The Glasgow chat comment of Commonwealth Games president, HRH Prince Imran, when passing judgement on the Games during the closing ceremony, might well have been said about the Scottish Mission’s Commonhealth and Wellbeing Project. The three-month joint Community Services and Youth department programme included a praise concert, a football tournament, four health expos, a health club and emotional intelligence seminar, a children’s holiday club, a street cleanup and a fundraising bike ride.

The Project was formally recognised by inter-faith More Than Gold and Glasgow City Council’s Legacy Glasgow. Their fundamental mutual purpose was to create an ongoing legacy that would benefit local communities. West of Scotland pastor Victor Harewood says, ‘We have certainly achieved that. Contacts with local influencers and decision-makers have also opened doors for further outreach opportunities that we will be following up.’

Many people have learnt more about the Adventist Church, particularly those who attended the health-related events. So far, church medical and nursing teams, supported at one point by contingents from Norway and Portugal, have serviced health expos in Edinburgh, Irvine and Paisley. As a result of the first three expos 228 people now know their ‘health age’ and, of these, 180 signed up to Adventist Discovery Health courses.

Yes, there is no doubt about it, the Scottish Mission’s Commonhealth and Wellbeing Project was ‘pure dead brilliant’!

JOHN WILBY

* That is a traditional Scottish way of saying that something is ‘exceptionally good’.
Newbold’s Gap Year programme is back!

Newbold’s Gap Year is back by popular demand and the programme will commence on 1 September. In the past the Gap Year has given students a chance to participate as a mission ready team as this academic year will be no different.

If you have ever dreamed of taking some time out to grow spiritually, learn more about yourself and your life’s purpose, the Gap Year at Newbold might just be your answer! The programme gives students the opportunity to participate in unique service activities and trips while being fully involved in the social and spiritual activities on campus.

During Gap Year, students will work with an experienced mentor/counselor to discover more about themselves and what they would like to do with their lives. These discoveries and newly-acquired skills will be put into action through a variety of local volunteer opportunities; followed by a ten-day service trip to Europe which is scheduled during the autumn mid-semester break, usually in October.

To learn more about the modules offered for the Gap Year programme, please visit www.newbold.ac.uk.

Why are you laughing?

The operator says: “Calm down. I can help. First let’s make sure he’s dead.”

There is a brief silence, then a shot is heard. Back on the phone, the hunter says “OK, now what?”

“With minor changes.”

“You’re finding it hard to believe that this joke was worth top spot? Me too!”

Jokes aside . . . But jokes aside, spend a moment with me looking at some interesting research regarding what we commonly call our ‘sense of humour’.

Some researchers have identified four distinct humour styles: affiliative, self-enhancing, aggressive, and self-defeating, finding that two of them ‘promote health and well-being’ while the others ‘can be potentially detrimental to mental and physical health’. They regard the affiliative style as having potential benefits, both for the individual and the groups in which he or she associates. In effect, this style of humour tends to enhance relationships within a group.

Individuals high in this dimension often use humour as a way to charm and amuse others, ease tension among others, and improve relationships. They are often spontaneous in their joke telling, frequently participate in witty banter, and enjoy laughing with others.

If you practice affiliative humour you might be a blessing to yourself too, because research shows that those who do, generally enjoy ‘increased levels of self-esteem, psychological well-being, emotional stability, and social intimacy.’ They are also less likely to experience anxiety and depression.

According to the research, self-enhancing humour involves ‘having a good-natured attitude toward life’ and ‘the ability to laugh at yourself, your circumstances and the idiocies/crazinesses of life in a constructive, non-detrimental manner.’ This is a great coping mechanism for the ups and downs of life. It helps us see the good in bad situations – and best of all, it helps us be self-critical in a constructive way. And here is the good news: having such people in the local church can promote creativity and reduce interpersonal stress!

As far as the aggressive style of humour is concerned, anyone who suffers with this ‘ailment’ is likely to cause unnecessary harm in any group, especially a church. Why? Let the research spell it out. This type of humour is characterized by the use of sarcasm, put-downs, teasing, criticism, ridicule, and other types of humour used at the expense of others. Aggressive humour often disregards the impact it might have on others. Having said that, however, if we are guilty of this style of humour, I guess the church is the best place for us to be! After all, Jesus has had some personal experience in coping with difficult people, hasn’t He? Do you remember the nicknames He gave to two of His team? James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means ‘sons of thunder’). Some researchers have identified ‘four distinct humour styles: affiliative, self-enhancing, aggressive, and self-defeating’.

Dr Jeffrey Brown, president of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Family Life director.

