Why should a church run a community camp? If I must be honest it is tiring, involves a lot of planning, can be expensive and – if the weather turns nasty – can quickly turn into a logistical nightmare. But here is why we do it anyway: ‘This evening was the best fun I have ever had in my life’ – the comment of a man in his mid-30s after going down a 15-metre water slide built on the Chapel Porth campsite. ‘No one has ever told me I am special’ – the observation from a single mother in her mid-50s after she attended a daily worship service where the theme was, ‘You are unique and special to God and us’. ‘You make me feel so included and I feel safe when I am here’ – a response from someone who faces abuse on a regular basis. Our other community friends say that this event is ‘the highlight of the year’ for them. So as you can see, it is really worthwhile going to all this trouble and expense.

This year forty-two people came with us to the camp and only nine of them were baptised church members. Each year we try to organise at least one camping trip like this, as going away on holiday together is a great opportunity for building strong friendships. We also find that people are more inclined to try new experiences, such as attending worship services, when they are away on holiday.

Throughout the week there were lots of activities, including cycling on the Camel trail, power kiting, whizzing down the water slide and tie-dying T-shirts. In our second camp, held over the weekend, we focused on living, loving and leading like Jesus. It was a camp intended to mentor new Christians and develop their leadership potential. During the seminars and worship activities people discovered more about themselves and how they might connect more closely to God. It was also an opportunity to find out their strengths and weaknesses, as well as understanding ‘what made others tick’. For some this was a voyage of great discovery and many commented on how the worships made them feel closer to God. So will we be organising a camp next year? Absolutely right, we will.
Community Cooking Hubs

Community Cooking Hubs (CCH) is a programme developed as part of the British Union Conference Health Ministry’s Nutrition Strategy. The programme is designed to train health ministry teams to be more effective at promoting healthy eating and food demonstration in their local churches and communities.

Based on statistics from the Adventist Health Study 2,* which included 80,000 Adventists living in the US and Canada, it was found that 64% of those who completed the questionnaire were vegetarians, 7% were vegan, and 8% were mostly plant-based (vegans). When non-vegetarians were compared to the vegetarians it was found that they were more likely to eat less saturated fat, less fruit and vegetables, and foods with a higher glycaemic index (the rate at which blood sugar rises after eating a specific food). This suggests that most of our members would benefit from healthy eating education to help them improve their diet, starting from where they are. In fact, the community will also benefit from this. This is why the CCH programme is designed specifically for community outreach while also benefiting the members of our churches.

Community Cooking Hubs is a programme that begins with a foundation course. The foundation course requires a two-day commitment during which you will learn more about God-centred health, food demonstration, healthy eating, knife skills, and how to develop a programme to deliver in your local community. After completing the foundation course, there is an option to add on modules or mini-courses that focus on specific areas, such as ‘healthy eating on a budget.’ There is a fee to cover the course costs, and it is currently subsidised.

Our aim is to deliver the course in seven churches throughout the BUC in 2013/14. The first foundation course will be delivered in Watford Town Church on 3 and 24 November 2013, and in Bristol Central on 26 January and 23 February 2014. We are looking for churches to host the foundation course in the following areas: Scottish Mission, Irish Mission, North England (Manchester area), and the East of England. If you are a Health Ministry leader/applicant, apply via email to sjplattmcdonald@adventist.org.uk.

Community Cooking Hubs is designed specifically for community outreach while also benefiting the members of our churches.

A community cooking hub is a programme that begins with a foundation course.


Prevention and lifestyle factors to reduce our cancer risk: 1. Weight control: As lean as possible without becoming underweight.

* Exercise/Activity: Be as physically active for at least 30 minutes every day.


4. Plant-based foods: Eat more of a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and legumes such as beans.

5. Reduce meat: Limit consumption of red meats such as beef, pork and lamb) and processed meats.

6. Avoidance of alcoholic drinks: Replace alcohol with non-alcoholic grape juice, which is rich in antioxidants.

7. Minim al salt intake: Limit consumption of salty foods and processed salt with palm (sodium).

8. Avoid supplements: (except for nursing mothers; those trying to

conceive or who are already pregnant; children from 6 months to 5 years; frail elderly people; and individuals with a vitamin deficiency).

Don’t use supplements to protect against cancer.

9. Breastfeeding: It is best for mothers to breastfeed exclusively for up to 6 months and then add other liquids and foods.

10. Post-cancer care: Any women who have survived should follow the recommendations for cancer prevention.

Cancer Research UK states that ‘more than 4 in 10 cancer cases could be prevented by lifestyle changes.’

