

News to the churches • 30 August 2013 • Volume 118 • 18



Contemporary outreach at work in the city

by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, South England Conference Media director

n a warm summer's evening, Saturday 3 August, the Central London church opened its doors as a summer café, complete with tables, candles, food

and drink. The Dialogue Concert night was entitled 'Singing the Divine and Human Story: Praying Together Through Song'. World-renowned Adventist musician Pastor



Nicolas Zork, from New York, was supported by singer Tanya Riches from Hillsong, Sydney. Both are recording artists and were in England to present papers at the Christian Congregational Music Conference at Ripon College. Oxford.

Owing to the summer heatwave, it was uncertain whether people would turn up, but at the 7.30pm start there was standing room only. The evening was centred on worship music and, as Pastor Zork explained, it was like one big choir rehearsal where we all just sang together. With his guitar he led the attendees in singing praises and sharing the Gospel with words, songs and prayers. 'We are called to share the life of grace we have in Jesus,' he stated.

'It's a tiny piece of Heaven,' enthused one of the volunteers, Nerea Chafer. Catharine Namonda added, 'The informal setting gives a good opportunity for people to mingle.' She particularly liked the 'open door' policy. 'With the front doors open, people do walk in from the street as they hear music.'

That is something that singer Tanya Riches also noted. 'This is in the heart of London. I see people walking in from the street. I feel like it's a symbol of Jesus on the cross, with His open arms, open for all to come.'

> Music director for the South England Conference, Paul Lee, felt blessed: 'This is a true master class in how to lead out in worship!'

> There was also time to relax and chat in the venue's cosy atmosphere, with drinks and snacks available on the tables. To promote this friendly environment, there were various small icebreakers related to the evening.

While clearing the tables at the end of the night, Central London Church pastor, Geert Tap, was smiling. 'It is a thrill to see people from my church bringing their friends along. Tonight was an amazing worship café, and although I was concerned about the attendance, it being summer, there clearly is a need for café nights such as this.'

A regular participant at the café, Paul Lee, expressed how great it is to see how the concept of Dialogue Café is working in reaching people. He concluded, 'This is a type of evangelism that clearly works in London.'









 Are you passionate about sharing the Gospel? 
Do you thrive on meeting and connecting with new people? . Are you able to commit 12 months or more to an exciting and fresh outreach project?

If your answer to all three questions is 'yes', then you will be interested in this chance to be involved in an exciting new initiative currently taking place in Potters Bar as part of the Mission to the Cities project.

You: Apart from the attributes mentioned above, you need to be a Seventh-day Adventist who is personally maintaining a close connection to God and able to work in a team. Ideally, you are also creative and able to 'think outside the box', and therefore open to new ways of reaching out to the community of Potters Bar.

The opportunity: Our aim is to plant a church in Potters Bar. Our vision is: • To enable the people of Potters Bar to have lives transformed by knowing Jesus; • To cultivate and grow a community of people who embody acceptance, maturity and vitality - and who, above all, worship God.

You will need to come and live in Potters Bar in a modern house with modern amenities. You will live and work with the other volunteers, committing 20 hours per week towards the outreach activities. You will be paid a stipend for the work you do towards the project, as well as benefiting from free accommodation. In order to supplement your income and make contacts you will be encouraged to get a part-time job in the local community

What next? Please download the application and reference forms at www.refreshpottersbar.org/volunteer and follow the instructions provided.



# **Cancer: the facts – part 4**

Signs and symptoms

Knowing your body is a key to detecting any abnormal changes and possible cancer signs. Prompt reporting to your GP can assist in early detection and treatment, which can be lifesaving.

Cancer Research UK has identified the following signs of cancer for men and women

An unusual lump or swelling anywhere on your body: • Unusual testicular or breast lumps: • Persistent lumps or swellings that last for three weeks or more in areas such as the neck, armpit, abdomen, groin or chest.

A change in size, shape or colour of a mole: • Including crustiness, blood or oozina.

A sore that won't heal after several weeks: • A spot, wart or sore lasting for several weeks, even if it is painless.

A mouth or tongue ulcer that lasts longer than three weeks: • The lining of the mouth renews itself around every two weeks, so ulcers that exceed that may be suspicious.

A cough or croaky voice that lasts longer than three weeks: • Or an existing cough that changes or worsens.

Persistent difficulty swallowing or indigestion: • Symptoms (including pain) lasting a couple of weeks.

Problems passing urine: • Frequency, painfulness, urgency, difficulty urinating or blood in the urine.

Blood in your bowel motions: • May be caused by piles due to

A change to more frequent bowel motions that lasts longer than four to six weeks: • Stomach bugs and food poisoning causing loose. frequent bowel motions clear up within a few days. However, persistent symptoms must be investigated to check for bowel cancer, particularly in the over-50s.

Unexplained weight loss or heavy night sweats: • Noticeable weight loss without dieting, or heavy night sweats unrelated to the menopause.

An unexplained pain or ache that lasts longer than four weeks: • Pain unrelated to surgery or injury.

Breathlessness: • Feeling unusually breathless, for much of the time. could be a sign of lung cancer.

Coughing up blood: • Coughing up blood, regardless of amount or colour.

An unusual breast change: • Any changes, including the feel of the breast; its size, shape or skin texture; redness; nipple changes; dimples; or pain in one breast.

Bleeding from the vaging after the menopause or between periods: • Bleeding following intercourse, or that is unrelated to the contraceptive pill.

Persistent bloating: • Persistent abdominal bloating could be a sign of ovarian cancer.

Be vigilant!

# editorial

Ariel Castro, 53, recently received 'life in prison plus 1,000 years' for his decade-long abuse of three young women in Ohio, USA. This sentence was handed down in response to his guilty plea to '937 counts including kidnapping and rape'.1

Castro eventually confessed, but in those few TV clips that showed him in court. I could detect no obvious signs of remorse. I saw no bowed head or humble, downcast eyes. If anything, most times he appeared to have a bemused look on his face.<sup>2</sup>

After all the evil he had perpetrated against those powerless young women, I thought that a touch of remorse would have been appropriate - but there was none to be seen!

#### Remorse

Why was I looking for signs of remorse? For this simple reason: the presence of remorse suggests that the guilty party feels some 'moral anguish' over his or her misdeeds.<sup>3</sup> This implies an awareness of right and wrong, the presence of regret and the possibility of repentance.

