

BUC News #653 (18 September 2009) NOW ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Email Newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

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FOLLOW THE BIBLE SABBATH AROUND THE UK



Leather clad Pastor Clive de Silva is more used to preaching The Word. However, on Sabbath, 12 September he took on a new role. As a keen biker he used his skills to rapidly share The Word across the four corners of London, transporting "the GC Travelling Bible" to church members assembled in the Brixton, Chiswick, Holloway and Clapton churches. With traffic conditions in London it was the only way to get the Bible to as many members as possible in the short time period available. While there were some delays he succeeded, bringing "Follow the Bible" to excited church members who, with cameras in hand, clamoured to be part of this moment in history.

The "Follow the Bible" programme is a worldwide initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church launched in the Philippines last autumn aimed at getting church members reconnected with the Bible as well as reinforcing the value of the Bible and its message to society in general. Since then it has travelled to 92 countries,



been read and photographed by over 3 million people, appeared on TV, and has the right to enter the Guinness Book of Records as the most travelled Bible in history. It is also unique as each of the 66 books is written in a different language.



That certainly made an impression at Newbold College church – the first stop on the BUC section of the world tour. Crowds packed the venue and queued to have an opportunity to see the Bible and look through the different languages. Pigeon English quickly became a favourite with many while others looked to find their own language represented.

The church services were equally special with children reading from the Travelling Bible in their own languages, Sasha Becejac really catching the children's attention dressed up as a storytelling Bible, and Bible Society representative, Carol Akiwumi, vibrantly sharing the vision of translating and providing the Bible in more languages. Carol also organised a team of volunteers who spoke at the four London venues. One of them, Dudley Holmes, who visited Clapton was so impressed with the Travelling Bible that he really wished the Bible Society had become even more involved.



Newbold College library added to the day by sharing a display of historic Bibles including the 1560 Geneva Bible, so called because it had to be printed in Switzerland to escape persecution. At the other end of the spectrum they also demonstrated modern Bible study methods using the internet and specialist databases. This fitted in well with BUC President, Pastor Don McFarlane's message. In each of the venues he visited he spoke about the sacrifice God's people such as William Tyndale, John Wycliffe and others made to bring Holy Scriptures to the common man. "The Follow the Bible initiative," he stated, "is to bring our members back to Bible study and Bible reading. When we think of the risk these men took to make the Bible available to us, it should make us stand in awe and want to study it and value it more." At the Newbold and Brixton churches SEC President, Pastor Sam Davis emphasised that the Bible brings light into a dark world, sharing that sometimes people shout "turn out the light" when we bring it to them, but that we need to use methods that maybe diffuse the light and bring it to them more gently rather than shining it straight into their eyes.

When the Bible arrived at Chiswick church in the arms of the leather clad Pastor de Silva, Dr Bertil Wiklander, President of the Trans-European Division took the opportunity to share a charge with the members, one that he himself took as well, to be more intentional in Bible study in order to build trust and faith in Jesus Christ, to memorise scripture and to share "the truths about Jesus the Living Word in your sphere of influence".



While the "Travelling Bible" was, by nature of geography and time, limited to only a few churches, almost all Adventist churches in the UK and Ireland participated in "Follow the Bible Sabbath". Pastor Ayodeji Adesina from Blessed Hope (Nigerian) church states that "we were blessed to have one of the traditional kings from Nigeria visiting us, so we gave him a special gift of a Bible. We also had a non-Adventist family visiting to whom we also gave another Bible." This was based around Pastor Adesina's message on 'The Old Paths' in Jeremiah 6:16, where he challenged the church to return to the study of God's Word, pursuing righteousness and prayerfulness. Pastor John Ferguson in Grantham linked 'Follow the Bible' together with 'Make a Difference week', stating that "if we read our Bibles and react to what it says, then our social conscience will see us want to make a difference in our neighbourhoods."



