Walk.

Ask God to help you find your way to witness in 2013.

*Contact valgrossett@gmail.com for more information about her unusual ministry.

**Contact avontzalidis@secadventist.org.uk for more information about her unusual ministry.

### Inspirational Texting

**by Val Grossett**

On Sabbath, 17 November 2012, Aberdeen Church’s oldest member, Vi Buchan, celebrated her 92nd birthday with her church family. An avid user of email who keeps busy by helping others, Vi regularly visits CLAN, a cancer support charity in Aberdeen, sharing her pancakes and her company with the residents. She is also known for her book of poems, called The Pearl of Great Price, which she makes available to the members for free distribution.

**Pastor trusts his youth**

Pastor Keith Boldsau, who has a passion for youth, entrusted his pulpit to Bahamian dynamic quartet – Solomon Coke, Andrew Fuller, Kessie Boldsau and Stephen Fuller – during a recent youth evangelistic series.

The results speak for themselves: seven were baptised on the last Sabbath of the series, 15 September 2012.

These are some of the candidates’ comments:

Rudolph said, ‘My friend went on holiday one day and was dead the next day! No way was I going to die without giving my life to Christ – so I made up my mind to get baptised. Since then I have even taken my baptismal certificate to work as proof, and now I get all Sabbaths off!’

Saudia: ‘I am blessed, and it’s the right decision because Jesus has kept me all these years for a purpose.’

Godwin: ‘I experienced the calling through conversation with different people from different churches – I also feel at peace at church; it’s like being at home – the right place and time to progress in my Christian walk with the help of my spiritual guardian.’

**BBC live . . . on Sabbath!**

Most people enjoy listening to carols at Christmas – but there are some members of the community who have little to rejoice about. Bearing this in mind I booked the Middlesbrough town centre for three days of carol singing to be led by our church choir. During these events we did fundraising for three local charities: Stages (a men’s hostel), the women’s hostel and ‘In Out of the Cold’ (an event for the homeless).

I asked the local BBC radio station to advertise the events, and they invited me to come in and ‘go live’ one Sabbath morning. I took our head elder, Jill Geldart, along and she invited all the listeners to our 22 December carol service.

The money raised for ‘In Out of the Cold’ was used to buy hats, gloves, toiletries, lip balm and boiled sweets that were given to the homeless.

**‘Halloween’ mission**

Eliana, Benjamin and Caleb of Loughborough Church knew that some children would knock on their door on 31 October. They wanted to take some positive action, rather than just turning them away. So, inspired by a mission story, they made bags saying, ‘Smile, Jesus Loves You!’ on the front. The reverse bore the message, ‘We love Jesus so we do not celebrate Halloween, but we are happy to share some sweets with you.’ Inside their bags, they placed a few sweets and an invitation to the Bible Star’s club that they attend at church.

**Bible study**

‘Establishing Simple Churches, and general church-planting, is for lay people who are seriously committed to the mission of the Church. Simple Church leaders are frontline missionaries; and we are looking for people who are seriously committed to the mission of the Church.

As a type of church-planting, Simple Churches are formed around three to five Seventh-day Adventists holding church in their homes on Sabbath, solely to evangelise non-Adventists. Programmes include Bible studies, prayer sessions and discussions, combined with social events during the week. The leaders are chosen by the SEC Church Growth department, and they then invite colleagues, neighbours and other contacts to their homes for the weekly meetings.

According to Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, SEC Church Growth director: ‘Establishing Simple Churches, and general church-planting, is for lay people who are seriously committed to the mission of the Church. Simple Church leaders are frontline missionaries; and we are looking for such people to go into communities and do what God has asked of us.’

As the leaders shared music, food, challenges and experiences, it became clear that the strategy is working. For example, the Simple Church in Epsom has been working with a very sick lady for almost a year, and during that time her health has improved and she has become more connected with the church. Other groups have people doing regular Bible studies, with some being baptised!

To find out more about Simple Church, visit: www.simplechurchathome.com or email: avontzalidis@secadventist.org.uk at the South England Conference.