Repentance is the bridge across which confession takes place, and this prepares the way for forgiveness and reconciliation. This is why, for Christians especially, remorse is so imnortant

#### The broken pane

I enjoyed the freedom of wide-open spaces during my childhood and our yard was one of them. It was more than a cricket pitch in length (22 vards) and we regularly used it for that purpose . . . until the fateful day that I lofted a full toss through our very large kitchen window!

Although it is strange for an avid cricketer to feel bad about a good shot, that is how I felt. I didn't want the day to end. I didn't want my father to return from work. I didn't want to face my parents' discipline. But even the 'longest day' has a sunset.

That is my earliest recollection of personal remorse - and I believe it was genuine.

#### Vox Populi

But some years later, things were different. I was at theological college by then and prone to question things that didn't make sense. Together with a few like-minded students I clandestinely prepared a student newspaper called Vox Populi (Latin for 'voice of the people'), which we foolishly distributed an hour or so before the next issue of the college paper was scheduled to appear!

The KGB couldn't have worked quicker than the dean of the theology department and I was soon standing before his desk. He severely scolded me, making it very clear that our actions were in very poor taste – which they probably were. When his tirade was over, I duly apologised. But I felt no remorse.

I justified my actions to myself. We had a better and more relevant publication. The

# If David got it right

students liked it. We had stolen a march on the official publishers and stirred up some 'healthy' controversy. To tell the truth, I think we felt a sense of moral victory that left little room for remorse – and none for repentance!

#### Since then . . .

Since then I have come to see the importance of remorse. But also to realise that there is an even deeper and more critical level of human reaction than that. It is best described by a term that is steeped in religious tradition and seldom used in daily conversation: namely, contrition, Remorse may be motivated by a variety of catalysts. On the day I broke the kitchen window my remorse was driven by a subtle blend of sadness – because I had done something to cause my parents considerable expense – and the fear of having to face my father's discipline. Back in the dean's office, my remorse was a 'politically correct' verbal response, aimed at pacifying an angry man who would determine my Greek grade at the end of the year. Talk about

'crocodile tears'!

#### Contrition

only forgiven!

If repentance is the 'bridge' across which reconciliation takes place – whether between us, or with God - then contrition provides its 'pillars'. Is this why God makes the following comment about those with contrite hearts?

# emphasis supplied.)

inexcusable – and their rightdoing inconsequential. They know that forgiveness is their only hope.

#### David got it right

adultery, deceit, betrayal, murder and hypocrisy were his wrongs. But then, he experienced contrition:

'My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.' (Psalm 51:17. NIV.)

If David got it right - so can we.

1http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/man-whoheld-3-women-captive-in-cleveland-home-over-decadein-his-house-moved-to-2nd-prison/2013/08/08/ 03afd8aa-003f-11e3-8294-0ee5075b840d story.html <sup>2</sup>According to a CNN report 'Multiple officers testified that Castro appeared to show no remorse for his crimes, ' (See

http://edition.cnn.com/2013/08/01/justice/ohio-castro) 3http://www.thefreedictionary.com/ remorse





Julian Hibbert Editor

Contrition, by contrast, is something deep, painful and authentic. It flows from a sincere conviction that our behaviour has caused unnecessary pain, devastation or destruction. It never leads to the 'If I have hurt you, let me apologise' type of response. Neither does it arm itself with a fist full of mitigating circumstances. And it won't try to disperse or diffuse the blame through 'Yes, I was wrong, but you provoked me' statements.

When our hearts are contrite about something, we know that the wrong we have done cannot be rectified with boxes of *Ferrero Rocher* or exquisite bouquets. It can never really be 'put right' –

'For this is what the high and exalted One says – he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." ' (Isaiah 57:15, NIV -

God is obviously at home, and at ease, with those who know that grace is the only remedy for their failure. He comes close to the contrite, because they know that their **wrongdoing** is

King David made a mess of his life. Lust,



# devotional



# **'But words will** never hurt me' — **Teally**?

Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference president, argues convincingly that our words can hurt - or heal. The choice is ours.

here is a saying that goes, 'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!

I'm sure the family of Hannah Smith (Lutterworth, Leicestershire) would not agree. Hannah was just 14 years of age when, on Friday 2 August 2013, her lifeless body was found in her bedroom after she took her own life. Her mourning parents believe that she took her own life after receiving sickening messages posted on a social networking website. Hannah's father said, 'Hannah was only 14 years old, yet the messages I saw were very abusive. They told her to die. One message said "die, die, die, die, die".' (Rugby & Lutterworth Observer, Tuesday 6 August 2013.)

Anonymous tormentors, or 'trolls', targeted Hannah, the vulnerable teenager, and made very cruel comments regarding her appearance, weight, and worth – and urged her to kill herself in a series of disturbing posts.\*

These tormentors, or 'trolls', as they are now often called, scour social network websites posting vulgar and harmful messages. Sometimes trolls will post abusive messages on tribute sites for deceased loved ones. Their purpose is to cause emotional harm, upset and outrage, because they know that words can hurt, because words are powerful.

Twitter is a social networking site that has half a billion users (500 million). Each user is limited to conveying his/her message in just 140 characters. And yet in recent times, despite this limit, we have seen the power their words have to perpetrate evil. The BBC News reported on 3 August that police are investigating eight allegations of abuse, including bomb and rape threats made against women using Twitter. Two people have been arrested in relation to rape threats against Labour MP Stella Creasy and feminist campaigner Caroline Criado-Perez, who received the threats after a campaign to have Jane Austen on the new £10 note!

'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!' Really?

On the contrary, these stories are evidence that words do hurt. Words can incite and words can kill. In fact, long before the advent of Twitter and the like, we can find ample evidence of the hurtful effect of words.

Some 2,500 years ago, the prophet Jeremiah received a message from God that he recounts for us in Jeremiah 11:18, 19 (GNB): 'The LORD informed me of the plots that my enemies were making against me. I was like a trusting lamb taken out to be killed, and I did not know that it was against me that they were planning evil things. They were saving, "Let's chop down the tree while it is still healthy; let's kill him so that no one will remember him any more."

These words hurt Jeremiah deeply, and he began to question God about the value of his life and ministry, which culminated in the anguished cry of Jeremiah 20:14, 15 (GNB): *Curse the day I was born! Forget the day my* mother gave me birth! Curse the one who made my father glad by bringing him the news, "It's a boy! You have a son!"

Words can destroy self-worth by diminishing the value and purpose of a person's life.

And yet, while recent news has highlighted the power of words to injure and wound, I recall the beautiful hymn that I sang as a child. whose words were penned by Franklin E. Belden, a nephew of Ellen G. White (639 in the New Advent Hymnal):

If any little word of mine May make a dark life brighter, If any little song of mine May make a sad heart lighter. God help me speak the helping word. And sweeten it with singing, And drop it in some lonely vale, To set the echoes ringing.

