



Vol. 4
Issue 1
March 2008

- Ⓢ New Year in Taiwan
- Ⓢ Life – the Adventist Way
- Ⓢ Bible Study for Dummies
- Ⓢ A Healthier New You!



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FLASH NEWS
 Pastor Ed Sammons, Welsh Mission sponsor, will be leaving ministry here in the UK for more temperate climes in Santa Barbara, US. We wish him and his wife safe travel and God's richest blessings as they begin their new ministry abroad, and best wishes for the safe arrival of Baby Sammons, due later in the summer!

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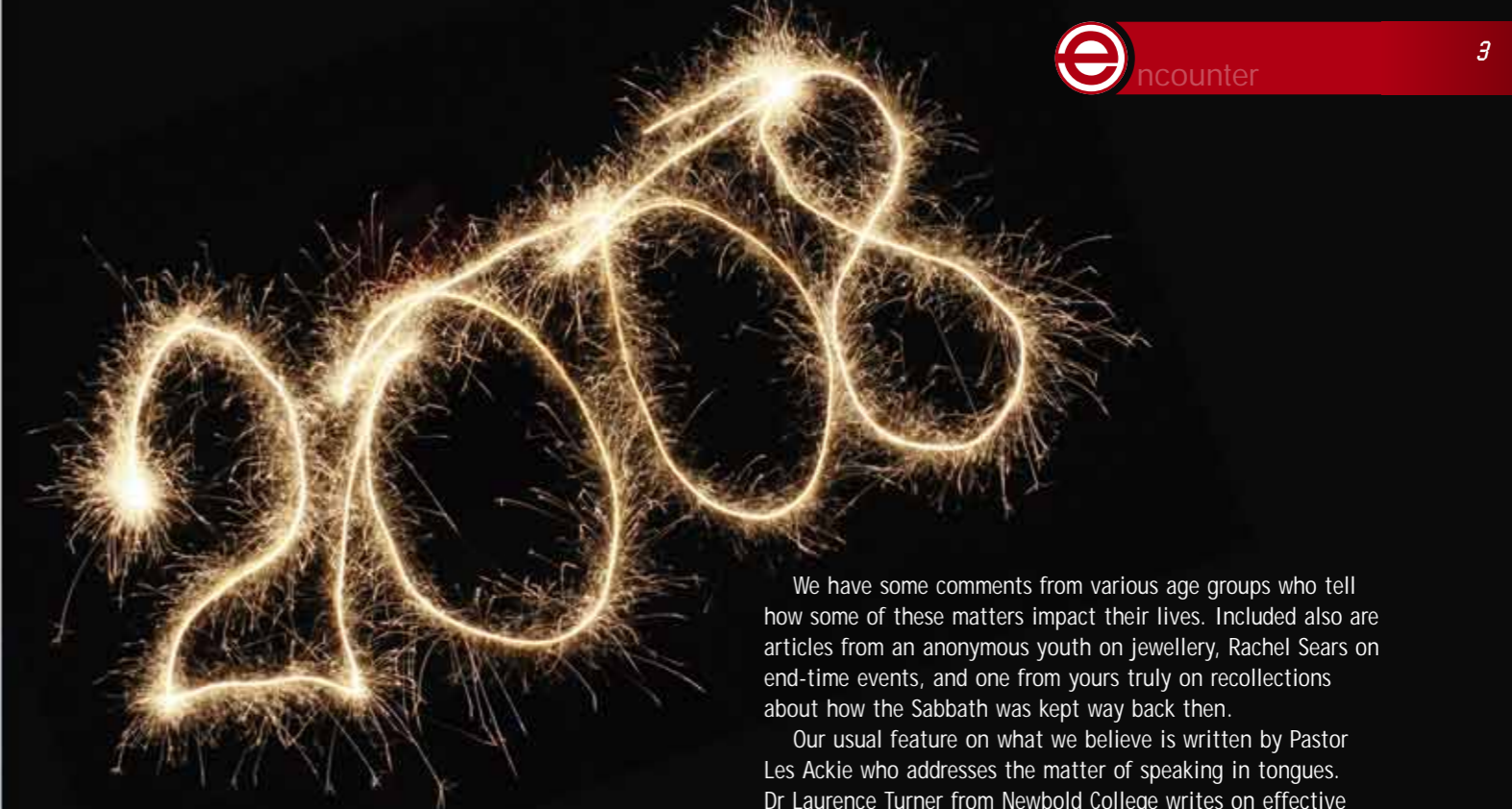
New Adventist Youth Song Book Hiskia Missah, GC Associate Youth director

As the Youth department enters the second century of its history, the General Conference Youth Ministries department accepts the challenge to provide our young people with a new, special Seventh-day Adventist Youth song book to be used worldwide. We encourage Adventist music writer/s as well as composer/s to write and compose songs that will uplift the name of Jesus and His righteousness. We are expecting each World Division Youth department to contribute at least twelve songs from its Division territory.

What songs can be included in the new song book? All the **theme songs** written for the Division/Union/Conference/Mission Youth Congresses, Youth Camporees, and any Youth Activities within the past five years, plus other songs that will inspire young people to be faithful, to be active serving the Lord and to be eagerly waiting for the Second Coming of Christ. We have received some songs already. We really appreciate it, and we are expecting many more to come.

Please send your songs (music and lyrics) to the BUC Youth Department, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ or email: bucyouth@adventist.org.uk, accompanied by the copyrights from the writer/s and composer/s, stating that they grant the General Conference Youth Ministries department permission to print and use their songs worldwide. Please see the Youth page at www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/youth.php to download a copyright form.

Our ambition is to have this song book in the hands of our youth by early 2009. Therefore we would like to receive all the songs on or before 10 APRIL, 2008.



How did you spend New Year's Eve?
 Who would ever have thought that a walk on the oriental streets of the enchanted Taiwanese capital had the potential to produce such a devastatingly earth-shattering experience like 'a trip and fall causing a torn ligament and broken bones in two places?'

Yep! You guessed it! That is what happened to me recently. I visited Taiwan as part of a World Youth and Community Service conference 1-5 January '08. The conference is reported in this issue of ☺.

So, apart from me being laid up for another six to eight weeks, what else is new as this year has begun?

I hope that the New Year holds many new and exciting challenges and hopes for you all. Come on: you must have some plans and ambitions to get some things done, to change others and to progress your life towards your intended goal as well as towards God's plan for your life.

The main feature in this issue is about Adventist lifestyle issues such as Sabbath observance, drinking tea, coffee and other stimulants and last day events and how these issues affect our lives . . . if they do at all!

We have some comments from various age groups who tell how some of these matters impact their lives. Included also are articles from an anonymous youth on jewellery, Rachel Sears on end-time events, and one from yours truly on recollections about how the Sabbath was kept way back then.

Our usual feature on what we believe is written by Pastor Les Ackie who addresses the matter of speaking in tongues. Dr Laurence Turner from Newbold College writes on effective and creative Bible studies for youth. Cathy Boldeau completes her series on the youth club she started, and we have another new feature: a focus on health as it relates to teens and youth written by BUC Health Ministries director, Sharon Platt-McDonald.

Regarding the Taiwan experience, there are several articles from different perspectives; our Division Youth director, Pastor Paul Tompkins, and Pastor Colin Stewart give their recollections and Alycia Hanson and Clarissa Lewis write about the community project in which they both participated in Taipei; they joined together with hundreds of other youth who come from various parts of the world to engage in community services in this fascinating country – Taiwan.

After reading this issue and the special feature on lifestyle, may I encourage you to take this time and opportunity to look at what you do and why you do what you do and allow the Spirit of God to expand your mind as you seek to understand the way it impacts you and your peers.

Feel free to send your comments to us and we can publish some of them . . . of course with your consent.

Happy reading and a blessed New Year to you all!

Des Boldeau



What? Abuse in the Church? Never!

The next edition will be tackling the subject of abuse and its impact on the Church. Abuse can take many forms: physical, mental, emotional and sexual, and it can affect young people of every age, race or gender. It can occur anywhere including at home, at school, at church and these days even online.

Have you been the victim of abuse or perhaps inflicted abuse on another? Were you able to overcome your situation and would you like to share your story? In what ways can the church help and support victims and perpetrators?

You can send in your comments and suggestions to encounter, BUC Youth Department, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ or email bucyouth@adventist.org.uk
 We look forward to hearing from you.

In the next edition

I like to speak in tongues, but my church frowns on it.

Pastor Les Ackie

WHY?

Early in my ministry I attended a seminar on church growth. A guest speaker had been invited to attend from one of the evangelical churches. At the end of the meeting I was asked to pray for the speaker and his ministry. Just as I was about to lay my hand on his shoulder he began speaking in an 'unknown tongue' under his breath.

