Dexter Thomas, Disability co-ordinator of the Florida Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, has been legally blind from birth, but that didn’t stop him sharing his vision during Brixton Church’s annual evangelistic series, from 11 to 25 May this year.

He challenged the audience to have a vision that transcends physical limitations and to reach their God-given potential with His help. He encouraged the members to faithfulness because God is the only One who can fill the empty voids in our lives if we only trust Him. He also urged the youth to believe that God has more happiness to offer than sin will ever have. All of this was done through the use of practical, current and relevant everyday illustrations to which the congregation could relate.

After nights of preaching and appeals, ten people decided to be baptised as a public expression of their faith in God. One of them was Rosetta Samms, who had been brought up in the Adventist Church but stopped attending when she came to the UK because there were so many challenges that she faced, especially working on the Sabbath. After much prayer to the Lord, asking Him to take control of her situation, her prayers were answered and she decided to recommit her life to God. This was her reason: ‘It is important that if I should die tomorrow my heart will be in the right place.’

Another candidate, Hyacinth James, was a baptised member of a Pentecostal church for over twenty years. Her children, nieces and nephew are Seventh-day Adventists, however, and have always encouraged her to become part of their church. She is an avid reader of the Bible, and she began asking questions about the Sabbath, something her church did not teach. Gradually her studies of Scripture led her to question whether she was attending the right church. It was then that Hyacinth started attending the Seventh-day Adventist church, until, after much thought, she made her decision to be baptised.

Brian Chindendere was the pastor of an African apostolic church, who gradually recognised that there were inconsistencies in what he was teaching his congregation about the Bible. Brian became unsettled and this led him on a search for the truth. Finally he arrived at the Brixton Adventist church, which he has been visiting for over four years. During this time he has done serious Bible studies with a Bible partner in the congregation. Finally he decided that he could not wait any longer to be baptised. According to him: ‘It is a wonderful thing to do God’s work, serving Him in spirit and in truth.’

Excellent music throughout the series was provided by Robert Carr, Everol Dixon and many others.
Cancer: the facts – part 3h
Examining causation and risk factors

Guardian report highlights/Cancer Research UK facts:

Breast cancer
- Women who carry mutations in genes called BRCA1 and BRCA2 have a substantially higher risk of breast cancer.
- The average UK woman has a 12.5% chance of developing breast cancer at some point in her life.
- A female BRCA1 gene carrier has a 65% chance of developing breast cancer.
- A female BRCA2 gene carrier has a 50% chance of developing breast cancer.
- A female BRCA1 gene carrier has a between 60 and 90% chance of developing breast cancer at some point in her life.
- Eighteen of every 1000 women in the UK carry mutations in one of these genes and are at risk of developing breast cancer.

Prostate cancer
- Twenty-three new DNA faults that increase the risk of developing prostate cancer have been found. Seventeen of these drive the most aggressive and life-threatening forms of the disease.
- Most men carry a small number of the genetic markers for prostate cancer. However, those in the one percent with the most genetic faults have a fivefold increased risk of the disease and a one-in-two chance of developing the condition.

Cancer Research UK is undertaking a study, called SEARCH, in order to analyse the genes of 32,000 people with cancer and look for additional factors that may interact with genes to increase the cancer risk.

Genetic factors
- Our genes are inherited from our parents.
- Gene mutations are a normal part of the human condition.
- These genetic faults increase the risk of developing cancer.
- Hereditary high-risk genetic faults cause around 3% of cancers.
- These genes that increase cancer risk are identified as ‘high penetrance’ (significantly increasing cancer risk) or ‘low penetrance’ (increasing risk, but to a lesser extent and more difficult to identify).
- Inherited high-risk faulty genes only cause around 3% of cancers.

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Sobering stats
- You may think that Judy’s situation is unique. You may think her stepfather was just a ‘rogue’ abuser – something quite rare among ‘God’s people’. Well, our pastoral experience may be anecdotal, not statistical, but it has served up enough solid evidence of sexual abuse to convince me that we are not immune to this crime – yes, crime!

- According to Stop It Now! UK and Ireland, although child sex abuse is ‘largely a hidden crime’, it is estimated that ‘one in six children experience sexual abuse before the age of 16’.

- Do the maths for your congregation – even one in ten is too many!

