Just one hundred years ago, only 2 out of every 10 people lived in an urban area. Today, however, the demographic landscape looks totally different, and here is the World Health Organisation’s assessment of it: Urbanisation, the demographic transition from rural to urban, is associated with shifts from an agriculture-based economy to mass industry, technology, and service. For the first time ever, the majority of the world’s population lives in a city, and this proportion continues to grow... as of 2010, more than half of all people live in an urban area.

Urban environments hold many advantages, but these often come with a considerable price tag. Cities can be dehumanising, in the broadest sense of the word, and it is from the need to take Christ’s message of hope to these vast pools of humanity that Mission to the Cities was born.

"Mission to the Cities is the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s five-year emphasis on sharing Jesus’ love and the hope of His soon return with people in some of the world’s largest cities. Starting with New York City in 2013, Mission to the Cities is a holistic approach to sharing the Gospel in urban settings. In 2014, each world Division will focus on a city in its territory. Each Union will focus on a city in its region in 2015. Outreach activities will be as varied as the characters of each city, with everything from LifeHope centres, community events and seminars to small groups and reaping campaigns. Please pray for Mission to the Cities..."

London is our City of Hope, and to read more about the Church’s rapidly unfolding initiatives there, please turn to pages 8-10.

http://missiontothecities.org/
Let there be light!...

This is a stunning picture, taken by Yvonne Bawden, demonstrating the use of light in photography. I love it. So now we move into autumn, with the brilliant sunshine we have had feeling like a distant memory. But autumn is good. It means colour everywhere – with the leaves changing, the landscape takes on different shapes as the trees shed their leaves. Take the dog for a walk, but don’t forget your camera! And don’t forget your picture in the form of ‘Megapixels of creation’, please.

Last year’s ‘Rock Bottom’ camp

A good few years ago, Elize and I had the opportunity to join some of our church members on a weekend campout. Unfortunately, I had a preaching appointment, which meant we could only join the group late on the Sabbath afternoon.

By the time we had located the camp parking area and donned our hiking kit—tucked socks, boots and backpacks—the sun was already sliding towards the horizon. So, anxious to avoid the hazards of picking our way through the African bush after dark, we set off at a brisk pace. According to the sketchy map at our disposal, we had more than an hour’s hike ahead, with two water crossings, but it seemed doable. What we didn’t know, however, was that the stream was swollen because of heavy rain closer to its source! The first crossing didn’t pose much of a problem, and we soon had our boots back on. But this is where my wife did something ‘unforgivable’—she made the point that it might be easier and faster to follow the broad jeep track than to skirt the stream’s swollen banks.

We will do as I say...

My hackles were suddenly erect, and I immediately took the male default position: ‘We will do as I say on this one!’ Which is fine—except for a variety of things, including: ‘I know more about hiking than you do ... because I’m a man!’, ‘Don’t challenge me, it degrades my status!’. ‘Be quiet! I don’t actually feel confident about my decision!’

With the matter so easily decided, we veered off the drier jeep track onto the slushy ‘official’ trail that led along the banks of the stream. But it didn’t take long for me to realise that she had been right—not that I was ready to admit it. She trod lightly as the slippery path took us perilously close to the swirling stream. I didn’t And in the blink of an eye the bank gave way under me and, weighed down under my pack, I ploughed feet-first beneath the brown water!

Elize stared back in disbelieb—all that remained was my floating floppy hat. Then, to her relief, she saw her know-it-all husband pop back into that hat, buoyed by the surface to the air-trapped in his large backpack!

She helped me out.

With her assistance, I clambered quickly back to firm ground. Initially—very briefly—she radiated concern. Then the giggles started, lasting deep into the night as she regaled the church members at ‘Rock Bottom’ camp with her version of my watery mishap.

Yes, it was truly a case of sermon in the morning and baptism in the afternoon. I certainly paid a heavy price for asserting my cooksure male ego that Sabbath afternoon. I squelched into the camp after dark, stiff and uncomfortable, with a ruined mobile phone in my pocket!

It’s not easy.