I felt the hair stand up on the back of my neck. Not only had I never encountered this phenomenon up close before, but coming from a very conservative church, I had always associated speaking in tongues with demonic activity.

I managed to keep my composure and get through the prayer, but I have to admit I was a bit unnerved. That incident left me in a state of confusion because I had been blessed and inspired by the presentations and was sure that the speaker was operating under the power of God until he 'broke out'. Was this the work of God or the devil? I decided to investigate the matter for myself.

Modern-day tongues is known as *glossalalia* which can be defined as 'the vocalising of fluent speech-like but unintelligible utterances.' The word 'tongue' (*glossa*) is used about fifty times in the New Testament. In each instance the word refers either to the physical tongue or a known language. There is no other use of the word *glossa* in the New Testament.

In AD 1611, when the *King James Version* (KJV) was being translated, the word 'tongue' was the common word for 'known language'. We still use phrases like 'mother-tongue' today.

Space does not allow me to quote every reference to the true experience of speaking in tongues found in the New Testament, but such an exercise would clearly demonstrate that it represented the miraculous ability to speak known languages, not previously learned, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is quite obvious from a study of Acts 2 that when the disciples spoke, they were speaking known languages. For example, we read in Acts 2:6-8,

'Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language [dialektos] . . . are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?'

Many who advocate modern-day tongues will readily admit that what took place in the book of Acts bears no resemblance to what they practise today. But they believe that the modern phenomenon of *glossalalia* represents a separate, 'second gift' of the Spirit – a position which has no biblical support.

The strongest arguments for biblical support for modern-day tongues-speaking come out of the book of 1 Corinthians, particularly chapter 14, which uses the phrase 'unknown tongue.'

It is important, however, to appreciate that the first letter to Corinth was a letter of rebuke to address various problems which had arisen within the church. One of those problems concerned the 'misuse' of spiritual gifts. It is apparent that some in Corinth who had the ability to speak a foreign language were imitating the true gift.

In the KJV, the word *unknown* appears in italics. This signifies that the italicised word did not appear in the original manuscripts, but was 'supplied' by the translators in an attempt to clarify



meaning. If we remove the word *unknown* as in the NKJV, we can safely substitute the phrase 'foreign language' without changing the meaning of the text.

In any event, Paul states that understanding is integral to the speaking of tongues. In 1 Corinthians 14:27-28, we read,

'If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.'

The Bible teaches that the gift of tongues is one of the spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are not for the benefit of the one who has the gift but for the benefit of unbelievers. 1 Corinthians 14:22 states,

'Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not.'

The bottom line is that there is no biblical support for the modern-day practice of tongues-speaking. *Glossalalia* is a twentieth century phenomenon which gained popularity at the turn of the last century during the birth of the charismatic movement in America. It has since been taught that *glossalalia* is the evidence of the baptism of the Spirit, that it is to be used in public worship for the edification of the church and that it is to be used in private prayer. However, the Bible makes it clear that not every believer is to speak in tongues.

In 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 Paul states,

'And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?'

The obvious answer is 'no!' Yet advocates of *glossalalia* single out this particular 'gift' as the evidence of the baptism of the Spirit, a position which has no biblical support.

If *glossalalia* is not a biblical practice, where does it come from? Are tongues speakers possessed by evil spirits? For the overwhelming majority of those who practise *glossalalia*, I believe the answer is 'no'. While there is evidence to demonstrate that speaking in tongues is a feature of various forms of occult practice, I believe that *glossalalia* is a learned psychological response which provides those who engage in the practice with a sense of well-being and belonging.

William Samarin, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Toronto, states that '... people are being misled, oftentimes quite earnestly and sincerely, into identifying a purely psychological phenomenon, of which many temperaments are capable, a kind of self-induced hypnosis which results in a repetition of sounds and syllables that have no meaning in themselves.'

Ellen White states, 'Some of these persons have exercises which they call gifts and say that the Lord has placed them in the church. They have an unmeaning gibberish which they call the unknown tongue, which is unknown not only to man but by the Lord and all heaven. Such gifts are manufactured by men and women, aided by the great deceiver.' *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 412.

I believe that those who practise *glossalalia* are placed under great psychological pressure to do so because a failure to do so relegates them to 'second-class Christian' status in the eyes of a community which views speaking in tongues as the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Our church 'frowns' on *glossalalia* because it places undue attention on an unbiblical practice as evidence of divine activity, to the detriment of the development of the fruit of the Spirit, the true evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Core of Adventism Conference

12 - 14 December 2008

What beliefs make Seventh-day Adventists unique and are these views still relevant?

The beliefs and values held by the Adventist Church should really embody what life is all about.

The Core of Adventism programme hopes to clarify the Adventist Church's view on certain key doctrines, at the same time making these messages relevant to the postmodern, secular mind.

Speakers are: A. Ganoune Diop, Global Mission Study Centres director and Troy Fitzgerald (Walla Walla, author of Discipleship series).

To register your interest, please email ndavison@adventist.org.uk

THIS WAY BELIEVE



The Third Annual AYA Strollathon

raised £4,500 for charity. Will you be there in 2008?

by Trevor Davis

On an overcast, unsettled summer's day in July 2007, nearly ninety strollers took to East Park, Wolverhampton, for the third annual Strollathon as part of the Pavilion of Hope Family Fun day. According to the organisers **Advent Youth Aid (AYA)**, the event was the most successful in its three year history. Strollers ranging in age from three to seventy-four years old came from thirteen different churches (and as far afield as Derby) and outside organisations to shed some calories and raise funds for local charities in the process.

The event raised over £4,500 in sponsorship. Founder member and treasurer, Cislyn Morgan, said, 'We were very pleased with the turn-out on the day, given that the inclement weather deterred the vast majority of people who would have been travelling from outside Wolverhampton from attending. To have raised nearly twice as much for our good causes as we have in the two previous events demonstrates that God is in our midst and the event is going from strength to strength. It's great to see our young people and older church members working together to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves.'

Reflecting on the event, Helderberg Jackson (GBK) said, 'This is my first year with the project and it is clear that the Strollathon is going from strength to strength and that the monies we are raising are really helping to make a difference. The funds we donated last year were used to help stock a school library, send a staff team on an international Sickle Cell conference and to provide information packs for another Sickle Cell organisation. I am confident that the record amount we have raised this year will be used to equally good effect by the beneficiaries: The Diana, Princess of Wales Children's Hospital, Oscar Sandwell, Wolverhampton Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support Project and the Pavilion of Hope Youth Project, and I am looking forward to even greater things in 2008.'

AYA's secretary Lorna Harris said, 'I'm in my second year with the organisation, and you can feel the buzz and anticipation around the project. It was very humbling to hear the Deputy Mayor of Wolverhampton, Cllr Christine Mills, speak so glowingly about the project at the awards presentation evening; also to hear from last year's three beneficiaries on how they spent the monies they received, helped to put everything into perspective.'

Commenting on the day as a whole Dr Jacqui Halliday-Bell, AYA committee member, said, 'The Wolverhampton churches were present in good numbers, but it was a shame that more people from outside Wolverhampton didn't attend to help raise even more money for the good causes and to kick-start any get fit intentions they may have been harbouring. We would have liked to see more people benefiting from the expert health and medical advice

that was available which would offer useful pointers for so many.'

In terms of the monies raised, Camp Hill (CH) church beat off their main rivals Kingstanding (Ks) to take the top prize for the church collecting the most sponsorship with a total of £1,220.75,

while GBK with 26 strollers picked up the prize for the church having the most strollers. Trevor Davis (Ks) took the honours for the top individual collector for the third year in succession with £1,017. Marlene Ferguson (Windsor Street) raised a very creditable £277 to finish as

second highest collector at her first attempt, and Elizabeth Harvey and Shernice Chisholm picked up the prizes for the Pathfinder and Adventurer collecting the most with £120.04 and £46.00 respectively.

At 74 years young, Wesley Smith (CH) was the oldest stroller; he and his wife Lucille made light work of the 10km strolling around together. He said, 'I was only too happy to agree to take part when Trevor asked me. My son Neil died a couple of years ago and he was very much one for working with and helping young people. I know

AYA Strollathon 2007: Facts & Figures

Total Amount raised		£4,505.36
Church collecting most	Camp Hill	£1,220.75
Individual collecting the most	Trevor Davis (Ks)	£1,017
Pathfinder collecting the most	Elizabeth Harvey (GBK)	£120.04
Adventurer collecting the most	Shernice Chisholm (CH)	£46.00

AYA Strollathon 2007: Facts & Figures

Number of centurions	(those raising £100 or more)	17
Church with the most participants	GBK	26
Oldest stroller	Wesley Smith (CH)	74
Youngest stroller	Ezekiel Lowe (GBK)	3



ADVENT YOUTH AID
Share the Vision



that if he was alive this is something that he would have supported passionately. So anything I can do to encourage others to take part, I will. This year I finished 3rd in the collectors' league table behind Trevor by some margin but I want him to know that I will be looking to close the gap next year, so he'd better look out.' Ezekiel Lowe (GBK) was the youngest stroller at just three years old.