Other churches moved away from the traditional preaching. In Peckham Psalm 19 was read responsively by the congregation. Two teenagers then read from Jeremiah, Isaiah 26 and the close of Revelation. Pastor Jones-Lartey then charged the congregation to read the Bible for themselves. This reading was interspersed with music led by "In His Hands", a teenage praise team. Youth were also involved in the Luton Central programme. Two young people read a poem on "The Bible Unused" and "The Bible Used". This was followed by church elder, Derek Jarrett sharing with the congregation how the Bible has impacted his life since his youth.

"Follow the Bible Sabbath" was a special day for many. Following a prayer of commitment at the final location in Clapham, and an almost one hour photo shoot, Pastor Mohan Rao Abbadasari summed up the feelings of all, "the memories will be cherished for long time."

A selection of photos and videos from Follow the Bible are available on the BUC website, <www.adventistpictures.org.uk>.

"TRAVELLING BIBLE" TOURIST ATTRACTION IN IRELAND [Willie Tafadzwa Chinyamurindi/Stephen Wilson/Victor Hulbert]



"Sweet Molly Malone" of Irish folk song fame is known for plying the streets selling "Cockles and mussels, alive, alive oh!" Such is the popularity of the song that she has her own statue in Grafton Street, central Dublin. She might have been surprised on Sunday, 13 September to find her mussels basket promoting something far more important. For a few minutes she was host to the "GC Travelling Bible" – and drew the crowds who happily snapped their cameras while friendly Adventists provided them with specially commissioned leaflets and Bible cards.

"Follow the Bible Ireland" commenced with Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director flying into Ireland in time for a three hour "Bible Prayer Walk". This was organised by Pastor Stephen Wilson to "prayerfully walk past government, education and media centres with the Bible to heighten awareness of the Bible." Within seconds of the Bible arriving Stephen found himself sitting in a horse and carriage with the driver who looked through the Bible with him and was encouraged to take another look. He marvelled at the way this Bible was written in 66 languages to represent the diversity in the Adventist Church.

Joy Pontanar was among around sixty members who joined the walk and especially commended the young children for coming out in droves and enthusiastically help distribute fliers and also as they "Followed the Bible on its journey around central Dublin." For Busi Msipha the experience of the "Follow the Bible" campaign was a stark reminder of her early days in the faith. She said, "Today was just a wonderful day to stop and talk to people and the Bible helped us do so." The group also conducted a survey asking people why the Bible should be important in an attempt to highlight the value of the Bible in today's society.



The afternoon saw some video recording interviews from various Bible experts that will be on the web and DVDs to help members share their faith. In the evening the Bible moved to the Dublin Adventist church where speaker after speaker narrated what the Bible meant to them. Pastors Gavin Anthony and Jeff Freeman also gave very practical tips on Bible study and memorisation.

A highlight at the end of the prayer walk was a conversation with a young Catholic lady who has led a troubled life but is now heading back to church and to Christ. Names and addresses were exchanged and a friendship was firmly established. This on its own made the day worthwhile. The event helped increase the profile of the Bible in Ireland. Perhaps the hymn "Give me the Bible" will become more popular than "Sweet Molly Malone".

Photos of Follow the Bible in Ireland are available on the BUC website, <www.adventistpictures.org.uk>.

STANBOROUGH STUDENTS REJOICE WITH DIVERSE BIBLE



Stanborough School students were delighted to be the last stop on the whirlwind tour of the GC Travelling Bible through the British Union Conference. Flown in from Dublin early Monday morning 14 September, it arrived at Stanborough Primary School in time for a special whole school assembly at 10:30 am. The pupils there were enchanted to find a Bible translated into 66 languages (one for each book) and very surprised to discover that it has sold many millions more copies than favourite children's author, J K

Rowling. Bringing faith into their learning they also had colourful displays around the walls with Biblical art work, as well as a display of Bibles in various languages that the children had brought into school.

Dressed in national costumes a number of the children read from the special Bible in their own languages. With enthusiastic singing they then paraded the Bible from their Primary School across to Stanborough Secondary School where it was received by the prefects. It was here that it came to its own. With over forty nationalities represented in the student body, 18 of them had the opportunity to read passages in Chinese, Persian, Portuguese, Swahili and even Pigeon English.



