

A blind preacher – with a clear vision

by Brixton Communications Department

Dr Dexter Thomas, Disability co-ordinator of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, has been legally blind from birth, but that didn't stop him sharing his vision during Brixton Church's annual evangelistic series, from 11 to 25 May this year.

He challenged the audience to have a vision that transcends physical limitations and to reach their God-given potential with His help. He encouraged the members to faithfulness because God is the only One who can fill the empty voids in our lives if we only trust Him. He also urged the youth to believe that God has more happiness to offer than sin will ever have. All of this was done through the use of practical, current and relevant everyday illustrations to which the congregation could relate.

After nights of preaching and appeals, ten people decided to be baptised as a public expression of their faith in God. One of them was Rosetta Samms, who had been brought up in the Adventist Church but stopped attending when she came to the UK because there were so many challenges that she faced, especially working on the Sabbath. After much prayer to the Lord, asking Him to take control of her situation, her prayers were answered and she decided to recommit her life to God. This was her reason: 'It is important that if I should die tomorrow my heart will be in the right place.'

Another candidate, Hyacinth James, was a baptised member of a Pentecostal church for over twenty years. Her children, nieces and nephew are Seventh-day Adventists, however, and have always encouraged her to become part of their church. She is an avid reader of the Bible, and she began asking questions about the Sabbath, something her church did not teach. Gradually her studies of Scripture led her to question whether she was attending the right church. It was then that Hyacinth started attending the Seventh-day Adventist church, until, after much thought, she made her decision to be baptised.

Brian Chindendere was the pastor of an African apostolic church, who gradually recognised that there were inconsistencies in what he was teaching his congregation about the Bible. Brian became unsettled and this led him on a search for the truth. Finally he arrived at the Brixton Adventist church, which he has been visiting for over four years. During this time he has done serious Bible studies with a Bible partner in the congregation. Finally he decided that he could not wait any longer to be baptised. According to him: 'It is a wonderful thing to do God's work, serving Him in spirit and in truth.'

Excellent music throughout the series was provided by Robert Carr, Everol Dixon and many others.



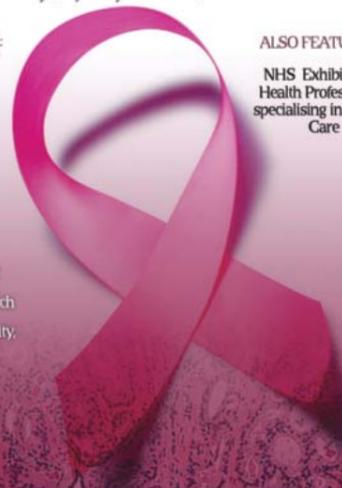
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Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc
Health Ministries director, BUC

Cancer: the facts – part 3h

Examining causation and risk factors

Genetic factors

First some facts:

- Our genes are inherited from our parents.
- Genes are coded messages in our cells that direct cell behaviour.
- Having a faulty gene or genetic mutation is a risk factor for some cancers.
- These genes that increase cancer risk are identified as 'high penetrance' (significantly increasing cancer risk) or 'low penetrance' (increasing risk, but to a lesser extent and more difficult to identify).
- Inherited high-risk faulty genes only cause around 3% of cancers. (www.cancerresearchuk.org.)

A report in *The Guardian* newspaper published on Wednesday, 27 March 2013, carried the headline – 'Scientists unravel genetic causes of prostate, breast and ovarian cancer'.¹

This report, by science correspondent Ian Sample, highlights the study led by the Institute of Cancer Research and Cambridge University – funded by Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust – that brought together the work of more than 1,000 scientists internationally. It was the largest study undertaken to identify the faulty, cancer-causing DNA, and revealed several genetic markers

identifying people most likely to develop cancer.

Commenting on the report, Dr Ros Eeles, professor of cancer genetics at the Institute of Cancer Research, London, states: 'Genetic profiling will be able to refine the risks in the population so that we can target screening to those at higher risk.'

Guardian report highlights/Cancer Research UK² facts: Breast cancer

- Women who carry mutations in genes called BRCA1 and BRCA2 have a substantially higher risk of breast cancer.
- The average UK woman has a 12.5% chance of developing breast cancer at some point in her life.
- A female BRCA1 gene carrier has a between 60 and 90% chance of developing breast cancer.
- Actress Angelina Jolie was told she had an 87% chance of breast cancer due to her genetic disposition.

Prostate cancer³

- Twenty-three new DNA faults that increase the risk of developing prostate cancer have been found. Sixteen of these drive the most aggressive and life-threatening forms of the disease.
- Most men carry a small number of the genetic markers for prostate cancer. However, those in the one percent with the most genetic faults have a fivefold increased risk of the disease and a one-in-two chance of developing the condition.

Cancer Research UK is undertaking a study, called SEARCH, in order to analyse the genes of 32,000 people with cancer and look for additional factors that may interact with genes to increase the cancer risk.

Good health!

¹<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2013/mar/27/scientists-prostate-breast-ovarian-cancer>

²<http://scienceblog.cancerresearchuk.org/2013/05/14/angelina-jolie-inherited-breast-cancer-and-the-brca1-gene/>

³<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2013/mar/27/scientists-prostate-breast-ovarian-cancer>

editorial

During our theological training we were obliged to spend a month in pastoral ministry, supervised by an experienced pastor. Mine was a wonderful mentor. He taught me a lot, but also let me use my own initiative in some things. One of which was Saturday night witnessing along the city's promenade.

The youth rallied around and we soon had guitar players, singers, gift literature and a few brave souls willing to testify. We didn't reap a harvest of souls, but we did see God using our youth in ways nobody expected. One of them was Judy¹ – a vivacious, petite teenager, whose guitar and vocal skills held the attention of passers-by long enough for others to engage them in conversation. She seemed happy and committed to Jesus.

Years passed. I graduated. Entered a big-city district, full of hurting people and harsh challenges and . . . met Judy again, briefly. She was idling at a traffic light in the street outside the church, waiting for the light to change. *Judy!* I called out spontaneously, 'I didn't know you had moved here. Where do you stay?'

She waved. I crossed lanes to her window and quickly scrawled her address on my palm, as the traffic began to move off around us!

My visit

I was elated. These were my thoughts: 'I must visit her as soon as possible. Encourage her to attend my church. Involve her in our youth programme – have her sing during the service . . .'

I visited her flat later that week, but the circumstances were not what I expected. Judy was living with a friend – a girlfriend – who radiated hostility!

