



Gabriela's North Sea baptism

by Liseli Samwinga



On 23 June, twelve-year-old Gabriela Machicado was baptised in the surf rather than in a church baptismal pool. This was also the first baptism in the sea in 35 years for Pastor Peter Jaynes. It is also thought to be only the second time in 40 years that it has been done off the beach at South Shields. Ahead of the service, Pastor Peter carried out a trial run and spoke to South Tyneside coastguards to ensure that it was safe. Gabriela, of Hendon, Sunderland, is a member of South Shields, and Pastor Peter is a member at Newcastle. The baptism was at 1pm, when the tide was high. She was accompanied by her dad, mum and young sister, and friends and church members from

Newcastle, Middlesbrough and South Shields. They all came to support her decision. The Pathfinders from Newcastle delivered the song '10,000 reasons (Bless the Lord O my soul)'.

Gabriela, who is still at school, received her very thorough preparatory Bible studies from Pastor Peter Jaynes.

Her mother, Eileen, originally from Belgium, and her father, Freddy, originally from Bolivia, supported her the whole way through, as did her friend Eve Zikhali, who was baptised 6-7 months earlier. It was a talk by Eve that inspired Gabriela and made her want to 'feel like part of God's family'. When interviewed, Gabriela said

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GABRIELA SUBMERGED IN WATER AS SHE IS BAPTISED WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY AROUND HER

Rare sea baptism for girl, 12

By Emma France
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A schoolgirl made waves as she took part in a rare sea baptism in South Shields. Gabriela Machicado, 12, was submerged in the sea wearing a ceremony washed by dozens of friends and family members.

Pastor Peter Jaynes dropped Gabriela beneath the waves for a split second before picking her from high up on the beach.

Gabriela, of Hendon, Sunderland, and Peter are members of the South Shields Adventist Church in South Shields.

It was the first time in 35 years that Peter had performed such a service, and thought to be the second time in 40 years it had been done off the coast of South Shields.

Freddy said: "Gabriela wanted to be baptised because she said it was the right time for her."

"She was very happy about it and wanted to do it this way."

FREDDY MACHICADO

in following Jesus' instructions. "We had a perfect day with great weather, and it's something we'll all remember forever."

Ahead of the service, Peter carried out a trial run and spoke to South Tyneside coastguards to ensure it was safe.

The ceremony took place close to the Sandhopper pub on New Barron Road.

Among those present were members of the South Shields church, based on Weston Avenue, and those in Newcastle and Middles-

Gabriela was wearing a white A&A garment worn and served.

Ahead of the service, Peter carried out a trial run and spoke to South Tyneside coastguards to ensure it was safe.

"It's not just the sign of the cross on the head, it's whole body immersion."

"The Bible teaches it, and so people need to do it."

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she thought it was a terrific idea to be baptised in the sea and that she looked forward to living her life as a follower of Christ and being with Him forever one day. Gabriela's mum said: 'Gabriela chose this method herself, and I think it was a nice way to remember how Jesus was baptised. . . . I think it's a brilliant thing and she was very excited about it.'

To finish the day she enjoyed a lovely picnic with church members and then took part in some Pathfinder activities. All in all the day truly was a blessing.



Mental wellness – Part 1f

Music and singing – therapeutic impact

Take a moment to think of your favourite piece of music, a cherished CD or hymn that holds special meaning for you. Now imagine that every time you play that music or sing that hymn it is actually enhancing your mental well-being.

A BBC health news report published on 9 January 2011 carried the headline: ‘Music “releases mood-enhancing chemical in the brain”’.¹ In it Sonya McGilchrist highlights research undertaken at McGill University in Montreal, where researchers found that the brain’s ‘feel-good’ (mood-enhancing) chemical, dopamine, was released in response to music. During brain scans of study participants, it was found that the release of dopamine was up to 9% higher when they listened to music they enjoyed. Conversely, when they listened to music that was not as enjoyable, less dopamine was released.

In another study, reported in *Medical News Bulletin*,² researchers found the following responses to music:

- It helped ease anxiety.
- It improved mood in students, pregnant women, and prisoners.
- It enhanced mood, purpose, and mental well-being in healthy adults.
- People with chronic health problems found it easier to cope and felt their quality of life improved following musical interventions.
- Healthy older adults reported that music helped improve quality of life and prevented feelings of isolation.

So how does singing match up, and does it benefit mental well-being? Yes, according to the latest research.

Philippa Roxby, a BBC News health reporter, published a report on 21 December 2017 with the headline: ‘Community singing “improves mental health and helps recovery”’.³ It featured study outcomes from the University of East Anglia following singers involved in free weekly ‘Sing Your Heart Out’ workshops in Norfolk.

The Sing Your Heart Out (SYHO) initiative started in 2005 at a psychiatric hospital in Norwich, before branching out into the community. It involved individuals suffering from various mental health conditions and was found to benefit their mood and social skills. The researchers said the Sing Your Heart Out project had stopped some people from relapsing. They concluded that singing enabled recovery from mental illness, making individuals feel valued and increasing their confidence.

An Oxford University study found that community singing raised endorphin levels, resulting in increasing bonding and happiness, improved health and pain reduction.⁴

So, the next time you are in a worship service and it’s time for singing, raise your voice (in tune or not), savour the words and music, and sing to your heart’s content!

Good health!

¹<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-12135590>

²<https://www.medicalnewsbulletin.com/benefits-of-music-mental-wellbeing/>

³<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-42431430>

⁴<http://www.ox.ac.uk/research/choir-singing-improves-health-happiness-%E2%80%93-perfect-icebreaker>



Set the echoes ringing ...

I have always been fascinated by great speeches: those soul-stirring words spoken by the brave, the bold and the visionary during times of adversity or opportunity; words that have changed the world. How about you? Do you have your favourites?

Many of us will choose Martin Luther King Jr’s ‘I have a dream’ speech at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC, in August 1963. As someone aptly put it, ‘This speech was a manifesto for the American civil rights movement and truly became the rallying cry for supporters of equality.’¹ In fact, it is hard not to be moved by the sentiments expressed in that piece of oratory, especially where the visionary in him takes over and he says: ‘I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.’²

Just over a month later the famous Rivonia Trial began in the Supreme Court, Pretoria, South Africa, during which Nelson Mandela faced sabotage and treason charges. It was there that he delivered his famous ‘I am prepared to die’ speech. These were his closing remarks (my emphasis): ‘During my lifetime ... I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. **But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.**’³ He wasn’t exaggerating the risk he faced – treason was a hanging offence back then!

Women have made them too!

It’s easy for men to forget that courage, visionary insight and oratory greatness are not gender-specific qualities. Just imagine the scene at Tilbury, Essex, back in August 1588 as England held its breath, expecting at any moment to see Spanish warships sailing up the Thames. The army was gathered there to repulse the Duke of Parma’s forces. Then the unthinkable happened. Their queen, Elizabeth I, appeared among them on horseback with a guard of just six men, dressed in white and wearing a silver cuirass (torso armour).⁴ Her speech was brief, but it included these stirring words:

*‘My loving people, ... I am come amongst you, as you see, at this time, not for my recreation and disport, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live and die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom, and my people, my honour and my blood, even in the dust. **I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too.** ...’⁵*

History is full of great speeches

History is full of great speeches, but one of the strangest of them is found scattered across the



pages of Exodus 3-12. It is really a cluster of speeches made by two men, Moses and Aaron. God met Moses among his sheep in the land of Midian and instructed him to return to the court of Pharaoh and convince him to emancipate the Israelites upon whom Egypt’s economy depended. He was also to raise the morale of the Israelites, re-establish their trust in God and prepare them for the exodus that would follow.

