



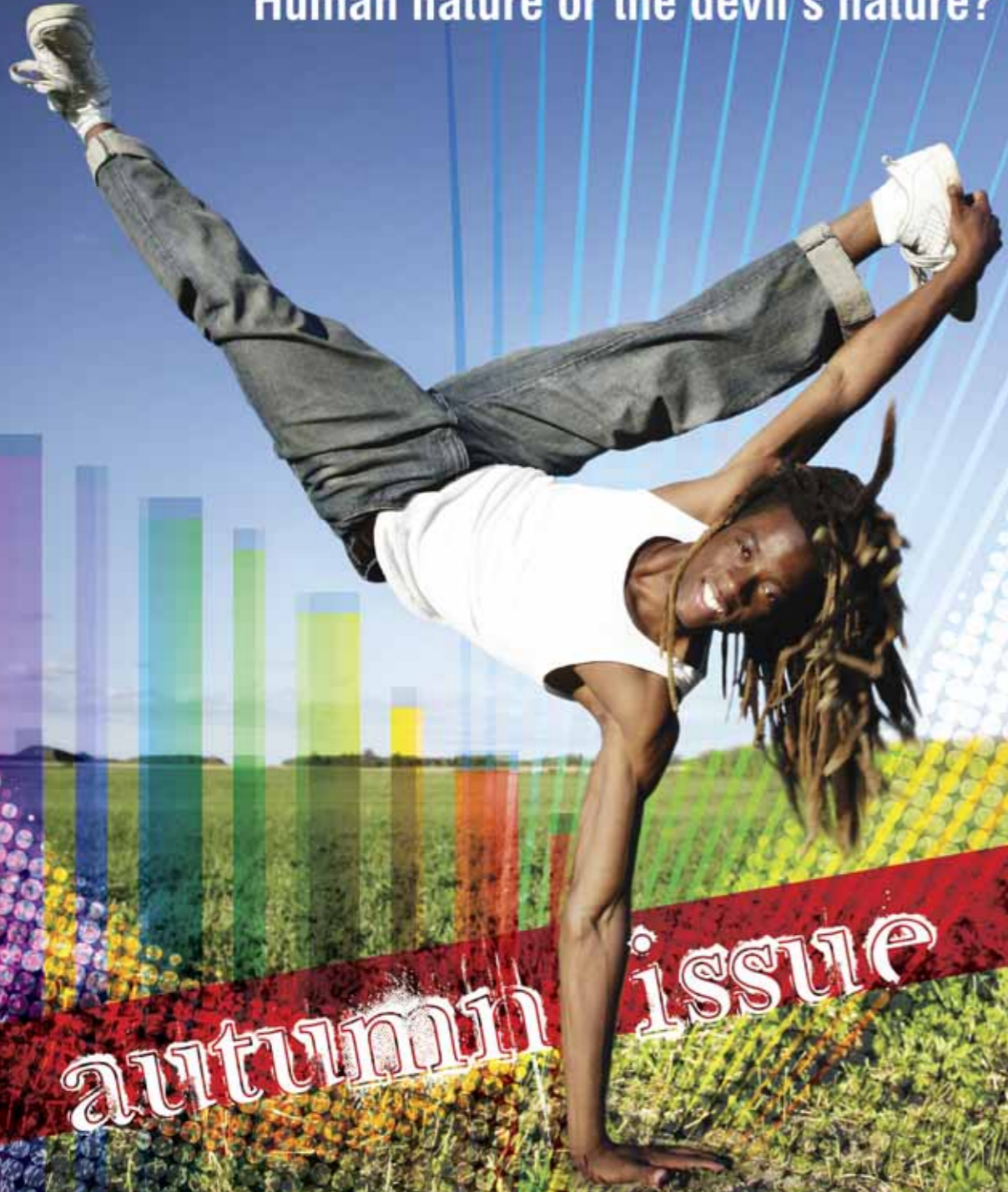
Vol. 3
Issue 3
October 2007

Adventures in Kenya ☉

Time out as a volunteer ☉

Summer activities roundup ☉

Human nature or the devil's nature? ☉



autumn issue



Congratulations!
Well done! Congrats!
Good on ya! You
made it! It's over!
Congratulations to
those who undertook
exams and passed. Whether

you attained the required grades or not, we congratulate you for your diligence and persistence in your studies. If you did not achieve the required grades at any level, we pray that you will see this as an opportunity to press harder toward the mark so that you can attain your goal and receive the prize at the end of the race.

