Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, was chosen because it is on the periphery of London and has a community comprising at least ninety percent white British inhabitants. Knowing how difficult it is to engage this particular segment of the UK’s population, the SEC is making a commendable effort to reach them.

The object is to establish a new church in this previously unterminated community, starting with a church plant that will be located in a house that has been bought by the Conference for this specific purpose.

According to a detailed strategy document provided by Pastor Jonathan Barrett, one of our experienced local pastors, the initiative’s many supporting events will stretch from September this year to November next year and beyond. They include regular small-group gatherings and a variety of interesting spiritual courses with titles like ‘Christianity Explored’ and ‘Freedom in Christ’.

Another aspect of the initiative is the strong emphasis being placed on various health-related seminars and expos (nutrition, cookery, bread-making, weight-loss and smoking cessation), all of which are excellent bridge-building activities. Then in September next year all the accumulated interests will be invited to attend a twenty-session ‘Share Him’ evangelistic series.

One of the interesting headings on the strategy document is that of ‘community mingling’. This does include meeting the local ward councils, but it seems that much of this intentional mingling will initially occur in those places where the local community hang out. To quote the document directly, it will involve: ‘ongoing intentional visits to cafes, etc, to get to know people’.

This is certainly a different form of outreach to that which we traditionally conduct. Normally we advertise for people to meet us in places (churches and church halls) that are unfamiliar to them!

Youth focus

The Potters Bar initiative also seems to have a strong youth focus, both by our Adventist volunteers becoming involved in acceptable local youth bar clubs and activities, and by arranging events to which local youth can be invited (for example, an indoor football tournament).

As with all evangelistic projects, Potters Bar has its own unique needs. According to Pastor Jonathan Barrett the main thing they need besides the obvious prayer support and the presence of the Holy Spirit – is for community-focused Adventists to move to the town! Yes, you read that right. They need a core group of balanced Adventists, who love Jesus, and will mix easily with the local community. Think about it. This might be your call to mission!

For more information don’t hesitate to contact Pastor Jonathan Barrett at jonathan@refreshpottersbar.org.
**Callin single and shared-parenting mums and dads . . .**

The Loop is an exciting initiative by the New Life church and the London Young Federation, launched recently to bring together young single and shared-parenting mums and dads across London to learn, share ideas, socialise, network and gain support.

The club meets on the first Sunday of every month from 11am to 2pm at the New Life church, 8-10 Lensox Road, NW4 3NW. Kids are welcome to the sessions, and the Loop volunteers (trusted members of our church and all CRB-checked) will run playtime and arts and crafts for them.

We also have a chatroom on WhatsApp where parents get to know each other and talk about everything from teething to the ‘terrible twos’, and everything in between.

Some of the workshops we’ve held so far include: ‘Building Positive Relationships’; ‘Career Building – Getting Back Into Work’; ‘Planning for the Future’; and ‘Health – Maintaining Physical Health and Mental & Emotional Well-being’. Over the next two months we’ll be running the following:

- **Building a Happy Home** – Effective Discipline & Bonding With Your Child (3 November)
- **Money Management – Budgeting, Savings and Financial Support** (1 December)

We also have a range of social events such as movie nights, play dates, Sabbath lunch, planning a big Christmas bake sale in December and an AYS programme to explore the issues surrounding single parenting, particularly with a church environment.

**Get in the Loop!**

If you would like to get in the Loop, contact the team on theloopyc@gmail.com or find us on Facebook: “The Loop Young Families Club

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**Man flu – is there evidence?**

In an interview with Dr Chidi Ngwaba and Pastor Patrick Johnson for the Faith Talks series on Revelation TV, SEC Communications director Pastor Kirsten Bter-Lundqvist led a lively debate on men’s health. During this discussion the subject of ‘man flu’ surfaced, resulting in some friendly banter around gender responses to colds and flu. Dr Chidi concluded that research pointed to the existence of man flu.

Wanting to investigate the claim for myself, I humorously thought my discovery could provide me with useful information in my roles as director of Health and Women’s Ministries. But first I needed to establish whether this was in fact a health issue worthy of focus; whether it could augment the domestic (pampering) role of women; and whether there was really evidence that men were more ‘disabled’ by flu than women.

These findings, if taken seriously, might leave some previously unsympathetic women running for the tissues – not necessarily to assist their sniffling husbands, but to dry their own tears as they face up to their vows, ‘. . . in sickness and in health’!

Dr Chidi noted that women report more flu-like symptoms than men – 11,200 per 100,000 women compared with 9,300 per 100,000 men.

**Elliott Prior**

Amidst all the turmoil of the first hours of the siege, there is a pithy story that begs to be commented on: the courage of 4-year-old Elliott Prior. Elliott, from Windsor in southeast England, was with his mother and sister when the slaughter started.

The noise must have been deafening. Prisoners lay dead and dying all around him. His mother, Amber, had gone down with a bullet to the thigh and he was at her side, innocently trying to protect her as best he could.

