Southport baptism

On Sabbath morning 16 November last year, Liverpool Central Church witnessed the baptism of Craig Martin, David Birchall and Pawel Krawczyk, who were brought to Christ through the evangelistic efforts of the PEACE Centre of Evangelism that was located in Southport this past summer. The PEACE students worked in the local community and found people interested in studying the Bible; then Craig Gooden, the outreach co-ordinator for PEACE, conducted an evangelistic series in August and September which many people from Southport attended. There were several decisions for baptism and the local church has worked tirelessly to welcome these new believers, making them feel at home and cared for. These three men have experienced our love and accepted our beliefs, after a series of life-changing Bible studies by the local pastor, Ian Philpott.

Paweł, Craig and David shared their wonderful decision with their family and friends, many of the PEACE graduates and members from the Liverpool district of churches, and were voted into the membership of Southport Church. Pastor Ian Philpott said, ‘It was a wonderful joy to see the church so packed to celebrate the baptism of these three lives with their families and friends to support them.’

David Birchall was just in Southport one day for an appointment when he was approached in the town centre by a PEACE student, Rejoice, from Liverpool. They struck up a conversation and it slowly turned to spiritual things. One thing led to another and David mentioned how he already knew about the Sabbath. This shows how God is already at work in people’s hearts, and that they are just waiting for us to guide them further. He began to study the Bible with her and then attended the series of evangelistic meetings. Now he wants to do all that he can to share the wonderful message of God’s love with others.

According to Craig Gooden, ‘Watching God change people’s hearts is an amazing experience. Being involved in making friends with Dave, Craig and Pawel, and then watching them give their lives to the Lord, has been a highlight in my own Christian walk.’

PEACE wants to thank the Liverpool Central church for hosting the Southport church and making this special day possible. Another baptism was planned for 21 December – please keep the project in your prayers.

SAM PHILPOTT AND ADAM RAMDIN

Photo left to right: the baptism candidates, Pawel Krawczyk, Craig Martin and David Birchall.
Work-related illness

Is your job making you sick? If so, then you are not alone. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) network estimates around 25,000 cases of occupational disease and work-related ill health occur in the UK annually. That’s the bad news.

The good news is that the British Heart Foundation’s Health at Work programme offers workplace support for employees with interventions such as stress management, health and safety, an annual pedometer challenge, healthy eating tips, exercise sessions, and help with smoking cessation.

So what kind of work-related illnesses are prevalent? The Labour Force Survey estimates the presence of several areas of work-related illnesses, 2 which included the following:

- **Musculoskeletal disorders (MCDs)**, which usually develop over time or following injury:
  - Industries with the highest rates of MCDs were post and courier activities, agriculture and special construction work.
  - Of all occupations building trades and skilled agriculture trades had the highest rates of MCDs.
  - Risks: manual handling, awkward or tiring work.

- **Cancer** (identified after exposure to toxic work substances):
  - The leading cause of work-related cancer death is occupational exposure to asbestos.
  - Shift work, solar radiation, mineral oils and silica were identified as major causes of occupational cancer.
  - The construction industry has the highest incidence of occupational cancer, contributing to 3,500 cancer deaths and 5,500 cancer registrations annually.

- **Skin disorders**:
  - Work-related skin disease occurs frequently in certain occupations, and can be severe in some cases.
  - Contact with soaps and cleaning materials and working with wet hands continue to be the most common causes of occupational contact dermatitis.
  - Professions with the highest reported incidences of contact dermatitis included: beauticians, cooks, hairdressers, some manufacturing and healthcare-related occupations.

Be vigilant!

devotional

Limits, restrictions and frustrations

by Stephen Holden, the Stanborough Press Production and Design manager, who has twenty-one years’ service with the company

H
day travel can be a source of pleasure and relaxation, but also of anxiety – particularly if you choose to fly with a budget airline. When doing so there are a number of important considerations to be addressed:

- Allowing sufficient time to travel in comfort to the airport.
- Organising secure car parking for your time away.
- Obtaining insurance for every eventuality – or at least most!
- Checking in – ‘in time’ – if you have luggage for the hold.
- Observing baggage allowance.

- Being alert enough to observe boarding gate times and changes – and the stampedes that result from last-minute changes!

Recently, having decided to travel on a well-known budget airline, though it proved difficult to read its rules and regulations.

It had received a bad press from disgruntled passengers for being fiercely officious in imposing its strict limits – and being overly keen on demanding additional charges if these were breached in any way.

We were only taking a few days away in sunny Spain – but you can never be too sure. From their website we gleaned:

- Only one item of cabin baggage or hand luggage per passenger was permitted – and that one means fewer than two! All handbags, briefcases, laptops, duty-free purchases, cameras and other items were to be contained within that one piece of luggage.

- Your bag or case could weigh up to, but absolutely no more than, 10kg, and it must be no bigger than the maximum dimensions of 55cm long, 40cm wide and 20cm deep including any wheels, handles, or bagging side pockets.

- Extra over-sized or overweight luggage would be refused at the boarding gate, and only if time and space permitted, would it be placed in the hold for an additional fee of £30 per bag.