To those who have finished University at undergrad or postgrad level, we take our caps off to you and salute you for having completed such an historic accomplishment at this time in your life.

To those of you who are beginning Uni, this may prove to be a challenge to you, your faith, your philosophy and outlook on life as an Adventist Christian. Keep in touch with your local church, your conference or mission youth department and try hard not to isolate yourself from those who care for you and your salvation. If you need some support contact us or your local youth department.

If you wish to begin a Christian Student Union specifically for you and your fellow Christians, feel free to take the initiative and, once again, contact your local conference or mission youth department.

The email contacts of your respective youth departments/sponsors are shown above.

Best wishes from the BUC Youth Department.

- Members of the Youth team throughout the BUC territory.
- The Irish Mission, **Adam Keough**, adam@adventist.ie
- The Scottish Mission, **Marcel Ghioalda**, marcelg@onetel.com
- The Welsh Mission, **Ed Sammons**, edsammons@hotmail.com
- The SEC, **Colin Stewart**, cstewart@secadventist.org.uk
- Nathan Stickland**, nstickland@secadventist.org.uk
- Eddie Hypolite**, ehypolite@secadventist.org.uk
- The NEC, **Alan Hush**, ahush@necadventist.org.uk
- Trevor Thomas**, tthomas@necadventist.org.uk

contacts

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Congratulations to Scottish Mission Youth Sponsor, Pastor J. Marcel Ghioalda, and his wife Claudette on the birth of their baby boy – Joshua Oliver. May God bless him as he grows in stature, love and a sure knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ.



Summer! What summer?
You may well be asking the same question, because the English summer did its usual and came with enough water to cause devastation in the Gloucestershire region and the peaceful north. But we are still blessed when we pause to consider how others are faring in parts of the world where weather conditions are less predictable and favourable.

Some of you may be living in or around areas affected by the recent wave of gun and knife crimes that have torn some innocent young lives away from their loved ones and friends. We are certainly living in an age of recklessness and a 'deadening of conscience' toward the sacredness of human life. The senseless, indiscriminate actions of one young hooligan – possibly trying to prove how 'big' he/she is, riding by on a BMX while shooting in movie-like fashion at an innocent young person – has brought sudden devastation to the family of Rhys Jones.

To those of you reading this, may I remind you that you are a Christian living in a hostile and unfriendly environment toward those of us who call ourselves after the name of Christ. Let me encourage you to pick up your Bible and study what it has to say about the condition of the world just before Jesus returns. Certainly, for those who are in the know, the evidence is staring us in the face: that the Spirit of God is slowly being withdrawn from the lives of people who are more and more rejecting God's way of salvation. Let me hear your thoughts and concerns on some of these issues. You can email me at dboldeau@adventist.org.uk.



This month's issue of **e** is primarily a roundup of some of the events that occurred throughout our territory over the summer season. You will read about the Mission Project in which 28 individuals went to build two classrooms and part of a kitchen and dining area for the Kajjado Girl's School in Kenya. There is also a report from Natasha Windsor on her adventures as a teacher in South Korea and how she is feeling now that she is back home. Think about following in her footsteps and consider going as a volunteer missionary to another part of the globe in an adventure of faith with God.