Belden's hymn is so inspiring, reminding

us that words can serve as a power for good by bringing light into the darkness of people's lives – just as the Genesis account records those first words God spoke to an earth engulfed in darkness (Genesis 1:3, GNB): ""Let there be light" - and light appeared."

Out of the mouth of God flow words with so much power that they can change the present unpleasant realities of our lives for the better.

The Bible contains many instances in which we see the power of words as they proceed from the mouth of God. Words from God's mouth enabled a potluck lunch to be served - one that satisfied the needs of 5.000 people – although it all began with a child's tiny packed lunch (Matthew 14:14-21).

Words from the mouth of God drastically changed the weather (Mark 4:39), and caused thousands of demons to hastily exit from a man and take possession of a herd of nearby pigs (Mark 5:1-20).

Words from the mouth of God woke a man who had been dead for four days. Those words were so powerful that they reversed the process of burial and decay and reunited him with his still-grieving friends and family (John 11:38-44).

Words from the mouth of God are so powerful that they will change the reality of death for every child of God who has ever succumbed to it (1 Thessalonians 4:16, KJV): 'For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first'.

Words that we say, text, tweet, email and the like are things we cannot afford to treat lightly, for we have this solemn warning from Christ, who said (Matthew 12:36, 37, GNB): 'You can be sure that on the Judgment Day vou will have to give account of every useless word vou have ever spoken. Your words will be used to judge you – to declare you either innocent or guilty."

Words can and do hurt, and this is why I want to be Christ-minded in the words that I use - for I want to hear these words from Him one day (Matthew 25:21, KJV): 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.'

\*Reports have since emerged that Hannah may have been the source of some of these 'hate' messages herself. That does not, however, diminish the threat that negative comments pose to social media users.



### **BUC Women's** Ministries retreat 18-20 October 2013

Theme Women of Virtue

presenter and consultant Guest speaker She has also served as Dr Deborah Harris the Women's Ministries

director for the South Venue

Dr Deborah Harris is a

renowned Women's

Ministries speaker for

events across the USA.

She is an expert business

trainer and organisation

consultant. She works

with businesses. non-

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Atlantic Conference.

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He has given her a powerful worldwide

www.prayingforoui children.org

Because of her

shaped by her

Our Children'

profit organisations and

East Midlands Conference Centre & the newly built four-star Orchard Hotel

For more information www.adventist.org.uk Women's Ministries Department

> Dawn Tompkins - dtompkins@adventist.org.uk Tel: BUC office 01923672251

# Mini Seminar for doctors, dentists and medical/ dental students



20 September 21 September 10-11am (followed by Divine Service): second session 3-5pm and 6-8pm: third and fourth sessions

There will be a potluck fellowship lunch and afternoon tea

'The Theology of Health and Well-being' - 'Putting the Jigsaw Together' by Dr Elizabeth Eliot and Dr Roland Ostring

#### Venue

Ringway Life Building at St Mary's Church, Sunbank Lane, Ringway, Cheshire, WA15 OPS (opposite the Romper pub near Manchester Airport viewing park) www.lifebuildina.ora.uk

#### Suggested accommodation

Premier Inn Manchester Airport South Travelodge Manchester Airport (both in walking distance to the church)

#### Biography

Elizabeth and Roland worked for years at Tsuen Wan Adventist Hospital in Hong Kong as physician and surgeon respectively. After returning to New Zealand they worked as partners in a general practice, with Elizabeth specialising in musculoskeletal medicine and Roland working with the local drug abuse services. They are partially retired now, although Elizabeth is working on a PhD on the Theology of Work, with Dr Laurence Turner and Dr Steven Thompson as her supervisors. She also teaches a module on the Theology of Health and Well-being at Avondale College. It is from this module that she will distil the material of this seminar. Roland will conduct a session on working with those troubled by addictions.

Further details from Eileen Baildam: aetab@btinternet.com.



Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? Each week I'll be hosting Q&A in an effort to answer them. Andrew Puckering

#### 'Are Seventh-day Adventists the only Christians who keep the biblical Sabbath?'

The short answer is: No! There are a great many Christian denominations around the world who also keep holy the seventh day of the week, Saturday, as outlined in Scripture (Exodus 20:8-11). Estimates of the exact number vary, but Topix forum member Powerintheblood, from Desert Hot

Springs, USA, lists about 500,<sup>1</sup> and a website devoted to the importance of keeping the Ten Commandments gives a slightly different list enumerating 543, which is said to be updated 'on a regular basis'.<sup>2</sup>

One of the foremost of these groups is that of the Seventh Day Baptists, whose first church in America was 'founded in Newport. Rhode Island, in 1671'.<sup>3</sup> This means that they have been keeping the Sabbath in America for 342 years: 192 of which transpired before the corporate body of Seventh-day Adventists was officially organised in 1863, making their denomination of Sabbath-keepers at least twice as old as our own! Even before then, Seventh Day Baptists were keeping Sabbath at The Mill Yard Church in London in 1651, as well as Pinner's Hall and Bell Lane in London, and Colchester in Essex.<sup>4</sup> They also believed in the soon return of Christ<sup>5</sup> – thus illustrating that the two major principles of our faith, from which we take our name as Seventh-day Adventists, have been jointly held for a lot longer than the duration of our denomination's existence

Just as we do. Seventh Day Baptists quote Genesis 2:1-3 in support of the divine origin of the Sabbath and its universal applicability, and they also acknowledge, as we do, that Jesus and the early disciples practised Sabbath-keeping; and that true Sabbath-keeping, far from being a means of obtaining salvation, is motivated rather by our love for God in response to Christ's grace.<sup>6</sup>

Maybe sometimes we can feel as Elijah felt at Horeb: that we alone remain faithful to God, and will bear the Sabbath seal alone in the last days! But there are many more than 7,000 'knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him' (1 Kings 19:18. KJV). The flame of Sabbath observance has been kept alive throughout history by groups as diverse as the fifth-century Christians in Constantinople,<sup>7</sup> the Bohemians during the time of Erasmus (who were said to be so zealous in their Sabbath observance that they would not even remove something from their eyes on Sabbath!),<sup>8</sup> and the Hungarian-speaking Somrei Sabat (Sabbath observers) of Transylvania in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.<sup>9</sup> Today it is still burning brightly among the 1.5 million members of the True Jesus Church,<sup>10</sup> the 300,000 members of the Church of God (Seventh Day),<sup>11</sup> the 2,000 members of the Sabbath Rest Advent Church<sup>12</sup> – and, of course, Seventh-day Adventists!