- Before you face the challenge of pre-boarding baggage allowance, where a box of exact dimensions is lowered over your case to ensure compliance, there is another challenge: you must produce your own boarding passes. These are to be printed from their website on single A4 pages and presented at the security gate. This can avoid a long queue at check-in if you are travelling with hand luggage only – but more importantly, it saves the airline the cost of printing them.

- If your printout is of poor quality and cannot be scanned – you are warned that their replacement would cost you £70 a sheet!

By the time we had read and re-read these company rules and policies on additional charging – and read and re-reader warning emails and complaints from disgruntled customers – we were beginning to wish we’d booked an alternative.

We measured and re-measured and ‘strapped’; weighed and re-weighed; and were fast approaching a state of paranoia – convinced that we wouldn’t get airborne without some additional charge being levied on us.

We offered prayer at 4am on leaving the house and arrived at East Midlands Airport at 1:45 good time. The scan of our numberplate raised the barrier and gave us entry to park the car. The courtesy bus arrived directly and within a few minutes we were in departures – our complaint cases strapped tight and overweight – heavier items, like the ‘rockbuns’ baked the night before, bulging in our coat pockets.

You can imagine what a relief it was to have safely negotiated all the checkpoints and be seated together ready for take-off without a hitch – at last we could anticipate an enjoyable few days ahead.

What about life?

Life in general can seem this way too. The daily round, the common tasks, responsibility, duty, cramped with anxiety and worry – our minds can be cluttered with non-essentials and weighed down with uncertainty.

A lot of extra baggage can be carried around needlessly, and if it goes over the limit of our personal allowance or endurance it can exact a heavy price in the form of ill health. How can we experience peace, joy and hope in our lives and break free from the restrictions which seem to bind us?

How can we get ourselves ‘comfortably seated’, ready for the journey of life?

The answer lies in coming to the One who can never be restricted, or weighed down, confined or overburdened! (Isaiah 40:28-31, in the Clear Word, reads: ‘Don’t you know that the Lord our God is the everlasting One? Haven’t you heard that He always was and always will be? He is the Creator of the universe! He never gets tired. He never gets weary. His understanding and comprehension has no limits. He gives strength to those who are weak and energy to the sick. Young men become weak and stumble and fall. But those who wait on the Lord and go to Him for help will have their strength restored. They will become like eagles. They will run and not be weary. They will walk and not faint.’)

Earlier, in verse 22, we read: ‘God sits above the circle of the earth, the people who look small as ants. He stretches out the sky above them like a blue canopy and makes a huge tent for them to live in’ (Clear Word).

The amazing fact is that this Almighty Everlasting Creator God is also the One who would be our loving heavenly Father. He desires to live in us – within the measures and confines of our hearts and minds – by invitation. So we no longer need be constricted or restricted or limited in any way.

Psalm 13:6 and 18, says, ‘pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through His Spirit. . . . May you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. (RBL) He is able (we read on) to do ‘immeasurably more’ than what we can ask or even think (Eph. 3:20, Clear Word) by His power in our lives.

What wonderful words from the pen of Paul – words to live by – just what we need to calm our hearts and as we enter an unpredictable and possibly turbulent 2014. And as you do so, take these thoughts from Edgar Rice Burrough’s’ Conversation with God with you:

‘Help me to find the courage, Lord, to launch out into space wherever You may lead, to widen my horizons, soar with confidence, explore the possibilities of life and love with You. Take to the air on wings of faith and fly.’

Holiday travel can be a source of pleasure and relaxation, but also of anxiety.
In support of the Mission to the Cities initiative, Holloway Church’s Health and Medical Missionary team, under the leadership of Claudette James, have been active in running both a health emphasis week (1 July 2013) and a health expo day (27 September 2013).

For the latter event the Pathfinders drum corps set things going and it didn’t take long for the church premises to be buzzing with activity. At times it seemed that we were being overrun by ... with his wife, Marlene (psychotherapist and counsellor), and the local pastor, were popular sources of help and advice.

The members enjoyed the sessions so much that they kept asking, ‘When will the next health event take place?’ As a result of these events members from the community have subsequently attended various church services. The comment by Ellen White that, ‘In the work of the gospel, teaching and healing are never to be separated’ (The Ministry of Healing, p. 141) has truly been experienced at Holloway.

MTTC: Tottenham’s part

Tottenham Leisure Centre

‘Why not do a series of health seminars at our local leisure centre?’ This was the conclusion of the Tottenham elders ... people to more than twenty-five, and the team have a growing database of interested people to draw on for future events.

August fun day

One thing leads to another, especially after Luwanda Mansukani cheerfully handed a member of the public an advert for the leisure centre seminars. The recipient was a local authority worker who invited us to take a stall at a local fun day in August, where Tottenham members were able to talk to a lot of people, including ex-Adventists, and give away more than 500 pieces of literature, including The Desire of Ages. In fact, one passer-by took several copies to share with her family.