After a curt greeting she disappeared into the bedroom leaving us alone – for Judy to tell me her story.

Shortly after I finished my attachment and returned to college, Judy began to feel uncomfortable around her stepfather, who was a deacon in the church. At times she caught him staring – not at her face, though. His interest was elsewhere.

It happened when they were alone at home – just the two of them. She said 'No!' She tried to push him away, to fight him off. But he was too strong, too aroused to listen to her pitiful plea: 'Stop Dad, stop! Please don't!'

The consequences

Judy had lived with that unspeakable event locked up inside her, hidden from the world. A searing pain she could neither quench nor share.

That event haunted her relationships with men. It kept God at a distance. It destroyed

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Website: <http://www.stopitnow.org.uk/>

Dedicated . . . to Judy and her 'sisters'



Julian Hibbert
Editor

her family ties. Finally, it drove her into the arms of another woman – who was jealously smouldering in the bedroom while Judy told me this story!

Judy is not alone

Judy has 'sisters'. They are all over our Church. A company of brave women, largely anonymous, who bear the indelible scars of sexual abuse: incest, molestation, rape, sodomy or any other sickening form it takes. In spite of this, these women have retained their dignity and kept their faith in God.

If you are one of Judy's 'sisters', you have my respect, and that of countless others within our Church. You also have a special place in God's heart – and that's what counts most.

Sobering stats

You may think that Judy's situation is unique. You may think that her stepfather was just a 'rogue' abuser – something quite rare among 'God's people'. Well, my pastoral experience may be anecdotal, not statistical, but it has served up enough sordid evidence of sexual abuse to convince me that we are not immune to this crime – yes, *crime!*

According to *Stop it Now! UK and Ireland*, although child sex abuse is 'largely a hidden crime', it is estimated that 'one in six children experience sexual abuse before the age of 16'.² Do the maths for your congregation – even one is too many!

From the same source, we read this chilling description of those who are most likely to become child sex abusers:

'There is a growing understanding that sexual abusers are likely to be people we know, and could well be people we care about; after all, more than 8 out of 10 children who are sexually abused know their abuser. They are family members or friends, neighbours or babysitters – many hold responsible positions in society. . . . Abusers come from all classes, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and may be homosexual or heterosexual. Most abusers are men, but some are women. You cannot pick out an abuser in a crowd.'

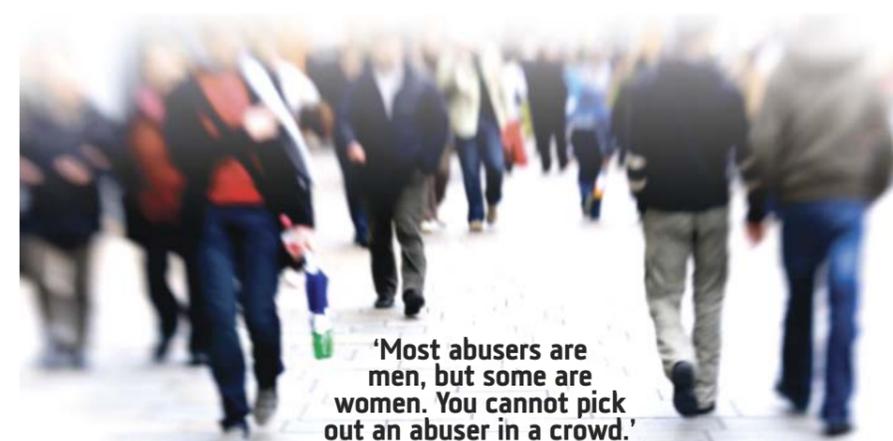
Sooner or later

Men, if we are abusers, we will have to face God over our crimes against the girls and women He placed under our protection. The only choice we have in the matter is the timing. We can face Him as soon as possible – in contrition – like David after his abuse of Bathsheba.³ Doing so with a deep sense of the wrongness of our actions, their horrible consequences, and our deep need of grace:

'Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.' Psalm 51:1, 2, NIV.

If we choose not to face Him 'sooner' in search of grace, He will face us 'later' over the battlements of the New Jerusalem – *then* it will be too late for tears!⁴

¹'Judy' is a pseudonym ²Child Maltreatment in the UK', NSPCC 2000, as quoted in http://www.stopitnow.org.uk/frequently_asked_questions_other.htm ³The writer believes that any form of sexual exploitation, including marital rape and prostitution, merits the term 'abuse'. David was her king, he had immense power over Bathsheba, and he misused it. ⁴See Revelation 22:14, 15



'Most abusers are men, but some are women. You cannot pick out an abuser in a crowd.'



God keeps the books

by David Marshall

For as long as I can remember, Adventists have attributed too much significance to church growth statistics. *Evangelistic* was a term invented for statistics believed to have been stretched. . . .

It doesn't seem long since we were being asked to rejoice that, internationally, we had reached a membership of one million. Friday's *BUC News* was inviting us to rejoice that the figure is now upwards of seventeen million.

Speaking as one whose mind boggled at 144,000, I must confess that these figures mean little to me. What does God make of them, I wonder? God's grasp of mathematics is not in question, though He does seem to count in sevens rather than in tens or hundreds. True enough, the early Church recorded the conversion of 3,000 and 5,000 when the Holy Spirit brought it about. Elsewhere, however, God's Word seems to prioritise church health over church growth.

From John Loughborough on, overseas evangelists have come to Britain and discovered that soul-winning here is a whole lot more difficult than 'back home'. Back home was not invariably the USA. C. A. Reeves and R. A. Anderson made the same complaint and they came from Australia. Others have, of course, come from the Caribbean.

Some evangelists have been more 'Campbell Morgan' in their attitude to numbers; and some more 'Dwight Moody'. Let me explain.

Campbell Morgan was actually a home-grown evangelist, though not an Adventist one. His biographers claim that he

was so obsessed with numbers that it became a flaw in his ministry. He was so acutely conscious of numbers that he counted and kept a note of the attendance at every service he conducted. Large congregations inspired and elated him. Smaller ones depressed him. He once cancelled a meeting because the organisers could not guarantee a minimum of a thousand attendees. He left one pastorate because he said there were too many empty pews.

By contrast, US evangelist Dwight Moody deprecated those who were boastful about numbers. When asked, he almost always refused to answer questions about the size of his congregations and the numbers who had been converted. Following an especially expensive campaign in a major British city, his committee chairman back in the US demanded, 'This time we need to know how many were converted.' Sensing that what the chairman really meant was 'What return has there been on our investment?' Moody responded, 'There were two and a half converts!'

