Speak up . . .

by Pastor Jeff Couzins (in collaboration with the Messenger editor)

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." (Proverbs 31:8, NIV)

To speak ‘for those who cannot speak for themselves’ is always a noble act – something to be applauded. The Ex British-Chinese Soldiers’ Benevolent Association (1857-1997), a Government-registered charity, deserves such applause for speaking out on behalf of ‘more than 1,500 soldiers and some 100 Royal Naval Hong Kong servicemen’, who were ‘abandoned’ during the British withdrawal from Hong Kong in 1997.

After a 140-year-long tradition of loyal service to Crown and country, only 500 of them were granted British passports. The rest were left stranded in Hong Kong with their dependants!

According to the e-petition which closes on 30 May this year, ‘the UK Government should make amends for this shameful act and issue them with UK passports. The British-Chinese soldiers deserve the respect of our nation, which they helped to defend.’

How does this touch the Church? Well, through Russ Banks, honorary member (International Affairs) of the association, whose wife (Christel) belongs to the Preston church, that congregation also became involved.

A special song

During last year, and the first months of 2013, the Preston congregation’s musicians joined Russ in writing the lyrics and music for a song entitled ‘Forgotten Heroes . . . Listen to Our Voice’ in honour of these ‘forgotten’ servicemen.* Then they recorded it in support of the association’s ongoing campaign on behalf of the veterans. Since then it has been aired on Hong Kong Radio and Radio Shine (90.9 FM) locally.

It is now planned that the song will be ‘one of the centrepieces’ at a forthcoming fundraiser to be held at the Ming-Ai Institute, London, and attended by HRH Prince William and Lord Chris Patten of Barnes CH, who was the last Hong Kong governor.

Further developments

Members of the association in Hong Kong are so grateful for the help and support provided by our Preston members that they have made contact with the Seventh-day Adventist church in Hong Kong. In fact, during May, Roger Ching, co-founder of the association, will be visiting our church in Sha Tin, Hong Kong, to say thank you for the support and open a ‘friendship’ link with them. Many of the veterans are Christians and it is hoped that this may help some of them find a spiritual home in the Adventist church.

So Preston’s challenge is clear: ‘Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.’ (Proverbs 31:8, NIV.) You just never know where your noble deeds may lead you.

*Editor’s note: You may listen to the song at https://www.soundcloud.com/banksy-8/forgotten-heroes-final-d
http://www.abandonedbritish-chinesesoldiers.org.uk/
http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/34421

When my children were approaching their teens we lived on a tranquil estate. Our home was less than a mile from a small supermarket and a branch of my bank.

On my way home one evening I stopped off to draw money from the bank’s cashpoint, then walked to the supermarket for milk and bread. Mission accomplished, I drove home to the family.

We all indulge in little rituals upon reaching the safety of our homes. Mine? I like to lose the shoes, empty my pockets and find my chair. But something was wrong that evening the change came out, the keys and a comb – but there was no wallet!

I checked the kitchen, and the car. But there was no sign of my wallet. My cash was gone, but worse than that – my cards too! I drove down to the supermarket, just in case it was there. No one had seen it.

By now I was in a panic situation. I had to notify the bank that the cards were missing before someone tried to use them. (On the days before ‘chips’ and PINs card fraud was much easier.) I went home and rang the card cancellation numbers.

I didn’t sleep well. I didn’t sleep well that night. But at breakfast things got even worse. One of the children took the milk from the fridge, still in its plastic supermarket bag, and brightly announced: Hey, Daddy! Here’s your wallet. You must have put it in with the milk last night!

Has that ever happened to you? Have you ever claimed something was missing or stolen, only to have it turn up where you left it?

On another occasion Shortly after this incident myprecision-made Swiss Army knife went missing. It was an irreplaceable gift and very useful when fishing or hiking.

To my shame, after I had quickly checked the places where I thought it ought to be, I began to interrogate the family. My wife was first. Honey, do you know where my knife is? Have you put it somewhere? I hope you haven’t misplaced it? The children got their day in court too!

The blame game – do you play too?