‘Feeling good in the rec’

As a result of the fun day we were asked to participate in a localauthority-sponsored event called ‘Feeling good in the rec’, and held in Lurdish Lane Park, Tottenham, on 14 September. There we provided residents with health checks. On the Friday before the event and the day afterwards it rained heavily, but on the Sabbath our prayers for a clear day were answered. One stallholder invited us to put our literature in his giveaway bags, which meant that even those who did not come to our stall still received an Amazing Facts health magazine! There was even a Catholic nun who was so enthusiastic about what we were doing that she went to the local estate (Broadwater Farm) and invited people to come to our marquee for their health check. The event was a resounding success, and we were able to give away literature and engage meaningfully with members of the community.

Notting Hill Carnival

Finally, on the Bank Holiday Sunday, 31 August, a team of eight led by Jason Watts visited the Notting Hill Carnival. ... of carnival-goers in conversation, telling them of Jesus and encouraging them to give Him a chance in their lives.

MTTC updates

MTTC: Tottenham’s part

Tottenham Leisure Centre

‘Why not do a series of health seminars at our local leisure centre?’ This was the conclusion of the ‘Tottenham elders after a presentation by Pastor Jaime Kovacevic-Bello at the elders’ retreat in February 2013. So each month from April to September 2013, Maureen Pollock’s team presented a variety of health topics to the users of Tottenham Leisure Centre. Attendance slowly increased from four people to more than twenty-five, and the team have a growing database of interested people to draw on for future events.

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MTTC: Holloway’s part

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For the latter event the Pathfinders drum corps set things going and it didn’t take long for the church premises to be buzzing with activity. At times it seemed that we were being overrun by people from a wide range of cultures and ethnicities all taking advantage of the various health activities on offer. It was encouraging to see members of the community, old and young, queuing to benefit from the various health checks. The hydrotherapy and massage sessions were popular also, as was the chance to sample different foods and get advice on healthy food options. Dr Christopher Levy (physician and lifestyle practitioner), along with his wife, Marlene (psychotherapist and counsellor), and the local pastor, were popular sources of help and advice.

The members enjoyed the sessions so much that they kept asking, ‘When will the next health event take place?’ As a result of these events members from the community have subsequently attended various church services. The comment by Ellen White that, ‘In the work of the gospel, teaching and healing are never to be separated’ (The Ministry of Healing, p. 141) has truly been experienced at Holloway.

MTTC updates

The Rock Project Exhibition

From 21 to 27 October visitors to Wimbledon Public Library had an opportunity to be transported back in time. This was made possible through posters, oil paintings, archaeological artefacts, sculptures and 3D models which unfolded the prophecy of Daniel 2, with a special emphasis on the second coming of Christ. The brains behind the project was Wimbledon member and artist, Laurence Grisell, who was inspired with the idea a year ago. With support from the church, especially the Personal Ministries department, many leaflets were distributed in the weeks leading up to the event, inviting people to the exhibition and provoking some interesting discussion. Church members were at the exhibition daily and it was a tremendous success. Suddenly, people who would never set foot in a church were brought face to face with Bible prophecy. Between 150 and 200 non-Adventists attended the exhibition, with many of them reading Bible passages for the first time, and most found the exhibition very thought-provoking.

Some interesting conversations were sparked off by the exhibition, with one person suggesting that it should be taken around to libraries in different areas. There have also been requests from other Adventist churches to use the materials to host such events in their communities. Goody bags, which included focus magazines, material on the Daniel 2 prophecy, and information about Wimbledon Church, were given to visitors. It is hoped that the seeds planted during this project will go on to bear much fruit.

Sonja Francis

exhibitions

Without creation . . .

‘Without creation there would be no harvest’ was the theme for Ringway Life’s 2013 Harvest Festival.

Each window sill in the church was decorated by the church members to depict one of the seven days of creation (remember, Sabbath was created too). During the Sabbath festival different families spoke of how their chosen day was special and how it was connected to the concept of harvest.

Ringway Life’s usually good music was especially enhanced by the singing of Richard Gray and Yvonne Hutton.

The day turned out to be a wonderful team effort on behalf of the members. An excellent harvest festival, honouring our Creator through the artistic, the scientific, the poetic, the apocalyptic – and the gastronomic (there was good food too)!

Richard Lam

Chelmsford’s report

Chelmsford Church held a music concert at Trinity Church in Chelmsford on 2 November, 2013, with musicians from around Essex and London, including HCAS All Sax Ensemble, Harwell Musicians, Harwell SDA Choir and the Harlow Musicians. Organised by James Lammy and Dr Paul Sathiarai, the programme was called ‘Praise Him’, and drew a lot of visitors from the community.

Then on Sabbath 26 November, 2013, Chi-Chi Mumbuluma was baptised at our church by Pastor John Melki. According to her: ‘I’ve always wanted to get baptised but something has always discouraged me. But God heard the prayers from my family and friends, and I made it. I have decided to follow Jesus and no one will stop me!’

Joyce Samsung, Communication Leader

Let there be light.

Waters divided from waters.

Plants spring forth.

Animals and livestock and every creeping thing.

Plants divided from plants.

Let there be dry land.

Revelations in the sky rich and every walking thing.