For more details, contact us on: 01476 591700 info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

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devotional

Just how poor must we become?

by Julian Hibbert

According to the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, the Sermon on the Mount – as Matthew 5:1 to 8:1 has come to be known – was preached in the late summer of AD 29, about midway through the three years of Christ’s earthly ministry. The event closely follows His appointment and ordination of the Twelve, and is considered by many to mark the ‘step in the organisation of the Christian church’ – a kingdom of Grace. For this reason, this ‘sermon’ is seen to be setting forth the ‘conditions of citizenship’ for that kingdom.

If this was Christ’s intention, then we will want to understand these ‘conditions’ and align our thoughts and actions accordingly. For this reason I have chosen to explore the meaning of the first twelve verses of Matthew 5, the so-called ‘Beautitudes’, during our Sunday morning devotions for the foreseeable future. (This schedule will be flexible enough to accommodate the submissions of other contributors from time to time.)

‘Conditions’ versus ‘qualities’

Although some may want to view the first Beatitudes as ‘conditions’ to be met in order to become ‘citizens’ of Christ’s kingdom, I prefer to see them as ‘qualities’ that will characterise the lives of those who already enjoy that citizenship. Why do I say that?

The answer is quite simple – just remember those comments that Jesus made to Nicodemus: ‘... unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God’ (John 3:5).

According to Jesus then, there is only one way to acquire access to the ‘kingdom of God’ – by being ‘born again’ (John 3:3). So this is the long and the short of it: ‘citizenship’ is the result of transformation, not obedience. The Beatitudes are not ‘conditions’ that we must conform to in order to receive our heavenly citizenship. They shall be the ‘evidence’ of what the Holy Spirit is doing in our ‘born again’ lives.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

questions. Must we be poverty-stricken in order to enjoy the blessing of Christian joy and peace? Does Jesus really have a bias towards the destitute? Is there no hope for the non-poor? There is no doubt that Jesus had immense sympathy and compassion for the poor of His day. It is also true that He commended the faith of the widow who put a few pence into the temple treasury: ‘Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on.”’ (Mark 12:41, 44.)

At the same time, we must not forget that Jesus saw the same depth of faith among the rich and powerful – and commended it too! Luke 17:10-11 tells us of a Roman centurion who requested Jesus to save the life of his dying servant. This is how the man reacted when he heard that Jesus was coming to his house: ‘He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.” That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, “Go”, and he goes; and that one, “Come”, and he comes. I tell my servant, “Say to my servant, “Do this”, and he does it.”’ (Luke 7:8-9.)

And this is how Jesus commended his attitude: ‘When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”’ (Luke 7:8-9.)

It means this . . .

To my mind, the centurion’s attitude eloquently illustrates what is meant by the term ‘poor in spirit’: ‘Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.’ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you.” (Emphasis supplied.)

It is not about being poor and destitute. It’s about poverty of spirit – a humble dependence that can only be experienced when we personally recognize the truth of John 15:5 – ‘apart from me you can do nothing.’

Wander through scripture and you will find other examples of this poverty of spirit. There was Darius who confessed to ‘a broken and contrite heart’ (Psalms 51:17); the tax collector who cried out ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner’ (Luke 18:13); and that emaciated, travel-stained young man who speaks on behalf of us all, saying, ‘I am no longer worthy to be called your son’ (Luke 19:21-22).

Having said this, I leave the last word to J. B. Phillips. I think he has captured it perfectly.

‘How happy are the humble-minded, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs!’ (Matthew 5:3, J. B. Phillips New Testament.)

How we got our church talking . . .

For years I sat in church wondering about how effectively we really communicate among ourselves as members. It seemed to me that many of us think that the weekly bulletin is doing it all for us. But is that enough? Is it personal enough? And is it reaching out to that “world” that Christ speaks about in Matthew 28?

Then the day dawned when I was asked to lead the Communication and Media department of our church. Now it was my challenge to communicate, and to encourage our members to do the same.

Many of our members live miles apart which makes it difficult for them to attend meetings, so we started by getting the church board to hold some of its sessions by conference call using internet phone and video-conferencing. This was a huge step forward, but still only a small part of what was needed.

During this time we rebranded the church’s appearance. We got a new logo, a new website and a new ‘look’ and feel. The church office had a new visual identity and new branding. We now have a prayer line on a Saturday evening at 8pm using a conference call line.

Social media has changed our world in the last number of years and we are changing with it. We now use Facebook to share photos of all our Sabbath events, including baptisms and many others.

We also have plans to use Webinars (www.citrix.com) and Google Hangouts to further improve communication among and in our churches.

But I hear you say, ‘You can’t do this all yourself!’

You are quite right – it wouldn’t be possible without my thirteen-year-old assistant and a team of seven other enthusiastic young people who assist me. I have nominated them all special responsibilities: Webmaster and assistant, Video plus an assistant, photographer and assistant. Even the Project assistant videographer has an assistant.