AYA Strollathon 2008 will be back in Birmingham on 18 May as part of the Pavilion of Hope family fun day. Chairman Trevor Davis said, 'I am really looking forward with great anticipation to Strollathon 2008. Last year we broke the £4,000 barrier and we had seventeen centurions in the process. I am hoping that this year we will go over the £10,000 mark with thirty or more people raising over £100. There is a real feeling of optimism about the project, with the new logo, the awards badges and the introduction of the Club Reward Scheme (CRS) to help Pathfinder clubs with their fundraising, one gets the feeling that this is the year that the whole AYA concept is going to take off. We must remember that the Strollathon is only one aspect of the AYA project: last year we linked up with three of the major supermarkets (Morrisons, Sainsbury's, and Tesco) to introduce the Packathon and this was a tremendous

success in its own right. However the Strollathon is the main event and with the development of the AYA website and the possibility of online registration we are hoping to take it to a new level.

The new CRS initiative means that Pathfinder clubs which register for the event could receive up to 20% of what their club/church collects in sponsorship. We hope that this will provide greater incentive for more clubs to participate. Remember that Strollathon is not just for the young: it's for the whole church, families and friends; the more people you have taking part on behalf of your club, the more funds your club will receive.

So why not come along and join us in Birmingham on 18 May for a great family day out?

Finally, I would just like to extend a warm word of thanks to all those who strolled, sponsored and helped with the organisation of the event for their time and effort, and for giving us the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of others who are less fortunate than ourselves. **Thank you.**

To take part in Strollathon 2008 or for more information contact Lorna Harris (07739840947), Cislyn Morgan (07877286931), Trevor Davis (07989856810) or check www.adventyouthaid.org.uk

Looking back

by Catherine
Anthony
Boldeau



It's over! I went through the whole exercise, the pain and the heartache. What for? For nothing? The multiple meetings with local people and funders; going out at night just to talk to the kids on the street corner to find out what they wanted. Was all that for nothing? Sometimes I think so!

All I can say is that I don't understand the workings of God, but I will continue to trust him. I know that God told me to get involved with the young people in this area and I did what I was told to do. And I would still have been working with the kids, but God told me to do otherwise.

No, I didn't run away from the hate and racism. I certainly detest it with a vengeance and make no apologies for feeling this way. But I didn't run away from it. I actually wanted to confront those teenagers with the truth about foreigners and help educate them to be tolerant and worthwhile individuals in society.

I was willing to stay as long as it took to be with them but I walked away quietly when God told me that it was no longer safe to stay around those young people and that my greatest priority should be my daughter. It was then that I realised that my role was to lay the foundations and like David, 'not to build the temple'.

Compounding the challenge is the fact that, sadly, the local Anglican church leadership is no longer prepared to support the project and allow us to use its facilities. Some of the neighbours and even some staff have brought back negative reports and, as a result, the vicar is not prepared to house the club there.

So, I've stepped back . . . reluctantly, but in the knowledge that God is leading. I miss the kids and am constantly wondering what they are up to. I pray for them regularly. I will watch with interest to see how God works with the young people in our area and who he uses to do it.

There is no shame in trying something new and innovative, whether it lasts for a month or five years. We must always be willing to venture into the 'unknown' with God.

If you are feeling that God is leading and indeed propelling you in a certain direction, don't be afraid or reticent to follow and 'launch out into the deep' with God. Remember, that his plan for our lives is never static. He may want us here today and somewhere else next week or next year. Be prepared to walk – what for us may be uncertain paths – but to him, they are calculated and appointed paths to accomplish his plan and purpose for our lives. So step out with God and dare to try something new and different. Something 'outside the box'.

outside the box

Young, Healthy & Happy

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director

Every day you make choices that affect your health. You decide what and when to eat, which individuals you want as your friends, how you spend your time, the entertainment and leisure you choose and the kind of values you decide are important to frame your life.

Being healthy does not have to be boring! In fact it can be fun and very rewarding if you know how to do it right. Let's see what's involved.

Firstly, health is a combination of physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. Let's examine what it consists of below.

Physical Health

- Involves the total care of your body and completing essential activities of daily life.
- Involves regularly eating a balanced diet and a good intake of healthy fluids.
- Involves physical exercise and keeping your body fit.
- Includes applying the knowledge and practising good habits in grooming.

Spiritual Health

- Nurturing your faith by daily Bible study and prayer.
- Accepting Jesus as a life-long friend.
- Sharing your faith with others.

Emotional Health

- Accepting yourself and liking who you are.
- Involves expressing your emotions in a healthy way.
- Includes facing life's challenges, dealing with its pressures and handling problems and stress appropriately.

Social Health

- Involves getting along with others.
- Includes working well in a group setting.
- Knowing how to make friends and maintain friendships.
- Understanding and accepting appropriate levels of giving and receiving support when it is needed.

Achieving good nutrition is about making good food choices and sticking to them. Choosing to eat healthily enhances general health, helps you to look good, feel great and perform at your best.

What makes a good diet?

- The greater portion of your food should come from starches which includes whole grain bread, cereal, rice and pasta.
- Next should be a generous daily intake of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- The next portion should be your proteins taken in modest amounts, coming from pulses, beans, nuts, seeds, meat alternatives and low-fat dairy products (if you include dairy in your diet) or use tofu or soya products instead.
- The smallest food portions should come from vegetable fats and oils. These should be used sparingly.

A healthy daily balance of the above foods provides the energy and nourishment you need to survive and to enjoy life. Eating too little, too much or the wrong balance of foods can lead to health problems and poor weight management.

Watching your weight

There are some key tips for keeping weight under control:

- **Eat breakfast** – Classified as the most important meal of the day, breakfast is explicit by its name. It breaks the body's fast after sleeping through the night for eight or more hours. Breakfast gives a good start for the day as it boosts energy and gives the brain the nutrition needed for a good day's work or study. Also if you eat in the morning, it's likely that you won't be tempted to snack before lunch or overeat at lunchtime.
- **Eat meals in an unhurried and relaxed atmosphere** – Eating 'on the run' or in a hurried fashion is not only unhealthy, it can make you gain weight as food is not digested properly. Mealtimes should be at least twenty minutes to aid digestion.

Nutrition tips

- Choose brown bread with extra grains.
- Try mixing yoghurt with muesli or chopped fruit for breakfast or lunch dishes.
- Use more raw vegetables such as shredded carrots, cabbage, tomatoes and celery pieces, topped with olive oil and lemon juice.

Quick delicious recipes

- **Sausage and vegetable kebabs** Alternate small chunks of tofu or soya sausage with different vegetables, such as chunks of corn on the cob, red onion, big pieces of red, yellow and green pepper.
- **Fruit skewers or fruit kebabs** Use various pieces of fruit like pineapple, mango, cherries, apple and strawberry and drizzle with fruit puree or fruit sauce.

Physical appearance

Posture – This refers to the way you carry yourself and has many benefits.

Good posture is important for the following reasons:

- Helps your bones and muscles grow properly.
- Allows your internal organs to function adequately.
- Helps you move, stand and sit comfortably and with ease.
- Helps you conserve energy because you move more easily.
- Enhances your figure, body build and appearance.

Here is one exercise to maintain a good posture and encourage healthy joints:

- Stand with your back against a wall or door. Ensure your head, buttocks and heels are touching the wall. Stretch your hands above your head so that they rest against the wall. Next, push up off your toes raising your heels off the floor. Repeat these actions several times. This exercise is good for improving your balance and muscle co-ordination. This can be done on a daily basis.

- **Chew well** – Observing the previous tip will ensure that you chew each mouthful adequately, allowing the saliva to mix with the food to begin the digestive process. This will also prevent your swallowing large chunks as the food will have been chewed completely.
- **Avoid high-sugar foods** – Highly sugared foods do not usually provide many nutrients. They give you an initial high as blood sugar spikes, then quickly drops and in a short time leaves you feeling hungry again. This leaves a craving for more snacks and sugary foods.
- **Drink plenty of water** – Drinking water will help give a feeling of fullness. It also aids digestion and, best of all, it has no calories!

Exercise facts

- Research has shown that when people exercise by walking, they walk 30% longer if they walk to music.
- Tip** – Why not choose your favourite music to exercise to? You may find that you are enjoying the music so much that it enables you to keep the exercise going that bit longer.