'TWO AND A HALF!' bellowed his interrogator. 'Are you telling me that only two adults and one child were converted?'

'No!' replied Moody. 'I'm telling you that it was two children and one adult!' He went on to explain that when a young person gives his life to Christ there is a whole life ahead of him, whereas an adult has only part of a life to give. That suggested a fresh perspective, and a valid one. However, his real point was against the whole return-on-investment notion. With the prophet Zechariah (4:10, NIV) Moody

asked, 'Who dares despise the day of small things . . . ?' Not God, apparently. He wants us to watch for souls, not statistics. After all, God is the One who keeps the only books that count.

God gave Gideon a lesson in statistics. When God called Gideon to liberate Israel from Midianite oppression, Gideon responded, 'But sir, how can I deliver Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.' (Judges 6:15, 16, NRSV.) God said He could work with that, and what counted was that 'I will be with you' (emphasis supplied).

Gideon didn't get it at first. He raised an army of 32,000. But God could *not* work with that. And He said so. 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home,' God told Gideon to announce.

With the vacillators gone, Gideon was left with only ten thousand (Judges 7:3-7).

God felt that the company was still on the high side, and He set another test. That left Gideon with just 300 – against the hordes of Midian. But they were 300 plus Gideon, plus God. And it was God and the element of surprise that gave Gideon the greatest rout in the whole biblical narrative. In Isaiah's time, centuries later, they were still talking of 'the smiting of Midian'/'the day of Midian' (Isaiah 9:4; 10:26).

God had sent thousands off the field of battle so no one could boast that anyone but God had saved Israel. And to make a nonsense of statistics. They never forgot God's place in the battle. Nor should we.

Many years later, Paul would make the point that his weakness provided God with the ideal arena in which to work. God had told him: 'My strength is maximised when you acknowledge your weakness' (my paraphrase).

Watch for souls, not statistics. Remember: God keeps the books.



Adventist Medical Evangelism Network Conference (AMEN)

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He wants us to watch for souls, not statistics. After all, God is the One who keeps the only books that count.

Re: Inbox, *MESSENGER* 10 May

Dear Editor

Charles Lamont will be glad to know that our world Church has issued a statement on so-called 'gay marriage'. I refer him to www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/main-stat46.html. Naturally, I wish it was as emphatic and uncompromising in appearance as those issued by our friends in the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland (and no doubt others of like persuasion!). Even if it only ran as follows: 'God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve, or Eve and Genevieve' – it would be sure to hit hard.

As for sermons on the Seventh Commandment, I do not envy any preacher. If he isn't fired on by one faction he'll be shot at by their opponents! But shouldn't this be the duty of the parents? Shouldn't it be in the home that a girl learns the duty of modesty in dress and chastity in behaviour, and the boy learns that he has a duty to respect not just his girlfriends, but all women and girls?

YOURS GLOOMILY, BARRY GOWLAND
(AN EDITED VERSION)

Thanks

Dear Editor

Thanks for publishing our pictures in the 24 May *MESSENGER*.

ROBIN BEAMISH (14)



Charity with a pleasant tune!

Children committed to helping other children less fortunate than themselves through their musical skills have recently raised around £3,000 for this cause.

More than thirty-five children, aged between 6 and 14, who are learning to play a variety of instruments and a choir called 'Angel Voices' took part in their third annual concert at the Stanborough Park church, well-supported by family, friends and church members. Many of them also sang in the choir, as well as playing instruments that included the piano, violin, viola, cello, trumpet, saxophone and flute. Their skill levels ranged from complete beginner to advanced, and their solo performances included works by Scarlatti, Bruch, and Vivaldi.

According to Jiae Ahn, the organiser of the Stanborough College of Music where many of the children receive their lessons, 'The concept of this concert is that the children can learn to help others with what they are given by God. They can help other less fortunate children with their musical talent as Dr Albert Schweitzer did. He also gave organ recitals to raise funds to buy medicines to take with him to Africa.' She also hopes that this will inspire other congregations to consider implementing this form of witness.

The children were sponsored for the hours they practised for the concert. Five of the children raised more than £400 between them, and, by the time all the money is in, this figure will have more than quadrupled.

The concert was part of a series of monthly concerts at the church, organised and conducted by the leader of the Music department, Ji-Eun Ahn, a professional violinist and teacher. A collection taken up during the concert raised £1,200 for the church's 'Young Musicians' Fund', established a few years ago to help talented young amateur and professional musicians experiencing temporary financial hardship.

JUNE COOMBS



Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? Each week I'll be hosting Q&A in an effort to answer them.

Andrew Puckering

'What exactly is a remnant?'

Answering a related question in the *Adventist World* of 14 April 2012 (p. 26, 'What's Left?'), Angel Manuel Rodríguez states that the word translated as 'remnant' in the King James Version of Revelation 12:17 is the Greek adjective *loipos*.

'According to Greek dictionaries, it refers to what remains or is left after a particular action has taken place and can be translated as "the rest" (Rev. 9:20), "the remnant", or "those who remain" (see Rev. 11:13). In some contexts it could also mean "others" (see Acts 2:37),' Rodríguez continues. We might, then, say that another way of expressing the biblical concept of 'remnant' would be as 'the survivors', or even 'the leftovers'.

A quick search of any good concordance can give a good idea as to the biblical significance of the remnant as a concept. The word appears ninety-one times in the King James Version, and for the first thirteen uses its meaning is pretty mixed – including 'the remnant of the meat offering' (Leviticus 2:3) and many enemies of God's people: 'giants', 'Amorites', 'the house of Jeroboam' and 'sodomites' (Joshua 12:4; 2 Samuel 21:2; 1 Kings 14:10; 22:46).

After those, however, in the overwhelming bulk of instances, the word describes God's people: first the Israelite survivors of Assyrian and Babylonian attacks (2 Kings 19:4; 2 Kings 25:11), then the exiles returning from Babylonian captivity (Nehemiah 1:3). They are described as obedient (Haggai 1:12) and righteous (Zephaniah 3:13), and blessed by God (Zechariah 8:12).