Upon hearing this, Moses raises a set of excuses which culminate in this interchange between him and the Almighty found in Exodus 4:10-17 (NIV).

‘Moses said to the LORD, “... I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”’

To which God responds emphatically: ‘Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.’ Moses then pleads for God to delegate someone else, to which he gets this reply: ‘What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. ... He will speak to the people for you. ...’

I tell you. You tell them/him ...

Using this unusual template, a fascinating series of speeches are delivered, firstly to the Israelites (emphasis mine): ‘Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and **Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses.**’ (Exodus 4:29-30, NIV.) Then, in the court of Pharaoh (emphasis mine): ‘Then the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. You are to say everything I command you, **and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country.**”’ (Exodus 7:1-2, NIV.)

Aaron was not translating for Moses. They both spoke the language of Pharaoh’s court –

after all, Moses was raised to manhood in that environment. However, it seems that he had lost the confidence to speak fluently in public.

Things begin to change ...

We all have our shortcomings, but God is empowering! As the narrative progresses through the tense time of the unfolding plagues, we notice a change. At first Aaron continues to serve as spokesman for Moses (my emphasis): ‘The LORD said to Moses, “**Tell Aaron, “Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt – over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs – and they will turn to blood.”**’ (Exodus 7:19, NIV.) But in and beyond Exodus 8 we read the likes of ‘**Moses said to Pharaoh, ... “Moses replied, ... “But Moses said, ... and “Moses answered, ... “Moses had found his ‘voice’ at last!**’

How about you? Are you too shy to speak on God’s behalf? Do you wish there were an Aaron in your life? Well, don’t despair, just practise what this good old song says:

**If any little word of mine
May make a dark life brighter,
If any little song of mine
May make a sad heart lighter:**

Chorus:
**God help me speak the helping word,
And sweeten it with singing.
And drop it in some lonely vale,
To set the echoes ringing.**⁶

¹<https://blog.goreact.com/2017/05/30/7-famous-speeches-that-changed-the-world/>

²http://www.emersonkent.com/speeches/i_have_a_dream.htm

³http://db.nelsonmandela.org/speeches/pub_view.asp?pg=item&itemID=NMS010&txtstr=prepared%20to%20die

⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Speech_to_the_Troops_at_Tilbury

⁵<http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item102878.html>

⁶F. E. Belden, *Christ in Song* (Rev. and Enl.), number 559

General Conference Session 2020 Announcement for musicians

In keeping with the Trans-European Division’s practice, we are once again inviting musicians (individuals and groups) from our territory to apply to perform at the 2020 GC Session planned for Indianapolis, USA. The final selection will be made by the General Conference Session Music Committee according to clear guidelines that are available at <https://session.adventist.org/music/>. This site also contains the full details about how to apply and how the selection process will take place.

Kindly note that completed applications, supporting documents and music must be uploaded to the application site by **31 December, 2018**. You must also be aware that those applying to perform **must secure their own funding** and provide for **all their expenses** including meals, transportation, and hotels.

Pastor David Neal
Division Music Co-ordinator



Scottish Mission Session 2018

Following a day of fellowship in Crieff on Sabbath 6 October, the triennial session of the Scottish Mission will take place in Crieff Church, commencing with registration at 8.30am on Sunday 7 October. Delegates will have been contacted by the Scottish Mission office with their registration information. The report booklet will be made available as an electronic booklet for the wider membership as well as delegates. The session will set the strategic goals for the Mission and elect the Mission Executive Committee and the departmental sponsors for the next three years.

Pastor Paul Lockham





‘What do you want Me to do?’

David Patrick



them!) were just at the bottom of the heap, obviously sinners who were not blessed by God.

But this day would be different. This day Jesus was walking along the street with His disciples, who Mark says had just been arguing about who would have the top positions in His kingdom! James and John had sparked it off by coming to Jesus and asking a favour. *‘Whatever we ask, would You do it for us?’*

Jesus replied, *‘What do you want Me to do?’* They asked to be number one and number two at the top of the heap in the kingdom. James and John were definitely not content to ‘blend into the scenery’ or go through life unnoticed. Another gospel writer records that they got their mother to speak to Jesus to persuade Him – even back then, in a society where women had few if any rights or standing, a mother was still a force to be reckoned with!

While in Verona . . .

I remember an incident when we were touring in Europe, on holiday as a family together. While in Italy, it came about that we ended up in Verona without pre-booked accommodation: not a clever thing to do at the height of the opera season! Try as we might, we couldn’t find a single hotel with vacancies.

Eventually I stopped outside a Best Western hotel to ask one last time if they had any rooms; it was edging towards late afternoon and we were all very hot and tired. Once again, I got the same emphatic response: *‘There are no rooms vacant in Verona!’*

Just then, my wife came into the hotel with our younger daughter. The receptionist immediately said to our daughter, *‘Bring Mama to sit over here. Give her a sweet!’* as he handed her a bowl of sweets from his desk. Seeing how hot and tired my wife looked, he then said, *‘There is one room I know of: it is a family room for four people; I will call them now for you.’* Mother-power – it worked for us in Verona, but not for James and John in Jericho.

Jesus tried to let His disciples down gently. He explained just what it meant to follow Him so closely, eventually telling them that authority in His kingdom is not based on position as it is in secular politics. God would decide *who* does *what*, *where* and *when*.

Back to the streets . . .

So, we join Jesus and His disciples again in Jericho, walking along with the usual crowd milling around them, waiting to see what would happen that day, what *sign* or *miracle* He would perform. Not unlike our day, with folks standing

on the sidelines waiting to see which way things will go before committing themselves. Then a ‘blind beggar’ hears the noise and asks, *‘Who is it? What is going on?’*

‘Jesus of Nazareth has come to town,’ says someone in the crowd. That’s enough for Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, to give his full name, as Mark’s gospel does.

Immediately he starts to call out loudly to Jesus, addressing Him personally: *‘Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!’* But this is not acceptable behaviour, especially from a beggar! This is just not allowed! Those around him are quick in trying to hush him up.

It is one thing to sit *in your place* and call out for alms to the passers-by – but something quite different to single out someone important by name and call Him directly! How embarrassing – it just wasn’t done! He should know his place (at the bottom of the heap) and accept it! But Bartimaeus wouldn’t. He had heard of Jesus, heard about what He had done – how He changed things, changed lives! *‘Now He could change my life,’* thought Bartimaeus as he called out even louder to Jesus: *‘Have pity on me!’*

How did He respond?

Could Jesus ignore such a plea? He stopped and called Bartimaeus to Him. Hearing that Jesus wanted him to come, Bartimaeus threw aside his begging cloak, left his begging bowl on his begging mat and let the crowd lead him to Jesus. Such was his confidence in Jesus, he knew he was not going to need his old cloak, his bowl or his tattered mat again – he was not going back to his old life! Once he stood before Him, Jesus asked him one simple question. *‘What do you want Me to do for you?’* But wasn’t what he wanted obvious? He was blind; he was a beggar. It was plain for all to see what was needed. Yet Jesus asked him, *‘What do you want Me to do for you?’*

Bartimaeus answered, *‘I want to see.’* He wanted to receive his sight, and it happened immediately!

Here we need to pause a moment and pick up on what Jesus said to Bartimaeus, for it teaches us something about how Jesus spoke to people. Here we have Him speaking to a blind beggar, **using the very same words** He had spoken just a little earlier to two of His close disciples, future leaders of His church. It doesn’t matter what our apparent need is, or what people around us would like to see Jesus do for us. It doesn’t matter whether we are at the top of the heap, or at the bottom, or somewhere in between – Jesus asks us all the same question: *‘What do you want Me to do for you?’* How we answer Him will determine what He does for us.