It’s not easy to take advice—especially for the self-assertive male (and perhaps for a few women too). Why is this? Why do we balk at advice? I am sure you have your opinion about this. Frankly, here is what I think could be the problem: no one wants to be wrong.

From-as far back as we can remember, it’s all about getting it right—it’s everything—from potty training to GCSEs. When we receive unsolicited advice, however, it strongly suggests that we are inadequate—that we’ve got it wrong. That sense of inadequacy is highly corrosive. It eats away at our self-confidence, status and authority. This is very difficult for men to handle, especially when we have grown to see ourselves as leaders in the family, community, workplace or church. After all, aren’t leaders supposed to have the answers? Shouldn’t we be making the decisions and giving the advice?

What’s the solution?

Is there a solution? Yes, I think there is, and it has two vital aspects to it: Firstly, we must humbly accept our fallibility. None of us is infallible—we all make mistakes. Which is why the Scriptures stress this fundamental point: ‘To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are His’ (Job 12:1-3, NIV). We don’t have all the answers, but God does. We may say or do unwise things, but He never does. Acceptance of this basic concept is liberating. It has the power to set us free to live like God-led lives.

I have a hunch that this is the discovery that set the prodigal son free. It was when he accepted and confessed his fallibility (‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you’—Luke 15:18, NIV) that he could finally return home.

Secondly, we must humbly accept His promise to guide us ‘into all truth’ (John 16:13, NIV 1984).

This takes the pressure off us. We no longer need to have all the answers off pat, but we do need to be all ears! Jesus makes it clear that the Holy Spirit—the Advocate, Counsellor and Adviser—will lead us as we journey by faith into the future. He will provide the answers—and they may often be spoken to us in the words of those we love.

In retrospect, perhaps I should have listened to Elize when she suggested we follow the jeep track instead of the riverbank!
ADRA-UK vacancies

ADRA-UK seeks to appoint the following full-time staff members:

1. **Volunteering Programmes Officer**
   - **ADRA-UK** requires an innovative and enthusiastic person to lead their volunteering programme and run ADRA-UK’s volunteering opportunities, both in the UK and abroad, and lead out in creating a catalogue of small development projects for stakeholders and volunteers to get involved in. The successful applicant will help to foster good will and understanding between ADRA-UK and its supporters. 

2. **Communications Officer**
   - **ADRA-UK** is seeking a skilled Communications Officer who is highly skilled, self-motivated and dynamic, to lead out in public relations, media and social media activities. The successful applicant will help to foster good will and understanding between ADRA-UK and its supporters. 

ADRA-UK pays a decent wage with full international benefits, including a comprehensive job description and application form, which can be found on the ADRA-UK website, adra-uk.org or http://www.adra.org.uk.

If you are interested and have it takes, why not submit an application form for the position of your choice before Tuesday, 15 October 2013.
Breaking news . . .

Adventist Frontier Missions has just had a breakthrough. Their only missionary in the country of this family’s origin is to be issued a three-month visa, allowing him longer to quietly witness and develop clandestine contacts during each visit. The Brigham family’s upkeep costs AFM $1,500 per month. If you would like to help then email directly to Pastor Conrad Vine at: cvine@afmonline.org. You can also visit: www.afmonline.org/missionaries.

mysterious way, despite the international rumblings of war, the dire economic situation and the danger of discovery, the Holy Spirit had reached beyond the veil of Islam and brought this family to conversion! Initially, her family had approached a Roman Catholic priest about their growing faith, but he told them about Mary and the adoration of the saints — none of which they recognized from the Gospels they had read. They then flew to a nearby Middle Eastern country, praying that they would find a Christian to help them.

Fortunately, we have an AFM worker and a Global Mission pioneer who meet visitors and invite them to study about Jesus. They also hang out at the grocery stores that these visitors use. This is how the contact with Adventism was made.

Together with a missionary colleague, I then worked with them through each Adventist fundamental belief as expressed in the Gospels. In John 1:1-5, Jesus is our Creator. In John 1:29, Jesus dies for our sins. In Mark 2:12, Jesus forgives our sins. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus is our Judge. In John 11, Jesus has the authority to call each of us from the grave. . . . Oh, what wonderful news!