1http://www.topix.com/forum/religion/seventh-day-adventist/TOPK2SH460MI7S2A7 2http:// www.the-ten-commandments.org/sabbathkeepingchurches.html# 3http://www.seventhday baptist.org <sup>4</sup>William H. Brackney, Baptists in North America: An Historical Perspective, Blackwell Publishing, 2006, p.11 <sup>s</sup>Ibid <sup>®</sup>http://www.seventhdaybaptist.org/content/sabbath <sup>7</sup>Sozomen, *Ecclesiastical History*, vol. 7, ch.19, fifth century <sup>®</sup>Robert Cox, *The Literature of the* Sabbath Question, vol. 2, Maclachlan & Stewart, 1865, pp. 201-202 <sup>9</sup>Encyclopedia Judica, fourth printing, volume 10, 1978, Israel: columns 397-40110See http://www.tjc.org/catLand ing.aspx?tab=about&catno=about00 and http://www.tjc.org/catLanding.aspx?tab=about& catno=about01 <sup>11</sup>cog7.org <sup>12</sup>http://www.srac.info/files/brochures/en/0000-01-en/index.html

Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don't despair – we will deal with it in due course.

# "'extreme' adventists

# Upholding the law, graciously



In the United Kingdom, our local safety and security are entrusted to a cluster of departments within the police and emergency services. We are glad for their training and vigilance – and have a high expectation that they will be around when we need them! How much do we know about them, though? Perhaps a little less than our children who get to meet them during the special courtesy visits that the police, ambulance service and fire brigade make to their schools.

Today we are going to meet one of them, a police community support officer, PCSO 13024 Horace Squire. He has earned the title 'extreme' Adventist, because he is a church member who lives life in a potential danger zone – by choice – in service of his community.

**Editor:** Horace, in your PCSO uniform you look a lot like a police officer, but I believe that your functions are different. Please sketch the difference for our readers.

**Horace:** Yes, Julian, you are correct. A police community support officer is not a policeman. Although we are employed by the local county police force in a support capacity, our powers are more restricted than those of a regular police officer.

**Editor:** What powers do you have then?

**Horace:** Well, maybe I should tell you a little about my general responsibilities first. Our routine duties usually include highvisibility patrolling, dealing with the fear of crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour, and minor offences. We also gather criminal intelligence and issue fixedpenalty notices for offences like cycling on the footpath, littering, and dog control order.

We have the powers to require the names and addresses of any person we have reason to believe has committed an offence, including road traffic violations. We can also require any person drinking in a designated area to surrender their alcohol, or seize alcohol from persons under 18 and tobacco from persons under 16. We may also seize vehicles being used to cause fear, alarm, distress or annoyance. These are some of the powers entrusted to us, but they may vary between areas because it's down to the chief constable to designate them.

Editor: So if, while on your 'beat', you come across some lads having a rowdy extension of 'happy hour' outside my house, what can you do about it?

**Horace:** Firstly, I have the power to confiscate alcohol and to demand the name and address of any of them who were acting in an antisocial manner. Secondly, if I felt that the matter was more serious, I could use my radio to summon police backup. It is important to know that when persons are drunk they become very unpredictable, so one has be to very cautious in one's approach to them.

**Editor:** Horace, that type of action takes a cool head – especially when one considers that you are 'armed' only with a radio and a mobile phone.

**Horace:** Yes, Julian, it does. But I always try to remember that I'm not alone out there while walking the streets. God is always before, beside, behind and above me. In all honesty, if it were not for my faith in God, I would not even have thought about this job.

Today many of our youth are very aggressive, and there seems to be no parental guidance or control. But I personally have to give thanks to God for His protecting care over me. I can say that He has shielded me under His wings. You mentioned the meagre equipment we carry with us, mainly our radio. But would you believe me if I told you that having CS gas, a baton or handcuffs still won't equip you to do an effective job?

The most important and powerful tool our officers have is the spoken word! Effective communication can and will defuse many a conflict and resolve some of the most difficult situations.

So personally for me, with me being God's mouthpiece, I have nothing to fear. To God be the glory. There was one situation where I had just left a particular area when I got a phone call from a member of the public to return quickly as it had 'kicked off', so to speak. It was a fight between some of the locals, and when I arrived there were already two police officers on the scene. One of those involved already had a cut over his eye, was very angry, and was not willing to comply with the officers' request. By this time one officer had taken out his baton. The situation was really tense, but I recognised the lad and walked up to him. At that he put his hand around my shoulder and started telling me what had happened. I believe in respecting people, regardless of who they are and what they've done. I respect every person I work with and I can only do that



Photography: David Bell

The editor chats with Horace while they

through Christ, not on my own.

Editor: One thing that really surprises me while we walk around the estate is the effort you make to greet and be friendly with everyone you meet. You also seemed to know them all by name. In fact, I would go so far as to say they actually like you – or was I just imagining things?

Horace: Well, that's not me. It is God working through me to reach others. I live by several simple mottos: firstly, 'There but for the grace of God go I.' I am a sinner too, just as much in need of grace as anyone else. Secondly, I believe that every person is a candidate for Heaven. And finally, the only God some people will see is the One we portray. I make it my point on duty to

reach out to people and, where possible, to tell them about the God I serve. I remember going to an incident where a burglary had occurred. While I was talking to the person, she mentioned God in the conversation. My ears pricked up and my face lit up like a stadium bulb. I asked her if she was a Christian: she confirmed that she was, and I forgot my 'second mission' - dealing with the crime – and attended to the 'first' - witnessing for God. We had a lovely conversation about Christianity, and then I attended to the burglary. I always look for an opportunity to reach people and to talk about the goodness of God.

**Editor:** Horace, have you ever been in real danger as a PCSO?

**Horace:** Yes, Julian, a number of times, but most recently right here in Lincoln on 3 June this year. I was patrolling my local



Presently there are 15,820 police community support officers across England and Wales.\* In paying respect to Horace Squire, we also remember all of them and the work they do to preserve our safety and security. \* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Police\_community\_ support\_officer



area when I saw thick black smoke billowing from a second-floor flat where a man was trapped. After calling for the emergency services I rushed up to the flat. Thick black smoke billowed from its door and I called to the man to get out, but he shouted for me to come! By then the black smoke within the flat was approximately 12 inches above the floor. I crouched down at the entrance of the flat to look inside and saw the man's foot way over in the corner of one room. He was sitting on the floor near a raging fire.