Recently one of my daughters had to be in Manchester for a few days in connection with her work. She had spent a year there studying at the university a few years ago. In the course of our conversation about how the city had changed she casually said, *‘One thing that really did surprise me was the number of homeless people on the streets. There were always people on the streets asking for money, but there are a lot more of them now.’*

Her comment set me thinking. When you are at the bottom of the heap you often go unnoticed – except when people don’t want you around because of who you are, or what you represent. It is possible to eventually ‘blend into the scenery’, to be part of life almost like the architecture and buildings that you pass every day; at least, that is, as long as you don’t draw attention to yourself! Even then you are just ‘the guy on the street’ to most people. They won’t even know your name, or bother to find out what it is.

At the gate . . .

A blind beggar sitting at one of the main gates of Jericho was not an unusual sight. Every town and city had its ‘street life’, those beggars who would take their place every day, not really causing any problems, just asking for help to get through the day. They were almost an accepted part of society’s fabric. These nameless ones (Matthew and Luke don’t bother to give the name of this particular beggar – in fact Matthew ‘remembers’ there being two of

Caitlyn’s sacrifice for a good cause

by June Coombs

One teenager, Caitlyn Balderstone, spent the past year looking forward to the trip of a lifetime during her school summer holiday – helping out at an orphanage in India – even though achieving her dream meant sacrificing her waist-length hair to fund it!

The Way to Life Orphanage in Denkanakotta, Tamil Nadu State, Southern India, has connections with her much-loved late grandfather, David Balderstone (an ADRA volunteer). Towards the end of his life he became a trustee of STOP International, which helps five orphanages in Tamil Nadu. During this time the charity purchased a plot of 6½ acres to build this orphanage and a vocational training centre, and he took part in two trips to help with specific projects there.

Caitlyn (15), who helps with ‘Messy Church’ at Stanborough Park Church, had a special bond with her grandfather, so when she heard that the charity’s project this summer involved decorating the vocational training centre for the orphans at this particular orphanage she knew she had to be part of it. However, she needed to come up with a way to obtain the money to pay for the trip. ‘God was pushing me. I needed to go and see what was done and leave my mark in the same place,’ she says.

Speaking of that special bond between them, her grandmother Audrey explained, ‘David adored Caitlyn and she talks about him frequently. I feel proud, and very emotional, that the bond he forged with her is still so strong after eight years.’

Determined to be part of the project, she decided to seek sponsorship by cutting her long hair short. However, when her friend said she would give her more money if she dyed it red as well, Caitlyn rose to the challenge and adapted her plans accordingly.

Caitlyn’s long hair was cut last summer and three 40cm plaits were donated to the *Little Princess Trust*, which provides wigs for girls who lose their hair following cancer treatment. She says that friends, family and school staff were all very supportive of her actions, which led to her raising £1,200 in sponsorship money – divided equally between *The Teenage Cancer Trust* and funding for her trip.

Setting off for the orphanage on 22 July with her father, Adam, and twelve others including the trip leader, Kish Poddar, Caitlyn spent two weeks working there, followed by a week travelling through the Golden Triangle of tourist sites, including the Taj Mahal.



Above: Caitlyn pre-haircut

Left: Caitlyn post-haircut

The response of James and John to His question was their request to be elevated to positions of prominence in His coming ‘earthly’ kingdom. However, despite the intervention of their mother, the request was denied. Blind Bartimaeus requested to have his sight restored. It was done immediately! **It seems that what is in our hearts when we make our requests to Jesus will determine His answer.**

Jesus has no favourites. He asks us all the same question: *‘What do you want Me to do for you?’* What will your response be? Perhaps the first and most important thing we should ask Him for is this:

‘Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.’
Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Dear Editor

Your editorial, 'Through Muslim eyes . . .' (*MESSENGER*, 20 July 2018), immediately caught my eye and I wish to support the issue you have raised. It is long overdue.

Most of my years in ministry were in public evangelism, during which I endeavoured to use titles and terminology in my advertising that avoided offence, while at the same time arousing curiosity. Our aim should be to attract people to our meetings rather than drive them away. On the other hand, I have cringed at the use of such statements as: 'We are having a crusade,' or: 'Come to support the crusade.' I was especially concerned about the use of the term while working in evangelistic teams in the West Midlands where large communities of Muslims reside. I imagined the horror that may have struck at the hearts of these people as the images of the medieval Crusades came to their minds. In spite of warnings and advice by several individuals against using this terminology, it appears to go by unheeded! We need to be more sensitive in our choice of words. Jesus said that we should be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matthew 10:16).

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has an initiative designed to reach out to our Muslim friends, who make up a vast proportion of this world's population. It would be a pity if the positive and meaningful efforts to improve our relationship with Muslims were suddenly ruined by such careless, threatening terminology. On this basis, I would recommend that the British Union Executive Committee take an action stating that the term 'Crusade' should not be used with reference to evangelistic meetings.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (RETIRED)



Dear Editor

I was pleased to see, from the report in the *MESSENGER* of 20 July from the British Union Conference Secretariat office, that the vital subject of church structure has seemingly not been allowed to die. It is a subject on which I have felt strongly for many years. It seems incredible to me that our organisation has remained largely unchanged since 1901, two years before the first powered aircraft took to the sky! Never mind the advent of computers, the internet and video conferencing! Surely what was designed for those days should be subject to a serious review 120 years later.

It is said that our numbers have grown significantly, and so they have. However, it must be recognised that almost all this growth has arisen through people who are already Adventists immigrating to our shores. Though of course they are very welcome, it should not be allowed to disguise the substantial fall in indigenous membership. Also, we must be aware that the age of mass immigration may be ending shortly.

In 2011 I cheered as I had the privilege to read President McFarlane's proposal for a far-reaching review of our management structure. It was sad to see that both the proposal and McFarlane himself were kicked into the long grass.

The core issue is that even at a membership of between 40 and 50 thousand we would not need two levels of management to lead us. Clearly there is much duplication. Too many pastors are warming seats at 'head office' when they could be better used at the local coal face; and, as our treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, showed in 2016, we are wastefully spending around £2 million per year on this extra level of management.

So why have we missed the opportunities to consider cutting out financial waste and making far better use of our trained pastoral resources? I would suggest that any considerations made in latter years have been made by the people at the top, the very ones who might be reallocated for the good of the Church. We know that turkeys do not usually vote for Christmas.

I recognise that most of us are loyal Adventists, but that should not stop us applying some common sense and recognising the need for good, effective and efficient governance. Surely we should desire above all else to give top priority to the spread of the Gospel message (Matthew 28:19, 20). Today this does not only mean missionary work in lands afar, but also in 'heathen lands' within our own country.

I would urge the Church to look properly and thoroughly at the Fusion Model of former president Don McFarlane before it is too late. Is it not common sense to make the best use of all the modern technology available?

Also I very much agree with the report that any reorganisation must include strengthening the Areas. Some of us are worshipping in churches almost 200 miles away from the head office. We often feel very isolated from news and training events.

ALLAN KISSACK



Sir
Not having a mobile phone I cannot comment on its use for taking photos in church.

However, I do recall an article many years ago when it was recommended that anyone using a camera use one of at least 5MP resolution. I myself have two such, one of 8MP and another of 14MP capability.