This issue has two articles under the section 'Outside the Box'. One by Cathy, my wife, who has started a club for youth in our community, and one by Barbara Lawrence who ran a summer art school for over 100 kids. Think about trying

something new for the youth in your community. If you or someone you know is doing something for the young people in your community, we want to know about it and to include it in **e**. We want others to read about what God is doing through you and maybe someone will be inspired to try something different also.

My secretary, Natalie Davison, has also put her hand to writing about something that will impact most of us in the month of October – Hallowe'en! Read it and consider a different approach to those who come to your door begging for money and treats.

Until next issue, stay and play safe in Jesus.



BUC Pathfinder Camporee  www.bucpathfindercamporee.org.uk **27 July - 3 August 2008**

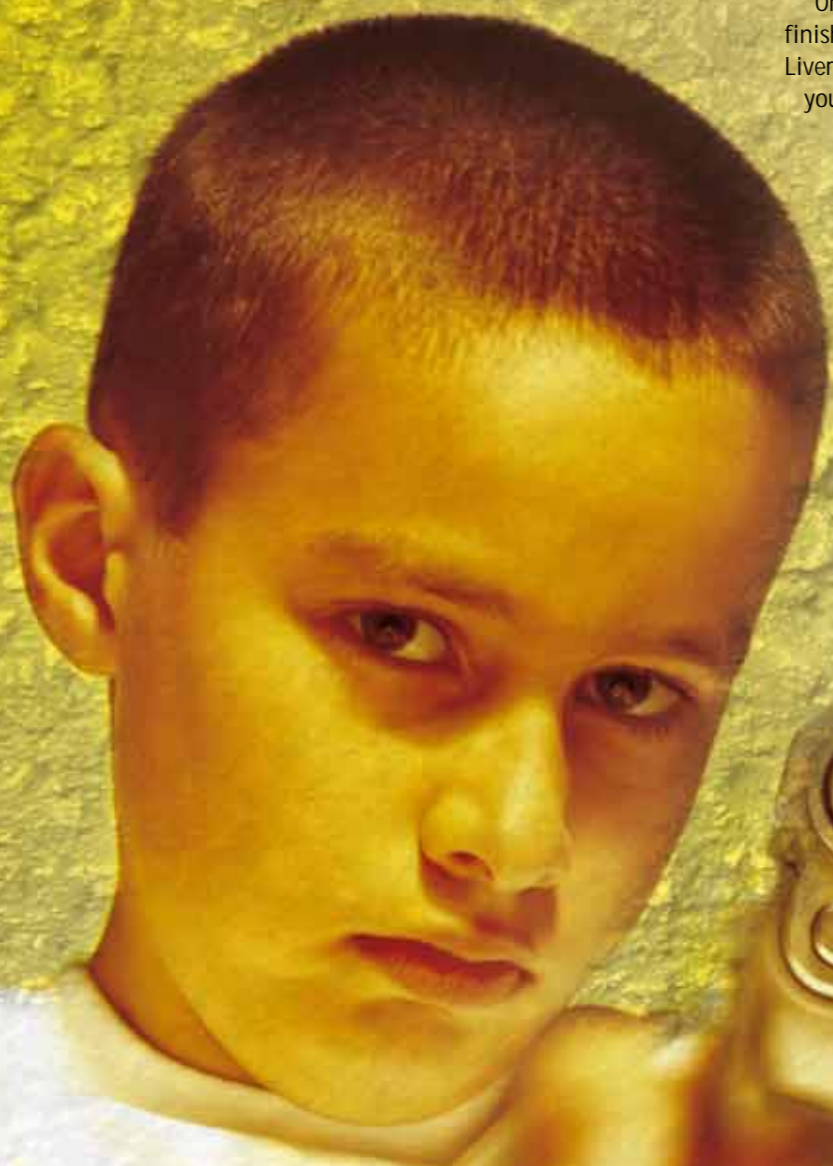
SKREENS PARK SCOUT CAMPSITE, ROXWELL, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX CM1 4NN

Guest Speaker: Pastor A.J. Grant
Chaplain at Central Coast Adventist School, New South Wales, Australia

BUC Pathfinder Camporee 2008 – compose a piece of history!