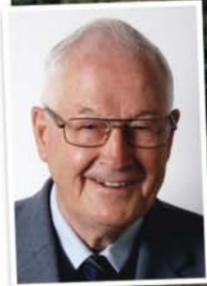
The entry on 'Remnant' in the *Dictionary of the Bible* edited by James Hastings' simply refers us to Isaiah's son Shear-jashub, whose name means 'A remnant shall return'. According to G. B. Gray:² Although judgement to come was the fundamental note of Isaiah's teaching, there was another note that marked it from the outset: Israel-Judah was to perish, but a remnant was to survive. This at least seems to be the significance of the name of Shear-jashub – whom Isaiah took with him to reassure King Ahaz when the Israelites faced imminent destruction (Isaiah 7).

In the New Testament, Jesus may be alluding to the remnant concept in Matthew 7:13, 14, and the Bible authors still express their hope for a future remnant (analogous to the remnant of God's people in the Old Testament): that a remnant among the Israelites would accept Christ and be saved in His Kingdom (Romans 11:5), and that God's faithful people of all nations who keep His commandments would survive persecution (Revelation 12:17). It is in this context that Ellen White writes most frequently about the remnant:³ as a group of faithful believers who will shun error, remain faithful to God's commandments, endure persecution, and be ready for rescue by Christ when He returns to Earth.

¹T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, 1909 ²Ibid, p. 387 ³See *Early Writings*, pp. 66, 67, 70, 119, 261

Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don't despair – we will deal with it in due course.

Aberdaron



Pastor Ron Surridge relates the events that led to the purchase of GLAN YR AFON – the North England Conference campsite in Wales.

Photography: David Bell

It was in 1963 that Farmer Jones of Dinas Dinlle died. For several years the Youth department of the North England Conference had used his farm as their campsite. We were always warmly welcomed by the kindly old man, but the Welsh weather didn't always treat us this way. Our only protection from the wind and the rain was canvas, and at times we were forced to seek the shelter of the farm's cowshed – sometimes only recently vacated by the cows. But things got even worse when the new owner made it very clear that the site at Dinas Dinlle would not be available for any more camping.

This was in the autumn of 1963 and all our departmental directors travelled to Helsinki for some special meetings. On the way we stopped at various Adventist institutions, including the Danish youth camp. It had permanent buildings with many practical amenities. We were all very impressed. On our return journey Pastor Arthur Vine, who was the senior departmental director among us, came over to me and, in his forthright way, said: 'Now, Ron, you have seen what can be done; the Lord has shown you what our young people need in England. When you go back to Nottingham tell them that we need a permanent campsite.'

I introduced the idea of a

permanent campsite on the first NEC committee after my return from Finland. To claim that the idea was received with great enthusiasm would be somewhat misleading. When it sank in that the word 'permanent' meant that serious money would have to be spent, it seemed that the cause was lost. But Pastor Allen Norman was on that committee, and suggested that it couldn't do any harm for me to be given two weeks off to find a plot of land, at a reasonable price, that could be used for the coming summer. After some debating it was voted through, and late in January

1964 I started my search at Caernarfon.

I scanned all the local newspapers that might have adverts about the kind of property I was looking for, but couldn't find anything that was remotely like what we needed. In fact there seemed to be no land for sale at all, and very little, if any, for rent. Before I came to the end of the first week I began to realise that I was totally inexperienced and without the foggiest idea of how I should be going about things in that part of North Wales. It seemed to me that the locals resented the very idea of selling

part of their country.

I knew that the people at the office in Nottingham were praying for me. I was praying too, desperately aware that time was running out but I was getting nowhere. It had rained just about every day I had been there. Being near the sea I began to understand more clearly what John Masefield meant in the poem 'Sea Fever' when he described spray being blown off the sea like a 'whetted knife'. I had prayed that if the Lord wanted a site near Snowdonia He should somehow let me know, for by this time I knew it would take a



miracle to find one.

It was still raining on the last night before I was due to leave North Wales, and I was thinking about what I should say when I got back home. My search had been a complete failure, and there is not much joy in describing a failure. It really was a dreary old night, but I decided to walk into Pwllheli to find somewhere to eat – perhaps supper would help clear my head of negative thoughts. I do not know exactly where I was when I heard someone call out to me from the other side of the road. The voice that I heard was that of a young Welshman whose girlfriend had failed to turn up to an exhibition taking place in a hall further down the street. He was standing in a doorway trying to give away her ticket, free. As there was no one other than a rain-soaked Englishman on that street, I got the ticket.

You must realise that it is coming up to fifty years since then, and most of that evening has been forgotten: all but the conversation with this young man. That I will never forget. I had never seen him before and I have never seen him since. He asked me what I was doing in North Wales. After explaining my mission to him in some detail, he said, 'I think I can be of help to you. My father is an estate agent and he is very interested in your kind of work.' There and then he wrote me a note of introduction to his father and told me what time he would be open for business.

The rain had turned to snow by the next day and I wondered if it would be possible for me to view anything at all, even if there were property to be viewed. The young man's father, a Mr Williams, could not have been more helpful. His son had obviously told him what my business was, and within minutes I found myself being driven down roads I had never been on before.

As we drove in his fine car he explained that the property he was going to show me was one of the very few on the Llŷn peninsula that were freehold. He explained that the small cottage on the site, because of its historical significance, was a listed building. He then told me that the old lady who was the last person to live in the cottage had brought up thirteen children there. When I saw just how very small the cottage was, I remember thinking that she must have trained them all to sleep standing up!

It had stopped snowing before we got to Aberdaron. In fact, the sun was peeping through the clouds and the nearer we got to our destination the more splendid the scenery became. To be sure, Mr Williams was an experienced estate agent and up to this point little had been discussed regarding costs. What I listened to, and what I was seeing now, was setting off alarm bells in my head, and I was almost certain that I was getting the Conference into something that would be far beyond anything it could afford.

There was a deep layer of snow covering Glan Yr Afon (the actual name of the site) and I asked Mr Williams if he would stop the car before we drove onto the property. He listened again to the fact that we were a Church with limited finance and that I needed to know the lowest price he would take for the property. Before he gave me a price, however, he said, 'Come and climb this earth wall so that you will see what you will be getting for your money.'

He showed me three acres of land that was divided by a stream

running through the centre of the site. And there was a swampy area adjacent to the stream. Near the cottage was a small barn as well as a pigsty. The cottage, although small, was built to withstand the ravages of time. Electricity had recently been installed, but the only water supply was a spring that flowed into the stream. Mr Williams said, 'Now don't think what it is; think what it can become.' Only then did he tell me the price. Amazingly, it was only £2,100, and my old friend Bill Griffiths, the Conference treasurer at that time, was able to get the price down to just £1,900 pounds.