Another factor to consider, as well as available light, is 'colour temperature'. Most household fluorescent bulbs seem to emit light of colour temperature 2,700K; while some with a colour temperature of 6,400K are now available – I have one in my kitchen at home!

As it is, in one church, while the main lights seem to be of 2,700K, some others, directly over the baptismal pool, seem to be of a lower colour temperature. Possibly this may account for a hint of blue in some photos I have sent to the *MESSENGER* in the past!

BARRY GOWLAND

Dear Barry

Back in the day 5MP was cutting-edge technology, but things have moved on apace; but I would always advocate using the maximum resolution your camera has to offer.

White Balance is an important factor to consider – most cameras these days handle it fairly well if you use their 'Auto White Balance' setting, but it may be worth experimenting with your settings. That said, I do receive pictures with either a red, blue or yellow cast.

DAVID BELL (DESIGNER)

A church on the move

by Diane Morton

When I first started attending the Sutton-in-Ashfield church six-and-a-half years ago it had a small membership. There were very few visitors and only 7 or 8 children. I am now pleased to say that our membership has substantially increased: visitors are in abundance, and our children now number 15 or 16 each week.

With all this growth our little church building is now bursting at the seams. That in itself is amazing, but is also a bit of a headache for the deaconesses at fellowship lunches.

On more than one occasion people have had to stand to eat, or go into the tiny mothers' room, which unfortunately leaves them isolated from those eating in the church hall.

With no storage room or spare room for Pathfinders, Messy Church or other activities, our church decided to look for larger premises, or to extend our existing building.

Prayerfully seeking the Lord's direction in these matters, not only did we put our current church building on the market, but we had extensive plans drawn up to extend the present building, while also continuing to seek out other, more practical, buildings.

The plans were submitted to our local planning officer, but were dismissed immediately. Believing the Lord had firmly closed that door, we began in earnest to look for alternative accommodation. However, after four years of looking at other buildings, nothing excited us or gave us to believe they were of

the Lord. There were also only a handful of people viewing our current place of worship, none of whom offered to buy it or even come back for a second viewing!

We did not become disheartened, however, and continued to pray for the Lord's guidance.

We didn't have to wait much longer for these prayers to be answered when one of our members visited a church about four miles away in Mansfield Woodhouse. At the time this church was not for sale. Furthermore, it was way beyond our needs in size and amenities, for it will seat 350 people, has a car park for 60 cars plus more.

Then this church came on the market and our building committee went to view it. Charles Bramble from the North England Conference viewed the building, and so did the president, Pastor Jackson. They were so excited that a business meeting was called, a vote taken and an offer to purchase made.

Our first offer was rejected. There were other people interested in buying and so the purchase came down to sealed bids. We praise the Lord that our sealed bid was accepted and that the process is moving forward.

We are so excited and thrilled to be 'a church on the move'.

Though this property is huge compared to our existing one, we are totally convinced that this is the Lord's doing. We can only assume that our heavenly Father has mighty plans for the Sutton-in-Ashfield church in the future.

We serve a mighty and loving



God, and, when we align ourselves with Him through prayerful obedience, He delivers over and above anything we could imagine.

And so the next chapter of our story begins and we are eager and ready to see where the Lord leads. Mansfield Woodhouse here we come!



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Remaking the metal man



How it began

For a long time I have had a strong desire to hold an outreach project that would grip the attention of the public. In this regard I would often ask myself, 'What is it that I know that I could use to raise an alarm to warn people about the dramatic politico-religious events that lie ahead, and hopefully help to save them?'

The story of Tilly Smith and the Asian tsunami in December 2004 flashed through my mind several times. While no one, not even expert meteorologists, foresaw one of the world's worst natural disasters, this 10-year-old girl spotted the unusual signals of the tsunami's approach, raised an alarm and thereby saved many lives, including those of her family.

Before this devastating event not many people knew about tsunamis, never mind being able to spell the word. But Tilly used the knowledge she had gained only two weeks earlier to trigger an alarm which saved many lives.

Tilly's story left a lasting impression on me. Then, two years ago, while I was reading a book about dissolving doubts, it suddenly dawned on me that I could use my understanding of the Daniel 2 prophecy as a tool to warn people of what is coming soon. I would like people to know that God is in control, despite the rise and fall of kingdoms, political parties and religious powers.

Information about Nebuchadnezzar's dream image has been around for at least 2,600 years – but how many people know about it and its meaning?

Desired impact

My aim was to create an indelible visual impact from the outset: so the search for a sculptor to make a Daniel 2 image began. Over

several months I made six different enquiries. Each time I hit a brick wall. Some sculptors did not want to take on the project, or the associated costs were a deterrent. In my search I was inspired by the impressive Rock project staged in the local library by the artist Laurent Grisel, from Wimbledon Church.

Eventually, Pastor Jeynes, who supported my idea, recommended that I speak with Austin James from Grantham Church. That was a smashing suggestion. To have the image made by an Adventist would be ideal. Such a background would help with the fine details needed.

Taking a risk

God was in the frame from the beginning. Neither Austin nor I knew each other. When I sent him my first email outlining the project, his reply was:

'... That's a big wish list. Leave it with me and I will have a think about it...'

When Austin agreed to do it, I was absolutely delighted. A man with a solid reputation for quality outcomes was going to make the image. Great! He saw the vision and was happy to be a part of it. Austin did the work with a depth of passion, commitment, patience and kindness that exceeded my wildest expectations. Now the superb quality of the finished product is there for all to see. I would be surprised if it is not the first of its kind in the UK, perhaps in the world.

God sees and knows the desires of one's heart. I firmly believe that He will open the right doors to enable His work to go forward, with the help of this remade metal man.

Robert Henry



Calling imaginative teachers

by Robert Henry

Here is a thought and a challenge. If you are a current or retired teacher, could you create an assembly or a class lesson (or both) based on the metallic image in Daniel 2?

Here are some guidelines to bear in mind:

- Define clear learning objectives to stimulate the learners' interest to find out more about God.
- Be as creative as you wish. Try to bring life to the topic.
- Allow a maximum time of 30 minutes for the assembly and 50 minutes for the lesson.
- The target group is age 10 to 13 years old in a school setting.
- Most of the children would have no background knowledge of the topic.
- Perhaps the topic could fit in RE or History as part of the National Curriculum.
- Would it be possible to make the topic interactive, interesting and fun to leave an indelible impression?
- Simplify the complex.
- A prop of the image will be available to support the content.

The assembly and lesson will be used to inspire confidence in the way God works: past, present and future.

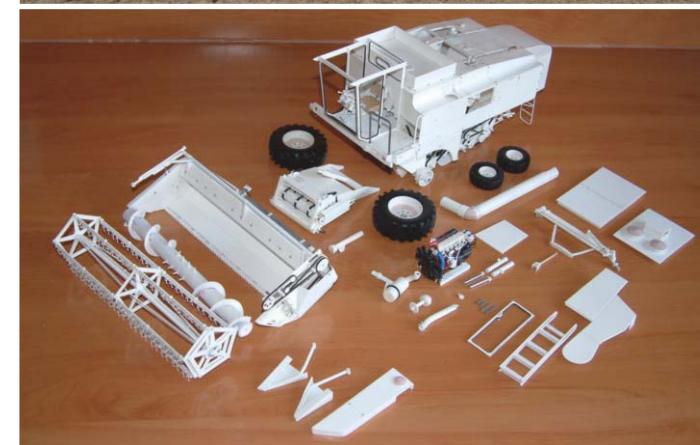
Please use these contact details for queries or comments: Robert's email is: robcam@clara.co.uk.