We are looking for a talented young person to compose a song for next year's Pathfinder camporee. The theme is 'SOS – Serve our Saviour' and the theme song will be sung every evening at worship times and at the opening and closing ceremonies. More importantly, it will become indelibly linked with all the fantastic experiences of each of the 1,000 people attending camp. This is your chance to have your composition enjoyed by a large number of your contemporaries – your chance to earn your 15 minutes of fame!

Theme: SOS - Serve our Saviour
Camporee dates: 27 July - 3 August
Final entry dates: 11 November 2007
Submit your words and music to:
Pathfinder Department, BUC,
Stanborough Park, Watford. WD25 9JZ.



IS EVIL
IN MY
NATURE
OR
CAN I BLAME
THE
DEVIL?

SAM DAVIS

On Wednesday 22 August, 11-year-old Rhys Jones had just finished playing football with friends behind a pub in Croxteth, Liverpool, and had begun making his way home, when a hooded youth on a BMX bike rode up and fired three shots, one of which hit Rhys in the neck, fatally wounding him. Rhys died shortly afterwards, never having regained consciousness.

It's a story that has shocked the nation, and still Rhys' killer remains at large. I wish that I could say Rhys was the only one. But so far this year, 17 youngsters have lost their lives to knife or gun crime.

On 6 February this year, 15-year-old Michael Dosunmu was shot in his bed in Peckham, South London. On Wednesday 14 February, 15-year-old Billy Cox was shot dead in his home in Clapham, North London. We could go on and on and on.

On 23 July, James Oyebola did a perfectly ordinary thing in asking three young men to stop smoking, as it is now against the law to smoke in an enclosed public building. Their response was to shoot him in the head. He died some days later. Has the devil become more active in our society, or is it just our evil nature?

Politicians, churchmen, journalists, social workers, teachers and the police, all have their views on what needs to be done to solve the problem. Recently, David Cameron, the leader of the Conservative party, stated that keeping families together would be one way of reducing youth crime.

The Tory report – 'Being tough on the causes of crime – Tackling family breakdown to prevent youth crime' – declares: 'Gangs are crowded with boys who have never been part of an intact family, where people belonged with and to each other.'

'The same boys may never have known the innate respect which

flows from having access to a father's love and direction. They cannot survive in an emotional vacuum and their absent fathers know it.'¹

There are those who say that what we need are more 'innovative facilities and activities to prevent boredom. . .'²

The BBC recently interviewed people on the streets to gauge their opinion on what could be done. I will share just two of those views.

'We all need to take a hard look at this, as this is now an unacceptable state of affairs. The government has done little to tackle this menace of crime. The public are fed up and need urgent action. The main problem seems to be from a social aspect and relates to absent fathers and lack of authority/role models for kids to follow. The majority of kids are growing up without fathers; mothers are busy enjoying themselves. Kids are following other bad life models. This needs serious attention now.' Zaf, London.³

'Don't blame the police; they are doing their best, but the justice system that has gone soft on the scum. Also deal with the 'chav' mentality and the cannabis culture that surrounds them (in Liverpool at least). They smoke that much of the stuff that if they, did know right from wrong to start with, they end up not knowing.' Graham Runacus, Liverpool.³

There is a wide range of views on what should be done, but what is clear is that there is no consensus. Most people are suggesting social cures for spiritual ills. We have heard all the arguments. Better housing, promoting marriage, responsible fathers, more police on the streets, lowering the age of accountability, more sports facilities. . . None of them seems to work. It would appear that man's evil nature cannot be cured by social remedies. Sadly, the answer to our question is yes. Evil is in our nature.

A long time ago the prophet Jeremiah wrote, 'The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?' (Jer. 17:9) Jesus agreed with Jeremiah when he said in Mark 10:17-18 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.'