Sometimes it is said that Ron Surridge found the Aberdaron campsite. This is not so. I do not

think I would have found it if I had been searching still. It was two complete strangers who guided me there, and I firmly believe that the Lord Himself was guiding them. A few days before this I had told myself that it would take a miracle to find the kind of site we wanted at the price we could afford. Was I telling the truth? What do you think?

Since then, Glan Yr Afon, Aberdaron, has become a place of miracles. Miracles taking place in the lives of young people who have found JESUS as a Friend and Saviour there.

Thank God for the wonderful people who have, through the last fifty years, worked so faithfully to make Aberdaron the success it is today.



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An ADC online convert

Manchester Gorton was formally organised as a church on Sabbath 2 February 2013; then within three months they had their first new convert. On Sabbath 18 May, Miss Carol Millbanks was

welcomed into fellowship by Pastor Fred Mapp, before a congregation of eighty jubilant members and friends, including her 89-year-old mother Mildred.

Carol is Manchester Gorton's first convert. She is also the first English lady in the NEC to complete the Adventist Discovery Centre free online Bible course, and move on to in-home Bible studies culminating in church membership. On top of which, she is the first new Adventist to visit every home in her street and give her neighbours a slice of her membership celebration cake!

Carol is an author and speaker, at college and university level, on a range of issues including disability. Her first contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church was through her grandparents, who were Adventists in Manchester back in the 1950s. Carol recalls being taught Sabbath observance as a very young child and thoroughly enjoying weekends spent with her grandparents. When they passed away Carol lost contact with the Church until an Adventist carer introduced her to the online free Bible course in October 2012, and the rest is 'herstory'!

ROSE GOMEZ,
BIBLE INSTRUCTOR, MANCHESTER SOUTH DISTRICT

Bodmin baptise four

On 25 May, Pastor Robert Bell baptised four young men in the Bodmin church, much to the joy of all present. The service was given a special touch by the fact that the boys' fathers, Maurice Cuthbert, Marc Rasell and Graham Blackburn, were invited into the font to introduce them and offer a prayer of blessing. Each of them received a 'birthday' cake – a nice touch, indeed!

ROBERT BELL



Far left: Jedidiah Cuthbert
Centre: James and Paul Rasell
with Caleb Blackburn
Above: Caleb Blackburn



Joy for a mum as two sons take the plunge

Sethukile Mpofu was thrilled and proud of her boys, Allan (21) and Micky (26), for publicly declaring their faith in God through baptism. 'We have been praying for this day for a long time, and their decision is an answer to our prayers,' she said.

They were among four people baptised by retired minister, Pastor Sandy Pairman, at Newcastle Seventh-day Adventist Church on 16 February. Others baptised during the ceremony were Curt Sabate and Kate Wierzbicki, both of whom had their own stories to tell.

Kate was raised a Catholic in her native country of Poland, where 89.8%* of the population are Catholics. However, through the patient witness and encouragement of her husband, David, she decided to try the Adventist Church. After attending the Newcastle church for over two years, Kate started taking Bible studies with Sandy Pairman and his wife Jessie. 'She was very keen, interested and quite excited about becoming a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,' said Pastor Pairman.

Thirteen-year-old Curt was the youngest candidate to be baptised, and it was a special moment for his parents, Lindy and Samuel Sabate, whose four other children (Hadleigh, Hyndei, Kliene and Heather) were all baptised at Newcastle Church. Pastor Pairman admitted that it was an honour and a privilege to have been the minister who baptised all the 'Sabate kids', as they are fondly known in the local church.

Pastor Sidney Almeida, the church's new minister, appealed for others to follow their example, and five more youngsters publicly declared their desire to prepare for baptism.

DR VICTOR SAMWINGA

*2002 census, CIA (2013), The World Factbook,
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

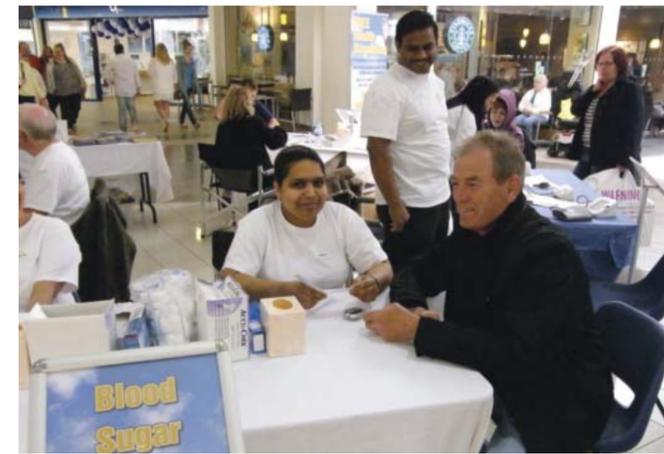
Yarmouth Church doesn't skip a beat!

For the last few years, the Great Yarmouth church has conducted health screening at the main shopping mall in the town centre, with the venue provided free of charge by the Market Gates management.

This year was no exception, with the event scheduled for the bank holiday weekend, Sunday 26 May. In the run-up to the event, the church received a phone call from the manager informing them that the NHS paramedics wanted to do a similar event. Their immediate thought was that the booking was going to be cancelled, but that was not the case. She actually rang to see if the church had any objection to

the NHS doing theirs in July, since she wanted to give priority to the Adventists! The church members felt so encouraged that their contribution was appreciated that much by the management.

The church always gets the prime position in the shopping mall, right at the main intersection. On that Sunday they were able to check 166 people for blood pressure; check 152 for blood sugar; calculate the BMI for 116 individuals; perform 31 carbon monoxide tests for smokers; and make several referrals to the GP for those who received medical advice. A survey was also taken and a number of very positive comments were received,



such as: 'Brilliant'; 'Do it in more places as it is very good. Never seen before'; 'Excellent service'; and 'Keep up the good work!'

As always, they also provided a table with choice literature for people to help themselves. While mainly on the subject of health and diet, there were several copies of *Steps to Christ* and other spiritual books including information about the Adventist Church. Even though the terms

and conditions prohibited literature without approval, the management were happy for the members to put on the table whatever they wanted. They also used the opportunity to advertise their next vegetarian cooking demonstration and sit-down meal at the church in June. The next health screening is planned for October.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER,
COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY



Baptism at Walsall

On 27 April ten people decided to accept Christ and seal their decision in baptism. Although the Walsall church was the venue for the baptismal service, the candidates came from the Kingstanding church, the Birmingham fellowship and Walsall.