As we studied together the wonder and beauty of the Gospel captured each of our hearts . . . some for the first time and some after. Their hunger for Jesus Christ was humbling! Their subsequent baptism and acceptance into the worldwide Adventist family provided a moment of solemn joy! Then, shortly thereafter, I returned home to a land of religious freedom, while my new brothers and sisters remained literally in the ‘valley of the shadow of death’ for daring to bear the name of Christ.

Many years ago, God revealed to us the spiritual needs of the unreached.

‘I feel intuitively over the needs of foreign countries, as they have been presented before me. In all parts of the world angels of God are opening doors that a little while ago were closed to the message of truth. From India, from Africa, from China, and from many other places is heard the cry: “Come over and help us.”’ — Ellen White, Gospel Workers, p. 485.

Today, Adventist Frontier Missions has missionaries serving in all of these regions, courageously reaching beyond the veil of Islam, the crumbling walls of Communism and the mantas of Hinduism, simply because precious souls are anxiously searching for the Saviour . . . for Jesus Himself!

How can we share in the joy of mission? Firstly, through daily intercessory prayer — both for the missionaries and for the unreached. Secondly, why not consider serving as a front-line missionary yourself among the unreached? Check out the opportunities at www.afmออนไลe.org.

Finally, you can share in the joy of mission through sacrificial support. We read as follows:

‘An American business man, who was an earnest Christian, in conversation with a fellow-worker, remarked that he himself worked for Christ twenty-four hours of the day. “In all my business relations,” he said, “I try to represent my Master. As I have opportunity, I try to win others to Him. All day I am working for Christ, and at night, while I sleep, I have a man working for Him in China.”’ — Ellen White, Gospel Workers, p. 456.

Thank you so much for partnering prayerfully with AFM that hearts and homes beyond the veil may find the Saviour too!
MTTC: London

This update covers two of the four initiatives associated with the MTTC London event and the TED Field School of Evangelism, in one of the October issues of Messenger we hope to feature the Uxbridge and Potters Bar programmes, more about the Sabbath sofa activities, and reports on the CRAVE, and HEROES and TED Field School of Evangelism initiatives.

The Brixton initiative

To get a real feel for the MTTC programme unfolding in London’s southern boroughs, known as Area 88 in the South England Conference, the Messenger editor recently attended one of their district meetings. There, under the chairmanship of the district co-ordinator, Pastor Keith Boldeau, the local pastors met to discuss various aspects of the outreach.

Subsequently, Pastor Boldeau has been kind enough to answer some important questions about the Brixton initiative.

Editor: Keith, how many congregations support the programme in Area 88?

Pastor Boldeau: There are 28 of them – churches, companies and groups – and they’re all doing their bit. The biggest is Brixton, with over a thousand members, and their facilities will be used for the main campaign.

Editor: Please tell our readers a bit about the research that your plans are based on.

Pastor Boldeau: Sure, Julian. We studied the NHS reports for the seven boroughs in our territory, which revealed many of the health and social needs of those within them. This is why we have placed strong emphasis on running health expos during this year and the next. In fact, we are expecting the larger congregations to run at least two per year.

Editor: Forgive me asking this, but where do you get the resources to run such expos?

Pastor Boldeau: Well, firstly, we have quite a number of willing health professionals among our members. They provide the backbone expertise for our expos. Secondly, we have many loyal members who provide invaluable support whenever they can. We have also benefited from the excellent health training provided by Sharon Platt, MacDonald and Elise Staples. The first phase was for health professionals and the second was aimed at the leaders in our local church departments.

Editor: Keith, what about the funding for these expos? Surely they don’t come cheap.

Pastor Boldeau: You are quite right. They are expensive to run. It costs us at least £2,000 to run a large-scale expo because there are the test materials, free literature, advertising and location hire expenses to cover. But I must say that they are an excellent way of building positive relationships within the community.

By the way, we have also run family life seminars in the Wallington church, including topics like anger management, parenting and the causes of divorce. And, Julian, what pleased me particularly was the fact that we had good attendance from among the indigenous British.

Editor: Now, Keith, tell us about the preaching campaigns scheduled for this year. How many and where?