The psalmist declares, 'Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.' Ps. 51:5, NKJV.

Gen. 6:5 states, 'Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his

heart was only evil continually.' Can we blame the devil for all our ills? Not entirely. Satan started the rebellion against God and is the father of evil. However, we have bought into the rebellion.

We have chosen to reject God's offer of love and salvation and instead we have bought into an atheistic philosophy of evolution and humanism which has left our society morally and spiritually bankrupt.

The apostle Paul reminds us that we are in a cosmic battle. Eph. 6:12, 'For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.' (NKJV)

Satan must ultimately take the blame for the evil that we see around us. He is the father of all evil.

John 8:44 reads: 'You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.' (NKJV)

That said, we are also responsible. By rejecting the salvation that God offers through his Son, Jesus, we leave a vacuum in our hearts that Satan is only too happy to fill. The Bible says that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that whosoever believes on him should not perish but have everlasting life.' (John 3:16).

It's all about the choices that we make. Is my nature evil? Yes, indeed, I was born and shaped in it. Can I blame the devil? Yes I can because he's the reason why we're in this mess. However, because God has made a way of escape we must also take responsibility for the evil that we see around us. We are noticing quite clearly what the continued rejection of Christ is doing to our youth and our society. The only answer for a world that seems to be steeped in evil is to choose Christ and what he has to offer.

¹ Daily Mail, 21 February 2007

² Countryside Alliance, 13 Sept. 2006, 'More on Youth-Crime Prevention'

³ BBC News Online, 23 Aug 2007

Willesden Baptisms

Keith Allen, Willesden Church Elder and Stanborough School Bursar

August 11 was a glorious day, when approximately 400 people descended on the Willesden Adventist church, in support and to witness the baptism of 14 precious souls. Willesden was most definitely the best place on earth to have been on that day.

The delight of the church was clear to see as the members and friends sang lustily and joyfully to the beautiful sound of the keyboards as they were skilfully played by our very talented and hard-working musicians.

In the absence of a resident pastor, Dr Emmanuel Osei, pastor of the North Wembley Community Adventist church, kindly consented to conduct the baptism. Words of encouragement were presented by Elder Keith Allen. The candidates were reminded that Jesus is able to keep them from falling and maintain their names in the Book of Life

and therefore they must keep close to him.

Dr Osei very ably and elegantly performed the immersion. His facial expressions indicated that he was experiencing the joys felt by the candidates, as tears of joy cascaded down the cheeks of the new converts.

Among the 14 individuals baptised were 10 teenagers who stood to declare to all present that they were ready and willing to go all the way with Jesus.

The 10 teenagers are: Michael Carradice, Natalie and Mesha Simpson (sisters), Leanne Davis, Alphonsia Dacres, Ceanne Stewart, Oseloka Opiah, Sadé Wilson, Adeola Ajao and Felicity Ntshangase.

We praise the name of the Lord, and declare with a joyful shout: 'To God be the glory, great things he has done.'



Ross: At the end of July, youth in Wales were jointly involved in a mission project in Swansea, Wales, with a youth group from Minnetonka, Minnesota (USA). The name of the mission project was CARIAD, which is Welsh for love, and that is what all who took part experienced and shared in a real way! We were all able to make friendships with the group from Minnesota, and within a few days it felt as if we had known each other for years!

Kassie: There were forty-four people to accommodate during the Cariad Project so we camped on the Gower. In spite of the rain and wind, which was so strong it felt as if the tent was going to fly with us in it, we had absolute fun! Although I admit it was pretty hard to sleep.

In the mornings we ran an 'American style' holiday Bible Club called Avalanche Ranch. During Avalanche Ranch the kids had fun and learned about God through new songs, crafts, movie clips and games. 'God is awesome, "Yeehaw!"' (Whenever we made a statement about God, everyone had to shout out 'yeehaw!' and do an imaginary lasso above their heads.) It was a great experience working with the kids. I started feeling

emotional about the whole thing when the last day came and parents picked up their children for the last time.