The Sabbath, God’s gift to mankind.
A report by Daba Sharma (a pseudonym), an Adventist Frontier Mission missionary in India

‘You can’t go there tonight,’ bellowed a large man on a motorcycle. ‘You don’t know the way, you don’t know the village name, and it is already getting dark. Besides, the place you want to go to is in the Naxal belt. It is filled with Naxalites who are known to kidnap and kill, even recently.’

Twenty minutes earlier, I had waved goodbye to my friends as they headed off for their next destination. A group of my Pakhi friends had recently left our snowy village in the mountains of northern India for the dry heat of the Ganga basin. For them, this trip was part vacation, part spiritual pilgrimage. I was there to learn more about Hindu beliefs and culture.

More than 1,000 miles into our journey, we pilled out of our minibus in a small city in south-central Bihar. My thoughts turned to my friend Chotu, the child indentured servant who had worked for our landlord for nearly four years. Six months earlier, a delegation of brothers and uncles of numerous Bihar child servants arrived in our town to take them home. The masters were not eager to release their servants, and withholding pay seemed to be a common strategy for extracting extra work from these marginalised children and their unfortunate families. Thanks to the donations of other AFM missionaries, we were able to offer some financial assistance to Chotu so he could leave. We all cried as he left. Along with a small financial gift, I gave him a memory chip for his phone containing a Hindi audio Bible. His parting words: ‘I will listen to your stories.’

Don’t Chotu’s village near here? I wondered. Is he listening to the audio Bible? Is his life at home any better than it was as a labourer? I asked several people in the city if they knew where the village was. A man approached and said, ‘Chotu lives at the village over there.’

Oh, that is just three hours north of here. My heart leapt at the opportunity to see them. With the children and I, we piled out of our minibus and walked towards the village.

After my call with Chotu, his brother made the same request: ‘Please give us another memory card with the Jesus stories. We listened to all the stories, and now we only pray to Jesus. When you go home, please send me a Bible. I can read. I really want to have a Bible that I can read to my family.’

While we were talking, a crowd formed around us. It was Chotu’s mother, brother, sister-in-law and nephew. Around each neck was a string necklace, and on each necklace hung a small picture of Jesus. Chotu’s sister-in-law greeted me with ‘Jai Massiah,’ the Christian greeting. We only pray to Jesus now,’ she said. ‘Please send us more stories.’

Tears welled up in my eyes. Because of the unfathomable love of a Hindu priest – our landlord who had dealt unfairly with Chotu, which prompted us to help him – Jesus had been made known in a tiny village of central Bihar over a thousand miles away. Chotu’s family had no warning of our arrival, so I knew they weren’t just putting on a show for me.

Since that visit, I have spoken with them on numerous occasions. As we slowly passed through the confused group of men, I sent up a prayer of thanks for God’s care and protection. ‘But you have to!’ I said, much to his surprise. ‘I don’t. You give money if you want. I won’t give even one rupee.’

An animated, unintelligible discussion ensued. As we slowly passed through the confused group of men, I sent up a prayer of thanks for God’s care and protection.

I invite you to pray for Chotu and his family and for the other ‘baby’ Christians in his area. Praise God for the power of His Word, and pray for the sprouting faith of our friends. For surely, just as my faith was tested in issues of both persecution and loyalty, theirs will be as well.

FURTHER INFO

‘Love, joy, peace and patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control, these are the fruits of the Spirit.’ By the time we had sung this over and over in Wrexham Sabbath morning 16 November, we all knew it off by heart! The children joined in the programme by reading this Bible passage to the adults and then participating in a lively discussion as to how we can live out these fruits in our lives. We decided that we don’t want to be like a lunchbox fruit snack that is only 55% fruit, but more like a pack of raisins that is 100% fruit!

Following the Sabbath morning programme in Wrexham the next weekend, the children (and adults too) enjoyed making wall hangings and fruit prints to remind them about showing the fruits of the Spirit in our lives. We all agreed that you can’t make fruit – you have to allow it to grow. Like the farmer who provides the right environment for healthy fruit trees to grow good apples, so we can provide the right environment for the Spirit to work in our hearts, developing these positive characteristics.

PIT EATON, CHILDREN’S MISSIONS SPONSOR, IRELAND MISSION

Children’s day at Wrexham and Newtown

Over the hills and far away . . .

Between October and Friday, 1 November, North England Conference Pathfinder director, Pastor Alan Hush, along with members of his staff team, took up the challenge of developing their outdoor leadership skills by climbing the High Peaks and the lower Pennines for three days. This was their first step to becoming proficient walking group leaders. Then those involved in the Mountain Leader course were tested for a further gruelling three days on the peaks of Snowdonia.

Trainees were put through their paces in the face of the great British weather, which served up cold, wind, rain and stinging hailstones as they walked up moorlands and climbed the Kinder Scout peaks.

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Cambridge World Culture Festival

In many institutions across the UK, October is the month to celebrate black history. The members of Cambridge Church decided to capitalise on this time by inviting all cultures from the local community to participate.

The cultures were split into four main groups, each assigned to a Wednesday evening during which both church and community members were able to present the uniqueness of their country, including its history, traditional dances, music and food. So at the start of each evening they were given a taste of the delicacies each country offered.