Pastor Boldeau: Well, there have been some supporting campaigns in the district already, but the main one is scheduled from 5 to 19 October at the Brixton church, with Dr Kelby McCottery of the USA as speaker.

Editor: How are these meetings being advertised?

Pastor Boldeau: In a number of different ways. Obviously by word of mouth and handbills – the traditional ways. But we have also stepped out of the box to do something else – use London bus adverts.

Editor: Really? That’s a novel approach. Tell me more.

Pastor Boldeau: We will have sixty bus adverts running between 16 September and 13 October. Each bus will have an advert on the back costing £110 for the 28 days. The total cost is £7,200, with 15 buses running from each of the four depots daily, covering our entire district.

Editor: Keith, how do you feel about this important evangelistic initiative?

Pastor Boldeau: Evangelism has always been my passion – through 38 years of ministry – and my enthusiasm hasn’t dimmed. I am looking forward to what is coming!

Innovation . . .

Although Mission 10 hopes to report in more detail about this unique approach in the next issue, we thought we would whet your appetite with this snippet of information about it taken from the TED website:

In addition to traditional billboard and underground posters, a clever advertising campaign includes the “Are You Tired?” project. Adventist young people will place a “Sabbath sofa” on a city pavement and offer to let passers-by sit and rest. It’s an opportunity to ask what they would do with a 24-hour break each week, introduce the concept of Sabbath, and invite them to an upcoming meeting nearby. The goal is to have 50,000 people sit on the sofa over that time leading up to the event.

If you want to be inspired by this new approach – one that awakens interest in the Sabbath and the whole concept of spiritual rest and revitalisation – then google the sabbath sofa and watch the videos that display on the search page. You can also try http://sabbath.org.uk. *http://www.ted-adventist.org/news/mission-to-the-cities-initiative-creates-real-for-evangelism-in-ted

The London Central initiative

This is also known as the MTTC Youth project and falls under the supervision of Pastor Steve Thomas, South England Conference Youth Ministry director, and the London Youth Federation.

According to Pastor Thomas, this initiative is aimed at the 16-plus age group from all cultural backgrounds. It will be held in the Advent Centre, 39 Breden Street, London (W1H 9HD), and will run on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays (Sabbath) and Sundays between 5 and 26 October (possibly extending to 2 November).

The general theme of the presentations will be ‘Making God Known’ and the speakers will include the following pastors: Rebecca Davis, Roger Bernard, Vandorn Griffiths and Laurent Grassou. JAM Ministries will also be involved in the presentations.

This year’s activities are geared at getting the youth of London to connect with the Church. This will flow over into 2014, which has been designated as the Year of Youth Evangelism, during which all the SEC youth groups are being challenged to engage in definite outreach projects of their own.

Training in various forms of outreach is an important part of the initiative and this is taking place weekly during regular sessions at the Advent Centre (Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6.45 to 8pm).

Adventist stats* for the London area:

2002: 49 churches – 9,957 members
2013: 75 churches – 14,687 members

Presently there are 62 ministers, interns and Bible workers in the area.

Brixton is the largest Adventist church in London.

*Data supplied by Dr Terry Messenger, executive secretary, SEC.

The president’s vision

Over eight million people live in London, a city that is always on the move. It is the fastest-growing city in the UK and has large and diverse communities, making it the right choice for the TED’s Mission to the Cities initiative.

I am excited that a number of our churches are already involved in various evangelistic outreach projects. In addition to which, in just over a month, eighty pastors and students will arrive in London for a Field School of Evangelism. They will be able to visit some of the projects we have been running in Potters Bar and Uxbridge, as well as the other two evangelistic sites in Hertford and Central London, giving them first-hand exposure to this type of work.

Evangelism is the lifeblood of the Church and we are seeing some innovative evangelistic approaches this year. There is the Sabbath sofa concept being pioneered by Vili Catescu. This is a refreshing and non-threatening way of introducing strangers to the Sabbath. Pastor Sam Nevins is pioneering the Heroes evangelistic series and its online game app—a fun way of communicating biblical themes.

Pastor Keith Boldeau, in South London, has been preparing for the MTTC by running health fairs in order to engage with the community. Several youth events have also taken place under the MTTC banner.