Ross: In the afternoons we worked in the local community doing various projects. There were many activities to participate in. Some of the youth went litter picking, demonstrating stewardship for our

world. Others helped out with crafts and face painting with children at a local primary school. I took part in some gardening at an elderly persons' centre and handed out leaflets to people about the Alpha Course.

Kassie: For our final afternoon activity we all went to the city centre to give free balloons and offer free hair braiding, face painting and other stuff. It was fun working with the Americans on our project. They always wanted to know the British terms for things. Melissa just couldn't get why someone would say, 'Can I go to the toilets?' And Marvin thought Welsh people were called 'Waleans.'

After 5 days of projects, we got to sleep on beds! It felt reeeeeeeeeee good. We went to Newbold College, which was where we stayed to do some London sightseeing with our American friends. Newbold College is so beautiful; the dormitory we stayed in looked like the ones in Harry Potter. From Bracknell we went to Windsor, Buckingham Palace, the London Eye and the British Museum. When we said goodbye there were tears, but hopefully we'll see each other again!

Ross: Throughout the week's activities we were able to share the reality of God's love. It was a pleasure to help in the community and demonstrate that God's love is free to share. It was amazing to see the effect of our little acts of kindness. The week showed us just how important it is to know the love of God and share it with others. The experience was really blessed and one I'm sure one we'll never forget.

Cariad Project

Kassie Ariola and Ross Maidment

The Kingdom of God is a Party

'The Kingdom of God is a Party' was the theme for the Summer Welsh Mission Youth Day. During the summer where you were more likely to see an open umbrella than an open bottle of Ambre Solaire (that's sun tan cream for those not in the know) the good Lord answered our prayers and gave us good weather for our outdoor event. And so it was, we enjoyed the Welsh sunshine as our youth worshipped God in the Great Outdoors, otherwise known as Tredegar Park, Newport.

It truly was a great day. A gazebo was erected under the mostly blue sky to house the Swansea Worship Band along with their sound equipment, power amps and such. It also served as a makeshift stage standing out in the open park. It must have been quite a scene to the observers who watched from afar or came near to

find out what was going on. This big group of lively young people who were singing and dancing, who then became. . . well rather quite angelic sitting on blankets or deck chairs, a Bible in one hand and a doughnut in the other, as Steven Hulbert spoke from the gospels about how God's Kingdom is a party and how this concept has changed his life.

A magnificent BBQ followed 'church' then it was group games or group chillin', depending on your energy levels. Finally, it was time to finish the day with a rousing worship, which closed with the song, 'Side by Side', resulting in a big circle in the middle of the park. It's a wonderful thing to see the Welsh young people growing in the Lord and growing closer together as a group. In that circle we made a commitment to walk with God and make a difference for him in this world. A fitting way to end the day and experience that the Kingdom of God is a Party!



Ed Sammons

GROUP ACCOMMODATION

NEWBOLD

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

Newbold College
 Binfield, Bracknell, Berks
 RG42 4AN
 England, United Kingdom

Newbold College is proud to be an international college with students from over 50 countries who come to experience life in England. Students from the United Kingdom are also present on campus and make up an important part of the community. Three of the British first-year students are asked about their first impressions of Newbold and their plans for the future.

Tammy Griffith was searching for a warm and accepting community to study in. She decided to enrol in the one-year Youth Leadership Certificate at Newbold College after comparing local universities and colleges. She is already enjoying her classes and is impressed with the lecturers' ability to broaden her biblical knowledge.

'It is far better to research and understand about your belief system than to blindly accept the faith passed down through your parents,' says Tammy.

While she's at Newbold, her aim is to gain independence from her parents and develop her relationship with God. She hopes to continue on to a degree in Theology and Humanities.