Emotional wellness

Life can be challenging at times. Sometimes it can be hard to have a positive view on the world, especially if things have been hard to cope with. Learning new skills and improving on things you are already good at can be really positive ways of helping yourself to feel confident and happier.

Although it sounds really simple, getting enough sleep, healthy food and exercise can help you to feel more able to tackle the problem that may be worrying you.

One in ten teenagers finds that their emotions can become so confusing and complicated that they find them hard to handle. At such times it is always good to get extra help from someone else or seek professional assistance.

If there's someone you trust, talk with them and see if they can help you understand what is going on in your life and how you can make positive changes.

Realising that Jesus is always there for you gives comfort and peace of mind and enables you to overcome all of life's challenges.

Embracing the above tips will ensure good health in all aspects of your life.

Here's to a wholesome, happy and healthy 2008!





Courage to Stand

2009 International Camporee
August 11-15, 2009 • Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA

We can't wait to see you at the Courage to Stand International Camporee!

Soon Oshkosh, Wisconsin will be filled with Pathfinders from all over North America and the world. Plan now to join over 30,000 Pathfinders from over 100 countries for the largest five-day Adventist Youth Event in the world. It will be an exciting time of fun, with a variety of activities, events and ministry opportunities. Just think of all the new friends you will meet as you experience life-changing, Christ-centered programming!

Each night, you will be inspired by a continuing story from the life of Esther. This compelling presentation will impact your life as you relive Esther's choices and see how her faith gave her the courage to stand.

Parents, grandparents, youth leaders, pastors and friends, we encourage you to allow Jesus to touch your child, teen or Pathfinder Club in a powerful and personal way. Give them the spiritual memory of a life time!

New in '09:

- ▶ More Activities and Honors
- ▶ More Showers and Port-o-lets
- ▶ Registration & Complete Info Online!

Evening Programs:

- ▶ Inspiring Musical Presentations
- ▶ Powerful Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- ▶ Nightly Presentation of Queen Esther's Story

Participant Limits:

- ▶ North America 27,000
- ▶ International 2,000
- ▶ Day Passes 2,000
- ▶ Staff Children 2,000
- ▶ Full-time Camporee Volunteer Staff 1,000

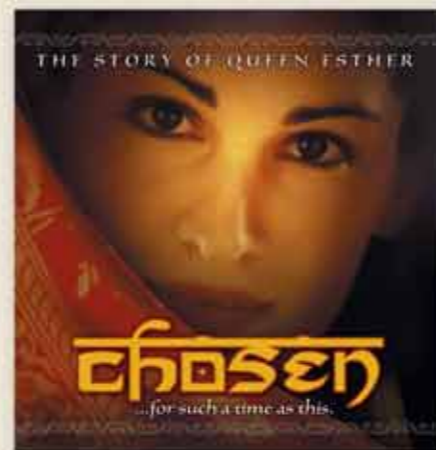
Prices:

\$165 US (or \$185⁺) non-refundable Ages 9 and older¹
\$65 US (or \$85⁺) non-refundable Ages 5-8 Staff Children²
Free: Ages 0-4¹ (no patch)

¹Late fee on or after March 1, 2009

²Age at time of Camporee. Fee includes the Camporee Souvenir Patch.

The first 2,500 Pathfinders who register before April 1, 2008 will receive a souvenir lapel pin!



Website: www.camporee.org Phone: 269-471-8380 Fax: 269-471-8355



Did you know . . . The main island of Taiwan is similar in shape to a sweet potato, and so some of the Taiwanese call themselves 'Children of the Sweet Potato'.



Did you know . . . A company in Taiwan makes dinnerware out of wheat, so you can literally eat your plate!

At the Civic Centre in Taipei, the capital city of Taiwan, 1,500 young people and their Youth leaders convened at the 2nd World Conference on Youth and Community Services organised by the Youth department of the General Conference. The night before and eight hours ahead of the UK, Taipei celebrated the birth of 2008 when at the 101 Tower, the tallest building in the world, a myriad of fireworks were released into the cold night creating a shimmering display of the colours of the rainbow against the backdrop of the darkened sky.

As a prelude to the opening ceremony and almost as if it had been planned, most of us were privileged to witness a colourful, cultural, musical presentation put on by the civic council in Taipei in celebration of the New Year.

After the usual greetings from civic and GC leaders, the conference centre exploded into melodic singing as the 'Golden Angels', directed by the Northern Asia Pacific Division Youth director, Pastor Joshua Shin, led the delegates in powerful praise to God. A fitting start as youth, representing all the areas of the world Church, gathered to learn, to gain new insights, to be inspired, challenged and empowered by God.

Our own Trans-European Division Youth Ministries director, Pastor Paul Tompkins, presented a plenary session, 'Challenges Facing Youth Today', as well as a workshop on Youth and Culture. They were both well received by all present.

Prior to the conference, some 350 young people from across the world, including Alycia Hanson and Clarissa Lewis from the UK, participated in several community projects, ranging from cleaning up communities, building and school projects to teaching and Bible studies. Alycia remarked on what 'an amazing, cultural experience it was working alongside people in the schools and community'. Their particular assignment included teaching English in a community school. 'I learned a lot from them as well as them from me, in a warm and friendly environment,' she stated.

The evening programmes showed reports from the individual Divisions, highlighting what young people are doing to progress the work of the Adventist Church and the youth motto of 'The Advent Message to All the World in Our Generation'.



IMPACT Taiwan

Des Boildeau



Going away to a far country to teach English within a culture we had never experienced before had never really been on the agenda for 2007. We were rather anxious but also excited to see why God had presented this opportunity in our lives. The way God had moved mountains for us had already been a great testimony and we were looking forward to what was to come!

We didn't know quite what to expect, and on the first day at our first school, you could tell both English speakers and Taiwanese student volunteers were novices. However, from the outset we were given a very warm welcome; the children were well behaved, excited and eager to learn.

The Taipei county schools we went to have very limited opportunities to speak to native English speakers, so the students seized this opportunity with both hands and, remembering as much English as they could, used all the vocabulary they had learnt previously!

They enjoyed the songs we taught them to help them retain their new English vocabulary, including 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes' and 'Father Abraham' which was particularly popular.

Each one of the schools we taught at was very keen to showcase their school's specialist activities and talents. We learnt the art of tea-making, tie-dyeing, and how to make garden windmills and sky lanterns. We were also treated to a performance of indoor kite flying, drumming and a recorder ensemble which were all performed to a very high standard.

The principal of each school and also the Chief of Education for Taiwan were so delighted and impressed that young people from all over the world would volunteer to help out and teach like this that they welcomed us back anytime. They were also intrigued that we were from a religious denomination and will hopefully now always associate the name Seventh-day Adventist with kind and caring people. Although we were not preaching or doing some major evangelistic campaign, we believe that we truly reached their hearts by loving, caring and serving, which also was the theme of the conference that was to follow.



Over 1,500 young people from different world divisions were each represented by their Youth Division director, including Baraka Muganda (World Youth director) and Jonathan Tejel (World Pathfinder director). All met from 1 January 2008 at the government building in central Taipei. The Golden Angels (Korean Music Ministry) led out in uplifting praise and worship throughout the conference, with many delegates from around the world, including ourselves, taking part in international prayers, testimonies and music ministry. The first sermon from the main speaker for the conference session, Pastor Furman Fordham II, encouraged us to return to our first love. He said that our ability to love humanity is dependent on our love relationship with Christ. In a devotional by Dr Leslie Pollard, vice-president for Diversity at Loma Linda, we learnt and pledged to '... allow God to handle the enemy while I concentrate on the *inner me*' which will enable us to prepare for the coming revolution in witness, worship and fellowship amongst the youth. Paul Tompkins, TED Youth director advised us to get on and stay on the Gospel pitch for Christ, with active faith, working to save souls for Christ. We met so many people and made many friends. The seminars were informative and beneficial with such topics as 'Carry your own weather' in which we were encouraged to 'Pause, think, then choose our attitude or response', and 'Sharing Christ Joyfully', where we were encouraged to give our own experience and relationship with Christ, because 'If

you haven't been touched by Christ, how can you touch others?' 'The Elijah Project' by Mark Finley encouraged us to follow a seven-step guideline to help us discover our spiritual gifts.

We gained a remarkable blessing and would encourage ALL youth to try to make it to the next World Youth Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2013. It's quite a while away, so you have plenty of time to save up! But there will be many similar projects and conferences that you can attend between now and then. We will be keeping an eye out ourselves! Not only do you get to learn how to be a more effective witness and true disciple of Christ by using your talents and gifts to spread the Gospel, but also you have lots of fun, learning about other youth cultures around the world.

We came with our intention to 'Impact Taiwan!' and we did, just as the theme of the whole conference stated to 'Love, Care and Serve'.