Ellen White writes, “The message that I am preparing for the Mission to the Cities initiative. Let’s take up the challenge!"
Mr Malcolm Lawrence, a retired dental officer, paid a special visit to the Palmer’s Green congregation on 20 July to tell the story of how he, a white Jew, had received a kidney from a Jamaican woman, and to share the fact that he and his family will never be the same again.

That woman donor was Chavelli Brewster, a Pathfinder with a great story behind her. She was born in Rotterdam in 1967, the daughter of Annette Robinson, a local Adventist, who had worked with Malcolm for years. She woke at 5 am one morning in March 2012 and heard a voice at the end of her bed say, “You have to go to Holland.”

That is what Malcolm had to say that Sabbath afternoon: “I’ve come to say ‘Thank you’ twice for the miracle that occurred last year. Annette rang me up one day and said, in her straightforward no-nonsense kind of way, ‘I want to donate a kidney to you.’ This was a most magnificent gesture. It was what we Jews call a ‘mitzvah’ – a very good deed.”

Malcolm continued, Annette’s faith told her that her kidney would be biologically compatible with him. The odds of two people being biologically compatible is quite small. Neither of her nieces nor my children were found to be suitable for donation. I want to say ‘Thank you’ twice. Firstly, of course, to Annette, who did this wonderful thing without any coercion. She gave this altruistic donation of a kidney in a marvellous and selfless manner. I tried to dissuade her . . . I did not want to cause Annette distress. But she was resolute, and so the miracle took place.”

Malcolm now had everyone’s attention: “Secondly, I want to say thank you to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, for it is against the background of the spiritual and moral values of the Church that Annette has developed such a fine character. Thank you.”

Classifying his experience as a miracle, Malcolm explained that he had lost one kidney through cancer and the other had deteriorated over a period of ten years, necessitating haemodialysis: five hours, three times a week for five years.

During this time he became increasingly unwell and lived a very restricted life: unable to socialise and with dietary restrictions, including a minimal fluid intake because of his poor kidney function. He had many sleepless nights and sometimes he felt suicidal. During the few months before the transplant I could not even look forward to the new life that was being held out to me. . . . I have never felt so lonely.”

Then he jotted his audience with this thought: “Here am I, a white male Jew receiving a kidney from a black female Christian. So much for prejudice, so much for making distinctions based on the superficial premise of the colour of one’s skin: or indeed for using such terms as ‘black’ and ‘white’ at all – terms I have always detested.”

This is how Malcolm brought his testimony to a close: “Thank you again, Annette. Thank you all again, friends, for allowing me to have the privilege of talking to you today and of expressing my profound gratitude to you all.”

What a story. What a sacrifice.

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What a story. What a sacrifice.
SEC Junior Camp

A special visit to a bird sanctuary was one of the highlights of SEC Junior Camp, held at the Chapel Porth campsite in Cornwall from 28 July to 4 August. Organised by the South England Conference Community department, the camp was packed with daily activities from zip-wiring to cycling.

I think Camp was fun!” enthused Esther Bhola. ‘My favourite activity was bike riding because I felt I could ride the whole trail and was very happy that I could ride on my own.”

A typical day involved a 6.30am wake-up call to get ready for worship and breakfast, then on to off-site activities by 8am. The week was an exciting mix. The children aged 9-12, handed birds at the bird sanctuary on the Monday, went coasting at the beach on Tuesday; cycled several miles on Wednesday; spent time at a leisure centre on Thursday; and visited Crealy’s Adventure Park on the Friday.

The whole site, campers, cooks and counselors alike, worshipped together at the nearby Redruth Adventist church on the Sabbath. SEC treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, accompanied some of the praise and worship on the organ, followed by a sermon by associate treasurer, Wederly Aguiar.

‘My favourite activity would have to be the bonfire on the final night,” commented counselor Marisa Ferguson. ‘It was the culmination of the week’s fun, bonding and spiritual content. All the kids and counselors were able to sit around this huge fire, roast marshmallows and reflect on the amazing week we’ve just experienced together. Looking forward to Junior Camp 2014!”