In addition to the prevention factors listed above, the following are recommended:

- Avoid smoking
- Staying safe in the sun
- Avoiding chemicals in the workplace
- Avoiding certain infections like HPV (human papillomavirus).

Cancer Research UK has formulated a downloadable chart highlighting the types of cancer and their associated lifestyle and environmental risk factors. To access this chart please use the following link: http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/prevention/healthy-living/introduction/avoid-cancer.html.

In relation to the risk of developing cancer, many individuals have asked whether prevention can be guaranteed. Cancer Research UK provides a good answer: “Healthy living” is not a cast-iron guarantee against cancer, because there are some cancers that are related to the disease – it heavily stacks the odds against avoiding it.

Additional Cancer Awareness resources are available for purchase from the BUC Health Ministries department.

Good health!


The more things change, the more they stay the same. According to the Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings, which is one of the most popular combinations of words was first used by the French novelist Alphonse Karr in 1849 to illustrate the futility of change. More recently, the phrase has been popularised through an interesting lyric by the American rock group Bon Jovi.

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Ah, it is just me or does anybody see, The new improved tomorrow isn’t what it used to be.

Yesterday keeps coming ‘round, it’s just reality: I’m the same – same . . . song with a different melody.

The ‘right to life’

On 10 December, 1948, still surrounded by the rubble and destruction of World War II, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted the ‘Universal Declaration of Human Rights’, a document that ‘represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled’.

The first and, dare we say, most sacred of those ‘human rights’ is ‘the right to life’ (Article 3).

The right that was violated over and over again – as you and I listened to those horrifying broadcasts from Kenya. Sixty-seven people lost that right – at least 30 of them were children. Some victims were caught in the crossfire between the extremists and the security forces, but many were deliberately shot. Murdered. Savagely executed at close range.

Sixty-five years ago this December, that week of world-intending international world leaders hoped that their vote would stanch the flow of innocent blood. It hasn’t. It won’t.

What makes them kill?

What makes them kill people to kill at Westgate? I am sure there is a lot of sociological and psychological reasons that could be suggested. I still stick with the one that the apostle John provided: Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer. John 15:19, NW-UK.

Hatred is a potent cause of violence. Hatred drives people to kill. According to 10:12 (NW-UK) hatred ‘stirs up conflict’ and is, therefore, a major cause of war.

Anyone who is at all familiar with the Rwandan Genocide, the Bosnian war crimes, and the current situation in Syria will know that hate plays a dominant role in sparking and sustaining such conflicts. But the good news is that this killing is not random. They flourish elsewhere; in places you need a passport to visit. At least, that seems that way.

An infection

Some years ago, while living in Harare, Zimbabwe, I developed a sudden, sharp headache just behind my eyes; I felt febrile and my limbs began to ache. At first the doctor suspected malaria, but as the pain in my bones became more intense and my fever rose dramatically, he ordered blood tests.

The results were a shock. I had dengue fever, a mosquito-borne disease common in tropical and sub-tropical regions, also known as ‘break bone’ fever. There is no specific treatment for dengue, so the 50-100 million who contract it each year basically have to ‘tough it out’ (with the help of a little paracetamol).

The strange thing about my fever was that I wasn’t living in a zone where dengue was endemic. I was hundreds of miles away from any danger, so how could I have contracted it? Well, here is how it probably happened for me, and the other five or so cases diagnosed in Harare that year. A nasty little aedes aegypti mosquito must have travelled by bus or taxi from the coastal areas of Mozambique, probably the city of Beira, to the highlands of Zimbabwe for a sip of my blood!

Hatred works that way too

Hatred works in much the same way as dengue fever. We may think that only those in the ‘darker zones’ need to be concerned: religious extremists, white supremacist racists, bigots, gang members, psychopaths and serial killers. That’s a nice thought, but it isn’t true. Hatred is a dagger’s zone. Wherever we are: where we are; there is the constant danger of infection.

Does religion help?

Does religion help a surface net over us? Doesn’t it immunise us against hatred? I wish it did, but the facts don’t bear that out. In fact, Jesus Christ died a dreadful, violent death at the instigation of religious men – Sabbath-keeping, Scripture-reading, prayer, church-going men who were scrupulous tithe payers!

As it may sound, unless we are very careful, religion can create an ideal climate for hatred to breed. For wherever we have those things that are necessary for efficient organisation, such as committees, discussions about people, assessments and comparisons, assigned positions, roles identified and hierarchical organisation, we have the potential for hatred to flourish.