**Older member still active**

On Sabbath, 17 November 2012, Aberdeen Church’s oldest member, Vi Buchan, celebrated her 92nd birthday with her church family. An avid user of email who keeps busy by helping others, Vi regularly visits CLAN, a cancer support charity in Aberdeen, sharing her pancakes and her company with the residents. She is also known for her book of poems, called The Pearl of Great Price, which she makes available to the members for free distribution.

**Sing 4 Hope**

Wimbledon International Church hosted the Sing 4 Hope concert on 24 November last year, raising £700 for the Wimbledon YMCA sports programme for disabled individuals. It was an evening of poems, singing and special musical items. Following the concert, cakes, drinks, and delicious snacks were sold in the back hall. It was a great evening, enjoyed by all, and it enhanced the church’s positive presence within our local community.
**Baptisms**

**Bradford**

Lucia and Grace are keen Bible students, and their faces shone with happiness during their baptism on 17 November last year. Both were baptised by Pastor Isaac Liburd, from whom they had received their studies.

Grace Kabinga was brought up as a Seventh-day Adventist in Kenya, but didn’t realise the value of being in Christ. When she arrived in Bradford University for further studies, on her arrival she met family friends from her village who led her to Bradford Church, where she decided to be baptised.

Each has a unique story to tell about their journey to Jesus. Both started attending the Bradford church with her husband, who is an Adventist – and the rest is history, as they say!

*helen mcgoldrick*

**Manchester**

There was much to celebrate on Sabbath 29 December 2012 as seven precious souls were baptised at Manchester South Church.

The candidates, who are from the several churches of Pastor Frederick Mapp in and around Manchester, were Gideon Jacob Daniel, Carlton Lloyd Morris, Similo Ndhewi, Mark Chidembo, Mphatso Randa, Sirchmaa ‘Bassra’ Bazarup and Vittal Chiyani. Each has a unique story to tell about their journey to Jesus.

The day was particularly special for Gideon Daniel, who was baptised by both his father, Pastor Ebenezer Daniel, and his grandfather, Pastor Shadrach Samuel. Pastor Mapp conducted the other baptisms.

**Hemel Hempstead**

On 8 December last year Akua Agapayuma rededicated her life to Christ through baptism at Hemel Hempstead Church.

She had drifted away from the church, but recently decided to renew her life in Christ. The church was packed as Pastor Jacques Venter baptised her, after which she was warmly welcomed into membership by the congregation.

**Grantham**

There was joy in the Grantham church last year on 17 November – when Taylor James and Ken Cornes were baptised by the outgoing pastor, John Ferguson. Taylor (12) had made his decision after an earlier baptism by Pastor Ferguson and was ‘very excited about getting baptised’. His grandparents had flown over from Perth, WA, especially for the occasion, which was a surprise for Taylor and his family.

Ken, who has attended church for three years with his friend, Joyce Xipu, wanted to be baptised because the ‘goodness of God’ had spoken to his heart!

**Erdington**

Last year Erdington’s evangelistic series began with its members praying for five people they wished to invite to the campaign. They also distributed literature and flyers in the vicinity of the church in order to inform the community of the forthcoming event. Then for two weeks, from 6 October to 20 October, the evangelist, Pastor Orlando Holder, preached a series of inspiring sermons. He was well supported by the community choir, which provided the inspirational music during the event.

At the end of the series, the congregation witnessed the baptism of four candidates: Daniel (Danny) Reid, Deborah Benjamin, Christie Namanja and Hilda Moyo. In addition to this, Moses Jama’a Kanamangwere was received into membership on profession of faith.

The series climaxed on the next day with a church visit to Blackpool, where members enjoyed the rides, the world-renowned illuminations and the fun-walks along the beaches. It was a fun day for all.

**Stanborough Park**

On Sabbath 17 November, Sharon Sinclair and Joanne Gentle shared a day of joy and the culmination of a long journey to Christ.

Sharon has taught art at Stanborough Secondary School for many years, and it has taken her more than a decade to arrive at this point. Her journey started when she drove through the end of a rainbow in Central Watford! From this time she decided to change her life direction, first by training as a teacher and then by taking up her current position in an Adventist school.