The Philippines, India, Peru, Brazil and Panama showcased themselves on the first night. A week later it was the turn of the Europeans, Britons, Bulgarians, Estonians, Germans, Lithuanians, Poles, Portuguese, Serbians, Spanish and Swedes – all of whom are represented in the Cambridge congregation. This was also a very enjoyable and informative evening during which we were treated to art and scenes, load-in-the-hole and kádoló music.

Next it was the turn of the Africans, representing the continent’s 55 countries. They treated those attending to mandazi, dengu, rice with peanut butter, sadza or ugali, and vegetable relish, to mention just a few. What followed was a jaw-dropping portrayal of twenty-first-century Africa that also highlighted the good work the Church is doing there.

In the final week it was the turn of the USA, Canada and the Caribbean, which makes up a fairly large portion of the church membership.

The idea of the month was not only to share the differences between the various cultures, but also to highlight the similarities, realising that there is just as much reason to be united in the way we live together as a community and work together as a church.

To bring this message home, family, friends and neighbours were invited to a special Sabbath afternoon of celebration of ‘Unity in Diversity’, which included a parade of nations and a short recapping of events for those who were unable to attend the Wednesday sessions.

In the evening things were rounded off with an international music concert, attended by special guests from Plaistow in London, and other neighbouring churches in East Anglia.

Local pastor, Colin Stewart, led the month by sharing just how special God has made each nation, blessed with different gifts and strengths that, when working together, can produce wonderful results for God’s coming Kingdom.

Not only have Cambridge members been able to appreciate other cultures a little more, but the occasion has brought the gift of new friendships in the community – the best result of all.

LORRINE GLUTON, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Leamington’s international night

Leamington Mission’s international night is an annual celebration of the congregation’s diversity. This year’s event, organised by Pastor John Clark and held on the evening of 9 November, is considered the best so far.

As well as the members of Leamington there were also visitors: some former members who have since moved away, and some relatives and friends, including a number of non-Adventists.

The evening began with people circulating around the different national tables sampling the various food dishes. A highlight was the table representing Chad, hosted by Bronwyn Pretorius, who has recently returned from her missionary work there. It featured tamarind beans, sorghum and cucumber and a few other unusual items. There were also tables representing Lithuania, St Lucia, Jamaica, Portugal, Canada, Brazil, England, Africa South, Italy, India and even Newcastle and Tyne-side.

Neil Shuttleworth, as compère, went on to include a quiz, song items, humorous sketches, poems and short videos depicting the various countries. The evening’s finale was a much-appreciated performance on the pan drums which reminded the audience of blue skies and sunshine.

LORRINE GLUTON, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Newbold pyjama day

To celebrate this event, and remember the children who need to spend most of their time in bed, we all – children and teachers – came to school in pyjamas on Friday 22 November last year. The small ones even brought their teddies.

The children were excited and happy to take part in the event, which raised £104.66 for this worthy cause. Not a bad effort for a school of fewer than seventy pupils!

ANNET BAY

Holloway Homecoming – 11-12 October, 2013

They were asked to come home, which was difficult for some as it meant accepting forgiveness and restoration. But they came – in their numbers – and it was clear from Friday evening’s programme that God was in this homecoming. During this service there was a special, “Lest We Forget” pictorial tribute reminding the congregation of those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

Pastor Woolford challenged those present to remember that God is a faithful God, who gives us every reason to love Him despite our actions and desire to stay away from Him. Pastor Alec Gage told the audience that God has a plan to give us hope, a future and a destination; while Pastor Clive DeSiva appealed to the hearers to show spiritual maturity.

As the Friday service ended, two guests came up with these statements:

“The pastors gave us a simple message reminding us that God is always there for us no matter what.”

“I was reminded that He loves us regardless of, not because of.”

Pastor Samuel Neves presented the Sabbath School class the next day. Through his dramatisation of the symbolism of the sanctuary, we got to understand its insights into the Gospel. Holloway was now effervescent with joy as so many guests and former members had arrived, filling the church to overflowing.

During the service Pastor Woolford appealed to the congregation to renew its connection with God.

The homecoming event ended with a concert featuring the former members of the Holloway gospel choir, led by Tony Best and supported by other groups and soloists. The Gospel choir ended with their now-iconic rendition of ‘I Shall Wear A Crown’, reminding us of our ultimate goal: to be in Heaven, our eternal home.

EVEN MBEKEYE

Job vacancies

Stanborough Press Ltd

Stanborough Press Ltd is the publishing house of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK with an important international projection.

We believe that through the publishing and distribution of Christian literature we can help in the Lord’s work by supporting His Church and providing resources for outreach.

1. UK Sales Director

We are looking for a high-calibre candidate to join our Senior Management Team as our UK Sales Director to plan and carry out strategies for the sales and marketing of Seventh-day Adventist publications within the United Kingdom in support of the Church’s national and global outreach vision.

Reporting to the Managing Director, you will manage and deliver key marketing campaigns to successfully help us achieve our vision.

Bringing insight, strategy, creativity and enthusiasm, you’ll manage and deliver key marketing campaigns to successfully help us achieve our vision.