Our weapons may make less noise than those used at Westgate, but they are highly portable and easy to conceal until we need them: carefully chosen criticism, sarcasm, derogatory positions, authority, status and hierarchy, we have the potential for hatred to breed. For wherever we have those things that are necessary for efficient organisation, such as committees, discussions about people, assessments and comparisons, assigned positions, roles identified and hierarchical organisation, we have the potential for hatred to flourish.

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http://www.who.int/mmediacentre/factsheets/fs117/en/

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

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The more things change, the more they stay the same.
 entrevista con Mark Grey

El nuevo filme Respect, dirigido por Mark Gray, presenta la base bíblica para su realización y se exhibe en los cines de Londres el 24 de octubre de 2013.

Katie Ramcharan Singh se sienta a la cabeza del director para encontrar información sobre Respect y por qué?

Katie: “Respect viene de una forma que nos muestra en qué está el amor de Cristo.

Mark: “Well, Respect es un filme que introduce el concepto de fe en alguien que no tiene ninguna confianza en su carrera. El concepto de fe tiene tres edades principales: niña, madre y adulto. Cuando llegamos a ser adultos, nos enfrentamos a situaciones en las que no podemos saber si están en control o no. Nadie puede enterarse en la eternidad, pero la fe nos da un lugar para encontrar seguridad y esperanza. La fe nos ayuda a confiar en algo más grande que nosotros mismos, y eso es lo que hacen estos niños en la película.

Katie: “Programa de magia: quién hizo el filme?

Mark: “El filme fue dirigido por Mark Gray, el filme fue producido por AAGAPE, la producción fue dirigida por Mark Gray y fue rodado en la comunidad Adventista.

Katie: “Cómo aprendió a crear visualmente, y cómo usó su experiencia para crear ese escenario?

Mark: “Well, respect is a film that introduces the concept of faith for someone who doesn’t have any belief system in their life. The three main leads, Mark, Mia, and Max, are told the existence of God and consistently reject religion. They become increasingly frustrated at being unable to improve their situations and each comes to the realisation that they are not in control. They acknowledge that Someone bigger than themselves holds their lives in His hands . . . Someone willing to provide for their needs if they ask.”

Katie: “It sounds like a big project: who made the film?

Mark: “It was more than one person. A film needs a lot of partnerships to bring it all together. It was made by Carmel Greystone, which is the film division of AAGAPE. I directed the film, the South England Conference offered support with the financial backing to get us going and some individuals caught the vision of what we were trying to achieve and bought shares in the film. For the rest, we did what all filmmakers do: beg and borrow!”

Katie: “So, you mention sponsors “caught the vision” – what is the vision from your perspective?

Mark: “Ultimately, it’s to reach those not in the church. And in order to do that we have to go to where they are. Many of us have friends that will never come to evangelical meetings or a church service. But they will happily go and watch a film. So, really, Respect is a film specifically designed for our members to invite their friends along to where seeds can be sown in a non-challenging, non-confrontational way. It was a member of the British Union Conference Executive Committee who said, “Adventists are very good at witnessing to folk of other faiths, but we can be sown in a non-challenging, non-confrontational way. It was a member of the British Union Conference Executive Committee who said, “Adventists are very good at witnessing to folk of other faiths, but we can be sown in a non-challenging, non-confrontational way.”

Katie: “So this is a witnessing tool. Can you give us a bit of info about where it will be showing?”

Mark: “Yes, exactly. The confirmed dates are 7pm, Thursday, 24 October, at the Bernie Grant Centre in Tottenham (N15 4JR) and 3pm, Sunday, 10 November, at UKCCIA, 39 Mary’s Road, Luton (LU1 3JA). We are planning more events though, so please visit the website: www.carmel-greystone.com/respect-the-movie.php to view the official trailer, to book online and for further screening updates. People can also opt to be screening for their church or community too, and you can contact us about that via the website.”

(Bernie Grant Centre Box Office: 020 8365 5450; UKCCA, Luton Box Office: 01582 437111)
I am that time of the year. The time when we pray for an Indian summer – that last blaze of unexpected warmth before the cold sets in. That time when leaves swap their green tints for hues of golden brown, ruby red, sun-kissed yellow and burnt orange. Yes, it is autumn – nominating season.