**Eight take the plunge**

Sabbath, 22 June, was a particularly joyous day for the Brighton and Hove congregation. For several months, a number of people have been having regular Bible studies, eight of whom took the plunge through baptism that day.

Pastor Jonathan Burnett, who has been shepherding Brighton and Hove for just a year, had the privilege of baptising (left to right) Delphine, Nyonyo, Bessie, Malembon, Seliaph, Rowena, Marjorie and Claudius.

Since the members at Brighton and Hove have outgrown their own worship building, the day’s event took place at the Oasis Christian Centre in Hanstead.

**Teen Camp**

Seven teens made the decision to get baptised after an action-packed week of physical, mental and spiritual challenges at the South England Conference’s Extreme Teens Camp, Cornwall, 19-25 August.

Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, organiser and SEC Teens Ministries director, was enthusiastic about how the week went. ‘I am so pleased to say that, as well as the seven young people who made a life-changing decision to follow Jesus, fifteen others have requested Bible studies.’

The week turned out to be both life-changing and challenging, as daily activities kept both campers and counselors constantly on the move. Activities included everything from kayaking to biking, and rock climbing to hiking.

Erjham Gomes enjoyed the camp’s activities and the chance to make new friends. ‘I liked the biking during the week specifically, because it was such a challenge; that really appealed to me. I definitely was blessed by the camp’s activities and also the preaching.”

Jonathan Holder, a theology student at Newbold College of Higher Education, was the main speaker for the week and his messages made a big impact on the campers.

During the week, an unofficial theme for the camp emerged: ‘A Plan and a Purpose’. Counselors and teens took the theme on board, with Steven Hubbert speaking about it on Friday night after a programme filled with personal testimonies that highlighted the extreme struggles the teens are facing.

The testimonies ranged from the impact of absent parents to how God has brought some of them through life-threatening situations. The counselors also spoke out about their own struggles, encouraging the teens to remember the week’s unofficial motto when they feel they are alone or struggling.

The week ended with a banquet on Saturday evening, which included a concert, prizes and a quiz. Everyone left home with happy memories and lasting friendships.
Merrivale Argyle Bryan (1932-2013) d. 15 May. ‘Murray’ (as he was affectionately known) was a loyal member of the Ipwich church, whose members, along with his family and friends, gathered for a service to celebrate his life on 5 June 2013. Murray had been a dedicated member always willing to serve where he could and use his carpentry skills to benefit the church. Murray is remembered for his quiet nature and love of the outdoors and his ‘isolated timefield’. Those who knew him well remember some of his quiet ways like him wearing a handkerchief tied around his neck. Murray was often seen in his head when it either rained or was too windy for his beloved tenor, an infectious laughter, which he often used to relieve tension. Sometimes one of the things he really enjoyed was to sit and listen to the church choir practise and perform. Murray was also well-known for his faithful bagpipe playing through the years.

Sidney Cecil Rose (1918-2013) d. 30 June.

The minister told of how he had asked George, on his last visit, about the books on his study’s shelves and had asked him which one he would reread if he had the time. George was satisfied with facile answers in any area. With a view to enriching Bible study and worship he promoted the idea of a discussion forum within the church, together with a junior group. Sidney’s organisational ability and remembers him as ‘a man of great tolerance and strong convictions’.

Back in England, Sidney found time to help build the Brixton church and Salisbury Hall at Newbold College. With retirement approaching he moved to West Sussex, where he served the local churches as a lay preacher.

George and Alysse had wanted to see their ministry for the last few months, in order to involve their children, aged between 4 and 8, in a Vacation Bible School. There were also two assignments in Hong Kong, and his experiences in the Far East became a rich storehouse of reminiscences in his later years. During this time he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and would often comment that he had not referred a permanent relocation abroad in consideration of his wife and two children.

Despite the challenges of the last years, George’s enthusiasm and Pastor Evans returned to the US, leaving behind an enlightened and inspired church, eager to change and flourish.