The young people are the future of our church and they are the ‘communicators’ of today and tomorrow! So let’s use that talent!
EXPERIENCE TEN LIFE-CHANGING DAYS WITH THE SAVIOUR AS YOU START YOUR YEAR WITH PRAYER DURING THE TEN DAYS OF PRAYER, 7-17 JANUARY, 2015.

The Ten Days of Prayer is a time to organize a group of friends, neighbours, church members, or family to spend uninterrupted time together in prayer.

The theme for this initiative is, ‘Experiencing the Fruits of the Spirit’, based on Galatians 5:22-23. Each day we will be praying for and learning about these ten attributes of the Spirit. You are encouraged to go to www.tendaysofPrayer.org to register yourself or your group.

While there, you will find promotional materials as well as downloadable guidelines for leaders, which will enable a first-time leader to easily walk a group through an hour of prayer. You’ll also find daily theme sheets with prayer requests that reflect personal needs as well as the needs of the world-wide Seventh-day Adventist Church. At the bottom of the web page, you can post prayer requests or praises on the Community Comments section. How exciting to be uniting together as a church to pray for specific requests and to see God work by pouring out the Holy Spirit in even greater measure!

Hope Channel and the General Conference Ministries Association will once again partner to produce live broadcasts of the programme. Let’s Pray. Each evening, a devotional thought on the theme for the day will be presented and viewers will be invited to participate by sharing and praying for requests on the programme. Let’s Pray can be viewed on DirectTV 368 and streaming online at hopetv.org.

Why do we have Ten Days of Prayer? It is a time for individuals to meet together and experience the power that comes with united prayer and to pray in one accord so that God’s power can be unleashed and the great controversy ended. If you or your group is unable to meet during the designated days, choose an alternate ten days that works for you so that you can still participate in the blessing.

“Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence? Without unceasing prayer and diligent watching we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path.” Steps to Christ, pp. 94, 95.

After the 2014 Ten Days of Prayer, literally hundreds of participants wrote and shared their experiences with us: ‘We have seen former members returning and new people from the community coming to church. people got jobs, there has been an increase in prayer in our Sabbath services, and members have drawn closer to each other and to God.’ Gloria Milton, Keynes Church, United Kingdom.

‘We saw the hand of the Lord, during the past Ten Days of Prayer. Miracles happened, healings took place, many long-time unanswered prayers were answered . . . I believe no church can afford to miss next year’s Ten Days of Prayer . . . ’ Buhire Elle Brown, Gadhuloupe.

God wants to pour out His Spirit on us now, just as He did for His disciples during Pentecost. Won’t you join the world church in praying for that blessing during 7-17 January?

Sign up today at www.TenDaysofPrayer.org, invite friends to participate, join the Facebook event of 10DaysofPrayer2015, follow it on Twitter at #10DaysofPrayer2015, and watch special episodes of Let’s Pray – 10 Days of Prayer at www.hopetv.org. Join us and be blessed!

GC MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

CAMBRIDGE CHURCH COMMUNITY

This press release from the General Conference has come out early to allow our churches to make proper preparation for this forthcoming prayer project.

The theme for the 2015 Ten Days of Prayer is “Avalanche Ranch.” The VBS theme was Avalanche Ranch, a development of Group Publishing which focuses on God as the true God, God is with us, God is our strength, God is awesome and that we should obey God’s commandments. Each time the group heard any of these phrases they would all cheer.

The Western VBS theme captured the children’s attention as they listened to stories about various Bible characters. The backdrop, set out in the St Philip’s Church of England Primary School hall, conjured up mental pictures of the Wild West, open fields and pastures, grazing cattle and sheep, horses and cowboys around a campfire.

This is the second time the school has welcomed us to use their premises, which is perfect for a VBS. It has numerous classrooms and each of them is equipped with a projector and smart boards.

Each day the children visited the different stations – always starting with a Sing and Play Stamped where the children would act out various songs.

Then they moved on to the other stations: Imagination Station, Crafts, Games, Chadder’s Theatre, and Bible Adventures. All these stations focused on situations in life and how they can be dealt with through the help of God.

The Imagination Station involved “immersive” stories through which the children got to become part of the Bible story themselves.

For us, a small church plant, it was both necessary and blessed to come together to pray. We just started a process of developing visions and strategies for our group and for that reason the Ten Days of Prayer was much needed and it has set our thoughts in motion toward a common goal! ’Anton Torstensson, Arvika Church plant, Sweden.

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www.TenDaysofPrayer.org
A group of creative young Adventists recently held a public art exhibition in a shop. This unconventional approach to evangelism stimulated many conversations about the Gospel with shoppers in one of Birmingham’s busiest shopping centres and proved highly effective in reaching people from all walks of life, resulting in follow-up Bible studies with atheists and Muslims.