It was while going through the nominating process with a few of my churches that we became acquainted as we sought to find a few ‘good men’ to fill positions. Why? Because we couldn’t find any more men. The few that existed were already committed to a number of churches are experiencing something similar. Perhaps you have also noticed that the men attending most Adventist churches is constantly decreasing? Might it be because our message has become soft and not challenging enough for men? Have we presented too many images of gentle Jesus and not enough of the conquering Lion of the tribe of Judah? Have we begun to sing too many love songs to the Lord and not enough songs that excuse men to ‘stand up’ and ‘fight the good fight’ or to ‘go marching as to war’? Is it because we don’t know how to challenge men and meet their needs; or is it that, as one church member put it, ‘Men are just not as spiritual as women tend to be’?

I have often heard this last statement expressed as a reason why men tend not to go to church, and for a while I somehow bought into this excuse. However, over the years I have confronted that notion and, thank God, I have buried it! A further point from the Tearfund report indicated that, contrary to popular belief, we are rather similar in our needs as men and religious individuals. The study showed that in faiths such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism in the Eastern Orthodox Church, the attendance gap between men and women is the opposite. In other words, in these religions more men than women go to the temple, the mosque, the synagogue, and the church.

Ah, but, I hear you say, these religions are all fundamentally patriarchal and we cannot possibly make a comparison between them and modern Christianity. That may be so to an extent. Nevertheless, that does not negate the fact that they are doing something that attracts men and keeps them actively practising their faith. Whatever it is that they are doing is not only identified and spiritual, but it is also the mere act of men coming together in a common pursuit of worship – whatever it is that be working. Perhaps, just perhaps, they are doing something that we in our Adventist context might benefit from as we think of how to win men to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

‘But,’ I hear you say, ‘we shouldn’t be seeking to present the Gospel in a way that reaches men differently to how we would do to reach women. We are to preach one message to “every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6, KJV); then “whosoever will, let them come” (Revelation 22:17, KJV – italics).’

If this might be what you are thinking, believe me, some years ago I too came to the same conclusion. The British journal Evangelicals Now (May issue) ran a column called ‘A Man’s Influence’ in it they cited a research report from the church which revealed that when a child is won to the faith there is a 3.5% chance that other members of the family will be converted; when a mother is won to the faith there is a 17% chance that other members of the family will be converted; while when a father is won to the faith there is a 93% chance that other members of the family will be won!

If these statistics happen to be true, which I believe they are, then can we continue to hold such a ‘whosoever will’ attitude towards evangelism, towards our church services and how we preach this end-time Gospel? Personally, I don’t believe we can. In fact, it is time for us to seriously rethink how we do church so that we can present our message in such a way that men might be interested in coming to them and their masculinity. We need to send out a loud and clear message that our churches are places where men belong, where men are nurtured, where men thrive and where men are disciplined in the way of Christ. I believe it can no longer be ‘business as usual’; we must take reaching men more seriously. We need to consider what message we are sending to men, when in many of our churches we have our children’s ministries, youth ministries and women’s ministries, but no ministries for them?

Perhaps we have become accustomed to having so few men in church; perhaps we have resigned ourselves to thinking that men are just not interested in spiritual things. Whatever the cause, we need to change our mindset; to change our attitudes towards working with or reaching men, it is my hope and prayer that anyone reading this will join me in the prayer to God to reach out to all men and to rethink our position with regards to reaching men for Christ, and will commit to praying sincerely for God to open the power and wisdom of His Holy Spirit that we might learn how to win men for the King of Kings.

*The name has been changed to protect the camper’s identity.
President calls Church to action

President Lorance Johnson addressed a capacity crowd on Sabbath morning, 7 September, at the North England Conference Day of Fellowship in Sheffield City Hall. They were joined by a record number of online viewers, most of whom were watching in their churches around the NEC.

In his first address he made an impassioned appeal for revival and reform, asking that members ‘recognise the Laodicean state’ of the Church, and using the analogy of the alcoholic who can only start to know knowledge of God and the falling away from prophetic foundations. According to him the last deception would be the kindling of a hatred against the Spirit of Prophecy, in support of which he cited the saying prayer is to be the first building block of reform ation. He urged the members to diligently study the Word of God and work together to put the wheels under it so that the work of rebuilding the walls in the NEC can be completed to the glory of God.

In his afternoon address the president outlined the strategic vision in more detail, clearly revealing further layers of the plan to rebuild the walls of faith in the North England Conference.

• Reaching across through building saving relationships with others.
• Reaching out through building loving relationships with fellow members.
• Reaching across through building saving relationships with others.