For Joanne the road was even longer. Due to a lifetime of low self-esteem, marital failure and numerous other mistakes, she longed for death. Then, at the beginning of 2012, she attended a Communion Service at Stanborough Park Church along with her niece and nephew. On that day her life changed completely. She was home. She says her heart overflowed with joy, the emptiness was filled with love, and for the first time ever she felt at peace: ‘From frightened loneliness without hope to a life full of joy, love and peace in just one year’.

Both were baptised by Stanborough Park’s associate pastor, Karin Więczerzuk.
Baptisms

Rhyl

There was joy in the Welsh air on 17 November last year as the Wrexham and Rhyl churches witnessed the baptism of Mrs Hleegiwe Ncubi. Hleegiwe decided for baptism after studying with Mrs Yvonne David and Pastor David Foster. She is already active at the growing church-plant at Wrexham, and with her family she makes a lively addition to our witness in this part of Wales.

Norwich

There was joy in Norwich Church on 1 December last year, when Pastor Berrie DeDyssche baptised Linda Mapiya and Anita Nyanzuze. Both women have been attending the church for some time with their families.

Glasgow

On 22 December 2012, Victor Da Costa Sharpe and Maria Brusyanina caused much rejoicing in Heaven and in the Glasgow district as they publicly declared their love for Christ. Victor, who was received into the Paisley church, started attending there a year or so ago and has since become an active Pathfinder.

Maria, formerly an Orthodox Christian, has become a Glasgow member. She ‘accidentally’ came across the Adventist Church through an online search. She found that Adventism provided the Baptist services that she was looking for.

On 30 September last year the NEC held an investiture service during which eleven Master Guides and six people who had completed the Pathfinder Leadership Award requirements were invested by BUC Pathfinder director Pastor Nathan Stickland.

Two of those who received their PLAs were Pastors Alan Hush (NEC Pathfinder director) and Ikwisa Mwawumzi (Leeds district). A further twenty Master Guides and four PLA recipients opted for investiture in their local churches.

NEC awards service

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Stanborough Park

Stanborough Park Church closed their Pathfinder year with a weekend of activities on 1 and 2 December, 2012.

During the investiture service, in her short preamble before the distribution of pins, badges and awards, director Florence Allen stated that in spite of all the ‘Red Seas’ they stood fast, and therefore were celebrating the triumphs.

Forty-one Pathfinders and fifteen Adventurers were invested. Among the Pathfinders were ten Friends, eight Companions, seven Explorers, ten Rangers (all advanced), five Voyagers and one Guide. They also invested some Adventurers: one Little Lamb, four Busy Bees, three Sunbeams, five Builders and two Helping Hands.

All of the children gained honours, but some were outstanding, with Outlayo Bright and Gabriella Opulu-Mensah obtaining nineteen each and Fonah Thomas achieving twenty. However, the Pathfinder who obtained the most was Aarinola Ayo-Ipaye with twenty-one honours. Aarinola also received an award for ‘Outstanding Pathfinder of the Year’. The outstanding Adventurer of the Year was Ron Bernados. Fifteen Junior Counsellors volunteered to help the Pathfinders and Adventurers fulfil their requirements; three were nominated for ‘Outstanding Junior Counsellor of the Year’, namely Zayne Mueller-Smith, Rhianne Lee-Murray and Sophie Divine. Zayne Mueller-Smith, who was also responsible for Drilling and Marching in the club, received the award.

After a potluck in the afternoon, the Pathfinders and Adventurers marched into the nearby community to distribute Stanborough News. The weekend was rounded off by a concert and a Pathfinder Fun Day on Sunday 2 December.

Paisley Club invest twenty-four!

The Paisley Adventurer and Pathfinder Club held its investiture programme on 1 December 2012. Twenty-four young people, including club members from Faifley and Irvine, received honours and certificates as a result of a year of hard work.

Scottish Mission sponsor, Clifford Herman presented a short talk on how important it was for them to ‘keep a level eye’ by remembering who they are and to be mindful of how they represent God.