- From the same source, we read this chilling description of those who are most likely to become child sex abusers:

  ‘There is a growing understanding that sexual abusers are likely to be people we know, and could well be people we care about. After all, more than 8 out of 10 children who are sexually abused know their abuser. They are family members or friends, neighbours or babysitters – many hold responsible positions in society. . . . Abusers come from all classes, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and many are homosexual or heterosexual.

  ‘Most abusers are men, but some are women. You cannot pick out an abuser in a crowd.’

Sooner or later
- Men, if we are abusers, we will have to face God over our crimes against the girls and women He placed under our protection. The only choice we have in the matter is this: We can face Him as soon as possible – in contrition – like David after his abuse of Bathsheba.

- Do this with a deep sense of the wrongness of our actions, our hearts alone – for Judy – and let it be your deep need of grace:

  ‘Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; answer according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin’ (Psalm 51:1, 2, NIV).

- If we choose not to face Him ‘sooner’ in search of grace, He will face us ‘later’ over the consequences.

  ‘Stop Dad, stop! Please don’t!’

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- Judy, a 14-year-old ‘Child Sex Abuse Victim in the UK’, NSPCC 2003, submitted a statement in support of Sue Baker’s article ‘The death belief that any form of sexual exploitation, including rape, incest, prostitution, needs the term “abuse”. David was ten, he had been forced over Bathsheba, and he suffered’. (See Revelation 21:14, 15)

  ‘Most abusers are men, but some are women. You cannot pick out an abuser in a crowd.’
Ask, ‘Who dares despise the day of small things…? ’ Not God, apparently. He wants us to watch for souls, not statistics. After all, God is the One who keeps the only books that count.

Gideon gave Gideon a lesson in statistics. When God called Gideon to liberate Israel from Midianite oppression, Gideon responded, ‘But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.’ (Judges 6:15, 16, NRSV) God said he had chosen him for that, and that counted was that ‘I will be with you’ (emphasis supplied).

Gideon didn’t get it at first. He raised an army of 32,000. But God could not work with that. And He said so: ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home,’ God told Gideon to announce.

With the vacillators gone, Gideon was left with only ten thousand (Judges 7:5–7). God felt that the company was still on the high side, and He set another test. That left Gideon with just 300 — against the hordes of Midian. But they were 300 plus Gideon, plus God. And it was God and the element of surprise that gave Gideon the greatest role in the whole biblical narrative. In Isaiah’s time, centuries later, they were still talking of ‘the smiting of Midian’/’the day of Midian’ (Isaiah 9:4; 10:26).

God had sent thousands off the field of battle so one could boast that anyone but God had saved Israel. And to make a nonsense of statistics. They never forgot God’s place in the battle. Nor should we.

Many years later, Paul would make the point that his weakness provided God with the ideal arena in which to work. God had told him: ‘My strength is maximised when you acknowledge your weakness’ (my paraphrase).

Watch for souls, not statistics. Remember: God keeps the books.

Charity with a pleasant tune!

Children committed to helping other children less fortunate than themselves through their musical skills have recently raised around £3,000 for this cause.

More than thirty-five children, aged between 6 and 14, who are themselves through their musical skills have recently raised around £3,000 for this cause. The children committed to helping other children less fortunate than themselves through their musical skills have recently raised around £3,000 for this cause.

Recently, one of God’s representatives in the area, the Newbold College Music Department, has been focusing on raising money for a very special cause.

The children’s efforts have been successfully in raising funds through various musical performances, including charity concerts and workshops. Their dedication and passion have been evident in their performances, which have been well-received by the local community.

The raise, over £3,000, has been directed towards a local children’s charity, which supports children in need. The funds raised will go towards providing them with essentials like clothing, food, and educational materials.

The children’s commitment to helping others is a testament to the impact that music can have in the lives of others. Their efforts have not only raised significant funds but have also inspired others to contribute to the cause.

This initiative is a remarkable example of how music can be used as a powerful tool for social change. The children have demonstrated that by working together, they can make a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most.

We commend these children for their dedication and compassion. Their example serves as a reminder of the transformative power of music and the importance of community in making a positive impact on the world.

Watch for souls, not statistics. Remember: God keeps the books.

Adventist Medical Evangelism Network Conference (AMEN)
12-14 July, 2013, Newbold College, Bracknell.
Friday, 12 July at 6.30pm – sundown, 16 July at 9pm.
Newbold College, St Marks Road, Bracknell, RG42 4AN

For more information visit
www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/8714896539
I was in 1963 that Farmer Jones of Dinas Dinlle died. For several years the Youth department of the North England Conference had used his farm as their campsite. We were always warmly welcomed by the kindly old man, but the Welsh weather didn’t always treat us this way. Our only protection from the wind and the rain was canvas, and at times we were forced to seek the shelter of the farm’s cowshed – sometimes only recently vacated by the cows. But things got even worse when the new owner made it very clear that the site at Dinas Dinlle would not be available for any more camping.