Families, church members, school friends and teachers all gathered to share in this special and deeply touching event. It was a special occasion for all ten candidates, but for Sister Humphrey it was extremely special – not only because she was the oldest member to be baptised, but because she was determined that not even sickness would prevent her from taking a stand for her Saviour! The occasion was made even sweeter for her because, unbeknown to her, her brother was there to see her take her stand.

MARK TAYLOR

BOOKSALES		Adventist Book Center.com
June	17-23 NEC Camp Meeting	
	23 Dutch Union Open Day	
	24-30 SEC Camp Meeting	
July	7 John Loughborough Cancer Symposium	10am-2pm
	14	
ABC Shops		
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.		
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm, Friday - 9am-1pm, Sunday - 11am-3pm.		
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset.		
Order on our Sales Hotline 01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk		

Aberystwyth church-plant

Last year two families decided it was time to do something special for God in their part of Wales, Aberystwyth. A few months later, under the guidance of the Welsh Mission, the idea of a church-plant came to fruition. Word spread, and the four quickly became six, and they have been blessed with Pastor and Mrs Roger Neal since – doubling their original numbers to eight!

They are making friends and have had their first visitor from the local university. They hope to have a few more over the next few months, because the members are busy inviting friends, posting literature through doors and planning an evangelistic outreach for autumn this year.

If you are in their area, on holiday or otherwise, why not visit them? They currently meet on alternative Sabbaths (Bible study hour – 10.30 am/Worship – 11.30am) as follows: 6 and 20 July; 3, 17 and 31 August; 14 and 28 September. Contact Pastor Neil on 07443844777 or Reedwaan Jeena on 07939007128.

REEDWAAN AND FAYE JEENA

Adam to train for ministry

One of PEACE's recent graduates will be moving to Weimar College, California, to train for the ministry soon. Adam Hazel is a committed member of the Great Brickkiln church, Wolverhampton, where he will be missed.

DELVA CAMPBELL



Small but mighty



Large groups of children and bad weather don't mix well, so the pouring rain and high winds prior to the spring bank holiday weekend were a cause for prayer. Fortunately those prayers were answered, and the sun shone brightly as hordes of happy children entered the marquee for worship at the North England Conference Adventurer Camporee.

The choice of 'Small but Mighty' as the theme became appropriate as Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt told the story of Gideon. The children enjoyed taking part in worship through role play and well-thought-out age-related exposition.

Sunday brought further sunshine as children took part in a wide selection of activities, ranging from crafts to nature skills.

The theme of 'Small but Mighty' was well expressed by two of the younger Adventurers who took on a cycling challenge. On Sunday morning, they completed a five-lap circuit of the Shugborough Hall campsite!

For the children, Monday was results day. The three new clubs, Corby, Hull and Leeds Beeston, were congratulated for a fine performance, while Leeds Beeston was awarded a trophy for being the highest-achieving new club.

These were the other 2013 awards:

- Best uniforms for staff and Adventurers – Windsor Street South.
- Best campsite – Manchester South.
- Best behaviour – Derby (who were always on time).
- Best tent inspection – 3rd, West Bromwich; 2nd, Handsworth; and 1st, Liverpool Central.

The result that all awaited was for the best club. The awards were: 5th, Liverpool Central; joint 3rd, Aston Newtown and Walsall; 2nd, Erdington; and 1st place, Wolverhampton Great Brickkiln.

Enjoy a selection of photos from the camporee in the Adventist picture gallery: adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-nec/nec-adventurer-camporee-2013.

PETER JEYNES

The Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE)



'Team Croydon', the winning team who flew to Lincoln, Nebraska, USA



Our children face many challenges every day from their peers, one of which has to do with their religious beliefs. In an age where believing in God is seen as irrelevant and often leads to ridicule, it is imperative that our children have a better understanding of the Bible, so as to discuss it and religion with their friends – and enjoy doing so! It is this need that saw the launch of the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE).

The Pathfinder Bible Experience is a programme in which Pathfinders are given books of the Bible and their introductory sections in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* to study over nine months. Dates are then set for the tests, with the highest-scoring teams advancing to the next round. Clubs may submit as many teams as they are able according to the guidelines.

To get Pathfinders interested in this programme a very attractive incentive was needed: an expenses-paid trip for the winning team, to the USA, to compete alongside the North American Division finalists.

Twelve teams took up the challenge, and both parents and Pathfinders soon saw how this programme could impact lives, encouraging not only personal Bible study, but family Bible study too. On 18 April the winning team, 'Team Croydon', flew to Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, and took second place in the international competition! As a result many clubs have confirmed that they will be taking up the PBE challenge for next year!

Right now in the South England Conference we have numerous Pathfinders with detailed and extensive knowledge on the book of Acts and 1 & 2 Thessalonians, capable of giving Bible studies or leading workshops on those passages of Scripture! All thanks to the PBE experience!

We encourage every Pathfinder club to take up the Pathfinder Bible

Experience challenge for 2014. The material to be studied is 2 Samuel and the introductory section in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* on 2 Samuel. The testing dates in 2014 are 18 January, 8 February and 1 March. The team scoring the highest points on 1 March, 2014, will be taken to the USA to compete alongside North American Division finalists on 12 April at the Sligo church, Takoma Park, Maryland, USA.

We want to express thanks and appreciation to the SEC directors, the LAAC, and the Areas who gave financial support to this programme. If you would also like to support our Pathfinders in this work, please contact the SEC Pathfinder department.

PASTOR KEVIN JOHNS, PATHFINDER DIRECTOR, SEC

Bushcraft training

According to Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Pathfinder director: 'Whatever we do must have an impact at the grass roots of Pathfinding: namely, our clubs, their staff, and most importantly our young people.'

At the heart of that impact is the provision of excellent training at the leadership level, which must then cascade down to the local Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs.

One element of this training was delivered by Andrew Middleton, a bushcraft expert from North Yorkshire, as campers were packing up after the 2013 Adventurer Camporee.