Did you know . . . Taiwan is considered to be one of the world's most densely populated places with a population of over 21 million.

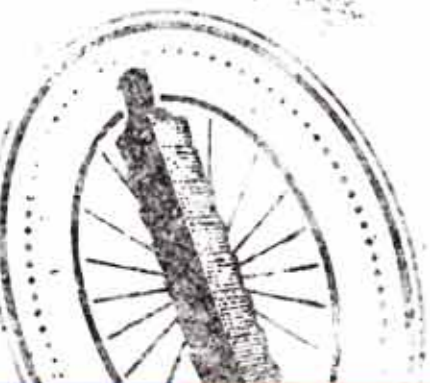
Did you know . . . Scuffles often break out over bills in the self-ruled island's sharply divided parliament, where opposition parties hold a slim majority. In 2007, dozens of legislators threw shoes and pulled ties over a similar bill, and in the past they have also hurled lunchboxes and microphones at each other.



Hopefully we will see you all in Cape Town in 2013, God willing.

再见
Zai jian
(Goodbye)

God bless,
Alycia & Clarissa,
Manchester
(North England
Conference)



IMPACT Taiwan

Alycia Hanson and Clarissa Lewis



IMPACT Taiwan



Could you place Taiwan on a map? I had a general idea that it was in the Far East and situated somewhere in the region of China, Korea and Thailand and was in the area of the world the Church identifies as the 10/40 window. So far so good. But now for your starter for 10: Can you name the capital city?

For the record, Taiwan is part of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division of the Church (NSD) and comes under the Chinese Union Mission. The capital of Taiwan is Taipei and throughout the country we have approximately 50 churches and 5,000 members out of a population of over 22 million inhabitants.

Thanks to the 2nd World Conference on Youth and Community Service (the 1st was held in Thailand), we now know a little more about the country than merely the bare facts or that many of our electrical goods were probably 'Made in Taiwan'! More importantly the inhabitants of the capital, Taipei, have met many Adventist Youth.

The world Youth director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Baraka Muganda, and his two associates – Hiskia Missah and Jonatan Tejel – had planned long and hard for the whole event which, in addition to celebrating 100 years of Adventist Youth Ministry, also met the three most important needs of Christian youth today; warm fellowship, spiritual refreshing and an opportunity for service.

There were two sections to the Conference. First there were many Community Service projects that took place over the Christmas period of 2007 in which Alycia and Clarissa from the UK took part. These were street level community projects that showed practical Christianity in action. Those who took part really made an impact – which is the slogan of the world community and youth programmes. They were followed by a Conference in Taipei from 1-5 January 2008 which 1,500 delegates attended from all of the world divisions of the Church. The Conference re-affirmed the twin goals of Adventist youth ministry – Salvation and Service.

These are indeed inspiring occasions. At the Conference presentations and reports were heard from the thirteen world divisions with also informative plenary sessions and many fine workshops on a variety of related topics taking place. The music and cultural performances were excellent and the evening and morning worship periods inspiring. Hearing the packed hall resound to the theme song and the convention favourite 'The Holy Highway' was an experience that will long remain in our memories.

The Conference closed with information about the next WCYCS convention – it is being planned for Cape Town, South Africa, in the summer of 2013. I'm sure that many others will also plan to be there at this time as the impact of Adventist Youth, both serving the community and living out their faith, continues.

Did you know . . . Taiwan is surrounded by water on all sides. It is located at a distance of almost 100 miles from the south-eastern coastal region of the mainland of China.



Did you know . . . Mandarin Chinese is the national language in Taiwan, but many people also speak English.

AVS Incoming/Outgoing

Ana Delcasale Damasceno	Assistant Girls' Dean	Stanborough School
Sarah Gwynne	Youth Worker	St Austell, Cornwall
Sallee Jane Rijavec	Youth Worker	St Austell, Cornwall
Silje Møller	Youth Worker	St Austell, Cornwall
Amanda Jardine	Teacher's Assistant	Stanborough Primary School
Anita Kelman	Marketing/Design/Comms	Newbold College
Vanessa Pizzuto	Librarian	Stanborough School
Matt Robertson	Chaplain, Group Leader	Stanborough School
Dragos Suciu	Asst Boys' Dean	Stanborough School
Berhanu Tsehaye	Pastoral Assistant	Central London church

Tamara Anderson	ESL Teacher	Mexico
Fabrice Baker-Livingstone	English-Religion Teacher	Korea
Jeremy Brooks	Youth Pastor	USA
Liam Cartledge	Teacher	Palau, Micronesia
Nixon De Vera	AVS Pastor	Japan
Orlene Dunkley	English-Religion Teacher	Korea
John Dust	English-Religion Teacher	Korea
Leana Edwards	Admin Assistant – ADRA	Burkina Faso
Maria Joensen	Assist Dean, Penang Adventist Hospital	Malaysia
Kelvin Sawyer & Family	Maintenance – Construction	Zambia/Malawi
Rachel Sears	ESL Teacher	Japan
Merika Tuononen	ESL Teacher	Thailand
Sacha Gillin	ESL Teacher	Korea
Richard Harrison	ESL Teacher	Korea
Jasmine Frater	ESL Teacher	Japan
Manny Nelson	Asst Youth Pastor	New Zealand

INCOMING

OUTGOING



Volunteers are signing up every week and here are some who are currently serving at home and abroad. Your prayers for them would be very much appreciated! If you would like to find out more about volunteering and the positions and locations available, check out www.adventistvolunteers.org You'll need to be over 18 with a sense of adventure and mission!

Newbold College offers group accommodation in Moor Close. Bunk bed rooms plus a leader's room are available for rent.

Cost is £10 per person per night for bed and breakfast. Additional meals can be bought at the college cafeteria.

Perfect for youth and school groups, or church retreats. Newbold College has various other facilities to meet your needs.

Contact:
Kay Choudary
Email kchoudary@newbold.ac.uk
Phone +44 1344 407581

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Binfield, Bracknell, Berks
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England, United Kingdom

GROUP ACCOMMODATION

NEWBOLD



IMPACT Taiwan

Paul Tompkins



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Having grown in the church for the past 30+ years and watched the generation above me sacredly and piously adhere to what for them was 'the only way' to keep the Sabbath holy, I sit back now and wonder to myself, what is the Sabbath really about? Is the way we observe the Sabbath actually the correct way? Is there a right and wrong way to 'keep the Sabbath holy'? How much of our religious observance of the Sabbath is actually cultural and how much is biblical, and can the two be separated?

As a youth just coming to know about Christ and growing up in my church, I was encouraged to follow a certain way of adhering to Sabbath observance. In my innocence, I never dreamt that any of what my youth leaders and all the church at large was saying could ever be wrong, nor would I have thought to question it.

When we read the account of the end of creation week at a surface level, we read of a God who ended his work and, in the interest of the people he had created, took the initiative to create a day for special time to be in fellowship and worship with God, their Creator. This day is the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Sabbath literally means a time to stop work, cease activities and abstain from the kind of activities that could distract from our focus on the power and presence of God.

However, as we travel down through the pages of the Bible, we find that the church leaders were placing their interpretation upon the 'how to' observe the Sabbath. So much so that by the time the New Testament period opened, the various schools of interpretation were diverse and people were being told what was acceptable and what was not acceptable to do on the Sabbath. Maybe this is an inevitable consequence of mankind trying to make sense of what God had in mind for his children. Certainly, interpreting and explaining Scriptures has always been seen as part of the role of the Church and its leaders. However, today I am not sure that the issue of Sabbath observance is one that you guys understand, much less know how to practise.

How was I culturalised to keep the Sabbath?

Well, I remember how I was told that on Thursday we should begin to prepare for Sabbath by getting the house ready. Then, by doing the shopping for the weekend. All the clothes and shoes would be made ready for Sabbath. Come Friday we would put the finishing touches to our preparation for the Sabbath, even to the extent of having our baths!

I recall coming from work on Friday, having asked to leave work before the sun set. Some would take the Friday afternoon off from work in order to get home in time to 'welcome' the Sabbath. Upon arrival at home, generally, we would be ready to begin the Sabbath by worshipping. We would sing (I would play my guitar) and pray and read the Scriptures. Sometimes we would play Bible character games or musical 'name that tune'. After that, we would have our evening meal, which was for us as adults a special meal, but was not necessarily so for our children (I learnt this in retrospect).

There were times when as a family we did some activities which

most at that time would have considered to be very 'unsabbatical'. We would play games like hide and seek or pillow fights and so on. Sometimes we would have friends and the young people round for study and discussion activities.