The artist . . .

Austin James is a successful building contractor during the working day, but at night and on weekends he enjoys building scale models. But that is not what you might think it is – gluing together prefabricated parts bought in kit form. No, Austin usually makes his models by obtaining the specifications of large agricultural machinery such as tractors and combine harvesters, then scaling them down to 1/24 of their actual size and building them from scratch.

His work is internationally recognised and it has graced the pages of a number of scratch modelling magazines, as you can see from the accompanying photos. Yes, and, believe it or not, the tractor is one of his models positioned to look like the real McCoy.

Robert Henry seems to have been led to the right man when he asked Austin to build a replica of the Daniel 2 metal image. What do you think?



Read more about this metal man . . .

This metal man is prominently featured in the *Focus* magazine that was given out with this copy of *Messenger*. Make sure you get a copy to read for yourself, and how about buying a supply to give out to your friends and family?

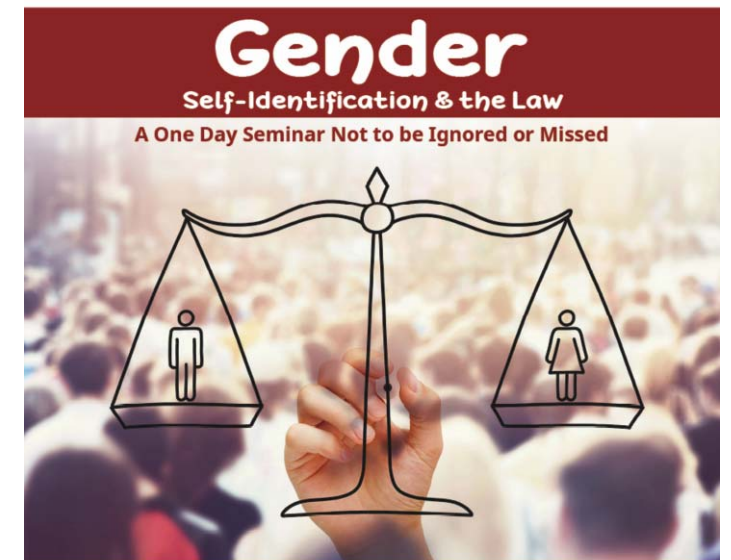


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The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of societal trends reflected in Human Legislative endeavour and the need to prepare the Seventh-day Adventist Church Community for participation in the forthcoming Gender Identity Government Public Consultation process.



Speaker: Brighton G Kavaloh (Retired Pastor)
10AM - 4PM, 19 AUGUST 2018
Advent Centre, 37-39 Brendon Street
London W1H 5JE

Info & Registration Contact: Brighton G. Kavaloh
0771 064 2265 | bgkavaloh@hotmail.co.uk

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GC Associate Director of Sabbath School/Personal Ministries

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Sharon Platt-McDonald

Health speaker: BUC Health & Women's Ministries Director

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Karen Holford
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TED Family Ministries Director

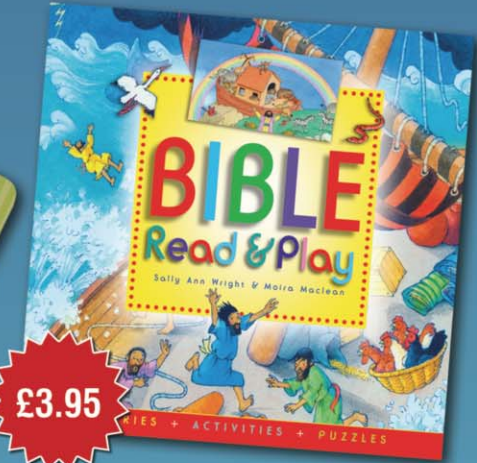
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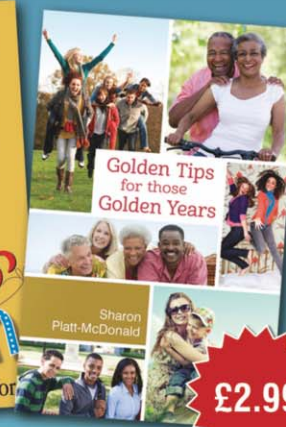
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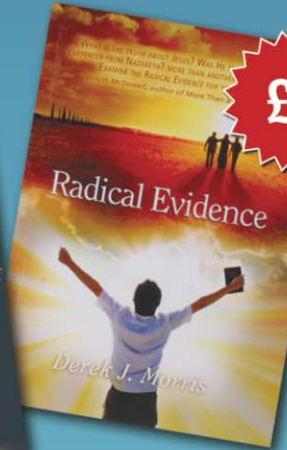
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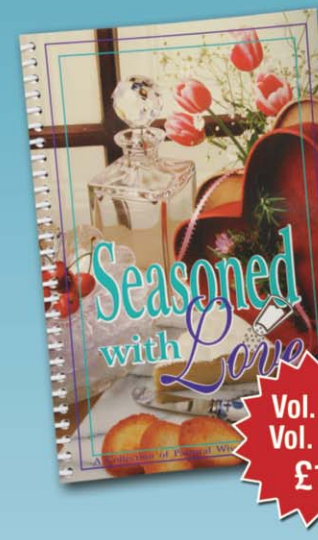


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Joyous baptism at Hackney

On Sabbath 30 June the Hackney church celebrated their annual Deacons and Deaconesses Day, during which members and officers were called to answer the call of God to minister for Him.

The mission story for the day was presented in the form of a video, which showed a few of Hackney's household members sharing their positive experiences of visits and special services they had enjoyed throughout the year by the deacons and deaconesses.

The guest speaker was Colin Blackwood from Manchester, who concluded his message by reminding the church that they should refrain from criticising the leaders, and if tempted to 'gossip' they should do so about the Gospel. The deacons and deaconesses then came to the front, where he offered a prayer of dedication for them all.

The highlight of the day came as two precious souls were baptised. Irvin Merchant from Jamaica and Nadejda Karkeleva from Romania both gave their lives to the Lord after studies with Ann Williams and a very happy Ruby Merchant, wife of Irvin Merchant. The two were baptised by Hackney's pastor, Joojo Bonnie, who, in his address to the candidates, said: 'You have made the best decision of your life. From this day forward many temptations will come your way, but I encourage you to



Nadejda Karkeleva



Irvin Merchant baptised by Pastor Joojo Bonnie

keep your eyes on the Master and He will carry you through.'

The deacons and deaconesses sang 'He will carry you through', bringing an end to what proved to be a very special day for all present.

DARELL PHILIP



Nokothukoza Moyo



Esmeralda Asare

Photo quality as supplied

Wokingham, Reading Ghana and Frimley Churches baptise at Newbold

We make many decisions and choices in life, but the most important decision has got to be the commitment to walk with God, and what better way to show that commitment than through baptism? On Sabbath 30 June, Newbold Church hosted the baptisms of nine precious souls: Esmeralda Asare, Marylyn Asare, Nokothukoza Moyo, Rachel Chenge, Danielle Awuku, Denzel Awuku, Isaac Opoku, Ruvimbo Mloyi and Dr Selina Manomano.

After months of Bible studies and preparation these nine new members joined the Seventh-day Adventist community: two from Frimley; one from Reading Ghana; and six from Wokingham. Five of the nine candidates had earlier been invested in a Newbold investiture service overseen by the Area 5 Pathfinder and Adventurer co-ordinator, Sophia Nicholls. For these candidates, a day in which they celebrated recognition

and awards for their commitment and dedication to their Pathfinder activities in the past year culminated in a beautiful and joyful baptismal service.