If you’re a good leader, and able to motivate; you know a thing or two about hitting sales targets; and you have good planning and organisational skills, and the ability to present, to persuade, and to see trends emerging or developing – then send us a CV, or contact us for more details.

Closing date for applications: 31 January.

Interested persons please send CVs to: Mr Paul Hammond phammond@stanboroughpress.org.uk

2. Marketing Director

Our international publishing house seeks a bright Marketing Manager for an exciting position within our busy team, to play a key part in driving company growth.

Bringing insight, strategy, creativity and enthusiasm, you’ll manage and deliver key marketing campaigns to successfully help us achieve our vision.

If you’re a good leader, and able to motivate; you know a thing or two about hitting sales targets; and you have good planning and organisational skills, and the ability to present, to persuade, and to see trends emerging or developing – then send us a CV, or contact us for more details.

Full job description to be sent only on request.

NEC models ‘Rebuilding the Walls’

North England Conference staff recently held a special staff re-dedication of their office in Nottingham. Arranged by Pastor Curtis Murphy, the service was an opportunity for NEC staff and administration to model the conference theme, ‘Rebuilding the Walls’.

The president, Pastor Lorance Johnson, was impressed by the event. ‘If we are encouraging our churches to rebuild, we too, as those called to serve in the office, need to consider where there are breaches and repair them. This act of rededication is the commencement of our determination – as officers, directors, sponsors and office staff – to clear away the ‘rubbish’ that has accumulated in our lives, preventing God from pouring out His Spirit upon us.’

The occasion was further enhanced by the attendance of a well-looked former NEC president, Pastor Egerton Francis, who praised God for his improving health and encouraged the staff to work together to rebuild where needed. As part of the proceedings, Pastor Francis was later presented with a General Conference Ministerial Association ‘Honourably Retired’ medal by Pastor Richard Jackson.

The staff played an active role in the service, which consisted of various responsive readings, a short message by Pastor Jackson, and special music by Caradene Farmer, who sang, ‘Jesus Is the Cornerstone’. This unique service left a lasting impression on NEC staff.

These are some of their comments:

‘It was excellent. It will make a difference. It was like a spiritual revival, like spiritually rebuilding the walls. A new beginning. I think we can start with new energy now.’ Grace Walsh, Health Ministries director.

‘I was impressed, encouraged and excited, and having Pastor Francis there was like icing on the cake.’ Pastor Alan Ash, Adventurers and Pathfinders director.

‘It was a really important moment for the Conference for this particular team. We’re trying to do something that hasn’t happened quite in this way before. I feel surprisingly rejuvenated by what took place in that service.’ Alex Douglas, Music sponsor.

‘It was a very appropriate, timely and meaningful.’ Pastor John Ferguson, executive secretary.

GARYZENE FARMER, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

North England Conference: Rebuilding the Walls
KELLEE HALLIBURTON
SOPHIA NICHOLLS
SARA FRANCIS

place at the Newbold church on 28 September. The audience was truly inspired by all the various items, among them the... that £1,000 has been raised towards the work of ASNA in 2013. A warm and heartfelt thanks to all who made this possible.

The day had a praise concert feel to it and was extremely well received by the students. Blueprint and Peter Tabornal were also present, and used their talents to bless the audience. Salim Ice and Shantelle... one was clever and controversial, and particularly well received among the students because of its relevance today.

Artists such as Victory’s Yours Today, Higher Ground, Vocal through the singing of choruses. Some of the team also sang in their home languages, including Italian, Spanish and some of the languages spoken in Zambia, Botswana, Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda, and the Philippines. This was followed by testimonies regarding how God has worked and changed people’s lives for the better, and got them through difficult trials.

Lunch was provided, after which the praise team lifted our hearts much to ponder and plan.

On 9 November, one thousand Adventist students and members, and one hundred non-Adventist students, packed out Manchester South Student Society blitz. It can be said that the weather...ed to God and not ourselves. Education should help us prepare ourselves to be ready for God’s Kingdom.

The icing on the cake came as five of the Pathfinders were baptised...the ‘Yes Project’, an initiative designed and run by local churches and accredited by the British Union Youth Ministries and Adventist Community Services departments.

The Scottish Mission usually has its training day early in the New Year, but this year they decided to host it in November to beat the winter weather. It can be said that the weather played along very beautifully as the delegates enjoyed a crisp, sunny day. Just as well, as good leadership is needed for what is bound to be a bumper year for Scotland in 2014. This includes a celebration of physical fitness when the Commonwealth Games will be held in Glasgow City, 23 July – 3 August. Church members plan to use the Games as an opportunity to share the good news of God to many who may not know Him.

The Scottish Mission has also been enriched by the arrival of two new pastors, a husband-and-wife team, Rory and Ivana Mendez, together with their daughter Bibiana. They will minister in Glasgow, mixing the many individual talents and gifts that a husband and wife can bring together. The Scottish members gave them a warm welcome.