Pastor Des Rafferty, ADC Principal, shared with the Secondary School students how the Bible is a compass in his life and encouraged them to receive the same joy in theirs. After a short photo opportunity it was back to class for the students – then back to the airport for the Bible as it headed for Holland Monday evening, then Greece and the Middle East arriving in Israel the following Sabbath.

IT'S ALL IN THE MUSIC [Catherine Anthony Boldeau]



The South England Conference held its Children's Music Festival at the Hampstead Seventh-day Adventist church last Sunday with over 400 people in attendance. The purpose of the festival was to celebrate the musical abilities of the children and was also an award ceremony for those who had excelled in music over the past year.

The Festival was opened with a theme from Paganini's 24th Caprice superbly performed by the Kumba Youth Music String Orchestra and the newly formed Seventh-day Adventist Children's Strings and was led by the dynamic Pamela Bell, who is the joint leader of Kumba Youth Music. The remainder of the first half of the Festival was a tapestry of classical music, both traditional and contemporary using the works of the great such as Mozart, Morricone, and Karl Jenkins among others.

The second half of the Festival began with a ceremony for the 2009 Dalbert Elias Music Excellence Awards. Twenty-four young people received the award which is in honour of the late Pastor Dalbert

Elias, who was a supporter of Adventist Music and the Arts. The awards were presented by Pastor Don McFarlane, President of the BUC and Pastor Sam Davis, SEC President.



Musical items during the second half were performed by CAN Music Academy under the joint leadership of Donna Kirk-Bernard and Tina Brooks, and individual solo items and pieces performed by the SEC Wind Orchestra. The final rendition was the Festival Fanfare written and conducted by Tina. Commenting on the success of the Festival, SEC Music director Paul Lee said, "It is great to see two outstanding groups of young people working together. From what I saw today, I believe that the future of the church's music is in good hands".

R U IN AT ASI-UK DAY OF FELLOWSHIP [Audrey Balderstone]



The weather was as warm as the welcome which greeted the 130 members, young professionals, students and friends of ASI-UK who gathered at the home of Audrey and David Balderstone near Watford to enjoy a Day of Fellowship. Indeed Sabbath, 12 September was so miraculously hot that some were reduced to the tied hanky headgear more often seen on British beaches!

While the more senior members of the Association worshipped at Stanborough Park church, where ASI Chaplain Pastor Martin Bell preached a thought-provoking sermon incorporating the theme for the day – R U In?, the students and young professionals gathered at the Balderstone home for a morning service, and were challenged by Jimmy Botha, pastor of the Edinburgh and Dunfermline churches.

The two groups joined together for lunch and afterwards the students divided into teams for an 'Apprentice' style task. The aim of the exercise was to portray an up-to-date image of ASI-UK and create new marketing ideas for the Association. Working with great enthusiasm they came back to 'Sir Andrew' Baildam and his four mentors with presentations which demonstrated their flair, creativity and dynamism. It was an almost impossible task to choose between them, but eventually the group "Imagine" were declared the winners.



ASI-UK is investing in young professionals and students and judging by the positive responses to the Day of Fellowship they are on the right track.

It was a happy day in which members and friends were able to enjoy hot sunshine, good food and even better fellowship, rounded off for those who were able to stay by attending a recital by the gifted violinist Victoria Balan at Stanborough Park church. For more information on ASI-UK please visit <www.asi-uk.org>. The next meeting is the AGM weekend at Staverton Conference Centre, 6 - 8 in November 2009, when the featured speakers will be Dejan Stojkovic, Martin Bell, Hans and Herta von Steigel and Angel Duo, President of ASI Europe.