Then, with no conclusive evidence against any of them, I jumped quickly to my next suspect. I bet it was that woman who cleaned for you recently. I never did like the look of her!’

Blame is easily pinned on those who are not around to defend themselves – and the poor woman remained a suspect for months.

Then, one day, I wore my grey salt again . . . and you guessed it: my missing knife was where I had left it – safely in one of my jacket pockets!

The ‘blame game’

I am convinced that many of us, myself included, are experts at the ‘blame game’ – a sport that was already in vogue in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:12, 13).

Eliot D. Cohen, president of the Institute of Critical Thinking, defines the game like this: ‘The blame game consists of blaming another person for an event or state of affairs thought to be undesirable, and persisting in it instead of proactively making changes that ameliorate [improve] the situation.’

According to Cohen, the game is based on four irrational claims, which I have adapted as follows:

1. When something bad happens, ‘someone else must always be to blame’. We all know that this is not true. There are many instances in daily life where blame cannot be apportioned directly to anyone. How rational would it be for me to claim that my wife ‘is to blame for my flu – I caught it from her’? It is irrational, because it is based on the logical fallacy that since ‘that event followed this one, that event must have been caused by this one.’

2. ‘If you are blameworthy then you are less worthy of respect.’ This flies in the face of Christ’s treatment of people. In fact, through Him we see a God who treats people with respect in spite of their failings. Just think for a moment about the powerful statement He made by inviting Himself to the home of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). Jesus, the Messiah, pays a visit to Jericho’s most despised man, thereby showing him respect regardless of his miserable failings!

3. ‘If you are less worthy of respect, then our treatment of you should reflect that fact.’ This claim justifies the use of abuse in order to make ‘sure that people get what they deserve.’ Which can include the ‘silent treatment’, avoidance, neglect, verbal abuse and violence. Once again, none of this mirrors Christ’s treatment of people – even of those who crucified Him. They received only His forgiveness!

4. ‘I won’t take responsibility for mistakes because I never make them.’ This final claim takes us back in the New Testament, to watch Jesus struggle with the perfectionism of the Jewish leadership. They were faultless ... eyes. They had convinced themselves that they could do nothing wrong. Unfortunately, Jesus didn’t share their optimism: ‘Who is it, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites? You are like white-washed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.’ (Matthew 23:27, 28, NIV.)
Whether your children are leaving home to get married, to start a new job, or to live independently, let go of them gently. It’s a long way down, and, like you, they are still learning to fly.

Preparing for flight

Avery Davis speaks frankly about the challenges facing parents as their teenagers prepare to leave home for the first time.

For the parents, it’s the newness of absence, a quieter home, fewer demands for assistance, the sadness of a separation. For students it is the newness of responsibility, and students are taking on more, let’s not abdicate our congregational responsibility to send students off well-prepared, socially and spiritually. Let’s also make these ‘nomads’ welcome. After all, they might be missionaries God is sending to your church – new and valued attendees.

Whether your children are leaving home to get married, to start a new job, or to live independently, let go of them gently.
Talk it, pray it, sing it, blog it, fill the world with the message of Jesus Christ. That is what we are doing as a church and as a denomination. I wish that was all there was to it! Sadly, it is not. There are many voices competing for people’s attention, especially online. In fact, online media now dominate people’s lives, whether we like it or not.

Social media are not just another form of entertainment; they have become part of the daily routine for many people. According to a recent study, over 90% of people in the United States use social media, and the average user spends about 50 minutes per day on these platforms.

One of the most valuable assets we have in our fight for eternal life is social media. It is a powerful tool for reaching people with the message of Jesus Christ. Social media allow us to connect with people in a way that is not possible through traditional means. We can reach people from all over the world, in just a few clicks.

Social media are not just a way to share information; they are a way to build relationships. People use social media to connect with friends and family, to stay in touch with people they care about, and to build new relationships.

One of the most important things about social media is that it is a two-way street. People can share their experiences and their thoughts, and we can share our message with them. This is the opportunity that we have to reach people with the message of Jesus Christ.

But social media are not just a tool for the church; they are a tool for anyone who wants to make a difference in the world. Social media allow us to connect with people, to build relationships, and to share our message with them. This is the opportunity that we have to make a difference in the world.