Then, as an AK47-brandishing ‘gunman approached him, his mother and his 6-year-old sister, Amber. ‘You’re a bad man, let us leave’,”

Pause for a moment and let your imagination recreate that scene. Humanity speaking, Elliott’s puny 4-year-old resistance meant nothing. It could have been blown aside by a single bullet. But the little boy stands his ground. He knows the difference between right and wrong, between good and bad, and burts out the naked truth: “You’re a bad man, let us leave.”

In doing so, Elliott wields the only weapon that the honest, innocent, weak and seemingly powerless little boy can wave in the face of tyranny: the truth! This is the truth, the truth led to the immediate release of his mother and sister. They were able to escape and take two other children with them, including a wounded 12-year-old boy whose mother had been murdered.

**Not all pumpkins**

Elliott Prior is a heart-warming. But life is not a fairy tale, and we all know that pumpkins seldom transform themselves into grand carriages. Nevertheless, his actions do

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**Truth makes power uncomfortable**

**By Julian Hibbert**

My last editorial was prompted by the sad events surrounding the Westgate shopping mall massacre in Nairobi, Kenya. Since then, further detailed information emerged from the initial chaos and debris provide more food for thought.

It now appears that the murderous extremist were not the only villains involved in the shopping mall siege. According to subsequent reports, the evidence seems to suggest that members of a special forces group, involved in wide-scale looting and boozing during their ‘mission to protect the truth’, were being directed not at the last of the militants but at safaris and jukeboxes to blast them open.

Some business leaders even question whether the Kenyan Army deliberately pro longed the crisis by saying that shooters were still in the building when they were actually dead ... to give them more extra time to steal.

If proved to be true, these allegations will do nothing to enhance the reputation of Kenya’s security forces, but that is not the focus of my thoughts today.

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**You’re a bad man, let us leave!**
Paul finished one of the greatest passages in the New Testament with the line: ‘you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain’ (1 Corinthians 15:58, NVS).

We all need to remind ourselves of that from time to time. Our work has got to mean something. There is a revolutionary connection between the Christian faith and the workplace: and we’ve all got to find it.

The skyscape of London we get on TV news nowadays invariably features the London Eye, the Shard, the Gherkin, Canary Wharf, assorted anonymous rectangles – and St Paul’s Cathedral. Only one of those was already built in the ten-year period I spent on my postgraduate work in London. And it’s the only one that, to this day, takes my breath away!

In the years when Sir Christopher Wren was directing the building of St Paul’s some of the workers were asked by a journalist (a new species then), ‘What are you working here?’. Just that. The answers were noted down. The first said, ‘I’m cutting stone for three shillings a day.’ The second said, ‘I’ll have to know I’m putting in ten hours a day on this job!’ The third said, ‘I’m helping Sir Christopher Wren build the greatest cathedral in Great Britain for the glory of God.’

It was the third man who had the bigger picture. He had a sense of vocation in his work. Whatever our work, we all need that sense.

Martin Luther believed that all human work is not just a job, but a calling. The Latin word vocare (the root of ‘vocation’) means ‘to call’. Luther described all who work as ‘the fingers of God’, the agents of God’s great enterprise. We all need to ‘re-appropriate’ the old meaning of ‘vocation’, not just a job, but a calling. The Latin word vocare (the root of ‘vocation’) means ‘to call’. Luther described all who work as ‘the fingers of God’, the agents of God’s great enterprise. We all need to ‘re-appropriate’ the old meaning of ‘vocation’, not just a job, but a calling.

Tolkien had a distinctively Christian understanding of work. God gives us talents so that He can work in us and through us. But the finished work does not appear until we reach the heavenly country – where we discover that God has finished it for us.

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In fact, right now, there is a single, educated, 30-year-old seeking truth worldwide. I plead with you to give generously from the spiritual and material feast that God has blessed you with, so that there can be enough AFM missionaries to reach them.

Abdullah's story

Hi Pastor Julian,

Greetings from a wet, hot and humid Guinea! In recent days I have been travelling to some of our West African projects, visiting with missionaries, meeting new believers and helping to develop future AFM outreach plans.

Earlier this week I was in a country that is very closed to the Gospel, where our only official presence is an ADRA director who has to be very cautious about doing overt evangelism. Despite these conditions, however, there are many Gospel-hungry souls in this country.

We secretly meet believers who worship at the only Adventist congregation in the capital city, a group about forty strong, consisting mainly of African immigrants. We also meet someone else, a secret believer who is making his way to Jesus via a different route.

This is his story...

I was in a lean-to shelter on the edge of the Sahara desert, in this country where evangelism is very challenging. Close by was a mosque where children were being drilled in Quranic memorisation. My colleague and I sat on a rug with our backs against a low wall, grateful for the tarp that protected us from the sun’s scorching heat.

Tears fell. Air. Mice scurried here and there. Veiled women hurried to and fro. But where are the books for us? How can we find Ellen White? The question stunned me. How did Abdullah, * this brave seeker after truth who sat before us in the shade, know about Ellen White?

Seven years earlier, while Abdullah was praying around midnight, he had a vision. The heavens opened and Jesus Christ appeared to him wearing a flowing robe and ... ended abruptly and Abdullah was left to ponder its meaning. Could it be that Jesus the Messiah wanted to dwell with him?