Commenting on what he described as 'an amazing service', Pastor Andrei Balan (Wokingham) said: 'I truly believe that there is certainly a Great Spirit at work in our area (Area 5) and that, working together, we bring better results for the Master's glory.'

Pastor George Dadey, area co-ordinator for Area 5, who baptised some of the candidates, encouraged the new members to 'remain faithful until the end'.

Some of the candidates were baptised by Pastors Ivan Milanov and Samuel Ngui.

We give God the glory for great things He has done!

ALISON AWUKU

Baptism at Camp Hill

Yvonne Barrett was baptised at the Camp Hill church on 23 June during the worship service. Besides the congregation of approximately 450 worshippers who were there to support her, her cousin Althea and sons Jordan and Reece were also present.

Pastor Cyril Sweeney delivered a sermon entitled 'Sometimes up, sometimes down', which was based on Elijah's experience in 1 Kings 18 and 19. The lesson aptly outlined the post-baptism experience of most Christians. The road is never smooth; we meet challenges and distractions daily; and we have to be on guard and stay close to God at all times.

Immediately before the baptism, Yvonne's son, Reece (10), read the ninety-first psalm with clarity of voice and conviction.

The family have been attending Camp Hill Church for approximately 14 years, on and off, and are well-known to most of the members. She undertook Bible studies with the elders Erastus and Clement and felt it was time to take the next step on her spiritual journey.

Her cousin, Althea, was among those who responded to the altar call, obviously moved by the sermon and the baptism.

JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Yvonne together with Pastor Cyril Sweeney



Baptism blessings at Plymouth Family Camp

For the third year running Plymouth Church met at Chapel Porth for the weekend (29 June to 1 July) to praise and worship together.

On Friday night, to welcome in the Sabbath, we sang lots of favourite songs, after which Pastor Herman challenged us to think of six words to describe ourselves as Christians – which led to a thought-provoking discussion. After worship we rushed down to the beach to catch the last few rays of sunlight as they turned pink and red over the sea. What a beautiful world we live in.

After a filling breakfast of pancakes and fruit we were joined by friends from Plymouth and Truro for the day, and everyone participated in a mock trial. The case of the Prodigal Son was taken to court and the camp was split to be either on the younger (prodigal) son's side or the older brother's side. Each had an attorney and witnesses to help

with their pleas. Ultimately the jury of six found the defendant, the prodigal son, not guilty, despite a good argument from the older brother's legal team. The trial was fun and also reminded us of the true meaning of the story, which is that God wants all of us to be with Him, even those that have gone astray.

After lunch we all walked down to the beach in the glorious sunshine and excitedly gathered around Jordan Ncube, Pastor Herman and Pastor Peake (St Austell Church). Finally the day had come for Jordan to be baptised! He had prepared for baptism last September with his friends at Plymouth Church, but a kidney disease prevented him from attending that day. After months of recovery everything seemed to be calming down for Jordan until a few weeks ago, when the same illness threatened to prevent the baptism again. Following weeks of tests Jordan



Jordan being baptised by Pastors Herman and Peake

decided that nothing was going to stop him; he was going to be baptised at Chapel Porth beach no matter what! After months of prayer and patience, and with tears in everyone's eyes, Jordan was finally baptised. What a joyful occasion!

Pastor Herman said, 'It was a great privilege to baptise Jordan last week, simply because we have seen him grow from being introverted into an outgoing, brave, committed and determined guy: stubborn in his faith, because he was going to be baptised no matter what. Although his health is currently not the greatest, his unwavering faith has carried him through.'

Afterwards the youth joined Jordan in the sea, playing in the waves and dodging the jellyfish. It

reminded us of how privileged we are to know Christ and appreciate the beautiful surroundings He has given us.

Back at camp we shared a meal and celebrated Jordan's baptism with his favourite song, 'Broken Vessels', and a cake, which appropriately displayed the words: 'Anchored in the Lord'.

There was more worship to follow, both that evening and on Sunday morning. There was a great cooked breakfast, and beach games too, before we headed home.

The weekend was a blessing in so many ways. We are very privileged to live in such a beautiful part of the world and be able to worship freely, sharing our love for Christ.

JENNIE HALL

Baptism at Redruth

The 16th of June was a very special day at Redruth Church. Baptisms are always joyous, and this one was no exception. Audrey Pixton (formerly Fleck) has been growing significantly in faith over the past few years, from the time she entered the church in Bedford and received a warm welcome to the moment she entered the church in Redruth. For many months she has longed to join the family of God, and her testimony mentioned not only the wonderful witness of her mother during her formative years, but also the twists and turns in her family relationships and the growing recognition that she wanted so much to give her life to Jesus. Audrey's enthusiasm has been a great encouragement to all at Redruth.

The baptistry was edged with beautiful flowers arranged by Pam Symons, and the music was played on guitars by Tim Clemow and Frida Peake, who also performed a song written specifically for the day – all of which made the service a truly happy and memorable one.

The meal afterwards added to the joy, as did having Audrey's husband present with us.

To top it all we experienced a treasured moment, seeing a baptismal service at Redruth after so many years, and the indication of another in the future. Praise the Lord!

FRIDA PEAKE



Audrey being baptised by Pastor Peake

The Final Wedding

From 12 to 19 May the Holloway church members and guests were blessed nightly through the stirring sermons of Pastor Mathew Feeley and the inspirational singing of Sandria Ricketts, assisted by our local praise team.

The theme of the campaign was 'The Final Wedding: Seven Brides But One Wife'. Each night, one of the seven churches of Revelation was discussed, culminating in the spiritual application of the message to that church. We were reminded that the seven brides represented the seven churches and the one wife represented the true bride of Christ.

Every night an altar call was made, giving a chance to recommit their lives to Christ – some for baptism or special prayer, others to regain their first love. Other highlights during the programme were the nightly health talks and the 'Ask the Pastor' spot, during which Pastor Feeley answered questions from visitors and members. There was also a 'Pastor's Surgery' for one-to-one appointments.

Wednesday night was



dedicated to our youth. Pastor Feeley shared the amazing testimony of how he accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour, and a special prayer was offered for all the young people present.

Sabbath 19 May was a day to remember! The sermon was entitled: 'The best is yet to come!' An altar call was made and 13 individuals responded by filling out the 'This is my desire' card.

Six requested baptism (which was held on 2 June) while the others required Bible study or prayers.

Finally, the event that everyone was waiting for arrived! There was a concert followed by the 'Final Wedding' – a play presented by Elohim Ministries from Canada. The church was overflowing and some had to stand outside. What a spectacular event it was!

The concert showcased singers from Canada and England while the play focused on the seven churches in the book of Revelation.

After this Pastor Feeley closed with a sermonette followed by an altar call, which involved the entire church coming forward for prayer.

What a wonderful day it was!

JOANNE CUFFIE (INTEREST CO-ORDINATOR)

Baptism celebrations in Bristol

Three new members were welcomed into fellowship at Bristol Central Church on Sabbath 30 June before a packed church of friends and family who had gathered to celebrate the event.

The first of the candidates to be baptised was Peter Hayden, who explained how he came to his decision. 'It's been a long time coming. I grew up in a Sunday-keeping church, and then I fell away in my youth. At the time I didn't know what I was doing, and I didn't know the truth about how to live; but, as life went on, I knew I was supposed to live for God, and, through everything, I knew that God was keeping His hand over me. Several times I've had visions of me preaching, and then I wake up: preaching in places where I used to go to dance. I saw myself on the stage, witnessing to people. There are a lot of friends I have, but they are just like I was. I want to be an example, so I can help them come to an understanding of Christ and righteousness and find Him for themselves. I'm looking forward to being out there, not just sitting in the church: so I give thanks to God.'