This was in the autumn of 1963 and all our departmental directors travelled to Helsinki for some special meetings. On the way we stopped at various Adventist institutions, including the Danish youth camp. It had permanent buildings with many practical amenities. We were all very impressed. On our return journey Pastor Arthur Vine, who was the senior departmental director among us, came over to me and, in his forthright way, said, ‘Now, Ron, you have seen what can be done; the Lord has shown you what our young people need in England. When you go back to Nottingham tell them that we need a permanent campsite.’

I introduced the idea of a permanent campsite on the first NEC committee after my return from Finland. To claim that the idea was received with great enthusiasm would be somewhat misleading. When it sank in that the word ‘permanently’ meant that serious money would have to be spent, it seemed that the cause was lost. But Pastor Allen Norman was on that committee, and suggested that it couldn’t do any harm for me to be given two weeks off to find a plot of land, if a reasonable price, that could be used for the coming summer. After some debating it was voted through, and late in January 1964 I started my search at Caernarfon.

I scanned all the local newspapers that might have adverts about the kind of property I was looking for, but couldn’t find anything that was remotely like what we needed. In fact there seemed to be no land for sale at all, and very little, if any, for rent. Before I came to the end of the first week I began to realise that I was totally inexperienced and without the foggiest idea of how I should be going about things in that part of North Wales. It seemed to me that the locals resented the very idea of selling part of their country.

I knew that the people at the office in Nottingham were praying for me. I was praying too, desperately aware that time was running out but I was getting nowhere. It had rained just about every day I had been there. Being near the sea I began to understand more clearly what John Masefield meant in the poem “Sea Fever” when he described spray being blown off the sea like a ‘whetted knife’. I had prayed that if the Lord wanted a site near Snowdonia He should somehow let me know, for by this time I knew it would take a miracle to find one.

It was still raining on the last night before I was due to leave North Wales, and I was thinking about what I should say when I got back home. My search had been a complete failure, and there is not much joy in describing a failure. It really was a dreary old night, but I decided to walk into Pwllheli to find somewhere to eat – perhaps supper would help clear my head of negative thoughts. I do not know exactly where I was when I heard someone call out to me from the other side of the road. The voice I heard was that of a young Welshman whose girlfriend had failed to turn up to an exhibition taking place in a hall further down the street. He was standing in a doorway trying to give away her ticket, free. As there was no one other than a rain-soaked Englishman on that street, I got the ticket.

You must realise that it is coming up to fifty years since then, and most of that evening has been forgotten; all but the conversation with this young man. That I will never forget. I had never seen him before and I have never seen him since. He asked me what I was doing in North Wales. After explaining my mission to him in some detail, he said, ‘I think I can be of help to you. My father is an estate agent and he is very interested in your kind of work.’ There and then he wrote me a note of introduction to his father and told me what time he would be open for business.

The rain had turned to snow by the next day and I wondered if it would be possible for me to visit anything at all if everything were property to be viewed. The young man’s father, Mr Williams, could not have been more helpful. His son had obviously told him what my business was, and within minutes I found myself being driven down roads I had never been on before.

As we drove in his fine car he explained that the property he was going to show me was one of the very few on the Llŷn peninsula that were freehold. He explained that the small cottage on the site, because of its historical significance, was a listed building. He then told me that the old lady who was the last person to live in the cottage had brought up thirteen children there. When I saw just how very small the cottage was, I remember thinking that she must have trained them all to sleep standing up!

It had stopped snowing before we got to Aberdaron. In fact, the sun was peeping through the clouds and the nearer we got to our destination the more splendid the scenery became. To be sure, Mr Williams was an experienced estate agent and up to this point little had been discussed regarding costs. What I listened to, and what I was seeing now, was setting off alarm bells in my head, and I was almost certain that I was getting the Conference into something that would be far beyond anything it could afford.

There was a deep layer of snow covering Glan Yr Afon (the actual name of the site) and I asked Mr Williams if he would stop the car before we drove onto the property. He listened again to the fact that we were a Church with limited finance and that I needed to know the lowest price he would take for the property. Before he gave me a price, however, he said, ‘Come and climb this earth wall so that you will see what you will be getting for your money.’