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On behalf of Abdullah, and the millions like him who are seeking truth worldwide, I plead with you to give generously from the spiritual and material feast that God has blessed you with, so that there can be enough AFM missionaries to reach them.

In fact, right now, there is a single, educated, 30-year-old man with pastoral experience and the sensitivity to work among Muslims, who is available to work in Abdullah’s country. We could appoint him tomorrow – all we need is the funding. For more details about how you can help please contact me at: conradvine@gmail.com or visit www.afmonline.org.

God bless.

CONRAD VINE

We spent half a day with Abdullah and his family. Yes, they live in poverty, but according to him, ‘We have nothing, but we want for nothing!’ They have found the Messiah.

But where does Ellen White fit into all this? How could Abdullah hope to find any of her writings in such a Gospel-hostile environment?

I reflected on my bookshelves at home, groaning with spiritual riches, while here was a brother in Christ pleading for just a few crumbs from that spiritual banquet.

We agreed to send materials to him in a safe and secret way, and then left under cover of darkness ... but not before Abdullah and I had agreed to be neighbours in our heavenly home. He clasped our hands as we walked to the car, and then he was gone.

He is one of many around the world, honest seekers after truth like Abdullah seek for men and women of God whom they can know personally and trust for eternity. This requires that Adventist Frontier Missions place long-term missionaries on the ground in these Gospel-resistant regions, where they can mingle, build trust, minister and invite the seekers to follow Jesus.

We are doing this everywhere that our limited funds will allow, but we wish we could do more. Our homes are filled with innumerable feats at this hour of the day – spiritual, financial and edible! The Abdullahs of this world are not asking to sit at those tables with us – they are just crying out for a few crumbs...

*In the interests of his and his family’s safety, this is not his real name.

PEACE graduation:

28 September, Preston Church

by Geraldene Farmer, NEC Communication director

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his year thirteen students from Australia, America, India, Germany, the Netherlands, the South England Conference and the North England Conference completed the PEACE four-month training course, bringing to seventy-four the total number of lay evangelists produced through this initiative since its inception in 2010.

NCE president, Pastor Lorance Johnson, expressed his delight that ‘group after group of brave individuals have answered the call of God to prepare for a future of sharing Christ with others.

During conversations with some of the graduates it was evident that all of them had obstacles to overcome in order to heed that call.

Jamaican-born Northampton Christian couple, Gordon Stewart, was baptised just a year after having left the church for a while. He believes that God found him and drew him out of darkness. ‘I didn’t want to go back to doing what I was doing before, I wanted to serve God. I am taking away skills to evangelise and be able to talk to people, something I had difficulty doing at first.’

Jodin hopes to help to evangelise and support the youth in his church and use his new skills. He believes that God will make a way for anyone who is willing to answer the call, just as He has made a way for him by rallying the Northampton and Wellingtonborough churches, family and friends to raise funds for his course.

Darrin Shephard wanted evangelism training, so he came all the way from Kentucky, USA after hearing about PEACE. His church family raised the funds to make it possible, and when he returns to Kentucky he will immediately conduct his first evangelistic series.

Del Groves, a retired teacher living in rural Queensland, Australia, heard the call to draw closer to God. She wanted to know Him better and found the PEACE school of evangelism by searching the internet. She has been blessed, and plans to share, serve and evangelise when she gets back home.

So what is PEACE all about? Beulah Plunkett, associate director of PEACE, explains: “PEACE stands for Practical Evangelism and Adventist Christian Education … through it students become acquainted with the practicalities of becoming an evangelist – how it’s done. That means going from door to door, doing Bible studies, being involved in developing and planning a campaign and seeing it through, even getting to the point of seeing a new person from the door through to baptism – the whole cycle. And then we also equip students with the skills to teach, to support others and to witness, and you get to try that out – it’s quite full and it’s a very good deal!”

Students also receive 160 hours of lectures on personal and public evangelism, how to teach, how to preach (homiletics), church planting, Adventist-Muslim relations and more. They develop a clearer understanding of the Adventist message: their identity as Seventh-day Adventists, and our purpose and mission in this world today.

One young woman who can attest to the value of attending the PEACE training is former student, Tokoza Muimo, from Leeda Central Church. Attending the PEACE programme was honestly the best four months of my life. One of the skills I picked up as a PEACE student was the ability to share my faith – to make the transition between day-to-day conversations to a conversation about the Gospel. Also, in my church I have been able to conduct Bible studies, teach the Sabbath School lesson, work with the youth and work through the evangelistic cycle, all of which I would not have been able to do before. … I have learnt how to pray more effectively and develop a closer relationship with God.

I would highly recommend PEACE to anyone who wants to witness more effectively. God will make a way – don’t be put off by circumstances.”

According to Rejoice Kampengele, NEC treasurer: ‘For years we observed a number of our young people crossing the Atlantic to go to schools of evangelism in the US. We came to the conclusion that we needed to make training available to them within the British context and so far we have not regretted taking this leap of faith.’

The PEACE training location is intentionally moved around the Conference to whichever area needs support. For the past two years it has been based in South England, but for the next two it will be based in Manchester as part of the NEC Mission to the Cities endeavour. The course will once again be led by Adam Ramdin, Beulah Plunkett and Craig Gooden.