In his second address, the president called for a clarion call to the people, as did John. The time is here when we need to examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith, whether we are reflecting God.

The NEC: Day of Fellowship

President calls Church to action

Geraldene Farmer, NEC Communications director

NEC ordains two pastors

Ordination to the Gospel ministry is such a special event that the North England Conference decided to hold an ordination service for the second time this year. This time it was for two more senior men who took career-changing decisions in order to follow God’s call. Both men were ordained to the Gospel ministry during the NEC Day of Fellowship on Sabbath, 7 September.

Pastor Ebenzer Daniel was baptised into the Adventist Church aged 14, albeit against the wishes of his parents. He studied science and then theology in India, serving as Adventist institutions in Bangalore before moving to England with his wife, a nurse, and his family. He regretted leaving full-time ministry and yearned to be actively involved again. With support from his local church, Manchester South, and from his family and the NEC, he resumed employment as a Bible worker in 2008 and was soon ministering to the Mersyside district of churches. Today he cares for Manchester Central, Manchester North and Oldham.

By contrast, Pastor Orlando Holder worked in the telecommunications industry for many years. However, his home, school and church background ignited his desire to become a pastor. Completing his ministerial studies at Newbold College in 2005, he began ministry as an intern in the Leicester district, then moved to Erdington, Tamworth, Cannock and Chelmsley Wood before his current district of Stoke.

NEC ordains two pastors

President calls Church to action

NEWS

Special Olympian visits Bath Church

A keen athlete, Ieuan Scott, 29, was welcomed to church in Ystrad Mynach, South Wales, recently (31 August) and shared his experiences with the Sabbath School members. He was attending the Special Olympics National Games in Bath, but had chosen to take the Sabbath off to come to church.

‘Earlier in the year Ieuan called to ask me for help to arrange for him to go to church on the Sabbath of the Olympics,’ said Miriam Wood, his former foster carer. ‘As my husband and I now live in Wales we suggested that he could spend Friday night and Sabbath with us. ’

Ieuan was happy to show his medals: 3rd in the 200 metres race, 6th in the long jump, and his team, Ravenswood, came 5th in the Relay. Ieuan was baptised at Special Needs Camp two years ago and is a member of the Maidenhead church in Berkshire. He lives in a shared house in Bracknell and attends church every week with carers who are happy to join in with the worship.

August at Ladywood

The Ladywood church in Birmingham has had a busy August. It started with our first ever family camp at Beaudesert in Staffordshire, which contained a mingling of practical Pathfinder curriculum and spiritual renewal. Special guest speaker Hilton Samuel held practical workshops, with sessions for both young and old, which highlighted restoration and togetherness.

We then leap straight into our Vacation Bible School with the theme, ‘Kingdom Rock’. Some thirty children attended, many of them non-Adventists from the community around our church. Halfway through VBS, on 17 August, we paused for our Pathfinders and Adventurers’ Day. Finally, our month ended with our Health Day on the theme of ‘Bowels of Mercies’. We were joined by Unity 7, who educated us on the importance of bowel health, which led many to make new commitments to care for their bodies.

During the month we also received wonderful news that two of our young men had passed their GCSEs. Congratulations to Wesley Bishop and Roanne Irish, who will now be embarking on the next stage in their education.
Liverpool’s big losers

The Liverpool Central and Stonecroft churches recently ran the first Best Weigh weight-loss programme to be held in the North England Conference. This low-cost, high-value, ten-week pilot project was aimed at impacting the local community, which has the highest rate of overweight and obesity in Liverpool.

Health Ministries leader, Romel Ricarte, said that the co-ordinated effort of volunteers and fervent prayer ensured that the programme went smoothly despite various challenges. Members young and old dropped leaflets, recruited participants, took care of the weekly admin, prepared delicious demonstration meals, facilitated at sessions and finally ensured that the graduation service was a success.

Facilitators shared weekly lectures on health, nutrition and the spiritual component of Best Weigh, which covers some of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, while participants received health and Gospel books as they shed weight from week to week.

It was evident that people were concerned about their health and very appreciative of the service, often asking why we were doing it. One lady commented that she had never been keen on churches but she might have to change her opinion after this event. She considered it very impressive that a church just wanted to serve its community and was offering free health checks.

Twenty-five people were advised to consult their general practitioner as a result of tests carried out on the day. A bag containing a bottle of water, an invitation to a stress seminar, an ADC card, a Free Bible card, as well as low-fat.