Max McKenzie-Cook is from Edmonton Central church in North London. Max began his studies for a BD (Bachelor of Divinity degree) at Newbold College in September. The ambitious 21-year old has a passion for introducing God to other Brits.

'I looked at going to Andrews or the Adventist universities in the Caribbean,' he says, 'but I decided to come to Newbold as it is important to be trained in the UK in order to reach the UK people.'

What impressed Max were the highly qualified lecturers and positive learning environment on offer. He is looking forward to his knowledge and love of God increasing. He hopes to be challenged to think beyond the boundaries.

Max plans to continue on to the Master of Theology course at Newbold College. His goal is to work as a pastor in London when he graduates.

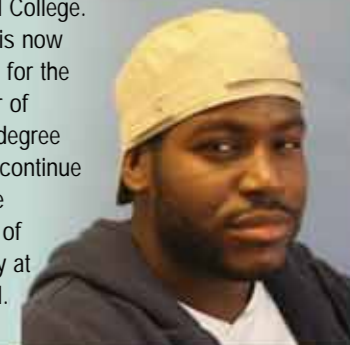


Andrew Davis comes from a five-year career in IT in Europe and the Middle East. He felt impressed to study theology four years ago but postponed his decision to come to Newbold College. It wasn't until he was made redundant that he experienced what he calls his 'Jonah' experience.

'I was procrastinating and running away from God. I knew I had been called to ministry but felt I wasn't ready. I was in Dubai and lost my job unexpectedly. It was a real wake-up call and I knew that I had to come to Newbold.'

Andrew carries on a family tradition as both his father, Sam, and sister, Anthea, have previously studied at Newbold College.

Andrew is now studying for the Bachelor of Divinity degree and will continue on to the Masters of Theology at Newbold.



Mums in Action (MIA) represent a group of mums who live in Watford. They have a desire to raise their children in a safe, caring and loving environment. But by today's standards, what does this mean? You may want to ponder a little on that question! One of their objectives is to 'bring unity within our community'. They strive to do this by organising programmes and events that benefit families. This summer, from 6-17 August, they organised an Arts Summer School which took place at the Stanborough Primary School. It was an absolutely amazing experience, especially for the 108 children who enrolled. MIA is happy to report that from the 108 children who enrolled over 70 children came from their local community. That is to say that these 70 children had no affiliation in any way with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Arts Summer School tried to maintain 'Aims and Outcomes' set down by the Government for children in 'Every Child Matters'. These aims and outcomes include 'being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic well-being'. The Mums in Action team in their planning decided to fulfil only one of these aims, which was 'enjoying and achieving'. This was clearly seen in the quality workshops that were offered to the children throughout the two weeks. These workshops included Music, Drama, Arts & Crafts, Cookery, Dance and Movement, Gardening, Sports, Creative Writing and much more. Every child who attended had access to all these facilities. These workshops were facilitated by experienced and professional personnel. There was also a planned trip to the Watford Football Club.

It was noted that although the aim was to fulfil the outcome of 'enjoying and achieving', the team managed to fulfil all of the aims and outcomes, for example, 'being healthy'. The lunches that were served were all vegetarian with lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. A funny experience you may chuckle at was a little 7-year-old boy who sat at the table on his first day and ate his healthy meal followed by fresh fruit. A team member noticed that he was still sitting at the table while all the other children were happily playing. When they enquired why he was still sitting at the table his reply was, 'I'm waiting for my pudding.' His pudding was the selection of fresh fruit he had just eaten!

'Staying safe' – it was a great experience for the children to enjoy the safe surroundings of Stanborough Park while having fun with staff who were all CRB checked and cleared.

As the final week came to an end, parents and children alike made comments about the sadness of the Arts Summer School ending and asked if there was a possibility it could carry on for a further two weeks. More than half the parents asked if the programme would be running next year and they also suggested that it should run for four weeks instead of two.