Adam Ramdin, NEC director for PEACE, encouraged prospective students with these words: ‘PEACE is for everyone. It is a lay training course, but for the next two years it will be based in Manchester as part of the NEC Mission to the Cities endeavour. The course will once again be led by Adam Ramdin, Beulah Plunkett and Craig Gooden.

Details of the next PEACE intake can be found on: www.necadventist.org.uk.

The NEC, administration and staff would like to congratulate the following graduates of the PEACE class of 2013:

Akbal Sowuma, Chantal Tensfoum, Desirah Shipton, Del Groves, Ellen Schwartz, Gina Neufeldt, Josh Murray, Jody Bulan, Marjorie Pearce, Gordon Stewart, Robert Maka, Tapanie Marawa, Wynna, Teresa Davies.

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Autumn colours!

Spring and summer have come and gone since the last Megapixel spread, but haven’t September and October been fab? All the colours of autumn, showing their best against the bright sunshine and blue skies... lovely! If spring is a time of new life, then autumn is a time for rejuvenation, a time in the cycle when everything dies off and feeds the ground with old vegetation, to pave the way for the new life to come again next year, and so it continues. Now that’s creation at its best! I must confess, the steady flow of pictures into my inbox has slowed up a bit; maybe you’ve all been busy enjoying your summer, and who can blame you! But now it’s chilling off a bit, maybe it’s time to take stock of your pictures from this year, and send some in for Megapixels.

If you have enjoyed all these great pictures, how about sending in yours to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk – just remember to keep them ‘hi-res’.

DAVID BELL

‘Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years...” ’

Genesis 1:14 (NKJV)
baptisms

First baptism on Isle of Wight?

On Sabbath, 28 September, the Isle of Wight church held its first sea baptism, and possibly its first ever baptism. According to the church elder, John Hemming, ‘Since we don’t have our own church, our new members were baptised on the mainland in churches which are equipped for baptism, and this is probably the first one to take place on the island itself.’

James Crump was baptised in the sea off the Shanklin Beach Hotel by Pastor Tihonir Zestic while the members sang ‘Just as I am’ and curious members of the public looked on. James was supported by his parents, who are not members.

According to Pastor Zestic, ‘James, being an islander himself, is a rare asset in the church’s efforts to draw the people of the island to Bible truth.’

James had found Adventism on the internet and then made contact with Pastor Robin Lewis in Portsmouth. Being at Portsmouth University, he began attending that church and received studies from Pastor Lewis’s successor, Pastor Zestic.

On the same Sabbath, in the afternoon, another baptism took place at Portsmouth Southsea, but it was of a rather private character. This Sabbath will be remembered for breaking records by having two baptisms on the same day and both in the sea. That has never happened in the district before.

District baptism in Cambridge

On 28 September, after months of preparation, three churches united in celebration as five precious souls were baptised at Cambridge Church. The service was conducted by Pastor Colin Stewart, the local pastor, who was assisted by the elders for all three churches.

Two of the candidates, Lynn and Elizabeth, a mother and daughter originally from South Africa, were welcomed into the Bury St Edmunds fellowship by first elder Richard Shore. They were well supported by the rest of their family. Alongside them was young Shyleen, who was welcomed into the Havering fellowship, a church plant of Cambridge, where she is set to be a great asset. Her proud parents, Sylvia and Percy, family, and friends were all there to share her happiness.

Also joining the Havering fellowship was 14-year-old Ahkeel. His confident stroll to the baptismal pool confirmed his confidence in his decision to make Jesus his Saviour. Ahkeel’s mother and grandmother were there to rejoice over his decision.

Last to enter the water was Thando, who regularly attends the Cambridge church. Although his immediate family were not able to join him, he was supported by the entire Cambridge congregation, who are now his new family.

The whole event was made even more special when seven serious youngsters stood up during the appeal, ready to prepare for baptism one day.

Another ‘4-G’ baptism

On Sabbath morning 21 September, Pastor Cooper’s face still beamed long after the close of his baptismal service at Stanborough Park Church. Baptised by his grandfather, Pastor Peter Cooper, following weekly studies with the church’s senior minister, Pastor Jacques Verrier, Paul is yet another of the fourth- and fifth-generation Adventists who have been baptised at this church this summer.

His great-uncle and aunt, Pastor John and Ruth Arthur, were unable to attend but watched the service on Livestream. The family have a tradition of church service, especially with ADRA, and Paul spent his early childhood in Kenya and Sri Lanka.

Since arriving in England with his parents in August 2008, Paul has been a student at Stanborough School, and was supported by several of his classmates.

A honeymoon baptism

Sabbath 10 August was a day of rejoicing for the Aberdeen and Inverness congregations as they witnessed the baptism of Joanna Grant. Though raised in a Christian home in her native Canada, Joanna strayed from her faith. But she tired of this life and decided to return to God. It was then that she met Leonard, who had moved to Canada from Scotland. Leonard’s interest in Joanna was not mutual at first, but finally, after being friends for two years, Joanna realised that Leonard was the man God had promised her many years before. They married in January this year and arrived in Inverness for a four-and-a-half-month honeymoon in April. During their stay, Joanna’s faith as a Seventh-day Adventist was affirmed through Bible studies with Robert Sullivan, an inverness member. Following her baptism by Pastor Victor Harewood, Joanna and Leonard returned to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada.