It was then that I decided to get him out before it was too late. I took off my cap and got down on my tummy, and, as I started to crawl under the thick smoke, I could hear another resident shouting, 'No Horace, too dangerous, don't go inside!' He then tried dragging me out, but I broke free, and crawled through

### The Lincolnite recorded

Horace's efforts like this . . . 'As he reached the door of the flat, he could hear a man shouting for help. He crawled under the smoke level through two rooms, then managed to drag the occupier out by [his] ankles.

'Moments later, the windows of the flat blew out. . . .

'Inspector Pat Coates said: "We are extremely proud of Horace's actions. His bravery prevented the serious injury of a member of the public and is testament to his professionalism and dedication." http://thelincolnite.co.uk/2013/06/lincolnpcso-crawls-through-burning-flat-to-saveresident'



Below: Horace shows us the second floor flat, where you can clearly see the scorchec paintwork from the fire

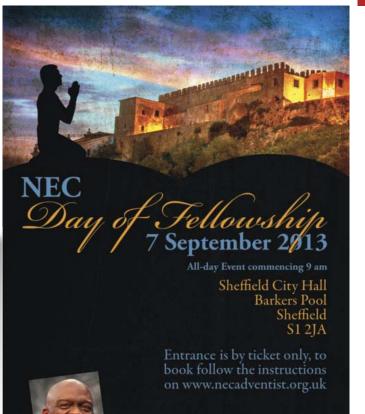


one room and then into the room where the man was. I grabbed his feet and started pulling him backwards towards the entrance. At one stage I thought, 'Am I going the right way?' but I continued until I got to the door.

By then the fire services had arrived and we carried him downstairs, where he received treatment for smoke inhalation. It was then that the flat window blew out. Some might say it was a lucky escape, but I say it was God at work.

Editor: Horace, we salute you for your bravery – not just for the rescue of this man under dangerous circumstances – but also for the way in which you try to give the people on your beat a daily glimpse of Jesus.

**Footnote:** Horace and his family attend the Nottingham Central church.



Quest Speaker Dr. Israel Leito Rebuilding the 'Walls' Rebuilding People Restoring Relationships Inspiring Excellence



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#### Jesus - The Clever Lad!

This month all the activities are based on the story of Jesus going to the temple when He was 12 years old. You can read the story in Luke 2:39-52.

#### **Bible Detective**

When Jesus was a young boy His parents taught Him all about God. They used the Old Testament books to teach Jesus because the New Testament books were written after He went back to Heaven. Did you know there are lots of clues about Jesus in the Old Testament? Draw a line from the verse to what it tells you about Jesus.



TEMPLEJTEM

#### Oh no! I'm lost!

Have you ever been lost, even for a few minutes? What did you feel like when you knew you were lost? What did you do? How were you found again? How did that feel? It's so good to know we can pray to Jesus when we're lost. He always knows right where we are, and exactly how to help people find us again.

- Whenever you're lost it's a good idea to go back to where you last remember seeing your friends or family.
- Find a mother with children, a policeperson, or someone who works where you are lost, and ask them to help you.

Draw a cartoon of your own 'lost and found' story in the squares below. Write what's happening at the bottom of each picture.

#### **Together again!**

Whenever we feel a long way from Jesus, we feel sad. But Jesus is always close to us. We can pray and ask God to help us find Jesus again. Circle the words in the square below that describe how Mary and

- Joseph might have felt when they found Jesus.
- Then draw their happy faces in the middle of the square.

#### Lost and found!

Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple with the priests. He had been lost for three days! Search the grid below to find the name of JESUS in the shape of a cross. A horizontal name of Jesus and a vertical name will share the same middle 'S'. How many TEMPLE and PRIEST words can you find in the grid? Circle the words when you find them. The words can be found backwards and forwards, and up and down the grid.

Christian

stars

JSJTEMELE S E P R ETEMPU S TS SUSE ΡU JESTE EM Т. ΤΕU P S ΜE FM RT SRPMPE I E ELTI Т E PJE S U RJESUSEM REM ΕI PLUMP S P TSSELPSEL ILP EPLME TS F L TME JE SME IS E Ρ JTPRE ТТ SPRIPESTM ETP JE PMULSSLTEMP MEL PMPPRIESTEMPLE

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ack from children who visit Christian Stars Children's pages – or from their parents – is welcome. The address is children@adventist.org.uk. Karen Holford

# milestones



# Harper Bell turns 25

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of The Harper Bell School and here its first principal, Frank Castellino, tells of its origins.

t was one April morning in 1988 that I received the strangest of phone calls. The BUC Education director phoned to say that Pastor Ron Surridge, president of the North British Conference – as the NEC was then known – wished to speak to me urgently. As I happened to be teaching a class, I agreed to phone him when I got home.

That evening Pastor Surridge informed me that the Conference had purchased a building in Birmingham to be converted into a church school, the first in the West Midlands. He asked if I would take on the task of opening the school as head teacher. My gut instinct was to say 'No'. It seemed to me to be a daunting undertaking. But then my mind switched back to the phone call I received at school.

I first met Pastor Surridge some eighteen years previously, but had since lost all contact with him. The director who phoned in the first instance was someone I was not familiar with. How on earth had he managed to track me down to London, of all places? All I could think of was that the call had been Heaven-directed. That being so, who was I to turn down His request?

The building they had purchased was old, and not purpose-built, so much work was needed to bring it up to standard. After several months of painstaking work and a good amount of money spent on refurbishment it was ready for us to use. My wife and I continued to work at our respective schools till the end of that school year. After hours we worked hard to plan the various areas of the school: offices, classrooms, staffroom, library, gym; drawing up an inventory of supplies needed; and shopping around for the best deals and best suppliers. The Conference's financial situation was anything but healthy and we were expected to run the school on a shoestring budget. Adventist teachers were hard to come by, and for this reason the school would have a skeleton staff, at least to begin with. Our patience and perseverance paid off and we got all the necessary equipment to fit out the building and make it an up-and-running school.

After some research into the history of the Adventist school system we came up with the name of Goodloe Harper Bell, one of the pioneers of Adventist education. He was the first teacher at the first Adventist school, which opened in 1872 in Battle Creek, USA, with twelve students. We chose his name for the school, The Harper Bell School, believing that he would be a good role model for staff and students alike.