The exhibition, entitled ‘The IQ: Innermost Questions’, featured artwork themed around life’s unanswered questions – such as the existence of humanity and the origins of morality – and was held from 20 to 22 June.

On the invitation of a friend, Valerie, an art enthusiast and self-confessed atheist, visited the exhibition unsure of what to expect. One of the exhibits has caused her to question her own aversion for rules and laws. ... discussion with the team, which resulted in her accepting the challenge to read the Bible with a different approach.

Safi, a young Muslim, was in the city centre participating in Islamic outreach when he saw the exhibition and decided to have a look inside. The IQ team were able to give him a tour of the exhibition, which has ... discussion about Christianity. He is now planning to begin Bible studies in an attempt to learn more about Christianity.

The Innermost Questions initiative was coordinated by Daniel Blyden from Aston Newtown Community Church and featured artistic contributions from a number of creative Adventists including Chrissie Hewitt, Paul Jones, Chari White, Anson Carridice-Davids, Abigail Hazel, Mawuena Patten, Reuel Jones and Keiran Mckenzie.

According to Daniel, ‘My whole aim with the IQ project was to make use of the creative skills we have in the church to take the Gospel outside of the church walls to the people. I saw the perfect opportunity to produce this when a friend of mine opened a shop providing exhibition space back in February and felt that this could provide the perfect opportunity for us to create a place where we could help the people to meet Jesus through art.’

Vanessa and Safi, along with a number of other visitors who’ve shown an interest, were invited to a subsequent follow-up event designed to explore why the Bible can be trusted.

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Ninety years of Adventism in Cambridge

Cambridge Church celebrated ninety years of Adventist presence in the city of Cambridge on Sabbath, 26 July with the help of the mayor, Councillor Gerri Bird. The congregation, which included friends from the local area, heard the mayor charge them to continue in their commitment to community, as stated on the church’s website.

The celebrations were not confined to the church building. They extended into the streets in a procession which marched along Mill and Hobart Roads, the location for the church and soup kitchen, then on to Marmora Road where the Annual Community Big Lunch takes place. From there they went on to Suez Road, where the celebratory service took place in the church of a friend, Canon Stephen Leeke. (The Adventist church on Hobart Road was just too small to cope with the large number of people who attended!)

The street rally was led by the official South England Conference Pathfinder Drum Corp. Kyle and Karllum, local Pathfinders, held the banner aloft, followed by local pastor, Colin Stewart, alongside other local clergy, Stephen Leeke of St Martins Church on Suez Road, and Stewart Taylor of St Phillips Church on Mill Road. ‘It shows real community when other ministers and congregations can come and support the achievements of others,’ said Pastor Stewart.

The community certainly seemed impressed, with neighbours and shop owners coming out to wave them on and share greetings. One local resident stopped to thank them for all they have done in the area. ‘They are a lovely bunch of people, [they] have made a huge impact on our little community here,’ she stated as she applauded their efforts to serve others.

The day was filled with laughter, spirit-lifting praise and thanksgiving to God who has brought the church so far. Norman Hopkins and his wife are the oldest serving members of the Cambridge church and pioneers of the church’s early development in the 1950s. Stories were told of how they acquired the various properties and places of worship, and their dedication as early members; cycling a 50-mile round trip just to attend each week! Former ministers, Pastors Claude Lombart and Eylan Brooks, joined the congregation, while video messages and greetings were received from Pastors Robert Hines (now in Florida) and Drene Somaosandram (in Australia). SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis focused the congregation on the Church’s mission, to share the ‘Three Angels’ Messages’ of Revelation 14. It was fitting to be reminded of how far a church can grow when the members are dedicated to mission and willing to make waves for the sake of the gospel.

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Creative Adventists use art to evangelise

By Pastor Colin Stewart

A group of creative young Adventists recently held a public art exhibition in a shop. This unconventional approach to evangelism stimulated many conversations about the Gospel with shoppers in one of Birmingham’s busiest shopping centres and proved highly effective in reaching people from all walks of life, resulting in follow-up Bible studies with atheists and Muslims.

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Vanessa and Safi, along with a number of other visitors who’ve shown an interest, were invited to a subsequent follow-up event designed to explore why the Bible can be trusted.
Sisters baptised together

More than being biological sisters, Judy Anne and Jehann Importante are also the best of friends. This bond between them became even stronger as they were baptised together on 26 July at Worcestershire Church. Micah Campbell performed the baptism, supported by Andrew Davis and guided by Pastor Patrick Herbert.

Judy Anne decided to be re-baptised at eighteen as she felt that her baptism in the Philippines at the age of nine happened when she was too young to understand the church doctrines. At the tender age of eight she was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre syndrome and the disease left her completely paralysed. Reflecting on how God has fully restored her health, she dedicated her life to God’s service – including her musical talents of singing and playing both organ and piano.