GBK builds community relations

On Sunday 4 August Great Brickkiln Street Church, Wolverhampton, joined in the Grasby community police and local council’s Fun Day. The Community Service leader, Edna Malcolm, and her volunteers didn’t let the showers dampen their enthusiasm for the day ahead. They set up their stall and displayed catorns (African/Caribbean dress), traditional Caribbean cakes and ginger punch in the hope of raising funds for their community projects. Adventist literature and books were also available to spread the Gospel.

Although the day was an opportunity to build relations with the other stall holders and the police, unfortunately the general public stayed away due to the rain, and only £18 was raised for the projects.

There is a bright side to this story, however. Since hearing about GBK’s various plans to help the community’s needy – the existing soup kitchen and food pantry, and the soon-to-open charity shop – the Grasby community police have donated £1,500 to these projects! Pictured above is the cheque-handing-over ceremony held at the church on 27 August, with PC Martin Danher, Edna Malcolm, PC Steven Wales and Pastor Rainford McIntosh.

Sandie’s baptism

Great joy was experienced by the Dundee church on Sabbath 14 September as 19-year-old Sandie Chillufya was baptised. She had shown great interest in her Bible studies with Pastor Marcel Gniadkowski and was curious in this quiet display of allegiance to Christ. The pastor emphasised continuing commitment and steadfastness in his sermon, and many youngsters gathered round the baptismal pool to witness the beautiful service. Sandie will be moving to Derby, where she will study law.

Langley baptises six

On 28 September the Langley church witnessed the baptism of six new members, including two married couples. Asha Henry, Agnes Henry, Maliko Kaur, Roop Lal Hans, Diego Phares and William Henry were baptised by the Langley pastor, Sohan Masih Gill.

In addition to the Hans sisters, Jaspreet and Priya, were dedicated during the same service in which their parents were baptised.

It was truly a day of great rejoicing, which was appropriately concluded by a fine fellowship lunch.

Double celebration

Juliana Kishikashita was baptised at the Stanborough Park church on her birthday, 7 September, by Pastor Jacques Verrier. This wonderful event was the culmination of a series of studies Juliana received from Pastor Mary Barrett. She wanted to be baptised because she ‘truly understood God’s plan of redemption’ and wanted to ‘make a fresh start with Jesus’.

On her mother’s side she is a fourth-generation Adventist – on her father’s side a fifth! Besides the influence of her family, the years spent as a pupil at Stanborough Park Primary School have also been a positive influence in her life.

Health and fun in Hull

On 1 September Hull Church had its first community health and fun day at one of the city’s busiest parks. Members of the public had their weight, height, blood pressure and BMI checked before joining in the fun. The health team was staffed by Doctors Marinceu and Thomas, and Nurus Muran and Joy, who also offered health advice to those who needed it.

There was a variety of games to suit all ages, and free refreshments. Those members of the public who participated seemed to enjoy themselves and Hull’s members were pleased to support such a wonderful community event.

They turned up in force to be part of the event. The fun was not limited to the youth – Pastor Karbah was enthusiastically involved in the football game along with 79-year-old Brother Will! Reaching out to the community in this way was also a great opportunity to share some Adventist literature. The Hull members are already planning to do it again next year – but bigger and better!

GBK’s various plans to help the community’s needy – the existing soup kitchen and food pantry, and the soon-to-open charity shop – the Grasby community police have donated £1,500 to these projects!

Pictured above is the cheque-handing-over ceremony held at the church on 27 August, with PC Martin Danher, Edna Malcolm, PC Steven Wales and Pastor Rainford McIntosh.
**Great Yarmouth’s new club**

Exciting things are happening in Great Yarmouth. Just a few years ago we had no children in the church, but God answered our prayers and we now have six. Our young minister, Rio Espuglar, started a Pathfinder club, aided by his wife, Maybelle, and Ravoo Kumira, a vibrant young lady from Zimbabwe.

Our main highlight so far has been a weekend at the ‘Guide and Scout’ campsite in the beautiful Thetford Forest. Due to the very dry weather we were unable to have the traditional campfire for safety reasons; nevertheless, the young Pathfinders enjoyed every minute of their fun-filled activities.

The camp began with a ‘Trust Walk’, the point of which was to trust the person guiding them into the forest while they were blindfolded. Its purpose was to show them the need to trust the guidance of their parents and mentors, and especially God, when making decisions in life.

Other activities over the weekend included a three-hour hike into the beautiful forest, discussions and creative activities, and wall climbing; and, observed one of the leaders, ‘even dish washing proved to be popular!’ The Lord blessed them with good weather, lovely surroundings, and a great time with plenty of fun and exercise! This event was a preparation for next year’s main Pathfinder camporee. Friends were invited, and as a result two of them are now part of our Pathfinder club. We now look forward to an investiture that is already planned.