In the final presentation of the Megalungs health week the writer of this report demonstrated why trusting God is a positive lifestyle benefit.
Irish Mission
Summer Camp
by Heather Keough

You know that it is going to be a good summer camp when miracles happen before the camp has even begun! A week and a half before camp was due to start we got news that our seniors’ speaker from the USA, Pastor Stephen Eastwood, had not yet had his passport returned to him. Pastor Douglas McCormac, the speaker for the juniors and a good friend of Pastor Stephen, sent him a message to say he believed in miracles. So messages were sent out asking for prayer over this matter and just before the camp was due to begin, Pastor Stephen was able to fly to Ireland and breast the news we knew it was going to be a good camp, because God was preparing the way for the great work to be heard.

So, on Tuesday 13 August, eighty-five children, young people and staff arrived at the Portlick Scout Site, on the beautiful shores of Lough Rea, Athlone. This was its six year of use for the Irish Mission Summer Camp, but since last year the site has had a massive facelift and now has much better facilities.

Every morning and evening all the campers joined together for some wonderful worship songs. Following this the campers were split up into juniors and seniors. Pastor Douglas McCormac spoke to the juniors about the book of Daniel and God’s presence and protection in our lives. In the morning worship he led them in a craft activity associated with the message of the day, the most enjoyable of which was the building of two scarecrow statues based on King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2, a fabulous craft for the children to help them understand a difficult passage. Following camp, one of the kids who does not attend our church wrote on Facebook, “Wherever you are, God will be with you every step of the way” — evidence that the kids were encouraged by the message they received. Pastor Stephen Eastwood spoke to the seniors on the book of Revelation, his theme being the Lion and the Lamb. He talked about personal experiences in his life and managed to relate them to passages in Revelation, helping the teenagers understand the difficult concepts in this book.

One of the more notable experiences at camp was the building of the throne room scene in Revelation 4 and 5 by a number of the young people and staff on the Friday. Then, as Sabbath began, a trumpet call was heard, calling the whole camp together for a re-enactment of the twenty-four elders and the angels bowing before a candelabrum throne. Pastor Stephen highlighted the importance of coming before God and his acceptance of us. As the worship ended, the song “Agnus Dei (Alleluia)” could be heard across the campsite.

Many activities were arranged for the eight days at camp, including kayaking, tag archery, zorbing, and the annual ball on an island out on Lough Rea, where a vegetarian barbecue and a game of capture the flag were enjoyed by all. The campsite’s assault course and zip wire ensured that there was little time for boredom to set in.

On Sabbath afternoon everyone visited Athlone’s town centre and nearby Ballinasloe to engage in “book crossing”. Pastor Adam provided each group with books such as Steps to Christ, God’s little book of Grace and God’s little book of Promises, which had been registered with www.bookcrossing.com. The groups then had fun deciding on random places to leave their books, hopefully for people to find and take home. Two hundred and twenty-five were distributed, each with instructions stuck in them informing people how to register the book on the book-crossing website. The aim is that the books will be tracked as they pass from person to person. Since camp we have noticed that people have found some of these books and registered them online.

As we said our goodbyes we knew we still had a few days of hard work ahead — clearing all the equipment and tents away — but our hearts were buoyed up by the words that we have heard many times since then: “This was the best camp ever.”

For more information about the Irish Mission Youth department, go to www.imyd.ie.

The Power of One:
A report on the Pan-European Youth Congress
by Pastor Paul Tompkins, Trans-European Division Youth director

Every four years a Pan-European youth congress is held in Europe. These gatherings of Adventist young people are important memory events where participants can say, “I was there,” and most of them can say, “It was variety and form of a significant meeting of their lives. The most recent congress took place in Novi Sad, Serbia, between 30 June and 4 August at the Stada complex, one of Europe’s biggest conference centres. It was designed by an architect in the 1980s. 2,500 participants registered ahead of time for this exciting event, with more than 100 from the UK and Ireland. Many others followed the event via live stream.

The theme of the congress was “The Power of One”, which was brought home through powerful sermons from guest speaker Dr. Stojkovic, Matthew Gamble, David Ascherlick, Patrick Johnson and Gilbert Carly, as well as a variety of workshops and associated activities. The theme was augmented visually by a centre stage featuring a large cross, and audibly by the participants enthusiastically singing a most memorable and meaningful theme song composed by Tihomir Lazic and Karl Vatnhamre.

During the congress twelve young people were baptised, 200 others got their commitment to baptism, over 3,000 of blood who were heard as part of the Impact day, and 6,000 books were given out on Sabbath in the “book crossing” activity. Our Market of Nations featured Adventist life in the many different participating countries, and a health expo was organised for locals who also use the SPENS centre.