He showed me three acres of land that was divided by a stream running through the centre of the site. And there was a swampy area adjacent to the stream. Near the cottage was a small barn as well as a piggery. The cottage, although small, was built to withstand the ravages of time. Electricity had recently been installed, but the only water supply was a spring that flowed into the stream. Mr Williams said, ‘Now don’t think what it is; think it can become.’ Only then did he tell me the price. Amazingly, it was only £2,100, and my old friend Bill Griffiths, the Conference treasurer at that time, was able to get the price down to just £1,900 pounds.

Sometimes it is said that Ron Surridge found the Aberdaron campsite. This is not so. I do not think I would have found it if I had been searching still. It was two complete strangers who guided me there, and I firmly believe that the Lord Himself was guiding them. A few days before this I had told myself that I would take a miracle to find the kind of site we wanted at the price we could afford. Was I telling the truth?

What do you think?

Since then, Glan Yr Afon, Aberdaron, has become a place of miracles. Miracles taking place in the lives of young people who have found JESUS as a Friend and Saviour there.

Thank God for the wonderful people who have, through the last fifty years, worked so faithfully to make Aberdaron the success it is today.
Hello Stars!
Have you watched a film where someone is captured and only the strongest, bravest person can save them? The Scriptures explain that we are like the person who needs saving. To find out the name of your Rescuer, unscramble these letters: a r o u s v i

The real "Star Wars" started long before George Lucas’s film. It happened when Satan decided he was greater than God. Acting like a great dragon, he was cast where, and what has he done? Use the words from this muddled up sentence to find the answer:

world the astray the hurled He angels him to his earth leads whole was and with

Adam and Eve became Satan’s target. He camouflaged himself as a serpent. He cunningly used deceitful words and a beautiful fruit to claim this world and everyone in it as his property.

Ever since this event, what has Satan done to us in the ‘star wars’ controversy? Start at the S and find out.

Revelation 12:7-9

God loves Adam and Eve’s family, us, so much that He put the daring rescue plan into action. Jesus would become the Saviour of the world. Satan is so strong that we cannot beat him, but Jesus has done this for us.

Read how Jesus described He would save us from Satan’s power in John 12:31-33. Now work out what it means to you by reading the words around the cross.

You do not have to pay for these gifts. Jesus saved you from Satan’s grasp because God loves you. You can never be strong, rich or clever enough to pay for them or save yourself. Only Jesus can be your Saviour.

A prayer of thanks:
Dear Jesus,
I want to thank You so much for rescuing me from Satan, even though it meant You would die. Because You love me, I trust You to be my Saviour. Thank You for Your free gift of eternal life. I look forward to living with You forever and ever.

I love You.

Read more about this Rescuer’s gifts to us in John 3:16, 17 and Romans 6:23.

What are 3 of these gifts?

This list of letters makes up a sentence from 1 Peter 1:19, 20. Take away the X and work out when Jesus decided to save you.

The address is children@adventist.org.uk.

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

**Bodmin baptise four**
On 25 May, Pastor Robert Bell baptised four young men in the Bodmin church, much to the joy of all present. The service was given a special touch by the fact that the boys’ fathers, Maurice Cutler, Marc Russell and Graham Blackburn, were invited into the font to introduce them and offer a prayer of blessing. Each of them received a ‘birthday’ cake – a nice touch, indeed!

ROBERT BELL.

**News**

### Yarmouth Church doesn’t skip a beat!

For the last few years, the Great Yarmouth church has conducted health screening at the main shopping mall in the town centre, with the venue provided free of charge by the Market Gates management.

This year was no exception, with the event scheduled for the bank holiday weekend, Sunday 26 May. In the run-up to the event, the church received a phone call from the manager informing them that the NHS paramedics wanted to make this their last event. Their immediate thought was that the booking was going to be cancelled, but that was not the case. She actually rang to see if the church had any objection to the NHS doing theirs in July, since she wanted to give priority to the Adventists! The church members felt so encouraged that their contribution was appreciated that much by the management.

The church always gets the prime position in the shopping mall, right at the main intersection. On that Sunday they were able to check 168 people for blood pressure; check 152 for blood sugar; calculate the BMI for 116 individuals; perform 31 carbon monoxide tests for smokers; and make several referrals to the GP for those who received medical advice. A survey was also taken and a number of very positive comments were received, such as: “Brilliant”; “Do it in more places as it is very good. Never seen before”; “Excellent service”; and ‘Keep up the good work’!