**‘Unsung women’ honoured**

If it fails to your lot to be a street sweeper, go out and sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures; sweep streets like Handel and Beethoven composed music; sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the host of Heaven and Earth will have to say, ‘Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.’ (Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Former South England Conference president, Humphrey Walters, used these words as two special ladies were given the ‘This is your life’ treatment for thirty-five years of outstanding service to both church and community.

Ann Williams and Ruby Merchant, both members of the Hackney church, on Haggerston Road, were honoured for their tireless work in Hackney during a special programme on the evening of Saturday, 7 September. Not only were a number of former Hackney pastors present, but so were Diane Abbott (MP for Stoke Newington and Hackney North); the Speaker of Hackney Council (Michael Desmond); the Jamaican High Commissioner (Alison Ndobemb-Assamba); the Montserratian High Commissioner (Janice Panton); and Detective Chief Inspector Shemah Chaudhury.

Sister Merchant, 73, who came to Hackney from Jamaica, served as church clerk for over twenty years, not to mention her work as head deaconess. She is known for her visitation of nursing homes as well as the feeding and clothing of the local homeless.

After hearing the tributes paid to her she said, ‘I am so shocked. I had no clue this was happening. I can’t believe at my family is here. I’ve been a part of this church since 1977. I thank the church, my family and God for bringing me to this stage.’

Equally surprised was Sister Williams, 83, who came to Hackney from the island of Montserrat. She is a pioneer and founder member of the Hackney church and has never shied away from work, having served as an elder and as the Family Life and Women’s Ministries leader. In fact she is currently the church’s Sabbath School superintendent. For many years she kept the children of Hackney safe during her time as a lollipop lady. She also prepared meals at Great Ormond Street Hospital, with her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, being one of many to have enjoyed her meals. At all it came as a surprise to her. ‘We didn’t know what was going on,’ she says. ‘We thank you so much. The Lord has blessed me … and I can happily say I’ve not experienced any sickness and have always been in church and able to help others.’

Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney, called the ladies ‘unsung women who, as examples of faith, unity and love, have contributed to creating a thriving and vibrant Hackney community’.

Speaker of Hackney Council, Michael Desmond, who presented the ladies with special crystal plaques, concluded, ‘We must look to the past to know how to move forward in the future. These two exemplary ladies are two firewoks who haven’t fizzled out, and we are all challenged to do the same. The council is proud of you both and congratulates you.’

Pastor Emmanuel Osie, in place of SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, presented the ladies with a certificate of commendation; after a prayer of consecration was offered on their behalf.

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**MOHAP annual retreat**

The annual Ministry of Healing and Prayer (MOHAP) retreat was attended by ninety Adventists from across England, Scotland and Wales – and James. The retreat began with a ‘Trust Walk’, the point of which was to trust the person guiding them into the forest while they were blindfolded. Its purpose was to show them the need to trust the guidance of their parents and mentors, and especially God, when making decisions in life.

GBK summer programme

The Great Brickkiln Street church recently held their summer programme for children between the ages of 5 and 15 between 19 and 28 August, which was well attended. Not only did they learn about the whole armour of God each day, but they enjoyed many stimulating activities: crafts, puzzles and games.

Other retreat activities were: a Sabbath morning panel discussion led by Pastors Ian Sweeney, BUC president, and Lorance Johnson, NEC president; a Saturday night celebration with the Craydon Gospel Choir; a Sunday morning anointing service led by Pastor Michael Hamilton, TED Prayer Ministries director; and Sam Davis, SEC president; and a Sunday afternoon of recreational social activities.

Delicious vegan whole foods were also part of the experience, modelling the Adventist health message and the nutritional element within the health presentations.


**Plumstead International Day**

They came from the north, south, east and west to join the Plumstead Community church’s International Day celebration. The Pathfinders educated us on ‘One God, One Nation’ experience. The afternoon programme consisted of members singing and praising God in their mother tongues. This was truly a ‘One God, One Nation’ experience.

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**Brixton takes to the streets**

On 31 August the Brixton church took church to the community as a prelude to their Mission to the Cities series of meetings. The day started out with a morning service led by Pastor E. Jones-Larty, in which he prepared the members for their mission – the march to Windrush Square.

The march started around noon, with the Brixton Church Drum Corps leading the way from Santley Street to the square, followed by the congregation, who were singing, holding banners and distributing flyers to anyone with whom they came in contact. On arrival at the square they found scores of people from the community already at the church’s health tent. The music and singing drew more of the public to listen.

From Friday, 30 August to Monday, 2 September 2013, the retreat speakers delivered a total of thirteen presentations on the theme, ‘Lord, make me whole’, and covered the spectrum of emotional, physical and spiritual healing.

Pastor Dennis Smith (USA), author of sixteen books on the Holy Spirit, presented four deeply provocative devotions on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, challenging attendees to allow the Holy Spirit to fill them. Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, SEC Church Growth director, touched by the message, stated that it needed to be heard throughout the British Isles.

Cale Hone (Australia), international director of Holy Spirit Ministries, shared how he attended a revival weekend in 2009, conducted by Pastor Dennis Smith. After completing Pastor Smith’s 40 Days of Prayer and Devotion he discovered a new spiritual life.