ASNA concert
Another wonderful evening of music and worship in aid of ASNA took place at the Newbold church on 29 September. The audience was truly inspired by all the various items, among them the young daughters of Andy Kydd, who drew a lot of positive comments for the song, Lord, I lift you up on high. There were many others whose talents were a great blessing: Adam Thomas, Cecilia Whiskhammer-Anderdon, Bobby Carr, Resurrection, Raymond Burrowes, and Artha and Leon. The evening culminated with the group finale – Total Praise by Richard Smallwood – and the announcement that just over £400 had been raised for ASNA during the offering. Along with proceeds from the sale of food, tickets, the concert staged by the Disability Ministry team and Greenwich Church’s Music department, and so on, this means that £1,000 has been raised towards the work of ASNA in 2013. A warm and heartfelt thanks to all who made this possible.

Scottish Mission trains local leaders
On Sunday, 17 November last year, more than sixty local church officers from across Scotland gathered at Crieff Church to discuss the work in their local congregations. Excellent and practical presentations were made by pastors from the British Union Conference: Victor Hublot, Nathan Stickland and Egfan Brooks. Included in these was a very important one on cyclical evangelism in the local congregation.

They were joined by Scottish Mission pastors, Bob Rodd and Bernie Holford, and the various Mission sponsors covering youth, family ministries, Sabbath School and keeping the church family safe. Morning sessions led into afternoon workshops, with a solid two hours of concentrated learning and resource development.

‘Visioning’ was the event buzzword. Pastor Stickland focused the attention to the ‘Yes Project’, an initiative designed and run by local churches and accredited by the British Union Youth Ministries and Adventist Community Services departments.

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SADIE ROWLANDS

Manchester South Student Society blitz
On 9 November, one thousand Adventist students and members, and one hundred non-Adventist students, packed out Manchester University for student day. Guest speaker, Dean Cuilliane, from the Preaching Place, presented a poignant message on education, urging that the focus in our education needs to be directed to God and not ourselves. Education should help us prepare ourselves to be ready for God’s Kingdom.

Lunch was provided, after which the praise team lifted our hearts...sting of choruses. Some of the team also sang in their home languages, including Italian, Spanish and some of the languages spoken in Zambia, Botswana, Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda, and the Philippines. This was followed by testimonies regarding how God has worked and changed people’s lives for the better, and got them through difficult trials.

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Too often the services of our youth go unheralded, public acknowledgement and
thanksgiving and appreciation for the commitment and faithfulness of their senior members.
Four members – Rose Blake, Gloria Hamilton, Phyllis Smith and Sydney Galtcrosse – were
honoured for their years of service to God and the church. Those paying their respects remembered the
tenacious efforts of their honorees and praised God for their years of outstanding service.
The tributes were appreciated by the honorees, their families and the wider congregation.
In the afternoon there was an investiture, during which the youth were awarded for their
success in the Pathfinder program. Adventurers and twenty-eight Pathfinders. Five of the Pathfinders
were being recognised for their excellent
drums skills assessments. Carolyn Washington and her group members along with their parents were also
invested as new Master Guides. It was an afternoon mixed with joy and some sadness as the
church remembered one of its many
much-loved Pathfinder counsellors, Lois Spencer, who passed away during the year. She
left a special mark in the lives of those she taught, constantly challenging them to do their best.

Janice Baker (1944-2013) 43, 30
August, Janice was born in
Norwich, on 2 February 1944, and grew up with her six brothers and sisters in the
Kingsthorpe area of the town. With her brothers returning to London to
mother to enter a care center, Janice
did not have to be taken into care
here herself. It was felt that she suffered from a
“learning difficulty”.
Janice lived in the last part of the
Sterling family, after taking up
residence with them in March 1999, as she had family with Angela and Lloyd, whom
she called Mummy and Daddy, two-year-old James, Gabrielle, of four months, and
then later Ethan when he was born.
The church family embraced
her, as she was in the private world
going to know them. They loved
her dearly.
She so loved fine clothes and
dress accessories, and being presented a silver bracelet was a
beauty. Friends and relatives fondly
her Miss Janice, Lady or Ian Janice lived with the Sterlings
for seventeen years, during which she created many special memories for them.
She took part in the family and
whatever chores she could. Janice had their
in fact, she became a self-appointed
‘nanny’ to Gabrielle and
helped out with the children. Her hobbies –
something she did with much
care and attention. She also
took an interest in looking after
her ‘siblings’, Ethan, who she
did also loved to sit at the window and
and James the colour of
everything.
Janice was also capable of
being rather blunt. On one
occasion when her ‘mum’
looked at her wall, ‘I’m not
believing anything’, she
said. ‘Your wall is too white’,
the lady responded with
‘I am your’ pardon. ‘To
which Janice replied
‘I don’t care’ and: ‘Why
so? Sensing that the woman was about to
give Janice a piece of her
mind, Janice quickly
withdrawing.
Janice volunteered to do jobs
in the kitchen at her day centre, and designated herself as the
‘Kitchen Porter’. However, she
came home complaining one
day that she had done the washing up, but
that one she had paid for had sold a
penny. She was told by her
‘mum’ to put a complaint in writ-
ing to the ‘day centre manager’. When asked if she had done so, she
replied: ‘I will, tomorrow.’
If she fell out with anyone
in the house, she would find
or her photograph and bury it by
pushing it through a crevice in the
floorboards – laying carpet soon
put a stop to that!
Janice loved going on
holidays and her family, people, especially ‘good-looking men’,
and she was quite receptive and appreciative of compliments and hugs.
Although some knew her
only by her National Insurance
number, her new ‘mum’, ‘dad’, ‘siblings’ were privileged to
cultivate the most special and
precious memories of her through
their personal interaction together.
As a child and young woman, Janice attended church regularly with
her biological mother and
continued to go with her new
family for the rest of her life. She
knew most hymns in the
hymnbook and could recite the Lord’s Prayer. Janice behaved a
‘Mummy’, ‘Daddy’, James, Gabrielle, Ethan, Michael, Jean, and numerous
family members and friends who have
played a part in supporting and
caring for her.
Janice always wanted to
put sunshine into many lives. She is
sorely missed, and will never be
forgotten.
Janice was given the most
beautful service at Milton Malvern Church on 1 October 2013 with
Pastor Swayne officiating, and
the family commemorated.
Janice, sleep until God calls
her home, at the Second Coming of our
Saviour Jesus Christ, when
death will be swallowed up.