Social media are a powerful tool for reaching people with the message of Jesus Christ. It is up to us to use social media to connect with people, to build relationships, and to share our message with them. This is the opportunity that we have to make a difference in the world.
features

Hemel’s Easter eggs ‘hatch’!

Graham Lucas shares how his church has gently built up the Adventist brand.

For years Hemel Hempstead Church has delivered chocolate Easter eggs to the local Women’s Refuge before each Easter weekend. They have also supported Women’s Aid with the proceeds from their harvest festivals and Christmas toy services, and for many years the charity has also used their church hall for weekly trauma counselling sessions. Now the eggs have ‘hatched’ – as I found out recently when I attended the Women’s Aid AGM. As I approached the venue a lady came up to me and asked, ‘Are you from the Seventh-day Adventist church?’ ‘Yes,’ I said, and she replied, ‘I remember seeing you when I attended (counselling) sessions there. Once inside, another lady I knew introduced me to her friend as ‘Graham from the Adventist church’. I soon realised the church was well-known by many of the people there. The chairperson opened the meeting, welcomed the committee members, then looked over to me at the back and welcomed me as ‘wonderful Graham from the Adventist church’ – I knew she really meant ‘Graham from the wonderful Adventist church’! After the meeting I was introduced to another lady who was promptly informed about the good work the church has done for Women’s Aid.

I put my coat on and was just leaving when a lady ran up to me and said, ‘I just wanted you to know that I attended the counselling held in your church and it changed my life!’


daily attendance varied between thirty-five and forty, and for the first time children from the community attended – eight in all!

Church support was excellent, not just with the programmes and events, but with the good meals that were served daily.

The children sing ‘Clip Clop’

Colin Watt as Peter

Now the eggs have ‘hatched’!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays we have a credit union operating from our building, which provides a fantastic way for the locals to manage their money. On Thursdays we offer karate for the young – and not so young – taught by Abba Shater, himself a former world champion.

Every week, on the same evenings, we provide asylum seekers with a hot meal before they settle down to a warm night’s sleep on our premises. The next morning they get a good breakfast and a chance to ‘freshen up’ before leaving.

‘Where does the foodbank fit into all of this?’ you might ask. On Wednesdays, along with the Zumba classes for the Asian ladies in the community, we become a Foodbank Distribution Centre. Although we only opened five weeks ago we’ve become one of the most popular distribution centres in Middlesbrough, which is one of the fastest-growing foodbanks in the country.

An already-massive need continues to grow, not helped by the benefit cuts taking effect this month. This week Ann, an adviser from CAP, came to collect food parcels for two clients unable to come to the church themselves, and we were also able to supply Tracey, her partner Abba, and five children with much-needed food.

Tracey told me how she had felt ‘petrified and ashamed’ to come to the foodbank, but after meeting us she felt differently. She commented on the non-judgemental and caring way we treated her, and said, ‘It wasn’t for foodbanks, my family would not have eaten.’ Thankfully her ordeal is now over, and to give something back, Tracey, Abba and their friend Donna have all requested to volunteer at our foodbank. Tracey has also returned to church. We offer everyone a 30-second prayer along with a selection of books and DVDs, and even a menu to help them cook the food they receive.

Working closely with Middlesbrough council, we’ve made arrangements to collect unused food from supermarkets and takeaways and drop it off at various centres for the needy in Middlesbrough. Due to our good relationship with the council, they have allowed us to run health audits among the homeless people of our town, which have helped to pinpoint their specific medical needs, which were previously neglected.

There are lots of lost and hurting people outside your church doors too.

Please – try to be ‘open all hours’ and see what God can do through you.

Intelligent Design seminar

ASi-UK and Stanborough Park Church will co-sponsor a seminar on Intelligent Design, at 3pm on Sabbath, 1 June, at the Stanborough Park church.

Professor John Walton of St Andrews University and Dr Alistair Noble, director of the Intelligent Design Unit, will be presenting a scientific and compelling argument as to why life must have been designed by our omniscient God.