They were joined by Dr Magna Parks (USA), a counselling psychologist and author, whose inspirational presentations focused on emotional healing and mental well-being. Dr Scott Griggs, MD, over 40 years of clinical experience at Wildwood Seventh-day Adventist Hospital and Lifestyle Clinic, focused on the laws of health and the causes and treatment options for a number of common diseases, including cancer. His presentation on the role of botanical medicines (herbs) in the treatment of common diseases elicited much interest.

Pastor Lloyd Lambert led the outdoor prayer walk each morning, while the uplifting prayer and worship sessions were led by Fen Brathwistle and Richard Christie. It was Richard’s first time at a MOHAP retreat and he enjoyed it: ‘I didn’t realise how much I needed to be here, as many needs have been met and my experience has been truly life-changing.’

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Delicious vegan whole foods were also part of the experience, modelling the Adventist health message and the nutritional element within the health presentations.

Food, glorious food!

We could all have sung, ‘Food, glorious food...’ on Sunday 15 September in Newport when the church held its annual health fair at Eveswell Primary School, just across the road – and what a happy day it proved to be.

One visitor, Maureen Baker, accompanied by her daughter Helen, first came to the event three years ago and returned last year too. Together they visited each stand, doing all the health checks. The outcome was described by Maureen as ‘very helpful’.

One young woman, a local high school student, dropped in when she noticed the poster at the school gate. She took an intelligent interest in all that was offered. An Asian family and friends, who live in a road close to the church, happily participated and also enjoyed the food.

Certainly there was something for everyone, from the toddlers to teenagers. The Newport Temperance Society provided an educational game of Snakes and Ladders aimed at encouraging discussion between children and parents about the dangers of alcohol.

In addition to the usual range of health checks, Leslie Wood from Cardiff was on hand to give back-care advice and to do massage. Althea Collymore of the Welsh Refugee Council provided essential advice, which was especially appreciated by at least one of the visitors. The local Samantans were there too. Sadly the Newport line comes very high on the list of places where people decide to commit suicide.

Dr Catherine Kau was a very interesting volunteer. She came to Britain from Sierra Leone as a refugee and is now working in Cambrian prior to deciding on her future specialism. ‘I’m so glad that Evan invited me,’ she said. ‘This is the base for medicine. This is what we need to do, to teach people how to eat well. We take so much of what we have for granted, but this kind of event is a good opportunity to put the ‘titching back into society’.

Good food played a major role in the day and visitors could easily have come in to enjoy the delicious food and gone away satisfied without further participation! The initial fasters led on to lunch: a beautiful vegan lentil soup, salad sandwiches, veggie samosas, cherry vegan ‘cheesecake’ and wholesome fruit cake. The day ended with a vegan smoothie-making demonstration by Evan Green, Health director of the Newport church and the fair’s organiser.

Women’s Ministries Day

Women’s a Ministries Day was celebrated at Great Brickkiln Street Church, Wolverhampton, on 31 August, and the programme was co-ordinated by Lesa McIntosh, the local church Women’s Ministries director, spoke on the subject of ‘Christ our Refuge’ – outlining different types of abuse and how to cope with them.

During the sermon Geraldene Farmer, NEC Women’s Ministries director, spoke on the subject of ‘Christ our Refuge’ – outlining different types of abuse and how to cope with them.

Laurel Severs, who is a Women’s Ministries facilitator for the Midlands, is called ‘Mother of the Children’ and is a huge help to people.

Definitely there was something for everyone, from the toddlers to teenagers. The Newport Temperance Society provided an educational game of Snakes and Ladders aimed at encouraging discussion between children and parents about the dangers of alcohol.

In the mid-70s Dufton worked as a security guard and continued to play an active role in the church.

Jennifer Angela Johnson, MBE (1962-2013) d. 5 March. On Friday, 22 March, West Bromwich Church overflowed as members, friends and relatives attended the funeral service of Jennifer Angela Johnson, MBE.

It was Jennifer’s wish that white and red be the colours at her funeral service. These wishes were honoured with red and white flowers, while nature assisted with a fresh covering of snow.

Jennifer was born on 14 October, 1962, and fell asleep in the Lord on 5 March this year. During her illness she did not complain, even when in much pain. She took the time to encourage those who visited and telephoned her. In her short life she achieved many things and was happy with what she had done, but, as in her own words, the best thing was finding ‘Jesus’.

Jennifer embraced the Adventist message after having Bible studies for about two years and was baptised into the fellowship of the West Bromwich church congregation on Sabbath, 10 November, 2012. Her favourite hymn was ‘Lord On the Everlastings Arms’, and it was sung when church members went to visit her.

During her working life she had jobs that didn’t give her the satisfaction that she got when working with young people, mentoring and helping them to reach their full potential. Because of her dedication to helping others, Jennifer was nominated for and received an MBE in December 2011.

Jennifer is mourned by her son Andrew, who, during her last weeks, took time from his work to lovingly and tenderly care for her. She also leaves her parents, other family members, many friends, colleagues, and a host of the young people who had mentored over the years.