As always, they also provided a table with choice literature for people to help themselves. While mainly on the subject of health and diet, there were several copies of Steps to Christ and other spiritual books including information about the Adventist Church. Even though the terms and conditions prohibited literature without approval, the management were happy for the members to put on the table whatever they wanted. They also used the opportunity to advertise their next vegetarian cooking demonstration and sit-down meal at the church in June. The next health screening is planned for October.

**Pastor Michael J. Walker**
COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY

### Abertystwyth church-plant

Last year two families decided it was time to do something special for God in their part of Wales, Aberystwyth. A few months later, under the guidance of the Welsh Mission, the idea of a church-plant came to fruition. Word spread, and the four quickly became six, and they have been blessed with Pastor and Mrs Roger Neal since – doubling their original numbers to eight!

Last year two families decided it was time to do something special for God in their part of Wales, Aberystwyth. A few months later, under the guidance of the Welsh Mission, the idea of a church-plant came to fruition. Word spread, and the four quickly became six, and they have been blessed with Pastor and Mrs Roger Neal since – doubling their original numbers to eight!

They are making friends and have had their first visitor from the local university. They hope to have a few more over the next few months, because the members are busy inviting friends, posting literature through doors and planning an evangelistic outreach for autumn this year.

They were among four people baptised by retired minister, Pastor Sandy Paiman, at Newcastle Seventh-day Adventist Church on 16 February. Others baptised during the ceremony were Curt Sabate and Kate Wierzbicki, both of whom had their own stories to tell.

Kate was raised a Catholic in her native country of Poland, where 89.8% of the population are Catholics. However, through the patient witness and encouragement of her husband, David, she decided to try the Adventist Church. After attending the Newcastle church for over two years, Kate started taking Bible studies with Sandy Paiman and his wife Jessie. “She was very keen, interested and quite excited about becoming a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” said Pastor Paiman.

Thirteen-year-old Curt was the youngest candidate to be baptised, and it was a special moment for his parents, Lindy and Samuel Sabate, whose four other children (Hadleigh, Hyndei, Kliene and Heather) were all baptised at Newcastle Church. Pastor Paiman admitted that it was an honour and a privilege to have been the minister who baptised all the ‘Sabate kids’, as they are fondly known in the local church.

Pastor Sidney Atteida, the church’s new minister, appealed for others to follow their example, and five more youngsters publicly declared their desire to prepare for baptism.

**John Loughborough**
BIBLE INSTRUCTOR, MANCHESTER SOUTH DISTRICT

### Adam to train for ministry

One of PEACE’s recent graduates will be moving to Weimar College, California, to train for the ministry soon. Adam Hazel is a committed member of the Great Brickkiln church, Wolverhampton, where he will be missed.
Large groups of children and bad weather don’t mix well, so the pouring rain and high winds prior to the spring bank holiday weekend were a cause for prayer. Fortunately those prayers were answered, and the sun shone brightly as hordes of happy children entered the marquee for worship at the North England Conference Adventurer Camporee.

The choice of ‘Small but Mighty’ as the theme became appropriate as Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt told the story of Gideon. The children enjoyed taking part in worship through role play and well-thought-out age-related exposition.

Sunday brought further sunshine as children took part in a wide selection of activities, ranging from crafts to nature skills. The theme of ‘Small but Mighty’ was well expressed by two of the younger Adventurers who took on a cycling challenge. On Sunday morning, they completed a five-lap circuit of the Shugborough Hall campsite!

The result that all awaited was for the best club. The awards were: 5th, Liverpool Central; joint 3rd, Aston Newtown and Walsall; 2nd, Erdington; and 1st place, Wolverhampton Great Brinksin.

We encourage every Pathfinder club to take up the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) challenge for 2014. The material to be studied is 2 Samuel and the introductory section in the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary.

The Pathfinder Bible Experience is a programme in which Pathfinders are given books of the Bible and their introductory sections in the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary to study over nine months. Dates are then set for the tests, with the highest-scoring teams advancing to the next round. Clubs may submit as many teams as they are able according to the guidelines.