Hallway through the Bible studies given by Dorian Simmonds, Personal Ministries leader of Worcester Church, thirteen-year-old Jehann decided to commit her life to God too. She often discusses last day events with her dad and wants to be ready to meet her Redeemer. For her, baptism is a milestone in her life reminding her to ‘avoid past mistakes and become a better person’.

Jehann Importante, the girls’ father and head elder of Worcester Church, states, ‘I am so happy that my two girls have decided to give their lives to God. I thank the Lord that He has touched their hearts and it is my fervent prayer that they remain faithful to Him’. The consecration prayer included Almira, the girls’ mother, as she also rededicated her life. It was truly an important day for the Importante family.

Lowestoft baptism

There was joy at Lowestoft Church on the afternoon of Easter Sabbath, 19 April, when Marisa da Silva passed through the waters of baptism watched by her mother, Gaspar Ribero, and brothers, Rui and Joel. Marisa was welcomed into membership of Lowestoft Church, although the rest of this Portuguese family are members at nearby Great Yarmouth Church. Marisa’s husband, Diego, regularly attends the worship services and the couple have been blessed with a fine young son, Leonardo. J. Sampson, Church Clerk

Report 1

The Greenwich and Hope Community churches rejoiced at the baptism of Tanya Mambu, Ferge Ntiza and Kiina Limbitcha on Wednesday evening, 30 July. They were the first fruits of the Jesus is coming – prepare to meet Him! evangelistic meetings conducted simultaneously by the elders of these churches.

Shirley Grant, a close friend of the three young women, shared their spiritual journey with the congregation, telling of how they had searched across denominations to find the truth.

They were baptised by two of the elders, Nathaniel Zaka and Edward Yeboba, after Coreen Williams (an elder) had read the baptismal vows to them. The writer preached the sermon that evening: ‘What does it mean to be a Seventh-day Adventist?’

Report 2

The latest update from the Greenwich and Hope Community churches tells of three more baptisms. These took place at the climax of their evangelistic series on 2 August and involved Lorraine Sebata, Monica Barry and Tasham Bailey. Once again the baptisms were conducted by the two elders, Nathaniel Zaka and Edward Yeboba, under the supervision of the writer.

A convert from Hinduism

There was great excitement and joy at the Walsal church recently when members witnessed the baptism of someone from a Hindu background. Details must remain sketchy for obvious reasons but we solicit your prayers for this new believer – who was so obviously happy during and after the event. We also want to extend our thanks to the person whose influence led to this conversion – and to the pastor who reaped the harvest for Jesus.

Coaches to Open Day at Stanborough Press

Placing: Croydon, Brixton, Battersea, Thanet, Fendred/Wolverhampton, Wallaw, Handsworth, Camp Hill, Birmingham

Contact numbers: 07868 288310 – 01384 213803 – 07736 509625 – 07831 958114

email: hubert.smiley18@gmail.com

Dudley House School

To work 4½ days per week, 39 weeks a year (Term time)

Dudley House is a small independent Christian school with a warm family atmosphere and dedicated staff. It seeks to appoint a school administrator of friendly disposition and excellent people skills, who is highly organised, reliable and able to work with the minimum of supervision.

The position requires someone to run the school office, deal with enquiries and process financial management for the school. Applicants who have good interpersonal skills and excellent communication skills, have a sound knowledge of Microsoft (Word, Excel and Outlook), have excellent literacy and numeracy skills, and a solid administration background and knowledge of accounting procedures. Training will be provided for the schools’ accounting software.

For an application pack, contact by email: hubert.smiley18@gmail.com or Telephone: 01476 402184
Visits to the school are welcomed. 1 Dudley Road, Grantham Lincs. NG31 9AA

Apply to the headteacher by Thursday 11 September 2014

Dudley House School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check and employment references.
Newbold Church Pathfinders: prepared and ready

On Sabbath 19 July, Newbold Church witnessed the investiture of its Pathfinders during a moving ceremony. The boys and girls sat in their rows listening to Pastor Paul Tomkinc as he urged them to be ‘prepared and ready’ for Jesus to use (taken from Ezekiel 38:7). They were to be ready to deliver Jesus’ good news with urgency, as did the messenger who ran to tell Jesus that Lazarus was sick (story from John 11:1–4). Pastor Tomkinc said, if it were today, Mary and Martha would have sent a person who knew Jesus and was young and fit. They would have sent a Pathfinder!

Newbold associate Pastor Vili Costescu thanked Barbara Abrahamian and Pat Dyckhoff who have been behind the establishment of a Pathfinder club at Newbold. Margaret Mugaran for her leadership this far; and Sullivan Selassie who will be taking over.