THE WAY OUT - SEPTEMBER BRECON CAMP [John Surridge]

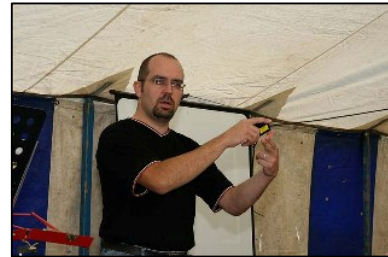


Excellent weather characterised Brecon Camp this September (11-13) - the third camp in a row now to be held in virtually perfect conditions. There was also a good atmosphere, with first time attenders commenting on how friendly and helpful everyone was.

The speaker for this camp was Richard Down, a teacher currently working as head of the Design and Technology department in a small high school in rural Worcestershire. In his series of talks, entitled "The Way Out", Richard spoke on the theme of grace, pointing out that Jesus not only provided a way out for us but also

came back to show us the way.

Despite covering some 'heavy' theological themes - such as perfectionism, righteousness through faith and the perceived conflict between law and grace - Richard used his skills as a teacher and communicator to reduce apparently complex ideas to simple principles. "Perfectionism is a doctrine of hopelessness," he said. "In fact it can lead to the same temptation that Satan used in the Garden of Eden - that of wanting to be exactly like God." Speaking of grace he used the illustration of the woman caught in adultery to show how Jesus managed to find a way out without breaking the law. "This is what grace is all about," he said.



Over the weekend the fifty or so campers, plus a similar number who came to visit at one time or another, got to know Richard and his family a little better. Although they are regulars at the Brecon Camp not many had heard, for example, the story of how Richard and his wife Babi got together. A series of coincidences, including a debilitating injury, a car that needed to be recovered from Hungary, telephones that didn't work, and the need for an interpreter, led to Richard spending a few hours with Babi trying to sort out his various problems. Six months later, following prayer and God's leading, they made contact again and, as Richard said, "the rest is history!"

For many people the best thing about Brecon Camp is meeting other people. Through conversations and shared experiences, new friendships are made and old ones strengthened. Some of the best conversations at this camp took place on the Sabbath afternoon walk up to the triangulation point on the hill which looks out over the camp, and later around the bonfire on the beach by the river. Here the children splashed around in their wellies, grown men competed to see who could saw up logs the quickest (and be bravest in the face of the inevitable injuries), while others discussed the best strategies for staying warm in a tent at night. It was here also that a small group of engineering enthusiasts discovered Richard Down's passion for all things mechanical, particularly diesel engines!



One other memorable moment occurred at around 9:47 pm on the Saturday evening when the International Space Station made a spectacular ascent from the western horizon. In the countryside blackness, which so many never experience, it was literally breathtaking. Although a couple of hundred miles up in the sky the Space Station looked close enough to touch and a voice from the back of the small crowd of viewers called out, "I can see someone waving!"

The Brecon Camp takes place twice a year, in May and September. If you would like to share the experience with us just get in touch with the Camp Director, Pastor Jeremy Tremeer.

More than 90 photos from the camp can be seen on the Welsh Mission website at www.adventistwales.org.

EAST ANGLIA HITS THE STREETS [Claude Lombart/Michael Walker]



The Abbey Estate, a deprived area of Thetford, Norfolk hosted a Community Fun Day last week featuring a number of local agencies that promoted their services and products. Community leaders; the police, politicians, head of housing, councillors and many others mingled with the happy Abbey Estate residents. Seventh-day Adventists hosted one of the most popular events: a free Health check under the leadership of Elsie and Eldon Staple with the help of Nurse

Manager Sue Smith of the Cambridge church and Mike Toy, Area 8 Coordinator. Some sixty participants, young and old had their BMI, blood pressure and bloods taken from 4-7 pm. The team checked all the Community Centre's staff for half an hour after closing time. At a later leadership meeting of the Abbey Estate's tenants and residents, Pastor Lombart who holds membership in the Estate's two community organisations, was asked if the church would return again for next year's Fun Day.