In particular, those who feel confused by the relentless propaganda of the prevailing secular arguments are invited to attend. If you would like more information or to book, please go to: http://adventistwebministries.org.uk/forms/3264/form_submissions/new

If you cannot attend then view from the comfort of your home or local church. Connect to: www.iivestream.com/stanboroughparkchurch.

VBS at Southern Asia

The Manchester Southern Asia church recently held a successful Vacation Bible School, with children ranging from 4 to 13 in attendance.

Daily attendance varied between thirty-five and forty, and for the first time children from the community attended – eight in all!

Church support was excellent, not just with the programmes and games, but with the good meals that were served daily.

At the end of the week all the children received certificates, and the non-member children each got a Bedtime Story book while their parents received a Bible and a copy of The Great Controversy.

SACHIN KATE, SABBATH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

JIM CUNNINGHAM, ASI PRESIDENT

Not even these endless cold blasts from Siberia can freeze the spirits in Middlesbrough. One year ago we celebrated the opening of our new church – and ‘open’ it most certainly is.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays we have a credit union operating from our building, which provides a fantastic way for the locals to manage their money. On Thursdays we offer karate for the young – and not so young – taught by Abba Shater, himself a former world champion.

Every week, on the same evenings, we provide asylum seekers with a hot meal before they settle down to a warm night’s sleep on our premises. The next morning they get a good breakfast and a chance to ‘freshen up’ before leaving.

‘Where does the foodbank fit into all of this?’ you might ask. On Wednesdays, along with the Zumba classes for the Asian ladies in the community, we become a Foodbank Distribution Centre. Although we only opened five weeks ago we’ve become one of the most popular distribution centres in Middlesbrough, which is one of the fastest-growing foodbanks in the country.

An already-massive need continues to grow, not helped by the benefit cuts taking effect this month. This week Ann, an adviser from CAP, came to collect food parcels for two clients unable to come to the church themselves, and we were also able to supply Tracey, her partner Abba, and five children with much-needed food.

Tracey told me how she had felt ‘petrified and ashamed’ to come to the foodbank, but after meeting us she felt differently. She commented on the non-judgemental and caring way we treated her, and said, ‘It weren’t for foodbanks, my family would not have eaten.’ Thankfully her ordeal is now over, and to give something back, Tracey, Abba and their friend Donna have all requested to volunteer at our foodbank. Tracey has also returned to church. We offer everyone a 30-second prayer along with a selection of books and DVDs, and even a menu to help them cook the food they receive.

Working closely with Middlesbrough council, we’ve made arrangements to collect unused food from supermarkets and takeaways and drop it off at various centres for the needy in Middlesbrough. Due to our good relationship with the council, they have allowed us to run health audits among the homeless people of our town, which have helped to pinpoint their specific medical needs, which were previously neglected.

There are lots of lost and hurting people outside your church doors too.

Please – try to be ‘open all hours’ and see what God can do through you.

Intelligent Design seminar

ASi-UK and Stanborough Park Church will co-sponsor a seminar on Intelligent Design, at 3pm on Sabbath, 1 June, at the Stanborough Park church.

Professor John Walton of St Andrews University and Dr Alistair Noble, director of the Intelligent Design Unit, will be presenting a scientific and compelling argument as to why life must have been designed by our omniscient God.

In particular, those who feel confused by the relentless propaganda of the prevailing secular arguments are invited to attend. If you would like more information or to book, please go to: http://adventistwebministries.org.uk/forms/3264/form_submissions/new

If you cannot attend then view from the comfort of your home or local church. Connect to: www.iivestream.com/stanboroughparkchurch.
Holloway REBORN

Under the leadership of Pastor Sam Guaido the Holloway church has set out a two-year evangelistic impact strategy – the tried and tested REBORN: Revival; Equipping; Bible-based ministries; Outreach programmes in the community; Reaping through evangelistic meetings; and Nurture events for new believers.

Pastor Sam Ouadjo, under whose leadership Holloway church has set out a two-year evangelistic impact strategy, said: ‘I have the opportunity to socialise and discuss the concert. The event raised a total of £3,000 for the church’s development fund.