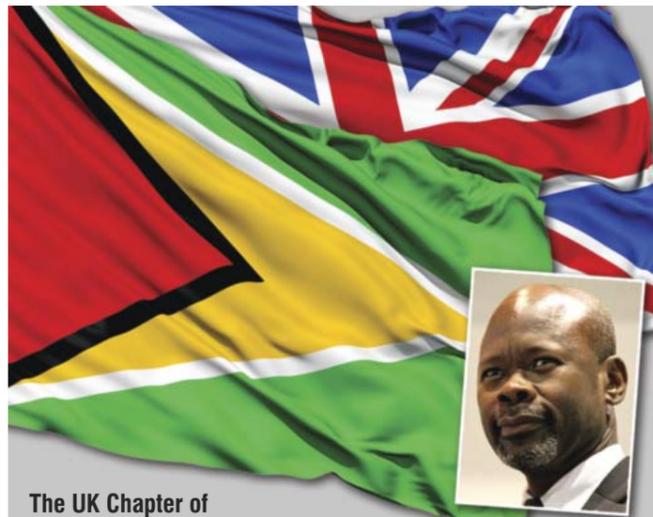
Andrew, described by Pastor Hush as 'the Ray Mears of the North', had earlier outlined why Pathfinder and Adventurer leaders need a knowledge of bushcraft and a familiarity with the outdoor environment. The skills enable leaders to help children feel safe outdoors; develop their self-confidence; enable them to respect the earth God created;

and equip them to work with confidence in many other areas of life.

The eight leaders under training were taught to construct simple shelters from a tarpaulin and strong cords, and how to keep them warm and dry. They also learnt to tie new knots and acquired other useful survival skills – all of which they will pass on to their club members in due course.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES, NEC COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR





The UK Chapter of Adventist Guyanese (UCAG) and Friends

invite you to the

Seventh Annual Day of Praise and Worship

Sabbath 6 July 2013, 9.30am,
High Town Methodist Church, 45-47 High Town Road, Luton LU2 0BW

Theme: 'Abundant Praise, Effervescent Hope'

Featuring Lael O. Caesar, PhD
(Associate Editor, *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*; Research Professor of Hebrew Bible, Andrews University, USA) and Adventist Guyanese youth

Contact Terrence Blackman on 07507643366 or Florence Allen on 01923663596 for details.



NEC women together

Just over a month ago the Women's Ministries department of the North England Conference held a highly successful entrepreneurs' event at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. The day's activity was packed with inspirational and practical content, including the opportunity for attendees to visit numerous exhibits by successful women entrepreneurs from across the NEC.

An exciting dimension of this event was the attendance of non-members who accepted the invitation to attend – and loved it! One such person was Leanne Haman, who markets ethical beauty products. She found the event to be full of 'networking opportunities'.

Geraldene Farmer, NEC Women's Ministries director, summed things up this way while speaking of the commercial emphasis to the day's events: 'The woman described in Proverbs 31 . . . had a very holistic view of her role in society. She was not only a woman of profit and growth, but also a woman who cared for her family, at the same time holding a strong spiritual balance. We set out to reflect the full nature of that womanhood at our conference.'

PETER JEYNES



A first for London Ghana

Youth Week of Prayer at London Ghana Church was unique. The theme was 'Justice and Mercy', and its aim was to allow the youth to be aware of their own positions in the church as mini evangelists, providing insights as to how young people can truly make a difference in their local communities and society at large.

Instead of regular face-to-face daily meetings, the youth decided to use technology to encourage the study of the Word. Each evening they discussed and read the specially designed Week of Prayer publication via Skype – an internet-based phone application enabling members to talk to each other, regardless of location, virtually for free. This enabled the youth, who live all over greater London and some as far afield as America, to enjoy the Week of Prayer from the comfort of their homes. The tool is a great way to hold virtual Bible studies and discussions when travel restrictions are present.

Youth leader, Jason Essel, stated that: 'The sessions were a great success, as they were a way to have Bible studies without leaving your house, in a relaxed, informal setting.'

Another participant, Eugene Obeng, remarked: 'We got to hear so many people's views, and they were views from their hearts. We read the Week of Prayer readings together and it allowed people to understand the material at a deeper level. It was also a way for us to get to know each other, to share ideas and evangelise. It allowed people to introspect and find ways to become better Christians.'

Due to the Week of Prayer's success the next session will incorporate face-to-face meetings and Skype sessions in order to increase effectiveness.

GRACE OWUSU

obituaries

Peter Horace Stearman (1921-2013) d. 18 January.

Peter was born in Norwich, to parents Horace George and Daisy May Stearman. In 1936 Peter was baptised at Lowestoft by Pastor John Maxwell Howard, and in the same year enrolled as a student at Newbold Revel Missionary College to study for the ministry. During his time at Newbold he forged a great many lifelong friendships, of which the most significant was with the young woman he had first met at the Norwich church, Vera Howard, who was soon to become his wife.

In 1942, upon completion of his ministerial studies, Peter became an intern to Pastor Lamont Murdoch in Birmingham for eighteen months, before becoming pastor of the Worcester church and the Kidderminster and Bromsgrove companies.

Peter and Vera were married by Pastor Murdoch in Birmingham on 28 August 1944, and shortly afterwards, having accepted a call to mission service, sailed for the Gold Coast (now Ghana) on 30 March 1945. They spent nine years caring for the churches and schools in the Agona and Kaforidua districts and as secretary/treasurer at Kumasi.

In 1953 they returned to England with their three daughters – Kathleen, Carolyn and Jacqueline – and worked in the Bristol area, during which time two more daughters – Rosalind and Anita – were born. Moves then followed to churches in Southampton, Bournemouth and Watford (Stanborough Park). After a period of service in central London, Peter was appointed president of the Welsh Mission, where he served for seven years, before moving to their home town of Norwich, eventually retiring to the Isle of Wight in 1986 after more than forty-four years of continuous service. Although now retired, they led and nurtured the small company of believers that worshipped there. On two occasions they were called out of retirement to provide short-term cover in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

In 1998 Peter and Vera moved to Watford in order to live nearer to their daughter Carolyn, and once more entered into the life of



the Stanborough Park church, becoming active members of the Senior Club and the enthusiastic owners of two prize-winning allotments.

Peter's funeral service, held on 14 February at the Stanborough Park church, was conducted by Pastor Paul Clee, supported by Pastor Jacques Venter. Special music was provided by the Ahn Sisters Trio and church organist Brian Combridge, and Audrey Balderstone prepared the beautiful floral arrangements. Pastor Clee, in his address, recalled the many happy times he had visited Peter and Vera, and how very strong Peter's faith was in his Saviour; he acknowledged that, while funerals are rightly times of remembering and weeping, they are also times of looking forward with confidence to the soon coming of Jesus.