The way the ceremony ended was stirring, with the Pathfinders taking up their positions and marching out in an orderly manner. Some carried flags while others kept the group in step to their steady drumbeats. This was the Pathfinders’ way of saying: ‘We are ready to go and witness for Jesus!’

‘Wellness’ not ‘illness’

The Irvine church hosted a free Health and Wellbeing Expo outside the Rivergate Centre between 28 and 30 July. It was staffed by Scottish health professionals and wellbeing volunteers, many of whom travelled from as far away as Australia, Canada, France, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden.

Visitors to the expo were invited to participate in eight separate assessments, which, combined, formed the acronym ‘NEWSTART’: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust. Each of the seven stations produced a personalised wellbeing and lifestyle statement for each participant, which included test results such as heart recovery rates after chess exercises, blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels.

The last of the eight stations, Trust, was staffed by qualified counsellors, who assessed mental wellbeing. They were also on hand to address any health concerns in a calm, reassuring and confidential manner. Where the test results highlighted serious health issues, like diabetes, individuals were urged to contact their own GP.

The final scores of all eight stations were entered into a computer programme which predicts each person’s biological age based on their present lifestyle choices. Where the biological age was lower than the chronological age, their lifestyle had a higher score value, and they needed only to make small changes to enjoy the fullness of wellbeing and an extended life expectancy. The church’s emphasis corresponds directly with the latest aim of the Scottish NHS – to focus on ‘wellness’ and not ‘illness’.

DOF: Basingstoke, Bracknell and Guilford

Pastor Vicentiu Dancu’s churches – Basingstoke, Bracknell and Guilford – held a district day of fellowship on 26 July at the Yve School, Basingstoke.

The warm summer sunshine permitted attendees the chance to enjoy picnic lunches and relaxed fellowship on the school’s extensive green playing fields.

The lively Sabbath School Bible discussion was led by a representative panel drawn from the three churches. Pastor Cecil Perry, former British Union Conference president, was the preacher and his sermon encouraged the listeners to discover what Jesus meant to them, based on John 20:24–29.

In the afternoon Dr Dina Borges, a Bournemouth-based GP and Chris Harris, a Life Sciences consultant, outlined how their health screening work has built bridges with their local council and churches were encouraged to engage with their communities by running health-screening sessions in their local areas, something the Basingstoke church is planning to do in the near future.

The rest of the afternoon was comprised of musical renditions, church activity presentations and a wonderfully engaging quiz which tested the memory and singing ability of the attendees.

PHOTO: DR JOHN ATKINS, THE POETRY OF LIGHT

Dr John Atkins

According to Pastor Claudiu Popescu of the Irvine church: ‘We should follow the example of Jesus Christ’s ministry: less preaching and worshipping in a building, and more social interaction. Only by developing trust and forming personal relationships in this way can we serve the community, and get across the message of the Gospel, which is our calling.’

In the opinion of Micah Campbell, Worcester church pastor: ‘Socialising and worship go hand in hand, as both work on building relationships. We worship together to enhance our spirituality and Godly connection and socialise together to enhance our friendship. Members may pray for each other, but friends offer support for the intimate difficulties individuals go through. I love to see people grow both in and out of church and reflect the character of Christ in their interactions with each person they meet.’

Everyone enjoyed the day and some who haven’t talked with each other in church engaged in meaningful conversation for the first time. ‘Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!’ (Psalm 133:1, NKJV).

NEWBOLD COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

How are your sea legs?

The Men’s Ministries department at Wimbledon International Church organized their very first fishing trip to Brighton Marina on 20 July. Here, as part of the department’s main highlights of the summer, generated much interest and excitement. The idea behind the trip was to bring the men of the church together in an activity that would build their relationships.

The trip was also a great opportunity to invite guests from outside the church. There was a good turnout, with twenty men arriving at the church bright and early that Sunday morning. Although blessed with fantastic weather, there was no guarantee that they would catch any fish, but they were pleasantly surprised. The plan for the day was a 90-minute sea fishing trip, on a boat called The Thrasher, in search of mackerel, followed by a barbecue on the beach. One of the guests, who happened to be named Peter, caught eight fish!

Despite the fact that they were all novices, the group managed to catch twenty-three fish between them. With twenty hungry men around that beach barbecue, there weren’t going to be any ‘baskets’ left over! They thoroughly enjoyed the fish and the excellent fellowship! The experience is definitely recommended and plans are already being laid for next year’s trip.