One of the young people baptised was Kari Rothwell from the Irish Mission. Originally eleven candidates were presented and presented their profession of faith, but as they moved to the baptismal pool Kari came forward and requested baptism. After a quick phone call home, and with the consent of her local pastor, Kari joined the group and was baptised by Pastor Nathan Stickland, BUC Youth director.

Kari later said, “My whole life has been a search for happiness. I always longed for a sense of belonging that I could never find — but I kept on trying. I finally realised that the only way I could ever feel at peace was to give my life to Jesus. Only He could give me that true happiness that I’ve been searching for! I finally realised that all I had to do was completely surrender every aspect of my life to Him. He is the One who has the power to give me everything I need, and His love was all I ever needed. I always thought that I needed to be ‘perfect’ and be living a ‘perfect life’ before I could be baptised, but now I believe that baptism is a commitment to God and a statement to the world that I want to live my life for Him. I was reminded that in the Bible, when people met Jesus, they didn’t wait around for months before getting baptised, so why should I? Giving my life to God was the best decision I’ve ever made. I know God doesn’t promise an easy life, but He promises to be there with me through everything. Every day, I have to decide to surrender myself completely to God’s will, but when I look at all that He’s already done for me, the decision is so easy to make. He’s changed my life completely, and if He can do so much in such a short space of time, I can’t wait to see what He has in store for my future!”

The Pan-European Youth Congress was jointly organised by the Trans-European (TED) and Inter-European (EUD) Divisions. Reflected on the congress, Paul Tompkins, TED Youth director, stated, “I saw happy young people. The baptism, the Impact day — a whole day of reaching out to the community — are just a few examples of how this congress will leave a profound, lasting impression on the lives of our young people as they return to their home churches and continue shining their lights for Christ.”

The congress is now history, but the memory certainly lives on in the lives of those who attended. Translators Borislav Lazic from Serbia summed up my feeling: “I am amazed by God’s guidance and the talents He has given to the young people of AYC. During this congress He has clearly shown us that young people already possess all the qualities for evangelism — go forth, young people, and finish God’s great work!”

Pastor leaves
Pastor Robert (Bob) Bell and wife, Heather, have returned to South Africa. Their last appointment at Bodmin Church was memorable though, made special by the fact that he dedicated Nathaniel Brown, then baptised Nathaniel’s father, Mark. This is not something that happens often — and it brought a little joy to sweeten the sadness of the congregation’s loss.

A. BLACKBURN

Windster Street Teens’ Day
The church was bustling at the seams with excited youth, gathered from near and far, for the Windster Street Teens’ Day on Sabbath 27 July. Adam Hazel, speaker for the day, challenged them to examine God’s ideal for His Church and for their personal lives. He further stressed that Jesus, having brought hope to the world, was there to enable and empower all to make it possible to make our presence and our lives an inspiration to the young people of our town.

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Janet Franciesca Penny (née Palfrey) (1943-2013) d. 3 July, Jan sadly passed away at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, after traumatic surgery and a long against serious health problems. Her family, who adored her, were at her side.

Jan was born in the summer of 1943 in Cwmbran, South Wales, one of three children. She was baptised into the Newport church with her parents at the age of 16, and remained a devoted Christian for the rest of her life. It was at Newport Church that she met Norman. They became a very happy and devoted couple who lovingly brought up their two children, David and Marie, both of whom were dedicated at Newport Church.

Everything she endeavoured to do, she did wholeheartedly. She was a dedicated teacher, loved caring for her family and served her church in many ways. Such roles included church pianist, Inghamering collector, Sabbath School teacher, pastor, librarian, and youth leader along with her husband Norman.

Jan knew exactly what her priorities in life were and had many interests. She loved music and worked as a school violin teacher for many years. She loved to gain knowledge and teach other people. She enjoyed her home, painting, reading, helping charities, teaching Pathfinders (including her grandchildren), swimming, sign language and writing her own poetry. Many friends and family members have been comforted by her poems (see www.cjw.com). The more she could learn, the happier she was. One of her most important priorities was spending time with her precious grandchildren (Thomas, Daniel, Charlie and Alex).

One of her greatest achievements was the amount of love she managed to fill into her life. She was a wonderful wife, mother, nanny, daughter and sister and a friend to many. We all loved her so much. She had a wonderful, happy disposition and always remained positive, despite having serious health problems. She was such an inspiration to all around her and a true Christian witness. Life is also the same because someone very important is missing. We look forward to seeing her again in the future.