Two things made the investiture all the more special: firstly, five of the club counsellors had been invested as Master Guides two weeks earlier. Secondly, three quarters of the club counsellors are aged between 18 and 22 in keeping with the local church’s policy of encouraging young people to take up leadership positions. Elizabeth Iheomah, the club leader, said, ‘It’s great to be part of these young people’s achievement, which has been the result of a good partnership between the club and the parents and guardians. The church’s support has been outstanding this year – we look forward to another good year of pathfinderizing in 2013.’

Wimbledon awards

On the afternoon of 4 November 2012 Wimbledon International Church held its Pathfinder awards ceremony. The Pathfinder of the Year awards went to Kingsley Karanaradine and Lilianne Broaster.

Southern Asia investiture

Manchester Southern Asia Church held its 2012 investiture service on 17 November with thirty-one enthusiastic children invested in various classes, from Little Lamb to Ranger. The guest speaker was Pastor Alan Hush. NEC Pathfinder director, who emphasised the important role of youth in the church.

‘Revival’ at Bristol Central

The year 2012 was great for Bristol Central Pathfinder Club. After a lapse of two years, the club restarted in March and had an induction service on 14 July, when fourteen Pathfinders, ten Adventurers, five Eager Beavers and twelve Little Lambs became members. They joined three children who had been Pathfinders before, making up a club of forty-one children, three of whom are from the community.

Another five children joined at our second induction programme on 2 December: three Pathfinders and two Adventurers. The children are enthusiastic about Pathfindering, and attended the NEC Adventurer and BUC Pathfinder Camporees.

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Investitures

Leeds Central investiture

Leeds Central’s investiture took place on Sabbath 27 October 2012, when seventeen Adventurers, fourteen Pathfinders, and three Master Guides were invested, and another was invested with a Pathfinder Leadership Award. Pastor Hush, NEC Pathfinder director, and a number of area co-ordinators were at the investiture.

During the day the Adventurers and Pathfinders demonstrated their various talents through musical items, marching, drilling, drumming and CPR demonstrations. During Sabbath School the Adventurers performed the parable of the ten talents.

Olympic evangelism in Wimbledon

During the Olympics and Paralympics, the members of Wimbledon International Church decided to use their international flavour (members from fifty-eight countries at last count) to their advantage.

Wearing T-shirts with their national flags on the front and John 3:16 on the back, and specially prepared medals, they took to the streets and gave out almost 800 pieces of literature including The Christian Race, which was extremely popular, Focus magazines and other tracts. They also gave out medals to children and parents, prompting some to ask for pictures with them.

Hemel’s shoebox appeal

The average income in Burkina Faso is just $1.25 a day, so the generous Christmas gifts and other necessities packed into Hemel Hempstead’s forty-three shoeboxes will mean a great deal to as many children and their impoverished families. Just pause for a moment and try to imagine their joy!

Cheltenham children excel

On 24 November Cheltenham’s children took almost the entire church service for the first time. The theme was ‘Living for Jesus’ and the programme included prayers, songs, instrumental accompaniments, Bible readings, poems and stories. The children’s story, about the boy who helped to feed the 5,000, was read by Matthew Hartala (aged 9), while his mum handed out bread and cheese ‘fish’ for the children to eat.

Another 9-year-old, Rawleka Browne, read a home-written poem, while teenagers, Rebekah Haley and Robin Beamish, spoke on modern people who have lived for Jesus, namely Amy Carmichael and Brother Andrew. The children excelled beyond expectation and this won’t be their last appearance!

Stanborough Park’s annual toy service

Hundreds of donated toys were delivered to needy Watford children last Christmas thanks to the generosity of members of Stanborough Park Church.

The annual toy service, held on Sabbath, 8 December, was started over half a century ago by the late Alf Kelly and is continued by his daughter, Pat Walton. According to Pat there were significantly more toys than usual, and the charity representatives were amazed at the selection. They were thrilled to have them to distribute to known families whose economic situation would otherwise make giving their children Christmas presents impossible. Accepting the toys on behalf of the mayor of Watford, Councillor Ian Brown said he had attended the event many times before and, for him, it marked “the beginning of the Christmas spell”. Watford’s Member of Parliament, Richard Harrington, also attended the event.