After the concert there was an Easter egg hunt for the children, and refreshments for the adults, giving them the opportunity to socialise and discuss the concert. The event raised a total of £3,000 for the church’s development fund.

Melodious fundraising for ADRA

Leslie Wood from Ystrad Mynach Church in South Wales recently passed an organ examination with distinction. Leslie has played the piano from childhood, and for church services in Berkshire, but when he retired to Radley, near Carrick, he decided to study the organ more seriously. So he took lessons on the amazing organ at Llandaff Cathedral from David Thomas, a well-known organist and teacher.

Then, recently, in order to put his studies to good use, Leslie decided to do a sponsored recital for ADRA in Radley’s parish church, where he raised £200 to swell the funds. Why not join Leslie and let your talents fundraise for ADRA at any time of the year?

Harrow shares cards and roses

On 16 March, Harwell Fellowship’s youth led out in a community-focused kindness project, in line with the worldwide Global Youth Day (GYD) theme. Instead of meeting at their usual worship venue, the youth chose to walk the length and breadth of the town handing out greeting cards and roses. This helped put smiles on the faces of one hundred ladies – and a few gentlemen who accepted the tokens on behalf of their spouses. The cards had a short message that wished the recipient a wonderful day, and had the fellowship’s contact details.

Clad in white T-shirts with the GYD logos back and front, the fellowship members braved chilling temperatures and occasional drizzle to spread the love of Christ to many surprised townfolk. The Harwell members believe that this act by their youth will help to build bridges between them and the community.

TVF V

The Thames Valley Youth Federation Prayer and Faith Conference V took place from 1 to 5 April, under the theme: ‘The Triumph Over Fear’, and was aimed at asking our youth to face day-to-day challenges by submitting their fears to Christ. Pastor Alvin McQueen was the speaker for the week, and he explored the topics of media manipulation and Bible truth. The young people shared inspirational testimonies of how God was working in their lives, and many of them were left in tears at what they had witnessed.

Young people are encouraged to come to the next PFC (Prayer and Faith Conference), because the discussions are extremely beneficial, allowing every young person to ask questions – even on those ‘taboo’ topics they would not feel comfortable asking about anywhere else.

The PFC staff are experienced, and they know how to talk to young people in a respectful manner. They also understand the many difficult situations that modern youth face daily.

At the end of this PFC, twenty out of the sixty-eight attendees decided to give their lives to Christ and prepare for baptism.

Rejoicing at Fartown

On 24 November, 2012, the hall of the Fartown company was packed to capacity as family and friends came to celebrate the baptism of Tabyana Muburuka (right in photo) and Sharmain Lawrence (left in photo). The congregational singing was rousing, after which Pastor Barry Stokes led the candidates through their baptismal vows and Pastor Micah Campbell preached a sermonette entitled: ‘Just flip the switch’, based on Romans 13:11-14. The essence of the message was, ‘Ask Jesus to come into your life, flip the switch and let the Light in.

Both candidates were radiantly happy and wonderfully supported by their families.

Haverhill REBORN

On 26 March, 2012, the hall of the Fartown company was packed to capacity as family and friends came to celebrate the baptism of Tabyana Muburuka (right in photo) and Sharmain Lawrence (left in photo). The congregational singing was rousing, after which Pastor Barry Stokes led the candidates through their baptismal vows and Pastor Micah Campbell preached a sermonette entitled: ‘Just flip the switch’, based on Romans 13:11-14. The essence of the message was, ‘Ask Jesus to come into your life, flip the switch and let the Light in.

Both candidates were radiantly happy and wonderfully supported by their families.

More than 300 people with their friends and neighbours attended the concert, and, according to Audrey Baldenstone, ‘The atmosphere was electric throughout the concert and at the end of the Hallinghaj Chorus there was spontaneous applause. In fact, at the end of the concert there was further prolonged, thunderous applause for the choir, orchestra, conductor and solo performers’.