On Sabbath morning we would go to church and become enmeshed in unstoppable activities. We would return home for lunch and hurry back to church for AY or JAY for the kids. After the intense activities of AY followed by choir practice, I would once again return home to change, grab a bite and return for youth club which would last till about 11pm. By the time I returned home with my wife and three children, we would all be exhausted and fit for nothing but sleep.

Looking back on my life, I find myself wondering where the 'rest' of the Sabbath went! I feel that I missed out on the experience of being in an intimate relationship in the presence of Christ – the Lord of the Sabbath. I think that I had been culturalised to replace the 'rest' which is promised to those who observe the Sabbath with a round of unceasing activity. The busier I was, the more I felt that I was 'entering into the rest of the Sabbath' or, at worst, this was what real Sabbath keeping was about.

To you guys reading this, can I dare to suggest that you learn to look for the Lord of the Sabbath in your worship and in your desire to 'keep the Sabbath holy'?

It's time to redefine what we refer to as Sabbath-keeping and peel off the layers that religion has created around it, so that we can experience the real joy of knowing and fellowshiping with our Lord.

The problem with rediscovering something is that it can make others feel displaced and uncomfortable with the new, not because it is necessarily wrong, but because it is outside of the norm and comfort zones.

There is a revival coming to our world. It is revival of godliness. This I believe will happen when people begin to experience the power and presence of God in worship, life and in the inner sanctuary. This must be so for YOU.

Many of us older ones will be moving off the stage of action shortly, but for you guys coming behind, I appeal to you to take time to *know* the Saviour, not just knowledge about who he is but, more importantly, to know him as God, Saviour, Friend and his promise of a soon return.

Take time to contemplate and reflect on Scriptures, because the real purpose of Scripture is to bring you and me into the presence of God. When and only when that happens, we can truly be satisfied to know the purpose of the Sabbath – that is to bring us into intimate relationship with the Master. I sometimes wonder if after coming to know the Master in such an intimate way, will 'Sabbath observance' really continue to be an issue? Think about these things and search for the answers for yourself.

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In search of true Sabbath observance

The Genesis Seminars

A series of interactive workshops for young people will be available from early spring this year. These workshops promise to stimulate thinking and to assist young people to investigate how black culture, history and individualism inform the quality of their lives. Participants will also investigate myths and truths surrounding urban youth while being challenged to frustrate the power of limited perceptions in the march towards living the 'abundant life'. The workshops have a strong practical element where attendees will embark on a 'contract to change' process that is aimed at facilitating practically informed and effective steps towards relationships, studies, exams, career planning, health and spirituality. The workshops are developed by Christian sociologist and educationalist, Val Bernard.

Workshop one • Sunday 30 March • 'The caged bird sings'

Workshop two • Sunday 13 April • 'Who do they say that you are?'

Workshop three • Sunday 27 April • 'And God said'

Workshop four • Sunday 18 May • 'I can fly'

- All workshops will take place at the London Advent Centre, 10.30am -1.30pm
- These workshops are for youth and young adults only.
- Costs are a subsidised rate of £10 per session.

For further details and to book your place at the seminars, please email: vbernard@newbold.ac.uk or call: 01344-407-468. ndavison@adventist.org.uk or call 01923 672251.

These workshops are a collaborative venture between the BUC (Youth and Health departments) and Newbold College.



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You know, one thing that really used to make me laugh was the sound of elderly church members proclaiming that 'this world will soon cease'. 'You guys are mad,' I used to say. 'Evil has always existed, What makes you think that things are worse now?' But after my many years of spiritual blindness I finally advocate the belief. In fact, it was the events leading up to the second coming of Christ that drew me back from a half-hearted relationship with Christ.

I was studying the book of Daniel, and the prophecies just enlightened me and reaffirmed the authenticity of the Bible as God's Word. Every minute detail of the great image that Daniel saw has been revealed and history confirms it. We are now living in the divided kingdoms, which in the vision were represented by ten toes. The very last part of that image is God's kingdom that shatters the previous kingdoms and fills the Earth. If all the other aspects of this astounding vision have already come true, does it make any logical sense to doubt that Jesus is coming soon?

Even the very union that God blessed is now in total disarray. Matthew 24:37-38, says that in the last days conditions would be the same as in Noah's day. And so it is – we live in a society where divorce is just as common as flossing one's teeth. There are constant incidents of separation, child beating,

wife beating, incest and rebellion against parents. Another sign of the end time is the church apostasy. I am constantly appalled at the number of 'churches' that conduct their own beer festivals, gambling halls and charge people money to get their sins forgiven. They say that nothing in life is free but that's a lie: salvation is. These so-called leaders even erase biblical standards of holiness and Christian character and deem it acceptable for gay couples to get married in God's house. It's now fashionable to be a Christian who is no different from the world. But doesn't Revelation 18:4 say to 'Come out of her my people'? Consequently, we are supposed to separate ourselves from Babylon and strive to be more like the true church which is depicted in Revelation 12.

But even though we shouldn't be a part of the world, we shouldn't desensitise ourselves to its pain and struggles. The media constantly reminds us of how the human race is rapidly nearing self-destruction. Numerous innocent lives are being subjected to war, and even the governmental leaders plot to kill masses of their own nation. 9/11 was not just a terrorist attack, it is yet another overt sign that Jesus is coming soon. We are rapidly running out of gas and oil and

many conspiracy theories argue that oil was the main motive of 9/11. Every nation wants to have all the natural resources, the wealth and power and this desire for total dictatorship is now more apparent than ever. Just recently we saw the introduction of the Euro and there are talks of the Amero, which will potentially be the new currency for America, Mexico and Canada. The devil wants a One World Government, a One World Religion and a One World Ruler and he is constantly striving to attain it.

But for me one of the most amazing things about God is the freedom of choice that he gives us. That's why he lets the devil run riot, because he loves us and he doesn't want to force us into a relationship with him. But the devil is the total opposite: he wants to have total control over us. Hence the reason we hear scary rumours of the developing medical and scientific capability to control our minds with implanted microchips. Man's knowledge has increased so much that he disregards the Giver of knowledge and seeks to usurp his position as Creator, by adding additional inventions to the human body.

So as Christians why do we 'slay' our family and friends, by not telling them

about Jesus's soon coming and the salvation he offers? That's essentially what we are doing. Imagine when Jesus comes and your loved one says to you: 'Why didn't you tell me? You could have saved my life.' And why as youth are we investing all our time and energy in the things of this world? We live in a world where it is honourable and admired if we pursue a higher education and attain numerous certificates. But where in the Bible does it say that man shall enter Heaven with a BA or MSc?

I'm not saying that we shouldn't strive for excellence, but I am saying that if these things are not going to help us glorify God and spread his imminent return then they are not worth any of our resources. Satan gloats when he realises that we are spending more time studying academic material and less time studying the Bible. Friends, I am begging you, please don't make the countless mistakes that I have. Let's strive to get our priorities right. These innumerable end-time signs tell us that our Lord and Saviour is coming soon. It's not a myth, a joke or an elderly fixation, it's real. Please, please realise that and let's do whatever we can today to ensure that our hands remain clean.

Guilty of Murder?

Rachel Sears

My Journey With Jewellery

Anonymous

When I started my research for this article about Seventh-day Adventism and jewellery I thought: OK, this is pretty straight forward. We believe that the wearing of jewellery does not harmonise with what Adventists believe.

So I sat in front of my computer and opened a blank word document, and sat . . . thinking.

I reflected back to my childhood. I was taught that wearing jewellery was identifying me with the world, and that I was to be different, not 'of the world'. I remembered going to state school and most of my friends had their ears pierced, they wore rope chains, charm bracelets, sovereign rings, and I was noticeably different. Many of my friends asked, 'Why don't you have your ears pierced?' My answer at the time was, 'Well, I am not allowed; it's part of my religion.' During the early nineties they wore African medallions, red, gold and green bangles. During my late teens and early twenties, I attended an Adventist college,

where, in the code of conduct book, the wearing of any form of jewellery was not permitted and was punishable with a \$25 fine.

I opened up my Internet Explorer and googled: Jewellery and Seventh-day Adventism. It came back with almost 200,000 references. There was the *Adventist Review* who ran an excerpt from a book by Angel Rodriguez called *Adventism and Jewellery*; a discussion page on HI5, the topic being: 'Is jewellery a big debate in Adventist Churches?' Seventh-day Adventists do not enjoy church; the BBC website, and on and on it went.

The Internet is a source of so much information, but surely my only point of reference should be the Bible!

There are many texts in the Old Testament where jewellery is mentioned. For example, Gen. 24 makes reference to Rebekah being given a golden earring and two bracelets as a sign of favour. In Isaiah 61:10, he likened God clothing him in salvation and covering him with the robe of righteousness 'as

a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with jewels.' The children of Israel wore jewellery which was used to help build the tabernacle (Ex. 35). So what was the problem? The children of Israel did it, Rebekah the wife of Isaac wore it, and they still received the blessings of God.