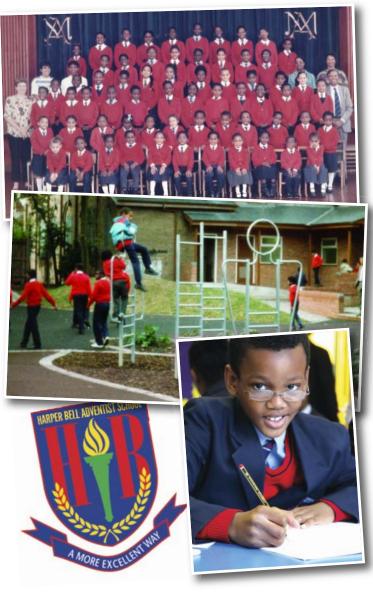
Centres of learning think carefully about the mottos they adopt for their institutions. Mottos are not meant as mere ornaments to adorn their portals, but beacons to guide those who enter them in search of knowledge and development of character. We could not have chosen a better motto for the new school than that of 1 Corinthians 12:31: '... and yet shew I unto you **a more excellent way**' (KJV). The following chapter goes on to describe this more excellent way, or 'most excellent way' (NIV), as the way of love.

Those months of preparation soon passed, and, in September 1988, the Harper Bell School opened to the glare of media publicity. At the end of that first school day a BBC TV crew arrived to conduct an interview and my office was turned into a mini studio. Their work was done and dusted in the matter of about twenty minutes and they rushed off to prepare their report for the local BBC evening news.

The following morning, some of the broadsheets and tabloid newspapers, both local and national, carried the news of the school's opening, albeit briefly. There is no doubt that the Lord was leading in all this, because we believe that 'Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain' (Psalm 127:1, NIV-UK).

We were privileged to have been involved in founding The Harper Bell School in the West Midlands. This area has the largest number of churches and members in the NEC, so it was fitting that the Conference and the membership had the vision to establish a monument to the glory of God and a blessing to the many children who have gone through its doors in the past twenty-five years. For more information about The Harper Bell School, contact Mrs

L. McDonald at *info@hbsda.bham.sch.uk* or call 0121 693 7742.





# Barnsley celebrates

S abbath 15 June was a special day in the history of the Seventhday Adventist church in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. They were celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the church's worship in its present building.

There has been an Adventist presence in the town since the 1920s, but in 1943 a large house with a sizeable annex on Sackville Street was to be sold at auction. The treasurer, Sister Cluett, decided that she could do with a change of address, and it was agreed to offer her  $\pounds300$  (with help from the British Union) for the annex, if she were able to purchase the house.

This is how the *British Advent Messenger* of 5 May, 1944, recorded the impressions of D. J. Handysides concerning the auction:

'I do not think that there was ever an auction-room so filled with Seventh-day Adventists so earnestly praying – and their prayers were answered. That annexe was ours.'<sup>1</sup>

It wasn't just the auction that impressed Handysides. He was obviously moved by the dedication and enthusiasm of the members, and what they were able to achieve during a time of severe national austerity:

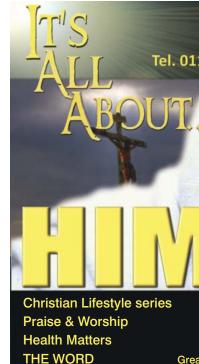
'Barnsley members have a just cause for much pleasure and pride, for in one year (1943) they have secured a fine church building, decorated it for service, and have presented it to God free of all debt.'<sup>2</sup>

The recent anniversary celebrations were a joyous occasion for both local members and visitors, many having travelled far for the event.

# Hounslow 'resurrects' Pathfindering

n 8 June this year Hounslow Cornerstone Church held a very special investiture – their first in nine years! This involved nine Adventurers and ten Pathfinders, who provided the church with much cause for joyous praise. During the morning service Kennedy Kundan, Area 6D Pathfinder co-ordinator, and Sirbrina Ramharack, Area 8 Pathfinder co-ordinator, put them through their paces so all could see what they had learnt. In the afternoon there was further excitement when four more Pathfinders and three more Adventurers joined the club.

The club had been restarted in April 2012, and Pastor Kevin Johns, SEC Pathfinder director, reminded them of some of their achievements since then. For instance, they came second at the Adventurer Camporee as outstanding all-round campers, and their Pathfinders came a close second in the BUC Bible Bowl Experience. The club now has eight counsellors, and a director, Paula Russell. MAX JONES



This old photo, bublished in the *Messenger*, 5 May 1944, shows the interior of the new Barnsley church.

Below: The Barnsley church building and its members today.



Among them were Pastors Brian Pilmoor, Robert Vine, Paul Haworth and Ron Edwards, together with Dorothy, Vivien and Heather. Garth Till (a past elder) and his wife Kath were also among the honoured guests.

The programme for the day was inspiring. Firstly, there were the testimonies of Tim, Lauren and Matthew, younger members who spoke of their overseas missionary work. Then Pastor Carlton Douglas, the present minister, taught the lesson, followed by Pastor Robert Vine's sermon on the meaning of discipleship, commitment, faithfulness and loyalty, which was entitled, 'Seventy is a great age'.

The afternoon programme was filled with nostalgia as the past was relived through anecdotes and photographs (on the screen). The day was a celebration of the congregation's past, but also a time of inspiration and encouragement for the future, until the Lord returns. It was also a time to be reminded that the Barnsley congregation will need to move to a more purpose-built building in the not-too-distant future. <sup>1</sup>British Advent Messenger, 5 May, 1944, page 4 <sup>2</sup>Ibid, page 3



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## **Holloway Pathfinders honoured**

It was a great honour for the Holloway Pathfinders Club, on Sabbath 2 July, to accept the gift of a Union Jack from the Islington Veterans' Association. Chairman of the Association, Ron Ranger, accompanied by his wife Josie and Islington's Pageant Master, Peter McCafferty, attended the Pathfinder investiture service earlier this year and observed that the Union Jack that the club used in their procession needed replacing, and felt that they would like to present a new one to the club in recognition of their community work.

To mark the occasion representatives of the Islington Veterans' Association, fully dressed in their uniform, performed a processional march into the church prior to the official handover of a handmade Union Jack. The flag was presented by Islington Labour councillor Gary Poole.

The Club members were delighted that the councillor, as well as some Association members, stayed for the worship hour and the fellowship lunch. HOLLOWAY COMMUNICATIONS



### **Erdington Community Services Sabbath**

In times of austerity, churches, communities and voluntary organisations often unite to develop strategies to help the poor, sick and vulnerable of society.

On 6 April, the Erdington Community Services leader, Trevor Davis, invited Pastor Michael Simpson, NEC Personal Ministries director, to share his work and experiences as a minister at the Conference. Among the invited dignitaries were Councillor Penny Holbrook, Stockland Green Ward councillor; Ann Danks, Regional Development officer at The Trussell Trust; Grace Walsh, the NEC Community Services director; and Dr Patrick Lowe, company director and Public Health consultant.