Pastor Douglas John Dunnett (1922-2013) d. 7, October.
John Dunnett was born on
7 April 1922 in Folkestone, Kent, the only child of Sidney Frederick and Charlotte
Dunnett, both devout Baptists.
John loved the countryside.
In 1939 an Adventist pastor
visited the area and offered
the commitment and faithfulness of its senior members.
He was a Newbold College student, Mabel
and ‘to identify the many
diverse abilities in our
church’ – as these comments reflected the objectives of the conference.

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MOHAP’s Stanborough Park day retreat

On Sunday 17 November a MOHAP day retreat was held at the Stanborough Park church. Many attendees arrived bright and early to browse the comprehensive selection of prayer and health books, supplied by the Stanborough Press, which complemented MOHAP’s ‘Lord, make me whole’ theme.

Pastor Humphrey Walters’ inspirational devotional, which focused on the faith of the woman with the issue of blood, was followed by Marlene Levy’s (psychogerontologist) presentation, ‘The impact of anger on mental and emotional health’, which elicited much discussion. Carol Douglas of Manchester echoed the other attendees’ sentiments that ‘more opportunities within the church were needed to talk about the extensive issues related to anger’.

Angelite Muller (consultant nutritionist) provided a thoughtful and instructive presentation on ‘Our relationship with food’. The day was sensitively punctuated with time for reflection; corporate and individual prayer; and prayer in twos.

A praise and testimony session provided Chioma Onyedinma- Ndubueze and many others the opportunity to share God’s blessings. Chioma testified about how the persistent prayer of a mother in trying circumstances resulted in her son’s employment. Pastor Cecil Perry, retired BUC president, provided a biblical introduction to the anointing service, after which seven SEC and NEC pastors assisted those requiring individual anointing, prayer and brief pastoral counselling. The pastors ended the anointing service in a private circle of prayer and fellowship. The day concluded with a crescendo of praise using the theme song, ‘How great thou art’, which led one individual to sum things up with the comment that it was a ‘blessed day’.

The next MOHAP day retreat will be on 26 January 2014 at the Advent Centre, London. Please book online at www.mohap.eventbrite.co.uk. A hard-copy booking form can be downloaded at www.mohap.org. For queries ring 07407 692 256.

JANET HAMILTON

Gloucester’s baby boom

Gloucester Church paused lately to acknowledge its recent baby boom. Speaking at the dedication service of Isaiah Newton, Pastor Namuchana encouraged the church family to support and nurture these children—‘Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it’ (Proverbs 22:6, NKJV).

The children and their parents are: Patrick and Simon Kelly, parents of Jayana; Kennedy and Andrea Obito, parents of Lakesha; Andrew Newton and Victoria Kelly, parents of Isaiah; Rhian Johnson and Anthony Njoroge (not pictured), parents of Ezekiel, Stacey and Andrew Newton, parents of Malachi; Shad and Tonderai Nyem, parents of Rotende; Saara and Michael Myers (not pictured), parents of Micah; Donna Lotteriet and Eric Finja (not pictured), parents of Gabriel, and Wayne Finlay and Calista Decordova, parents of Kayden.

Light of the community

When the Halesowen church plant received an invitation to the Halesowen Town seasonal light-switching ceremony on Saturday, 16 November last year, its minister, Pastor Obi Ihemba, recalled the words of Jesus, ‘You are the light of the world’ (Matthew 5:14, NKJV) – and encouraged members to participate. These words became alive in the heart of the Halesowen community as church members joined the Dudley council and the mayor and mayors of Dudley, Alan and Heather Finch, at the event. The adult choir, Advent Melodies, and young people’s choir, Angel’s Praise, presented songs to an appreciative audience. Energetic Pathfinders and Adventurers were kept busy by distributing literature while other church members were on hand to respond to enquiries from members of the public. Pastor Obi Ihemba had the opportunity to share the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Halesowen church plant with the Mayor and Mayoress.

PASTOR OBI IHEMBA