The second candidate was 13-year-old Margherita Marengi, who was



very happy to be baptised. Speaking after the service, her mother, Victoria Nwoke, said that she was delighted that her daughter had decided to give her life to God. She went on to explain how last year she got an unexpected call from the Bristol Central Pathfinder Director, Claudette Brown, to say that, while she was at the Pathfinder camp, Margherita had made her decision to be baptised. Despite some initial family opposition, Margherita remained firm in her determination to be baptised, and was delighted to finally make her stand.

Later, Claudette Brown commented on how important a role Pathfinders play in strengthening the faith of our young people and encouraging them to make their decision for the Lord. Over the past few

They sing because they're happy!

On Saturday 16 June, The Mission Community Choir from Leamington Spa Church made its public debut at the Leamington Peace Festival held in the town centre. The Mission Community Choir, which has been running for just over a year, was successful in its application and was allocated a slot on the main stage at midday. The original intention behind the formation of the choir, apart from giving its members the chance to sing together and praise God, was to open its doors to the wider community. The public performance gave us the perfect opportunity to witness to Leamington Spa and simultaneously launch the choir's 'community' aspect.

As singing is proven to improve mental health, strengthen the immune system, help with sleep, lower stress levels and act as a natural anti-depressant, the Mission Community Choir specifically supported this positive approach by wearing brightly coloured T-shirts to the event.

Our songs were really positively received, especially our version of 'I Sing Because I'm Happy', which got everyone smiling and even encouraged some young people from the audience to join us on stage.

The Leamington Peace Festival is an annual event which was celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year. The Leamington church has for many years run a health expo stall at the Peace Festival, which has always been successful, but this year we followed up with a series of weekly events to promote general well-being in the community. These events include a healthy eating workshop, a craft workshop, a



mindfulness workshop and then, a month after the Peace Festival, a follow-up health check. We encourage you to pray for our outreach programme at the Mission during the coming year.

Our thanks go to Laura Fuller, who is a champion choir leader, and to Tilly Harrison and her team for all their hard work and dedication in making and promoting the event at the Peace Festival year after year so successfully.

HAZEL LAYLAND (COMMUNICATION)

Bible stories brought to life

The Crieff church hold two Bible study weekends every year and invite eminent speakers from around Europe to conduct them. This June the guest lecturer was Dr Lawrence Turner, retired head of the Department of Theological Studies and principal lecturer in Old Testament Studies at Newbold College. The church was looking forward to hearing him again because a few years ago he presented some fascinating lectures on Genesis 1-7. This year he came for the whole weekend, and gave six lectures plus the Sabbath morning sermon. His topic was 'Understanding Bible Stories'. One might think that understanding Bible stories was the easiest part of Bible study and very obvious and simple. However, as he gave each lecture the church members began to see much more importance in these Bible stories and their structure.



years many of the Pathfinders have been baptised.

The last candidate to be baptised was Pauline Dowe, the sister of one of the Bristol Central elders, who invited her to come to Bristol Central after being baptised previously in another church.

Pauline explained how she felt fortunate to be baptised, as she had recently been very ill with meningitis and was still receiving treatment. She praised God as she explained that 'I had a lot of people praying for me all around the world. I cried out to God, to keep me holding on. At one point I didn't think I would be here: so now I feel amazing and excited.'

During the baptismal service a special message of hope was given to the new members as the Bristol District pastor, Royston Smith, preached on Zechariah 3. Pastor Smith drew on the story of the confrontation between God and Satan over Joshua, who was proclaimed to be 'a brand plucked out of the fire', and how, even though Joshua had been clothed in filthy garments, he was given new garments of righteousness.

Following the service, the whole church gathered to greet and welcome the new members, and to encourage them to remain strong now they have made their decision for Christ.

IAN SABADIN (COMMUNICATIONS)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Bristol 'glows' with Life Colours

On Saturday 9 June, over 250 people from the Bristol community converged

on the City Hall to enjoy a Life Colours event organised by the Seventh-day Adventist Church under the BJEC (Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee), in conjunction with Dr Chidi Ngwaba.

The event started in the afternoon with a keynote presentation by the Hon. Kerry McCarthy (MP for the Bristol East constituency) in which she spoke about the health issues facing the country, and her own efforts to promote veganism and a healthy lifestyle. She then sat in the audience and listened to the first presentation by Dr Chidi on *How to Beat Diabetes, Cancer, Obesity, and Heart Disease*, before she left for her other engagements.

During the break, the audience enjoyed healthy fruit drinks and vegan tasters, with some even asking for the recipes. Evan Green from Wales offered free avocado smoothies to those willing to pedal the smoothie bike to make themselves one.

Dr Chidi's second session of the seminar was based on *How to Beat Depression and Stress*. Throughout both sessions, people sat attentively and listened as Dr Chidi gave information and advice in a captivating and easy-to-understand manner. Many people were inspired to make changes to their lifestyles, and were amazed at how relatively simple changes could make such an impact.

It was a very relaxing and informative seminar with representation from five other organisations that had information stalls at the back of the hall: Rethink Mental, Community Access Support Service, Health Watch, the Alzheimer's Society, the Property Management Protection Plan, and the Inner-City Improvement Team. They all gave away information leaflets, pens and other items to those who visited their stalls.

Dr Carole Johnson, local councillor for the Ashley ward, has been

working closely with Bristol Central Church for the past year. She has had several meetings with Pastor Smith and Mary Philip on executing a variety of projects in the St Paul's community. She moved the audience by her surprise rendition of the first stanza of 'Amazing Grace' before giving her testimony on how she began practising veganism immediately after the Life Colours event last June. She totally supported the event and the aim of the church to help people maintain health and wellness. Special items were presented by Lorna Green from Newport. She also provided handmade cards that were handed out to representatives of the organisations, along with gifts of flowers and various



Adventist books and magazines.

The feedback from the event was overwhelming. Dr Carole Johnson wrote, 'Thank you so much for the invitation to speak at Life Colours. It was a privilege and such a worthy cause.'

Narinder Chana from Rethink Mental Illness said, 'Thank you again for inviting Rethink to be involved and giving us an opportunity to share information with so many people.'

In an open letter to the South England Conference President, Dr Chidi wrote, 'I'm just letting you know about the wonderful health day we had in Bristol last Sabbath. I spoke to the community about what we can do to free ourselves from many of the diseases that we have: diabetes, heart disease, cancer, depression and more, and also how love and forgiveness and Jesus are at the heart of healing. Because of this team, the healing power of Jesus is being made known in Bristol. Looking forward to next year!'

More than 75 goodie bags were given out, as well as *The Great Controversy* and *National Sunday Law* books.

All in all, it was a beautiful experience, which will be replicated next year. Plans are already on the way for next year's event, and this time over an entire weekend!

MARY PHILIP (COMMUNITY PROJECTS LEADER)

PHOTOS BY NELSON KHONJE

Manchester city centre outreach

On the afternoon of 23 June, members of Manchester Southern Asia Church distributed more than 250 copies of *The Great Controversy* in Manchester city centre in just two hours. It was a mighty blessing not only to distribute the books, but also to engage with the public in discussion about the history of the Christian Church and the fulfilment of prophecy in our present day. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of all who have received the books.