Hester Clare Barber (1929-2013) d. 6 July, Clare, as she was fondly called, was born in a small village in southern Ireland to the Parker family. She was one of four children and grew up in a farm. One of her younger sisters died in infancy and her father passed away when she was only 9 years old, leaving her mother, Hester, to lovingly bring up their family. Clare left school at the age of 14 and worked as a domestic worker in Northern Ireland. Her life was about change completely. She became an Adventist and enjoyed Adventist fellowship for the rest of her life. She later moved to Northampton, where she became a founder member of the Northampton church.

Two of her cousins, Ei and Sarah, met her and the conditions and pay were much more suitable and she soon left for London, where she found employment in Baker Street. Clare soon moved to Wolverhampton Tettenhall College to work within the ‘catering department’.

She met Harold Spence at their local church, and in November 1952 Clare and Harold were married. Clare adopted his two children, Linda and John, as her own. She moved with Harold to Abthorpe in Northamptonshire and thereafter to Aberdeen in Scotland, where he took up employment as a mission evangelist.

In 1957 they moved to Birmingham, where their son David was born. They were further blessed with a daughter, Valerie, in 1960, and a son, Christopher, in 1962. Meanwhile, Harold had become a ‘commercial representative’ for Fina, enabling him to support his family better and providing regular income.

Sadly, her marriage to Harold later failed and she became solely responsible for five children. Times proved hard but Clare could always make a meal out of nothing and her family never experienced hunger or cold.

Clare loved her children and grandchildren dearly. She always prayed to God that He would spare her life until their children turned 18 years of age.

Once all her children had flown the nest, she found companionship with Arthur Barber. Love blossomed for Clare and Arthur. He was 85 years of age and she was 52, and this happy marriage lasted until 1987 when Arthur sadly passed away.

Eventually Clare moved to ‘Murray House’, where she made many friends among the residents and was able to keep herself well occupied.

This very brave, forward-thinking and courageous woman managed to pass a basic computer skills course. She also enjoyed keep-fit classes and general socialising.

Following a hip replacement Clare fell and fractured her leg. Her health deteriorated steadily, including her vision, until she could no longer do her wordsearch puzzles.

Clare’s family were important to her. She loved her Lord dearly, attended church regularly, and could always manage a smile, even in adversity.

Her sudden death shocked her family and friends, and they celebrated her life at Northampton Highlands Church on 22 July 2013, with Pastor Cyril Sweeney as the officiating minister. She was later cremated at Milton Malsor and now awaits the blessed resurrection day.

‘She said farewell to her with, “Dia, gandhi maiti” (“God be with you, Mum”).’ ANASELIA MRRIS

ANASELIA MRRIS

A diamond milestone!

Brother and Sister Newton from Camp Hill Church celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 25 July. They married in Barbados in 1943 and raised six children, who are still attending church. They have twenty grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

On 27 July the church presented them with flowers and Pastor Patrick Herbert prayed for them. They also received a letter from the Queen.

DAVIS THOMPSON

Increasingly crowded: a team of women and their team’s efforts are effectively providing healthy eating through cooking demonstrations in that community.
Health in action

Aldrena Somerville and her team from the Plumstead Community church recently ran a Health Emphasis weekend for the benefit of the general public. The Pathfinders gave out tracts advertising the event and encouraging everyone to attend for a free health check-up. Many responded and had their blood pressure, weight, and blood sugar tested. There were also health talks, cooking demonstrations and healthy smoothies to taste. There was a physical instructor on site who showed all present exercises that could be done at home. The event benefited the community, in particular two people who came in from the street and ended up going to the GP, one with extremely high blood sugar and the other with very high blood pressure.

Lewisham Pathfinder outreach

For one weekend, part of Bromley High Street was turned into a garden, transformed by grass and plants in order to promote the council’s plans for the town centre enhancement. The Lewisham Pathfinder club took the opportunity to be there and share their club’s ethos and principles in order to show the local community what they do and encourage more young people to join.

Their drum corps was one of the main attractions of the morning and they enthralled the passersby with their complicated rhythms and well-orchestrated routines. While the people listened, the Pathfinders spoke to them and delivered questionnaires to determine the needs of children in the area. Their aim is to offer the local youth an alternative type of recreation, one that gives them good, solid values.

The club did a great job of promoting their organisation, with several people expressing an interest in having their children attend. The town centre manager also appreciated the job they had done.