The guest solists are talented students at the Royal College of Music with impressive CVs. Soprano Elizabeth Holmes is a postgraduate student who has already performed many operatic roles around the country and won awards, including a ‘Tringle First’ at the Edinburgh Festival. Tenor Ben Smith is a third-year student who has enjoyed phenomenal success since joining the Pontypridd Male Voice Choir in 2009, and has performed with ‘Only Men Aloud’ at various venues, including the opening ceremony of the London Olympic Games in 2012.

The revival phase of the strategy ran from 27 March to Sabbath, 30 March, with great success. Members were challenged to invite friends and relatives, and the person who invited the most at the end would receive a mobile phone. Other members received token gifts for their efforts in inviting visitors to the revival.

After the concert there was an Easter egg hunt for the children, and refreshments for the adults, giving them the opportunity to socialise and discuss the concert. The event raised a total of £3,000 for the church’s development fund.

Havenhill shares cards and roses

On 16 March, Haverhill Fellowship’s youth led out in a community-focused kindness project, in line with the worldwide Global Youth Day (GYD) theme. Instead of meeting at their usual worship venue, the youth chose to walk the length and breadth of the town handing out greeting cards and roses. This helped put smiles on the faces of one hundred ladies – and a few gentlemen who accepted the tokens on behalf of their spouses. The cards had a short message that wished the recipient a wonderful day, and had the fellowship’s contact details.

Clad in white T-shirts with the GYD logos back and front, the fellowship members braved chilling temperatures and occasional drizzle to spread the love of Christ to many surprised townfolk. The Haverhill members believe that this act by their youth will help to build bridges between them and the community.

Highlights from Handel’s ‘Messiah’

A member of the group ‘Only Men Aloud’, Ben Smith, joined a group of fifty performers at Stanborough Park Church’s Easter concert, which featured highlights from Handel’s ‘Messiah’.

More than 300 members with their friends and neighbours attended the concert, and, according to Audrey Baldenstone, ‘The atmosphere was electric throughout the concert and at the end of the Hallinghaj Chorus there was spontaneous applause. In fact, at the end of the concert there was further prolonged, thunderous applause for the choir, orchestra, conductor and solo performers.’

The guest solists are talented students at the Royal College of Music with impressive CVs. Soprano Elizabeth Holmes is a postgraduate student who has already performed many operatic roles around the country and won awards, including a ‘Tringle First’ at the Edinburgh Festival. Tenor Ben Smith is a third-year student who has enjoyed phenomenal success since joining the Pontypridd Male Voice Choir in 2009, and has performed with ‘Only Men Aloud’ at various venues, including the opening ceremony of the London Olympic Games in 2012.

After the concert there was an Easter egg hunt for the children, and refreshments for the adults, giving them the opportunity to socialise and discuss the concert. The event raised a total of £3,000 for the church’s development fund.

Havenhill shares cards and roses

On 16 March, Haverhill Fellowship’s youth led out in a community-focused kindness project, in line with the worldwide Global Youth Day (GYD) theme. Instead of meeting at their usual worship venue, the youth chose to walk the length and breadth of the town handing out greeting cards and roses. This helped put smiles on the faces of one hundred ladies – and a few gentlemen who accepted the tokens on behalf of their spouses. The cards had a short message that wished the recipient a wonderful day, and had the fellowship’s contact details.

Clad in white T-shirts with the GYD logos back and front, the fellowship members braved chilling temperatures and occasional drizzle to spread the love of Christ to many surprised townfolk. The Haverhill members believe that this act by their youth will help to build bridges between them and the community.
HAZEL LAYLAND

NDUMIE MAFU

members out in glorious sunshine to knock on doors on behalf of ADRA. The youngest members of the team were the day's star ... to right they are: Audley Mcghuh, Pauline Stephens, Randolf Stephens, Pastor Bernard Akakpo, and Thando and Thabiso Mafu.

On Sunday, 7 April, Pastor Bernard Akakpo took some of his Plumstead

the Stanborough Press, along with her work as a medical adviser to Christian Outreach Relief and Development (now CORD). ... is her care and concern for others, and she sends little letters, poems and cards to those who may need encouragement.

Secondly, there was Doctor Doreen Bull, who

th birthday of Eileen Fong, originally

Mission to serve the Newport, Monmouth and Pontypool churches, where their second daughter, Hazel, joined the family. David also served the Aberdare, Tredegar, Shrewsbury and Wrexham churches.