The screening continued in nearby Great Yarmouth on Sunday, 13 September. Pastor Michael Walker states, "This time we more than doubled the intake of any of our previous events. We screened 218 members of the public and made 4 referrals to their GPs. A very successful day." A security guard at the venue, Market Gates shopping centre, moved beyond health to other issues. Pastor Walker enthuses, "he has shown interest in some spiritual aspects and appreciates the gift of a Bible." There were also about 14 requests to attend a Stop Smoking (Breathe Free) programme which the church are now planning for in the near future.



The management at the shopping centre provided the church with a prime location free of charge. The day was run with a team of dedicated volunteers and with the help and support of Elsie Staple. "She has been a gem!" Michael says, "and we were delighted with the public response."

CREATION SABBATH – 24 OCTOBER

www.CreationSabbath.net

Celebrate God as Creator October 24, 2009

British Adventists have a double opportunity for celebration on Sabbath, 24 October. Many churches will be emphasising children in worship that day, but the General Conference Ministerial Association has also suggested that it should be designated "Creation Sabbath". While evolutionists are gearing up again for the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's 'Origin of Species' this autumn, Adventists can see this day as a way of acknowledging God as our Creator and the implications that this biblical teaching has for us. Resources for the day are available from www.CreationSabbath.net with additional information on the BUC Creation website, <http://adventistinfo.org.uk/creation>. Parts of the Darwin Revisited video featured there will be used in churches around the world including a special "Celebration of Creation" at Loma Linda University church. In order to be responsible creationists we have the privilege of

especially featuring the Creator God of the universe in our worship times and as we communicate within our communities.



LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

"The Art of Evangelism" is the lead story in the 25 September edition of the Messenger, the official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. It can now be found online at <www.adventistnews.org.uk/messenger>. Also in this issue, David Marshall looks at The Kingdom dress code, Follow the Bible tackles the Prophets, how to Involve children in mission – and a news roundup from across the British Isles.

NEW ADDRESS FOR PETERBOROUGH PORTUGUESE CHURCH

With immediate effect the Peterborough Portuguese speaking church is meeting at the following address: Westgate Church, 70 Westgate, Peterborough, PE1 1RG. For more information visit the website: <www.iasdpeter.org>.

NO BUC NEWS UNTIL 9 OCTOBER

Due to holidays there will be no BUC News for the next two weeks. Edition #654, no doubt a bumper edition will be published on Friday, 9 October. However, please keep submitting your stories in your normal manner for easy inclusion that week.

THIS WEEK ON THE HOPE CHANNEL



Recognised for her contribution to the voluntary sector, Joan Saddler was awarded an OBE at Buckingham Palace by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second. But how did this working class girl growing up in the immigrant communities of Northern England come to be so involved in community work, the National Health Service, women's, ethnic minority and equality issues – and in her spare time sing with the London Adventist Chorale. She is this week's guest on "In Conversation" on the Hope Channel at the times listed below and on demand at <www.hopetv.org.uk>.

Friday 18 September: 4:30 am and 8:00 pm: [Herta von Stiegel](#)
 Sabbath 19 September: 12:30 am and 3:00 pm: Herta von Stiegel
 Monday 21 September: 3:00 am and 9:00 pm: [Joan Saddler](#)
 Wednesday 23 September: 8:00 am: Joan Saddler
 Friday 25 September: 4:30 am and 8:00 pm: Joan Saddler
 Sabbath 26 September: 12:30 am and 3:00 pm: Joan Saddler

"From the archives" this week on the Hope TV website features [Mary Barrett](#), currently associate pastor of the Stanborough Park church. As a reluctant teenager Mary had a long and gradual journey towards a relationship with God, which has led her to a life of ministry to those around her.



BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and edited by the Communication Department. Victor Hulbert, director; Mary Kapon, secretary. Items for inclusion should be sent to <bucnews@adventist.org.uk> and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, preferably as simple email text. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events and Small Ads should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: <www.adventist.org.uk>. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed by individuals cited in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, though we try to ensure that they do. You are free to re-print any portion of this bulletin without the need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you identify BUC News or other sources whenever you publish these materials. Back issues and an RSS feed including photographs are available on our website at <www.adventist.org.uk>.

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