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What’s cooking at Holcombe Road?
The Women’s Ministries department of the Holcombe Road church recently ran a six-week-long cookery course for its own members and the local community.
The course objective was for the church’s experienced cooks to inspire the budding beginners and pass on valuable culinary skills to them.
Savoury dishes, including bread, roti, macaroni and cheese, as well as sweet dishes, including cakes and fritters, were some of the recipes on the course ‘menu’. The emphasis was on healthy food preparation and there were classes on the preparation of smoothies, salads and pulses.
It was such a success that consideration is being given to making it a regular event.

Community Cooking Hubs is a training course designed to equip Health Ministries leaders and their teams to effectively promote healthy eating through community cooking demonstrations.

Fifth year celebration of ‘Love Sax and all that Jazz’
The girls are back in the hit gospel musical comedy stage play ‘Love Sax and all that Jazz’. The play, which was written by Adventist poet and playwright Alan Charles, features a cast from churches across the capital.
The show is now in its fifth year, having done runs in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, High Wycombe, Sheffield, Oxford and Trinidad. The production chronicles the experience of five female friends as they navigate their lives through all the turbulence that love brings. It takes its audiences on a rollercoaster experience of laughter and intrigue that uplifts, inspires and ‘educates’.
The show will be celebrating its fifth year with a debut performance at Millfields Theatre in north London.

Venue: Millfield Theatre, Silver Street, Edmonton, London, N18 1PJ
Dates: Sunday 7 September and Saturday 13 September
Times: Sunday: 6.30pm (doors open at 6pm); Saturday: 7.15pm (doors open at 6.45pm)
Tickets: Specials available online from focusarts@yahoo.co.uk; or 07989 574066.
Box office: 02088076680; www.millfieldtheatre.co.uk.

obituary

Betty Musgrave (née Fretten) (1920-2014) d. 21 June.
Betty Fretten was born on 12 July 1920 in Gillingham, Kent, where her father served as a marine in the British armed forces. The family moved to North London when Betty was in her teens. As a member of the Holloway church, her desire to become a Bible Instructor led her to study at New England Missionary College, near Rugby. There she met her future husband, Roy Musgrave, who was a ministerial student. On her graduation in 1944 she was called to Bible Instructor work in Scotland with the Edinburgh and Glasgow churches. Later she served in the London church as the sole ministerial worker. Roy, then one of the South London team of ministers, was happily transferred to Dundee where they were married on 25 June 1947.

Feeling the need for additional graduate education they, with their two-year-old daughter Linda, left Britain on 19 February 1952 for studies in the USA at Washington Missionary College and the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary. To support the family Betty worked at Washington Sanitarium as a nurses’ aid.

In 1956 the Adventist college in Kuching, Sarawack, Borneo, needed a director with a British passport. Roy was appointed to this position and they served there for seven years. During this time their second daughter, Sandra, was born in Singapore. In 1963 they returned to the USA in response to a request for a Bible teacher in the New England Atlantic Union College. Betty resumed her nursing studies and graduated with a degree in 1966. After several years at New England Sanitarium and Hospital there was a call for them to relocate to Georgia, where Betty served as Director of Nursing at Louis Smith Memorial Hospital, and later at the Meriwether Hospital in Warm Springs, Georgia, until her retirement in 1985.

Upon retirement they built their home in Canton, Georgia, where, as members of the Woodstock Cherokee church, they regularly volunteered their services. Her death on Sabbath 21 June 2014 was sudden. Her memorial service was held in that church on the 94th anniversary of her birth – 12 July 2014. That day it was filled to overflowing with both community and church members who were there to commemorate the fullness and generosity of her life. She left her husband, Roy, her daughters Linda and Sandra, and her grandson Nicholas.

Pastor Maurice Musgrave
Location: Brixton SDA Church, London
2-day foundation Health Ministries course
Sunday 5 October & Sunday 12 October 2014
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Limited places: 20 places
Attendance by advance booking only
To book or obtain more information email: createnutrition@gmail.com

The Golden Chords
Rock Tower
49 Tufnell Park Road, London, N7 0PS
13th September 2014
Doors will be open 6.30pm concert starting at 7.30pm
Hosted by Dr. Errol Lawrence
facebook.com/TheGoldenChordsMusic
twitter.com/TheGoldenChords
Tickets available from www.evenbrite.co.uk
Tel: 07846 421 260

The North England Conference Children’s Ministries Emphasis Weekend
Sometimes I Mess Up
Sabbath 18 October, 10am - 6.30pm
Sunday 19 October, 10am - 5pm
New Castle Upon Tyne, Nexus
(All Wearmouth Road), Cruden Park, Elswick, New Castle Upon Tyne