In July 1959 David was

Laflin), who worked as a Bible instructor before their marriage. In 1952 their first daughter, Heather, was born.

and playful, and that continued till the day she passed away. Huldah was teased at school for being an Adventist. The children called her ‘one of those seven devils’, and she got into many fights defending her honour.

and never missed an opportunity to encourage and witness to others. She always had a smile on her face, and an encouraging word to share with everyone.

Out of the ashes of her life she

and teacher in the various age groups. She was also an active Ingatherer and gave counsel and advice to the youth.

while in Preston she lost her child, Ossie, who died in his sleep, and despite her hair growing grey overnight she maintained her dignity and her Christian strength, and hope for the future in the knowledge that Huldah would be waiting for her in heaven.

ROBERT JULES

and never missed an opportunity to encourage and witness to others. She always had a smile on her face, and an encouraging word to share with everyone.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

and never missed an opportunity to encourage and witness to others. She always had a smile on her face, and an encouraging word to share with everyone.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.

Sue Hanson

70 years, it is still very difficult to live without someone we love. We miss him very much and look forward to the day when we will be re-united with our loved ones.
MOHAP at Balham

The Balham church was the venue for the MOHAP day-retreat held on Sunday 31 March. While most attendees were from the SEC, some came from as far as Scotland and the West Midlands. Pastor Simon Martin’s devotional focused his listeners’ minds on the lame man at the well, he emphasised that Jesus knows our condition and what it takes to make a difference in our situation. Then one of the attendees shared an amazing testimony of how God healed him from the late stages of cancer.

Sharon Platt-McDonald spoke on depression, and Angelique Muller shared a God-centred nutritional approach to well-being and its impact on the whole body. Pastor Andrew Fuller encouraged people to pray in twos for each other’s needs, and then in the afternoon Pastor Jonathan Burnett provided an opportunity for quiet meditative prayer.

Pastor Brighton Kavulah spoke on the biblical authority for anointing and provided instructions for the anointing service.

The next MOHAP day retreat is on 26 May, at Newbold Church. Please see www.mohap.org or www.sec.adventist.org.uk/events. Telephone: 07407 692 256 for queries.

GBK Women’s day

Great Brickkiln Church’s last Women’s Ministry day drew a packed church, with a number of visitors from the community – two of whom have since become ‘regular’ Sabbath visitors! The theme was women of the Bible, including Mary and Elizabeth.

One man and his dog (part 3 of 3)

The Lord continues to challenge us – the Oldham members – with a steady increase of hungry and needy visitors, both male and female. The females are inevitably the bigger challenge (attitude, behaviour and language)!

But God is at work: just a few weeks ago, during a pause in the final prayer, suddenly a new voice took over and we realised that one of our new friends was praying for the first time!

As the weeks pass we learn more about their tragedies: fights, beatings, abandonment, adoption, divorce and police raids.

Some have taught us to count our blessings and praise the Lord for all He does for us. They have also shown us how easily life can change for the worse through one or two wrong decisions taken without His guidance.

Please pray that God will continue to use us here in Oldham, and don’t forget our experience if someone comes to your church door with a dog.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Members of Sutton-in-Ashfield Church joined Churches Together at St John’s Methodist Church over Easter. After a short address about Christ’s birth and ministry, death and resurrection by Rev. Alan Boyd, Pastor Melvin Ellis led more than eighty of us, carrying a cross, as we proceeded in silence to Portman Square in Sutton. Here Sutton’s pastor, Paul Haworth, spoke of Christ’s arrest in Gethsemane, through to Pilate handing Him over to the crowd.

Then, after singing ‘Tell me the story of Jesus’, we walked on into the Idewells Shopping Centre, where Charles Clayton of the Zion Baptist Church had one of his members testify of how he came to Christ through his wife, and was to be baptised on Easter Sunday.

Tim Mitchell, New Cross Church, then gave us a short sermon on forgiveness and we closed the service by singing ‘How Deep the Father’s Love for Us.’