Micro CHIP programme

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A full CHIP programme will be conducted later, both for members and for the wider community.

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Free offer

Scripture Songs 1 by Josephine Vine (MP4 format) is on offer while stocks last. Songs cover a wide range of key texts ideal for both adults and children to help them memorise Scripture. Email josephinedean@talktalk.net or call 07804 809976 with your name and address if you would like a free DVD sent to you. Josephine is a member at Northampton West Church.

Hemel Hempstead’s annual toy service

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On 8 September 2012, Holloway Church celebrated the graduation of graduates who wore red for the day – symbolic of the blood of Jesus. They were sixty-one students following the completion of the Daniel Seminar. The students learned about the prophecies of Daniel and were now well versed in the prophecies. Pastor Matthew presented their graduation day from the seminary, they should also seek to memorise Scripture. Email 859976 with your name and address if you would like a free DVD sent to you. Scripture Songs 1 Free offer by Josephine Vine (MP3 format) is on offer while stocks last.

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Roop Lal (d. 2012) The late Roop Lal was a good choir leader, who loved singing praises to the Lord. He was always ready to sing a special item if the elder asked him to. He was also a very devoted believer in Jesus all his life in Kirkcaldy, Fife, and his family always remained a ‘spark’ during World War Two.

Roop’s father was a manager and then retired on a dry dock in Bombay. While his mother was pregnant with Roop, she was suffering from stomach ulcer and from malaria, and she returned to her parents. Roop was born on 12 March 1923, and his mother died six weeks later. Roop was raised by the Cowpers, who referred to him as Mmm and Papa. His mother died at nursing home in Kirkcaldy, near Southampton, on 10 February 1958. Roop Lal was a proof reader before going to Newbold College.

From Kirkcaldy High School, Roop went on to Edinburgh Wireless College for his Master’s certificate. From 21 October 1941 until 26 November 1945 Bob worked as a wireless operator on a dry dock in Bombay. While his mother was pregnant with Roop, he suffered from stomach ulcer and from malaria, and she returned to her parents. Roop was born on 12 March 1923, and his mother died six weeks later. Roop was raised by the Cowpers, who referred to him as Mmm and Papa. His mother died at nursing home in Kirkcaldy, near Southampton, on 10 February 1958. Roop Lal was a proof reader before going to Newbold College.

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Bradford ‘musical’

On 15 December, during Divine Service, twenty-five children and youth aged 3-15 years, of Bradford Central Church, put on their version of the musical ‘1-800 Christmas’. In this story a studio telethon is organised to save Christmas, and the mission is to count 1,000 good deeds by Christmas. The children acted and sang extremely well, and the church thoroughly enjoyed their performance.

The children were also asked to sing the collection of songs from the musical at Bradford Interchange the following week to share the good news of Christmas with the whole of Bradford.

Ryan Kishore

On 24 November 2012, Ryan, son of Ajay and Sonia Kishore, and grandson of Anand and Vijay Kishore, was dedicated to the Lord at the Langley church.

Ninety-eight years young!

Frank Baron, born on 3 December 1914, celebrated his 98th birthday with the congregation at Blackburn Church, where he is a very long-standing and much-loved member.

Dedication is ‘streamed live’

On 17 November 2012, Pastor John Ferguson performed his nineteenth baby dedication in the Grantham church. Daniel Jansen van Rensburg was brought for blessing by his parents, Nico and Karen, and the touching service was streamed live to their family in South Africa. Nico is the finance manager of the Stanborough Press and Karen is an optometrist.

Park Church’s annual toy service – Pastor Sam Neves and his wife Amie had their son Joshua dedicated by Pastor Patrick Boyle. The Neves couple were married at this church, and Amie and her parents were dedicated there too!

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Advent Centre, Monday-Saturday: 11am-4pm.

Glasgow: 11am-4pm, Saturdays: November-December, January. Afternoon.

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