ADAIA BWOGA
Fifth year celebration of ‘Love Sax and all that Jazz’
The play, which was written by Adventist poet and playwright Alan Charles, features a cast from churches across the capital.
The show is now in its fifth year, having done runs in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, High Wycombe, Sheffield, Oxford and Trinidad. The production chronicles the experience of five female friends as they navigate their lives through all the turbulence that love brings. It takes its audiences on a rollercoaster experience of laughter and intrigue that uplifts, inspires and ‘educates’.
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The UK’s Premier Conference for Youth Training and Evangelism
23-24th October 2014
Nexus, New Castle Upon Tyne

The UK’s Premier Conference
2014
Sunday 5 October & Sunday 12 October 2014
Location: Brixton SDA Church, London
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Pastor Perry’s gifts led him to hold numerous departmental portfolios in the West Jamaica Conference (Youth, Pathfinders, Sabbath School, Education, Community Ministries, Personal Ministries, Conference Evangelist, and Executive Secretary). In 1976 he graduated from Andrews University with a MA in Religion. In 1979 he responded to a call to the United Kingdom and on 12 January he and Alma, and their three children, Paul, Christopher, and Sheryl, arrived here in the midst of deep snow and blizzards. In-house and out, there was a great opportunity to house the burgeoning membership. During the riots in the early 1980s Pastor Perry served as a mediator to bring about healing and reconciliation, working along with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Scarman to produce the Scarman report into the riots. He also served on the local Ministerial Fraternity, the Independent Housing Association, the Independent Adoption Board and the Police Liaison Committee.

In 1981 Pastor Perry was called by the South England Conference (SEC) to serve as Personal Ministries, Community Ministries, Religious Liberties, and Education director. He went on to serve as the first non-white president of the British Union Conference (BUC) from 1991-2006. Before his retirement Pastor Perry was asked to serve as Ministerial director for the SEC and finally to pastor the Luton district of churches and Watford Town. Pastor Perry is still preaching and teaching – he is retired but not tired – it is only fitting that his alma mater has chosen to honour him in this way. Pastor Perry has established an indelible legacy of service to God, to His people, and to His Church’.

DR RICHARD DE LISSER
Northern Caribbean University
honours Pastor C. Perry

On 10 August Pastor Cecil Roy Perry was awarded the honorary degree Doctor of Religion and Theology (Honoris Causa) by Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica, for services rendered to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There are so many things that can be said about this much-loved and respected pastor. He had served the church for more than forty-five years at the time of his retirement in 2007. He was born and schooled in Jamaica, where his Methodist/Moravian mother, who later became an Adventist, prayed that he would become a minister. She made a deep impression on him and in 1951 he was baptised. Feeling a call to ministry he wanted at first to be a medical missionary; however, he pursued his pastoral training at West Indies Training College (now Northern Caribbean University) and graduated top of his class with the first BTh degree offered by the college.

While at college Pastor Perry served as Sabbath School superintendent as well as president of both the Excelsior Club and the Student Association. His passion for evangelism was kindled at WIC as he joined other students to establish the nearby Cedar Grove church. On 1 September 1957 there was a terrible train crash not too far from the college, which killed almost 200 people and injured more than 700. Along with other students Pastor Perry headed for the crash site to assist in the rescue effort. The following year in recognition of their efforts the Jamaican Government issued WIC students with a Certificate of Merit for humanitarian work done during this terrible disaster.

Pastor Perry entered ministry in Jamaica in 1960 as Bible and Science teacher, and subsequently as head teacher, at the largest Adventist high school in the Inter-American Division, Harrison Memorial High School. In 1967 he married Alma McIntosh, a qualified nurse.

Adventists gather on Isle of Man
The Isle of Man was the venue of the Central Philippine Adventist College Alumni Association UK (CPCAA UK) chapter’s fourteenth annual general meeting and reunion held between 30 July and 3 August. The chapter was organized in 2001 and has grown substantially since then.

The college is located on the small island of Negros Occidental in the central Philippines. Sanny Espera, the UK chapter president together with Hannah Kitcher, the youth group president, were able to mobilize the local churches, the community, and the alumni and their families to join in the planned events. These included a sponsored walk for ADRA and Rebecca House (children’s hospice), a health expo, a Gospel concert, a Philippine cultural presentation and various sports activities.

Pastor Lorance Johnson and his family attended the Friday Gospel concert and the Sabbath fellowship together with Mrs Grace Walsh and the Health Expo team of the North England Conference. Pastor Perry was pleased and touched by the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his family.

Pastor Perry is still preaching and teaching – he is retired but not tired – it is only fitting that his alma mater has chosen to honour him in this way. The SEC Education director and sponsor of this honorary award, Opal Johnson-Christie, stated, ‘Pastor Perry is a well-respected and distinguished man. As a Stateman of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, His wisdom, work and commitment to the growth of the Church are engraved on the pages of his history. Pastor Perry has established an indelible legacy of service to God, to His people, and to His Church’.

DR RICHARD DE LISSER
Northern Caribbean University