The tears will flow when we remember the times we shared with Jen, but we have a hope of meeting her again in the new Jerusalem.

Her family would like to thank everyone who took part in their time of bereavement.

Dufton George Burth (1941-2013) d. 1 July. On Monday 15 July, family and friends of the late Dufton George Burth gathered at St Paul’s Church, Smethwick, for a celebration of his life. Pastors D. Majaducon, D. Masih and P. Herbert took part in the service. Dufton was buried next to his wife at Rowley Regis Cemetery.

He was born on 2 January, 1941, in Waterworks, Jamaica, to Marj and Percival Burth, the fourth of eleven children. They lived a strict Christian life and his siblings remember him fondly as being funny, compassionate and hard-working.

Dufton attended Petersfield School, next to the Petersfield Adventist church, and then went on to train as a stonemason.

In 1960, at the age of 19, he emigrated to England and settled in the West Midlands, where he found work with British Rail. His sisters Loren and Estelle later joined him.

While attending Petersfield Church on a visit back to Jamaica in 1970, he was captivated by a young soloist – a local girl by the name of Brenda Lawrence – and they soon married. Dufton took her back to the UK, where they were blessed with a son, Gregory, and a daughter, Georgina.

Dufton was a gentle, loving husband and father who always spent quality time with his family.

They attended West Bromwich Church, where Dufton held several positions, including Pathfinder director, head deacon, deacon and Personal Ministries leader. He loved to sing; he often sang with his wife Brenda, as a soloist and with the West Bromwich church choir.

In the mid-70s Dufton worked as a long-distance lorry driver and he often took his children, nieces and nephews on road trips to various places in the UK which they always enjoyed.

The family was blessed with a granddaughter, Amelia Jade, in 1998, and they took her to church with them from an early age.

After thirty years of marriage, Brenda passed away suddenly, aged 49. Although he was devastated by the loss of his beloved wife, Dufton’s faith in God helped him cope.

In 2003 his daughter, Georgina, married Daniel Severo and settled in Canada, where they raised two sons, Jason and Sloan. Dufton visited them as often as he could.

During his retirement, Dufton worked as a security guard and continued to play an active role in the church.

In 2012 he was diagnosed with cancer, passing away on 1 July, exactly thirteen years to the day after his wife. He is survived by his two children, four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

In memoriam:

This photographs of Sidney Cecil Rose (1918-2013) was regretfully not included with his obituary in the Mennonite of 27 September 2013. We would like to express our apologies for any distress this may have caused.

Baby shower

After another successful vegetarian cooking demo and delectable meal in the function room of our church in Great Yarmouth, Izabela was called away with her husband. What she didn’t know was that the church was planning a big surprise for her! Mike suddenly ‘remembered’ there was something he’d left in church and as Izabela entered the room everybody was waiting – and there was a pile of presents!

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Rugby played its part

Pastor Milan Guetita and the members of Rugby Church went out on Sabbath, 28 September to do their part in the ‘Power of 35,000’ initiative, giving out hundreds of Steps to Christ books, Escape Magazine and leaflets with an Adventist message in the local community. The church Pathfinders also helped to deliver the material and drew a lot of attention because of their smart uniforms.

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Orphans benefit from cycle ride

John Cooper and Kish Poddar, trustees of the UK-registered charity STOP International, travelled to India in August to hand over a cheque to cover the school fees of the fifty Way To Life children that the charity will sponsor in the 2013/2014 school year.

John and Kish completed a 261-mile London-to-Paris cycle ride in May to raise over £3,000 for the orphans’ school fees. While on a STOP project at the Vocational Training Centre in Denkanikotta, India, they presented a cheque for £2,800 to the director of the Way To Life orphanage, who told them that the children prayed for their safety and stamina during the ride. The children gave a big cheer of appreciation when the cheque was handed over and offered a prayer of gratitude which, for the two riders, was the most rewarding part of the fundraising event – motivating enough for them to make the London-to-Paris cycle ride an annual event.

In addition to presenting a cheque for the orphans’ school fees, Kish and John’s volunteers laid hundreds of feet of water pipes, and three hundred metres of cable in trenches to supply the newly constructed girls’ dormitory with electricity – and applied whitewash to the two hundred metres of the orphanage front wall.

There were many memorable events on the trip, but the highlight was to see the new sewing machines installed in the vocational training centre so that the sewing programme for the older children could begin. When the assembled machines were displayed to the orphans, they broke out in spontaneous singing – a fitting start to the long-awaited programme designed to help them become self-sufficient.

STOP International organises a humanitarian trip to India every summer. If you would like to volunteer on a trip please contact Kish Poddar at kishpoddar@onetel.com.

Dedication

Sabbath 24 August was a special Sabbath for Natalie and Ian Wilson of Winchester Church: The day Pastor Wv Llewellyn dedicated their baby boy Oisin. Ian’s parents had travelled from Ireland for the event and Natalie’s parents and sister were also there.

Pastor Llewellyn told the congregation that the opportunity to dedicate Oisin was made even more special by the fact that, some twenty-five years earlier, he had dedicated Natalie when he was minister of the Southampton church!