I then came across Isa. 23:16 where God's displeasure with the daughters of Zion is apparent: 'Moreover the Lord saith, because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet'. In 1 Peter 3:3, 4 concerning husbands and wives he says, 'Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair and of wearing of gold, or putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart.' Or 1Tim 2:9 where it urges women to be modest in appearance, '... not with braided hair or gold, or pearls, or costly array'.

In Revelation, John describes the woman in chapter 12,

who represents the Church, and the woman in chapter 17 who represents the apostate church.

I sat at the computer and deliberated. I am a woman who was raised and educated in Adventism. I have my ears pierced and wear other forms of jewellery. I had to question myself. Do I just want to justify the wearing of jewellery or do I want to be led by God.

To me it is quite simple: what do I value? Will my silver and gold be a reason for me not entering the kingdom or does it go so much deeper than that? Isn't it about what's on the inside? Am I too busy looking good on the outside and not working on what is inside?

As Adventists in the twenty-first century, shouldn't we be looking at what really will prevent us from making it home? Let us have our intimate, personal, special, two-way relationship with God. Ask God to work on the things that hinder us – all of them. I am on that journey – what about you?



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The Importance of an Adventist Lifestyle

Thoughts on Health

In the past, Adventists have been recognised as having better health and living up to seven years longer than the average person. This could be attributed to the vegetarian lifestyle encouraged by the Church and the values supported such as abstinence from drugs, alcohol and sex before marriage. The better health which Adventists have traditionally enjoyed, however, may be on the way out due to the excessive consumption of foods such as McDonalds and other known 'hazardous to health' foods.

Health principles, such as getting plenty of water and exercise, may not have needed to be mentioned in past years when that sort of thing may have been mandatory for the average person's job, but nowadays it's important to set aside sufficient time each week. • **Anonymous, age 16**

Thoughts on End-time Beliefs

First we can conclude: God does not lie. This is great as I am positive one would have doubts believing in a God who in his law (commandments) states, 'Thou shalt not lie.'

In the Bible, through Daniel 2 and Revelation 17, God uses dreams and prophecies to illustrate events, for example the image of Nebuchadnezzar. History tells us we have passed great kingdoms such as Babylon and the Roman Empire. Now we have arrived at the feet (Europe). Through these end-time beliefs mentioned in the Bible we are able to prepare ourselves for the catastrophic trials that will change our world and test our faith in him. From God giving us a preview of these things through his Word, we can also conclude he is merciful and fair as he is providing us a chance to meet these challenges and overcome them with his help. • **Joshua Roberts, age 15**

God does not lie, which is brilliant because I am certain that any person would have trouble believing in a God who goes against his own rules. In the Ten Commandments it says: 'Thou shalt not lie.' So because we know he doesn't lie, we know that the prophecies will come true, so we have to prepare. We must prepare for everything that will happen, not just what we want. We also need to be prepared for it to happen at any time . . . **we must prepare.** • **Michael Burgess, age 13**

Collegiate Sabbath School class, Stanborough Park church

At the last autumn council, the GC voted to ask churches not to serve meat, tea or coffee in their churches anymore. What are your thoughts about this and what should our response be in light of the health message the Church has?

As a vegetarian and someone who doesn't drink a lot of coffee or tea I feel that this may make Seventh-day Adventists seem very exclusive and very closed-minded to unchurched people who are visiting our churches. This exclusivity may make it harder for us to evangelise to the people. We need to be more open-minded – we can uphold our beliefs while not forcing them on others straight away which this ruling would be doing. • **Daniel Sabatier**

What would you say is the relevance of Ellen White's writings today?

I believe that she was inspired by the Holy Spirit. But that doesn't mean all her writings were inspired.

Some were meant only for her time and were her opinions. But a lot is relevant for today and supports the Bible's teachings. • **Daniel Smith**

What would you say is the relevance of the Bible in society today/in the life of your church/in your own life?

In truth, society sees no relevance in the Bible. It could be relevant if we as Christians lived more by it. In reality, though, it is very relevant as society has been built on it, for example, our laws are Bible-based.

In church the Bible is as relevant as it is to its members. As one of those members, it is very relevant to me. I try to live by it and learn more of Jesus through it and look forward to its promise of Heaven. • **Steven Moser**

Discuss your feeling on Sabbath observance.

What does it mean to you, why do you observe the Sabbath and how do you think it should be done?

As a child I was brought up to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. There were times when I found it a slight inconvenience – particularly when it prevented me from attending a friend's birthday party or our famous school discos.

But as I grew up and my understanding developed, I began to look forward to Sabbath.

Now for me, Sabbath is a time in which I can reflect on the week and spend quality time not only with God but also with my family. For one day I can forget about everything that doesn't matter and focus on my spiritual needs. To me, that's the perfect way to spend my Sabbath. • **Kerhys Sterling**

Earliten Sabbath School class, Stanborough Park church

Thoughts on Sabbath-keeping

Keeping the Sabbath is the 4th commandment. God gave us the commandments for our own benefit. In this commandment God said: 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy, six days shall you labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work, your whole household shall do no work because God made the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath and hallowed it.'

Therefore keeping the 4th commandment would be obeying God. He makes it clear that we ought to keep his commandments and obey him. God also set that day aside so that we could worship him, give him all honour and glory and praise him for all the things he created for us. It's a time to appreciate God for both the little things and the big things that he's done for us. • **Tamlyn Moonsamy, age 18**

Observing the Sabbath is obeying the 4th commandment – 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.' It is important to observe it because it gives you time to reflect on the things God has done for you and to worship him for it. God has blessed the Sabbath and made it holy. He also said that the Sabbath was made for man. Therefore if the Sabbath was made for us, we should observe it the way God wants us to – in a holy and reverent manner.

God said that we should work for six days and on the seventh day (Sabbath) we should rest. So therefore it's important for us to observe the Sabbath because we're obeying the 4th commandment, God's plan for our lives, and we're given the opportunity to serve, glorify, worship and praise him for a whole day every week!

• **Lauren Moonsamy, age 18**

Thoughts on Military Service

'Thou shalt not kill' is the 6th commandment but when the Israelites went to war with the Philistines, there was a lot of killing involved – such as David killing Goliath. So why should we not go to war? The armed forces only join war if we are attacked first. Taking someone's life is not right but in this day and age, sometimes it's inevitable.

The military also helps to rebuild countries and protect their people, too. It's not just about killing; they only kill when necessary. The intention of the military is not to kill, but to protect, so a Seventh-day Adventist should not feel guilty about joining. • **Laura Horwood & Emma Lim, both age 14**

God said in the Ten Commandments, 'Thou shalt not kill' but in the Bible it also says in Proverbs, 'There is a time for war and a time for peace.' There are many examples of killing in the Bible, including followers of God who killed their enemies. Many Seventh-day Adventists serve their country in the armed forces but refuse to carry a gun or to take the lives of others. Instead they help to preserve lives. We think it is wrong to take people's lives but defending and protecting what is right can be justified. Different people have different views about what is right so killing depends on your intentions, your conscience and your views. So think about why you kill and if it is really necessary. • **Amanda Brown, age 13 & Annabelle Lim, age 12**

The topic of whether Christians should be allowed to join the army is hard. In the Ten Commandments it says, 'Thou shalt not kill' but without an army or forces, our nation would be vulnerable and corrupt. Not all the army is involved with killing people. There are military doctors, technicians and scouts. So I think that Christians should be allowed in the army! • **Pierre Guenin, age 13**

To kill on any terms is considered an offence, whether this is by killing a human being or an animal. But more importantly we are all God's creatures and so any type of killing is considered a crime in God's law. The armed forces justify the deaths caused by conflicts and wars by saying it is simply done for the good of your country. However the sixth commandment clearly states that 'Thou shalt not kill.'

So in conclusion, whether the government justifies killing, God will never justify this action as we are all God's creatures, made by him to praise him, not to wipe each other out. God has made a law and we have no right under any circumstances to break his laws or make excuses or exceptions for any other human power's needs.