The winds were soft at your back. May the sun shine warm on London in November 1940. The reconstruction of the Wimbledon church building was largely due to Sidney’s enthusiasm and professional expertise. His leadership in his home church would span twenty-six years. In December 1951, Langdon and Every, his employers, requested his assistance in these two assignments in Singapore. This was followed by two assignments in Hong Kong, and his experiences in the Far East became a rich storehouse of reminiscences in his later years. During this time he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and would often comment that he had not referred a permanent relocation abroad in consideration of his wife and two children. During the weekend the church was able to reflect on these things under the guidance of Pastor Evans, who also introduced the concept of ‘red carpet service’. He suggested that the church should choose four key areas in which to deliver excellence and deliver them consistently.

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In 2008 the American and English churches of the family combined to celebrate his 90th birthday in the company of friends and neighbours. His pride in, and appreciation of, his family was always evident. A loving and caring man, Sidney would always go out of his way to help others. Ever willing to serve wherever he could and use his carpentry skills to benefit the church. Murray is remembered for his quiet nature and love of the outdoors and his ‘isolated timefield’. Those who knew him well remember some of his quiet ways like him wearing a handkerchief tied around his neck. Murray was often seen in his head when it either rained or was too windy for his beloved tenor, an infectious laughter, which he often used to relieve tension. Sometimes one of the things he really enjoyed was to sit and listen to the church choir practise and perform. Murray was also well-known for his faithful bagpipe playing through the years.

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Six new preachers

The York and Hull churches have benefited immensely from the lay preachers’ course run in their district by Pastor Solon Kyriacou. After many months of study and sermon preparation the budding orators were graduated during a joint day of fellowship on 6 April, which was also attended by Pastor Lorance Johnson, North England Conference president.

The graduates were Timothy Handema; Richard, Gloria and Michael Likupe; Jackson Moonga; and Sharon Puckering. Since then they have been a real blessing to the York and Hull churches through their refreshing sermons.

CLARE HALL

The Bournville report

The Bournville church has been active recently and here is their report. Their first event was a Children’s Ministries retreat held at Bromsgrove tented village. The Sabbath highlight was Pastor Issac Liburd’s practical advice on relationships, but they also enjoyed the Bible study and prayer opportunities. This was followed by a Sunday programme packed full of fun activities that left the campers feeling tired but revived.

The church has also just run a successful, week-long Vacation Bible School, which included lessons in maths, English, physical exercise and Bible study. Not only were the children helped with their school work, but, most importantly, they were also drawn to Christ. In fact, two teenage students were so interested that they will be having further Bible studies in preparation for baptism!

In addition to all this, Bournville’s Personal Ministries, Music and Youth departments held an outreach programme at Queen’s Park, Harborne, Birmingham, where there was singing, praying, preaching, and one-to-one Bible study for the many people relaxing at the park on a glorious sunny day.

SAMUEL AYEH

Langley children’s service

The members of Langley Church were recently blessed when their children took the whole Sabbath School and Worship Service – besides the sermon, which was preached by Pastor Patricia Douglas, the NEC Children’s Ministries director.

ROHEET SUBRAI

CLARE HALL

The Bournville report

The Bournville church has been active recently and here is their report. Their first event was a Children’s Ministries retreat held at Bromsgrove tented village. The Sabbath highlight was Pastor Issac Liburd’s practical advice on relationships, but they also enjoyed the Bible study and prayer opportunities. This was followed by a Sunday programme packed full of fun activities that left the campers feeling tired but revived.

The church has also just run a successful, week-long Vacation Bible School, which included lessons in maths, English, physical exercise and Bible study. Not only were the children helped with their school work, but, most importantly, they were also drawn to Christ. In fact, two teenage students were so interested that they will be having further Bible studies in preparation for baptism!

In addition to all this, Bournville’s Personal Ministries, Music and Youth departments held an outreach programme at Queen’s Park, Harborne, Birmingham, where there was singing, praying, preaching, and one-to-one Bible study for the many people relaxing at the park on a glorious sunny day.

SAMUEL AYEH

Langley children’s service

The members of Langley Church were recently blessed when their children took the whole Sabbath School and Worship Service – besides the sermon, which was preached by Pastor Patricia Douglas, the NEC Children’s Ministries director.

ROHEET SUBRAI

Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission here from data supplied by the UK Nautical Almanac Office.

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