Peter's son-in-law, Paul Bellamy, presented a life sketch which drew on their fifty years of happy association and observations obtained from Peter's daughters, ministerial colleagues and many friends. He described Peter as a devoted husband; a kind and loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather to his daughters, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; a caring shepherd and pastor to his many congregations; a true Christian gentleman with a keen sense of fun; a role model to other ministers; and a faithful servant of his Lord. While Peter will be sadly missed, we have the blessed assurance, as expressed in the Scripture from Revelation 22:20, as read at the service by David Burgess (KJV): 'Surely I come quickly. . . Even so, come, Lord Jesus.'

To all those who have sent so many letters and cards of condolence to Peter's beloved wife Vera and the family, go their heartfelt thanks.

PAUL BELLAMY

Margaret Piggott (1921-2012) d. 29 December.

As a child Margaret went to Australia with her parents, but when her father started to become blind the family returned to England. It was shortly after this that they became Adventists.

She wanted to be a teacher, but at the time she finished college the authorities were not recruiting. It was then that her brother suggested she join the tax office, where she spent the rest of her working life.

Margaret was one of the pianists at Leicester West Church for a number of years. She also took unpaid leave to look after her father during his illness.

The writer became friends with Margaret in 1972 and helped look after her until about four years ago, when she went into a nursing home in Hinckley.

Margaret passed away in her sleep on 29 December 2012, and was buried in Groby Road Cemetery, with her mother, father and brother, where she awaits the great trumpet call. The service was conducted by Pastor Sayers and John Hubbard.

JOHN HUBBARD

Bernard Thompson (1915-2013) d. 4 May.

Bernard was born in Stoke-on-Trent, the youngest of three children. His mother, Florence, was a founder member of the Stoke church. On leaving school Bernard started a career in printing. He was baptised in 1939 by Pastor Dorland. He took his stand on the Sabbath question several times, but none was more important than when he had to ask for military exemption before a judicial inquiry. He did not take the stand over the issue of non-combatancy, but on the grounds of religious freedom – the right to keep God's seventh-day Sabbath. He was the only one that day to be granted exemption from military service by the judicial inquiry.

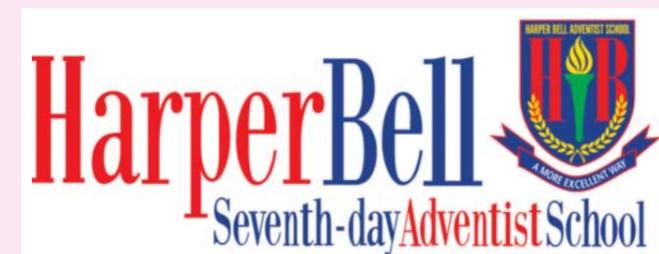


While working for Hopkins and Bailey he was asked to take an interest in first aid. He joined the St John Ambulance Brigade, receiving several promotions through the ranks until he became area commissioner for Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield. He was honoured by the Queen on three occasions for his work in this field. The last honour was in 1978 as a Commander of the Order of St John.

It was while teaching first aid that he first met Mabel Cutler, who attended one of his lectures. He invited her to Pastor Murdoch's evangelistic series in Birmingham and she was baptised in 1943. Two years later they were married. The same year he was ordained as elder of the Erdington church: a post he held continuously until very recently, while Mabel still holds her church clerk position. Bernard was well known for his active leadership in all areas of church life, from Ingathering to Pathfinders, but he felt his greatest success was the acquiring of the present Erdington premises and the total clearing of the debt incurred in only four years. Bernard also had many non-church interests, including gardening, music and swimming.

Sadly, Bernard passed away peacefully on Sabbath 4 May. The family would like to thank all who sent messages of sympathy and support.

VERNON THOMPSON



29 Ravenhurst Street, Camp Hill, Birmingham, B12 0EJ

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For an application form, contact Mrs L. McDonald at info@hbsda.bham.sch.uk or call 01216937742.

Closing date for applications: Friday 28 June 2013, 4pm.

The successful candidate for this job will be working with children, and will therefore be subject to a disclosure check through the confidential process administered by the Criminal Records Bureau. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its children and expects all staff to share this commitment.

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Ministry of Healing and Prayer

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Pastor Dennis Smith (USA)
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Colin Hone (Australia)
Director International Holy Spirit Ministries - Spiritual

Dr Magna Parks (USA)
Psychologist, Speaker 3ABN Camp Meeting 2011 - Emotional

Cost £214 per person

Book online or download booking form at www.mohap.org

For queries contact Janet Hamilton:
email: info@mohap.org or phone: 07407 692 256



Brecon highlights

by Pastor John Surridge



This year's spring Brecon Camp, 24 to 27 May, was characterised by extremes of temperature. During the first two nights the temperature dropped, and those who got up soon after sunrise were greeted with the beautiful sight of frosted grass, iced cars and diamond-encrusted tents. Daytime temperatures soared to 20°C, however, and

despite the chilly nights everyone commented on the overall warmth of the camp.

This warmth was not just about the weather; our speaker, Pastor Douglas McCormac, also had a lot to do with it. With his soft Belfast accent, Pastor Doug won the hearts of the eighty or so campers. He gave six talks, all on the theme of love, particularly as per the instruction in John 13:34 (NIV): 'A new



Great Brickkiln men's ministry

On Sabbath, 27 April, Great Brickkiln Street Church held its first men's ministry service. Pastor Sam Davies was the speaker of the day, and his sermon was entitled, 'What it takes to be men of iron' – all about strong minds, great hearts, true faith and a willingness to serve others. The day's programme was both enjoyed and well-attended by members, friends and visitors from the local community.

DELVA CAMPBELL

command I give you: Love one another.'

Rob Pearce, from the Leamington Spa church, led the worship band and helped to reinforce the spiritual messages of the talks. With up to nine musicians playing together, the sound from the marquee could be heard a considerable distance away – to the extent that some campers from the adjacent field came to see what was happening!

Pastor David Foster was well appreciated in his new role as camp master, while the highly experienced Pastor Jeremy Tremere made sure that all practical aspects of the camp ran smoothly.

Brecon Camp is a self-catering camp and the field is filled with tents, caravans and motorhomes. In the meetings, on walks, and around the bonfire, there is a great deal of social interaction. New friendships are formed every year, many of which will last for a lifetime.

If you would like to experience Brecon for yourself, please contact John Surridge on: 029 2084 4106. Our next camp is from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 September 2013.



30 JULY - 04 AUGUST
NOVI SAD 2013



Messenger

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Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Jun 21	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
28	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
Jul 5	9.19	9.31	9.31	9.59	10.00
12	9.14	9.26	9.26	9.52	9.54

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