Therefore I personally would not join the armed forces. • **Tim East, age 15**

I know that killing is wrong on all kinds of people. I would never work for the army because they are corrupt and are changing all the laws to suit themselves. And they are not remembering the Ten Commandments and the Sabbath day. The army has killed a lot of people – 100% innocent children, mothers and fathers – because they don't care. However you should try and help people by talking to them about God to see how the nation is before you invade their country. • **Matthew Dawkins**



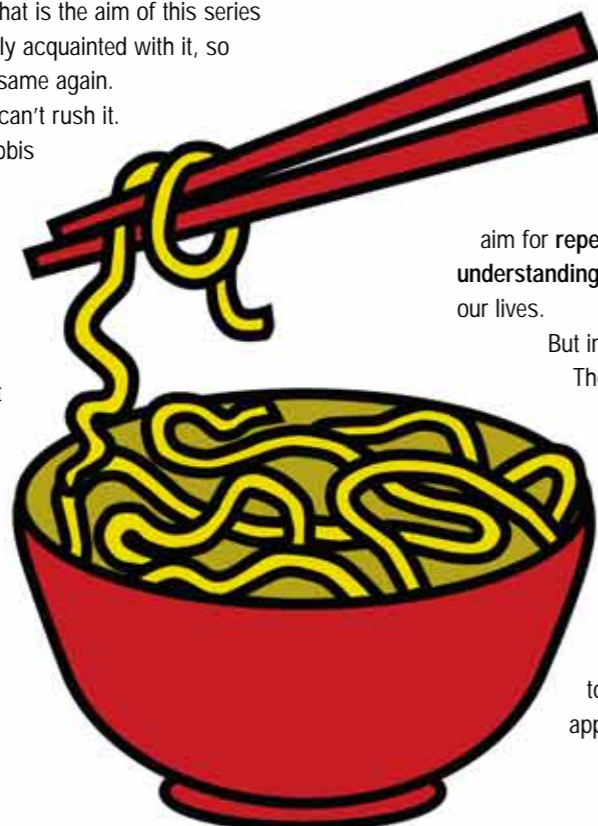
How to Study the Bible

I feel sorry for the Bible. It's God's gift to us, yet we do our best to make it as boring and irrelevant as possible. We can make Bible study seem so complicated that we switch off before we get anywhere. We sometimes dive in so quick, go down so deep, stay down so long, yet come up so dry. Just as frequently, the Bible bores us because we never get beyond the same superficial questions we've always asked. If our conversation with our best friend never gets beyond 'Hi, Sue, nice day isn't it. Like your hair. Going out tonight?', then we'd soon get bored with them too.

If we want a quality relationship with anybody we need to give them our time and attention. When we do that, our relationship grows; we constantly learn new things about them, and we become committed to them. It's the same with the Bible. Giving the Bible our time and attention is a life-changing experience. And that is the aim of this series of articles. To help us get deeply acquainted with it, so that our lives will never be the same again.

One thing's for certain. We can't rush it. We must take our time. The rabbis have a saying: 'It's not a matter of whether you have been through the Bible, but has the Bible been through you?' That is, have we given it time and space? The Bible isn't a bowl of pot noodles, but a gourmet meal of many courses. We need to savour it slowly, spend time appreciating it.

So, how do we achieve that? First, here are some basic guidelines that will enhance our study of the Bible.



Repetition: Reading the Bible needs to be a habit. We'll achieve very little if we open the Bible on occasional pit-stops in the mad rush of our lives.

Concentration: Give the Bible our undivided attention. When it comes to something as serious as the Bible, we can't do two things at once. If you talk on your mobile phone while behind the wheel, your driving will suffer. And if we study the Bible surrounded by distractions of music, TV, or conversation, then our reading of the Bible will suffer too.

Understanding: We are reading in order to understand. So if we don't understand what we're reading, we must stop. Go back, read and think again, until we say, 'Now I get it!' That kind of

understanding requires **repetition** and **concentration**. Which brings us finally to **application**. That is, what is the Bible saying to me, in my life and situation? This is the target we've been aiming at. And one thing's for sure – we cannot apply what we do not understand. Which is why we must

aim for **repetition** and **concentration**, leading to an **understanding** which allows us to **apply** the Scriptures to our lives.

But in practice, how do we go about doing that?

There are many ways of approaching the Bible, but what I'm suggesting here is that we study the Bible in the way in which God gave it to us: one passage at a time, one book at a time. In this article, I'll introduce six basic questions which will help us to understand the Bible in such a way that we'll be able to apply it to our lives, together with brief questions for you to apply to Daniel 3. In the articles to follow we'll

FOR ALL IT'S WORTH

By Dr Laurence Turner
Principle Lecturer in Old Testament,
Newbold College.

apply these in greater depth to some other biblical passages. For now, we'll concentrate on the basic principles.

Before we do anything else, of course, we need to read the passage we're studying. In fact, read it more than once, slowly, prayerfully, and preferably in more than one translation. So, take the time now to read Daniel 3. Once you have a feel for the passage, ask the following six questions:

▶ What is the context of the passage? What comes before and after the passage will shed light on its meaning. It will help you to fit the passage into the book as a whole. How does this passage connect with what is around it? (For example, what is the connection between the idol of ch. 3 and the image of ch. 2? Does the king act in the same way here as he does in ch. 4?)

▶ What is the flow of the passage? Ask yourself what the connections are between the beginning and the end of the passage. What happens between the beginning and the end? (For example, there are decrees concerning worship at the beginning and end of Daniel 3. How are they connected?)

▶ What is the content of the passage? What seems to be the major point of this passage? Does it raise any problems or questions? Just brainstorm on anything that strikes you in the passage. (For example, what is Daniel 3 about? Worship? Obedience? Salvation? Why isn't Daniel present?)

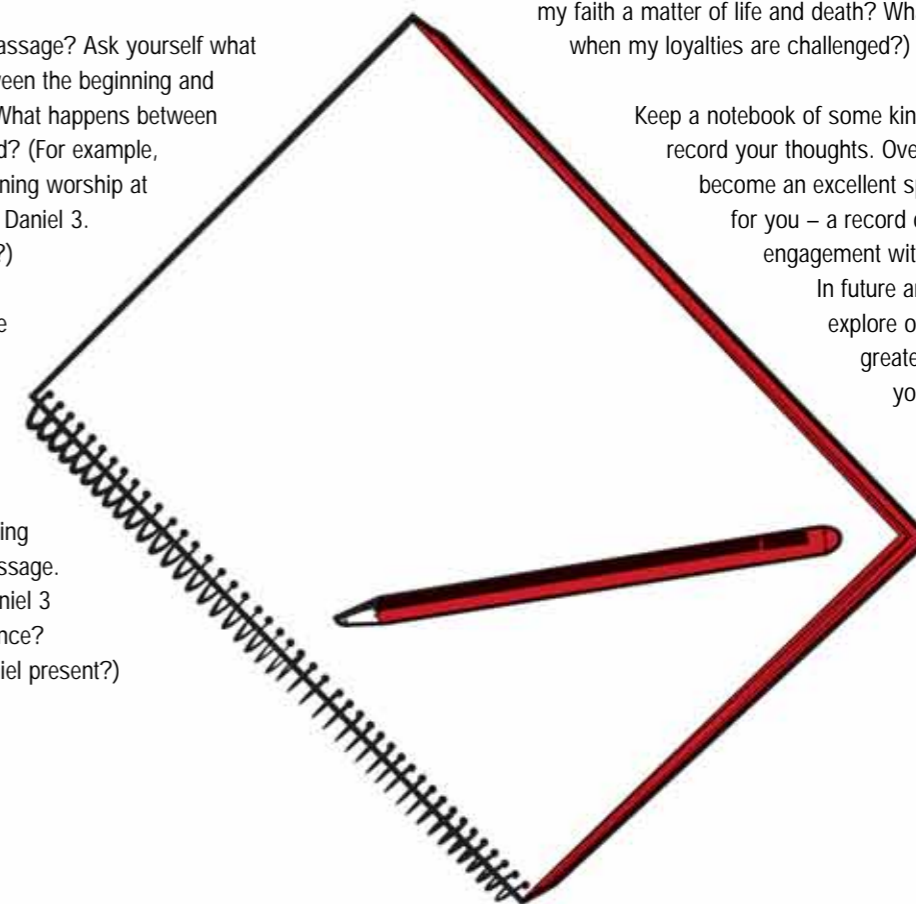
▶ What is the world behind the passage? Are there names or places that need explanation? (For example, where is the plain of Dura? Who was Nebuchadnezzar? When was the Babylonian Empire dominant?)

▶ Are there biblical connections with the passage? Do other passages in the Bible refer to the one you are studying? Do they use the same words or phrases, or contain the same concepts? You may use a concordance, or consult the cross-references in your Bible. (For example, what is the significance of fire elsewhere in the Bible? Who else has been rescued from certain death?)

▶ How can I apply the passage? By now you should understand the passage much better than when you started. So, how does this passage – its content, emphases, challenges – relate to my life? (For example, is my faith a matter of life and death? What should I do when my loyalties are challenged?)

Keep a notebook of some kind in which you record your thoughts. Over time this will become an excellent spiritual resource for you – a record of your own engagement with Scripture.

In future articles we'll explore other passages in greater depth. I hope you're ready for the challenge.





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