DIAMOND SATHE (COMMUNICATION)



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Annual fantasy football fund-raiser

The Fartown Community Church annual fantasy football competition fund-raiser has reached its climax for the 2017-2018 season. The game, which tests your skills as a football manager with a budget of 100 million pounds to spend on a squad of 15 players, was won by Pastor Richard Daly (Communication and Media Director of the BUC), with Ryan Simpson finishing second and Ruby Donaldson third.

The competition, which globally attracted over 5.9 million people this year, was open for all of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in the country and will remain open for them in the future. So far we have had a few participants from as far away as America; however, most of the competitors have come from the Huddersfield churches (Fartown and Crosland Moor). Despite these low numbers, the competition was again a success, closely fought from start to finish, with £105 raised towards the church building fund.

Fartown Community Church would like to thank all who took part in this year's competition, and we hope that they will participate in the 2018-2019 season beginning in August. Please contact Colin Donaldson on 07909 512 858 or email cdonald70@sky.com for further details.

COLIN DONALDSON



A community presence

On Sunday 10 June, Croydon Council held its annual community parade in the New Addington area. This street parade consists of youth groups, schools, charities and religious organisations that influence people's lives on a day-to-day basis within this diverse area of the borough.

The weather was warm, with a gentle breeze and intermittent cloud cover to offer relief. This year, for the very first time, the combined Sunrise Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs of New Addington Church led by their director, Brenda Nurse, joined the parade.

There were toddlers from the age of 2 years, young adults up to 16 years, and councillors and parents, who participated as ambassadors of our Adventist faith. The club's motto was repeated and its songs were sung, with Jesus' name being lifted up in the words of the various choruses. This was witnessed by hundreds of residents of the community that lined the streets as the various floats made their way along the route.

Many people approached the club members, impressed with their uniforms and interested in the club's aims and objectives. They all did the best they could to respond positively.

The event was truly a blessing to both children and adults – and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

EDWY CHANDLER

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Dorothy Mercilyn Platt (1933-2017) d. 26 August.

Dorothy Mercilyn Smith was born on 1 December 1933, the fourth of nine children born to Vivian and Amy Smith, in Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica. Mercilyn, as she was known to her family, spent her formative years in the parish of Manchester attending Mandeville Primary School. She was a bright child, who, years later, could still recite poems and verses learnt during her school days.

In August 1960 Mercilyn travelled to England, where she attended church at the New Gallery on Regent Street, London, and met Arthur Platt from Cumberland, Jamaica. They married in February 1961 and Dorothy worked as a seamstress in a factory in the West End. They were blessed with five children – Everton, Sharon, Halcy-Ann, Martin and Hopieann.

Known to her church family in London as Dorothy, she was a very devoted wife and mother, epitomising the ideals of Proverbs 31. Her godly life taught her children how to prioritise God above all else.

She was a very wise, prudent and visionary woman who invested in her children's education. They were all sent to piano lessons and never allowed to do anything 'by halves'.

After leaving the New Gallery, the Platt family became members of the Hampstead church in North London. Through all the changing, challenging scenes of her life, Dorothy never complained; instead she took the advice of the psalmist in Psalm 34:1 (NKJV): 'I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.' The expression, 'Thank God for Jesus!' was often on her lips.

In 1982 the family transferred to the Brixton church, where Dorothy diligently served as a deaconess. She enjoyed visiting members at home, in hospital and in care homes. She also volunteered at the then South Western Hospital and The Home for the Incurable.

She was not only a mother to her biological children, but encouraged and supported anyone she could. She would always purchase more goods than her family required because she was sure to find someone in need, someone who had a birthday or a baby and couldn't possibly



go without a gift.

In 1996 Dorothy suffered an aneurysm followed by a second brain haemorrhage. She underwent brain surgery twice and subsequently spent three months in hospital. Following special prayer and anointing, she made a remarkable recovery – learning to stand, walk and talk again! The next twenty-one years were especially precious to her family and friends who recognised that God had given them extra time with her.

On Sunday 20 August 2017, Dorothy suffered an unexpected and lengthy seizure from which she did not regain consciousness. She remained unresponsive throughout that week, with her family and a close friend Donna Joseph with her day and night in an atmosphere saturated with songs, scriptures, tears and prayers. Dorothy passed away peacefully on Sabbath 26 August 2017.

Pastor Don McFarlane paid this tribute to her: 'Quiet, dignified, persistent, pleasant and unassuming are some of the adjectives that come readily to mind when we think of Sister Platt. A woman of very high standards, Sister Platt believed that one should never just try to get by, but should strain every nerve in order to be the best one can be. Her influence in the church was pervasive and impactful. Sister Platt's life was marked by many tragedies, yet she was always full of faith and courage. She had anchored her faith in God and His promises and no storm was able to shift it from its eternal moorings.'

Dorothy is sadly missed by all who knew her, but they look forward longingly to seeing her warm, smiling face again.

SHARON PLATT-MCDONALD

Arthur Platt (1927-2018) d. 1 April.

Arthur Platt was born on 4 April 1927 to Iru Platt and Darlie Moodie in Cumberland, Clarendon, Jamaica. He was one of 11 children, and from childhood he developed a good work ethic and learnt those skills from his father which enabled him to become a great farmer in later years.

At 17, Arthur declared that he wanted a house, a foothold of land and a wife. In time, God granted him these three desires. His desire to own land came from his



grandfather, Daniel Platt, who owned a substantial amount of land and a number of horses in Cumberland in the early 1900s.

Arthur acquired a love for music, something inherited from his beloved grandfather, who was a Baptist preacher and choir master. Arthur learnt to play the piano and was keen to play any keyboard in sight.

In his early twenties he moved to Mandeville, where he joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church and became an active and devout member. He also had an infectious sense of humour, a delight to those he met.

With a desire to seek greater opportunities for himself Arthur travelled to England, where he met and married Dorothy Mercilyn Smith in February 1961. They had five children – Everton, Sharon, Halcy-Ann, Martin and Hopieann.

The family attended the New Gallery Centre before moving to the Hampstead church in North London where he served as a deacon. At Hampstead, Arthur met the legendary elder, John Prince, who became the music tutor for their five children. When they later moved to Brixton Church, Arthur attended every service with his family, contributing in various capacities.

Arthur lived in England for 30 years working as a labourer, builder and taxi driver. He was, however, always homesick for Jamaica and he would often watch the aircraft flying overhead, convinced that every one was going to Jamaica!

In 1987 he returned to Jamaica, where he worked tirelessly on his land, which yielded bountifully. Arthur's life was marked by his generosity to everyone and he was known for giving 'brata' (additional free produce). He was well-known for his yams and bananas, which he delivered to many individuals, and to the Victoria Mutual Bank in Mandeville.

His children made a special effort to celebrate his birthdays and were there for his eightieth, eighty-fifth and ninetieth birthdays.

Shortly after his ninetieth birthday, Arthur returned to London to spend some time with his wife and children. This visit in July 2017 seemed divinely ordained, as it would be the last time he would see his wife Dorothy. She died just as he was scheduled to return to Jamaica. During that time, Arthur himself spent three weeks in hospital.

Following his return Arthur's

health deteriorated further, and he was hospitalised for a number of weeks and subsequently spent the last two months of his life at Ken Health Care, an Adventist-run facility, where he died peacefully on Sunday 1 April 2018.

In spite of the many challenges he encountered, he would always express gratitude to God whenever you asked him how he was doing. His signature response would be: 'Thankful! Man, thankful!'

He is mourned by five children, two sisters, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, in-laws and close friends. He will be greatly missed. Gone, but never forgotten! We look forward in hopeful anticipation to that great Resurrection morning.

SHARON PLATT-MCDONALD

Messenger

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