In his message Pastor Simpson emphasised the need to provide practical help for the community before preaching the Gospel to it. His theme was based on the positive relationship between faith and works, and he encouraged the church to take this fundamental Christian principle as the cornerstone of its ministry as it engages with national and local agencies, like the Foodbank, in the fight against poverty.

The afternoon session was packed with talks and presentations. Ann Danks of The Trussell Trust talked about her work and that of the Trust. She also emphasised that the Trust was in 'business' to empower local communities to combat poverty through the distribution networks of foodbanks throughout the UK. She encouraged churches and communities to link with The Trussell Trust to open foodbanks across the UK. Foodbanks have proved their worth in the UK and Adventists can give them wholehearted support.

Councillor Holbrook spelt out Birmingham City Council's strategy of tackling alcoholism, crime, violence and drug abuse in society, and extended an invitation to the church to help solve these problems in that city.

Dr Lowe also talked about the council's plans for public health in Birmingham, and emphasised the need for excellence in community leadership during times of austerity.

The Community Services day was positively received by all, including the visiting dignitaries. JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

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health day Due to the fact that rival teams, Cork and Clare, would be battling it out on Sunday 23 June during the Munster hurling semifinal, it was feared that no one from Clare would stray from their homes as the match was televised live from the Gaelic grounds. This was Clare's chance to gain a place in the final in their quest to be crowned All-Ireland Hurling Champions. Just a few miles north

of the pitch, away from the noisy clash of the ash, Cork

and Clare Adventist church members joined 'teams' in a united effort to hold a 'Celebrate Health' day in the picturesque Clare town of Newmarket-on-Fergus. But would people attend on a day so exciting for the local Gaelic sport supporters?

Contrary to expectations, however, once the doors of the local family centre opened there was a steady flow of people interested in hearing the health message and touring the various health stations.

One lady celebrated her retirement by planning to attend the vegetarian cookery classes run by the local Seventh-day Adventist church. She expressed her disappointment that she could not attend classes last year as they clashed with her work hours. 'That will not be a problem this year,' she informed us as she signed up.

Another lady anxiously enquired about the cookery classes, as she loved participating last year. This year she plans to bring her friends.

The menfolk attended in the early afternoon so as to avoid a clash of interest with their match commitments, and some encouraged their wives to attend later in the evening, making it a very successful health expo.

A visiting American Adventist family gave up their vacation time to join church members in inviting local people to attend. A number of people also attended because of an advertisement placed in the local Catholic church newsletter.

Later that evening the results of the hurling match came through: Clare were defeated by nine points. All was not lost, however, as many in the local community had lots to celebrate due to their participation in the health 'game', and they can now look forward to enjoying its rewards in the years ahead. BETTY O'ROURKE

See more at: http://adventist.ie/news/2013-ir/ the-clash-of-the-ash#sthash.ampss4kj.dpuf



Regents Hall, 275 Oxford Street, London, WIC 2DJ DOORS OPEN 5PM EVENT 6PM-10PM FEATURING GUEST APPEARANCES FROM: Ezekiel Azonwu International Spoken Word Artist (P4CM USA)



# Live animation project

This happened at the Willesden church on Sabbath 15 June. Curious members watched as some animated images were projected on a large screen - but there was no sound. Little did they know that they would soon provide it! 'This is what we're going to do,'

said Lee White Samuels from Croydon Church: 'I'd like us to come up with some impromptu songs, poems, readings, and so on, for the animation, so that we can get some ideas of what we can do with media. Don't be shy or worried if it's not fully polished.

The Willesden members were about to begin an animated Bible Study process called 'Christian Daydream', Lee's brainchild. He believes that if cartoons can be used to entice children to eat junk food, then they can be used to explain Christianity too.

People chuckled nervously as they realised that they were to produce a live audio recording for the animation, and that the entire project would be on display for all to see, forever immortalised.

The church was separated into groups, each group focusing on a particular end-time theme from Matthew 24.

After an initial reluctance to get involved, people warmed to the task, and the creativity and fun began. It was great to see improvisation in action and to see people's creative juices flowing.

Thought-provoking original poems and songs were produced and presented with gusto by young and old. Willesden's got talent!

'I think it was alright,' said 15-year-old Justin Francis-McLeish: 'I'd take part in something like this again."

Melody Brooks, 15, who was one of the narrators, said: 'I think the project was quite good. I liked the idea of it, to make an animation. It was quite cool.

According to Lee, the aim of the event was to create a discussion around Matthew 24, and to let people do it through media.

People really seemed to love it. Clive Johnson said: 'It was refreshing to see something different - to get people interested in the topic like this. It shows creativity . . . I'm glad I took part in it. This project can lead to greater things."

Once the audio and video were merged the members sat back to watch the 'global premiere' of their first animation project. There is nothing stopping your church from doing the same - for more details contact the reporter at *moniguesimpson1@hotmail.com*. MONIQUE SIMPSON



an Daydream



## Pathfinders earn 'sea legs'

The Plumstead Pathfinders thought that sailing would be easy when they visited the Erith Yacht Club. After the introductions and instructions, their first test was to launch the boat. Then they discovered that it was not as easy as they had thought. They had to learn to balance the boat or fear capsizing. The experience was challenging and fearful, but rewarding in the end. They all managed to obtain a sailing honour and an experience they will not forget. After their sailing exercise, some of the regular Yacht Club members asked us about our club, which gave us an opportunity to witness. VALDA E. TAYLOR, PLUMSTEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH



### The country comes to town

On 27 July, sunshine greeted thousands of visitors to the annual Cleveland Show held in the historic Stewart Park on the outskirts of Middlesbrough. But it was not only farm livestock, all manner of pets, trade and charity stalls and the various displays that they came to enjoy. There was a steady stream of them at the Middlesbrough church's stand, where more than 200 pieces of literature were given away.

A lot of children were attracted to the church's badge-making table, where members helped them make badges with Christian and family themes like 'Best Man' or 'Best Dad'. This provided an opportunity for our members to talk to the parents who accompanied their children. Conversations were steered towards spiritual things wherever possible during the making of those 200-odd badges! What a splendid way to mix and witness. JILL GELDART, SENIOR ELDER



## **Cheltenham children conduct worship**

Cheltenham's youth and children enjoy the challenge of leading and organising an occasional service. In fact, on 13 July they took charge of everything from the announcements to the closing praver! They chose the theme of 'Being Thankful for Life', and illustrated it with their drawings and posters on the church walls.