The eight leaders under training were Andrew Middleton, a bushcraft expert from North Yorkshire, as campers were packing up after the 2013 Adventurer Camporee. Andrew, described by Pastor Hush as ‘the Ray Mears of the North’, had earlier outlined why Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders need a knowledge of bushcraft and a familiarity with the outdoor environment. The skills enable leaders to help children feel safe outdoors; develop their self-confidence; enable them to respect the earth God created; and equip them to work with confidence in many other areas of life.

The eight leaders under training were taught to construct simple shelters from a tarpaulin and string cords, and how to keep them warm and dry. They also learnt to tie new knots and acquired other useful survival skills – all of which they will pass on to their club members in due course.

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These were the other 2013 awards:
- Best uniforms for staff and Adventurers – Windsor Street South.
- Best campsite – Manchester South.
- Best behaviour – Derby (who were always on time).
- Best tent inspection – 3rd, West Bromwich; 2nd, Handsworth; and 1st, Liverpool Central.

We want to express thanks and appreciation to the SEC directors, the Areas who gave financial support to this programme. If you would also like to support our Pathfinders in this work, please contact the SEC Pathfinder department.

Bushcraft training

According to Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Pathfinder director:

‘Whatever we do must have an impact at the grass roots of Pathfindering: namely, our clubs, their staff, and most importantly our young people.’

At the heart of that impact is the provision of excellent training at the leadership level, which must then cascade down to the local Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs.

One element of this training was delivered by Andrew Middleton, a bushcraft expert from North Yorkshire, as campers were packing up after the 2013 Adventurer Camporee. Andrew, described by Pastor Hush as ‘the Ray Mears of the North’, had earlier outlined why Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders need a knowledge of bushcraft and a familiarity with the outdoor environment. The skills enable leaders to help children feel safe outdoors; develop their self-confidence; enable them to respect the earth God created; and equip them to work with confidence in many other areas of life.

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Pastor Peter Jeynes, NEC Communication Director.
A first for London Ghana

Youth Week of Prayer at London Ghana Church was unique. The theme was Justice and Mercy, and its aim was to allow the youth to be aware of their own position in society, providing insights as to how young people can truly make a difference in their local communities and society at large. Instead of regular face-to-face daily meetings, the youth decided to use technology to encourage the study of the Word. Each evening they discussed and read the specially designed Week of Prayer publication via Skype – an internet-based phone enabling members to talk to each other, regardless of location, virtually for free. This enabled the youth, who live all over greater London and some as far as America, to enjoy the Week of Prayer from the comfort of their homes. The tool is a great way to hold virtual biblical studies and discussions when travel restrictions are present.

Youth leader, Jason Essel, stated that: “The sessions were a great success, as they were a way to have Bible studies without leaving your house, in a relaxed, informal setting.”

Another participant, Eugene Obeng, remarked: “We got to hear about so many people’s views, and they were views from their hearts. We read the Week of Prayer readings together and it allowed people to understand the material at a deeper level. It was also a way for us to get to know each other, to share ideas and evangelise. It allowed people to introspect and find ways to become better Christians.”

Due to the Week of Prayer’s success the next session will incorporate face-to-face meetings and Skype sessions in order to increase effectiveness.
This year’s spring Brecon Camp, 24 to 27 May, was characterised by extremes of temperature. During the first two nights the temperature dropped, and those who got up soon after sunrise were greeted with the beautiful sight of frosted grass, iced cars and diamond-encrusted tents. Daytime temperatures soared to 20°C, however, and despite the chilly nights everyone commented on the overall warmth of the camp.

This warmth was not just about the weather; our speaker, Pastor Douglas McCormac, also had a lot to do with it. With his soft Belfast accent, Pastor Doug won the hearts of the eighty or so campers. He gave six talks, all on the theme of love, particularly as per the instruction in John 13:34 (NIV): ‘A new command I give you: Love one another.’

Rob Pearce, from the Leamington Spa church, led the worship band and helped to reinforce the spiritual messages of the talks. With up to nine musicians playing together, the sound from the marquee could be heard a considerable distance away – to the extent that some campers from the adjacent field came to see what was happening!

Pastor David Foster was well appreciated in his new role as camp master, while the highly experienced Pastor Jeremy Tremer made sure that all practical aspects of the camp ran smoothly.

Brecon Camp is a self-catering camp and the field is filled with tents, caravans and motorhomes. In the meetings, on walks, and around the bonfire, there is a great deal of social interaction. New friendships are formed every year, many of which will last for a lifetime.

If you would like to experience Brecon for yourself, please contact John Surridge on: 029 2064 4106. Our next camp is from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 September 2013.