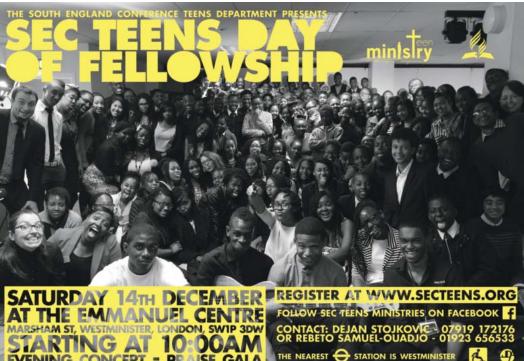
They acted out the main Bible reading about the raising of Lazarus from the dead, which included his enthusiastically being wrapped up in toilet roll before being placed in a makeshift grave. The mourners played their parts very realistically prior to Jesus calling Lazarus from the grave with a loud command.

The participants, some as young as 6, wrote and read their own prayers and poems, while two of the boys told the stories of Joni Eareckson-Tada and Ellie Simmonds, people who made the most of their lives despite severe physical disabilities.

The service was enjoyed by young and old alike. In fact, the oldest attendee, in her eighties, said she thought that the acting of the Bible story had been very good.

We are very grateful for our younger members and look forward to their next programme. MIKE AND VICKY BEAMISH. CHELTENHAM





EVENING CONCERT - PRAISE GALA

## In Sir Edmund's footsteps

Sir Edmund Hillary chose Snowdonia as a training venue in preparation for his successful first ascent of Everest. Following this example, sixty Pathfinders and staff rose to the challenge as they recently ventured out on a sponsored ascent of Mount Snowdon. Spirits and temperatures were high as they started off on a seven-hour expedition. Some chose to walk the more challenging Pyg Track and others the Miners' Track, with both groups to rendezvous higher up for the final push to the summit.

A sense of the excitement, adventure, and achievement was captured when one Pathfinder was heard to say, 'This is the best thing I have ever done.' At the top the panorama was magnificent: the clear blue skies, the mighty cataracts, and the vistas of Snowdonia took one's breath away. It reminded us of the mighty and awesome God we love and serve as we looked down upon the world around us.

Pastor Alan Hush said, 'This was a sponsored walk in order to raise funds for local clubs. Collectively the monies pledged reached well into four figures, which will greatly benefit those clubs represented, and I am relieved to report that everyone made it down safely.'

Well done everybody and a big thank-you to the staff. PASTOR ALAN HUSH

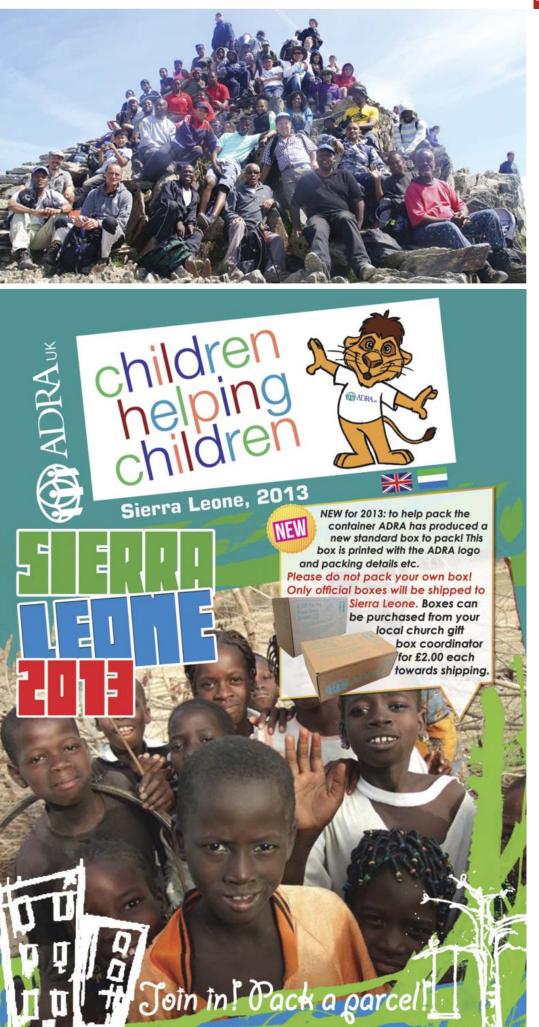


## **GBK** involved in outreach

Wolverhampton Central Church, assisted by four other local congregations, ran a Family Life outreach series entitled 'The Eye of the Storm' between 6 and 13 July.

The series, presented by Pastor John Nixon, was well received by the packed audiences, including guite a number of non-members from the local community.

Great Brickkiln Street Church were heavily involved in the provision of gospel music during the series, especially on the first Sunday evening. DELVA CAMPBELL



# ■back page



## London Ghana baptism . . .

On Saturday 22 June, London Ghana Church welcomed four new members - four young people who have dedicated their lives to God. The baptismal candidates were Cassius Adoma, Patience Cargill, Juliet Appiah and Estherlove Prempeh. They had received extensive doctrinal and spiritual preparation for the important event. Their family and friends were very happy to welcome these new members to the church.



## & vouth outreach

Just weeks later, on 15 July, London Ghana Church ran a week-long youth outreach entitled, 'Who is Jesus?' The speakers were Pastor J. Burnett and Costa Vaggas, and the event climaxed in a youth-focused

0 the monsters that God made

Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>-7pm

When did the Dinosaurs live? Why did they grow so big? How did they die out?

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#### Presented by: John Mackay - a world leading expert on the Evolution-Creation debate

Question time at the end. Light Refreshments will be served



John is International Director of Creation Research and has a track record of debating and defeating many of the world's leading evolutionists including Prof Richard Dawkins, and has published many articles and appeared widely on radio, TV and public seminars, in universities, schools and churches worldwide.

In 2009 John had two successful TV Documentaries exposing the folly of Evolution; Darwin on the Rocks and Darwin's Evolution: A Very Unnatural Selection. John's Bible and Science programmes appear on TBN and SKY networks in the UK and EU and on cable networks in the US and Canada.

Exposing

Stanborough Park Church, 609 St Albans Road, Saturda Watford, WD25 9JL

Sabbath during which Costa Vaggas explained the meaning of the cross; the youth put on a play about the life of Jesus, excellently written and directed by Vanessa Boachie; and Pastor J. Burnett spoke on 'Lot and his struggles'. GRACE OWUSU



| Messenger                        |
|----------------------------------|
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