The final day ended with a graduation ceremony. The children displayed all the Arts & Crafts work, gardening, performed in song and drama to parents, family and friends. The crowning act was all the children performing the song 'You Raised Me Up'. It was an amazing experience for all those who attended! Parents had emotional tears running down their cheeks as they basked in their children's performance. It was an inspiring and gratifying experience!

It goes without saying that God was with us through this whole experience. Parents commented on the kindness, friendliness, knowledge, experience and supportive nature of all the staff. Many questions were raised by parents about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, for example: Who are they? What do they believe? Are the organisers Christians?

Mums in Action are providing 'unity in the community' and making a difference to families within the community. Log onto www.mumsinaction.org to see what we're up to.

Barbara Lawrence describes Mums in Action: 'We are a team of mums who have a desire and passion for working and serving in our community, especially with mums and their children, teens, and youth alike (and of course dads!). This could range from keeping our families safe and keeping our community safe through to how to live a healthy and contented life and not forgetting the fun factor too. We organise events and programmes which will facilitate our aims and objectives.'

Barbara Lawrence



outside



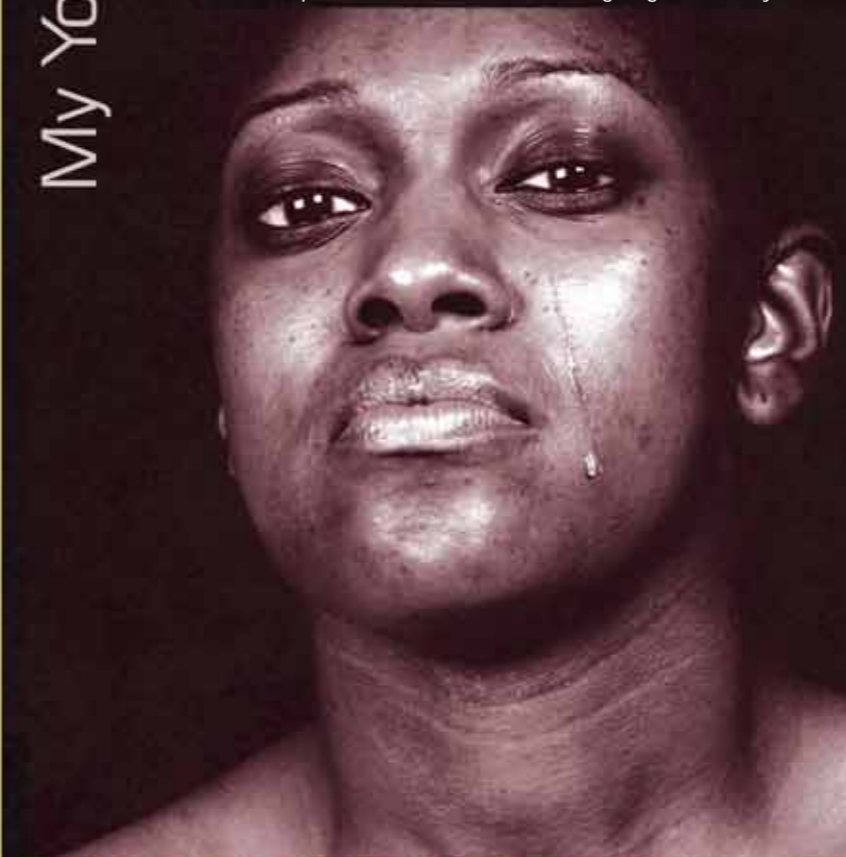
My Young Friends

She's coughing up blood. It's a dark red colour with a frothy topping. She's 17 and would be beautiful if she didn't wear so much eyeliner and flaky mascara. She smokes like a chimney, drinks like a fish and swears like the devil himself. And to top it all, she admits that she is now addicted to cocaine and is a witness to her brother's attempt to commit suicide by overdosing on heroine.

I listen. There's not much else I can do. She doesn't want any help she says. She believes that life is just this way. She feels that there's no hope living. She doesn't think she will live very long. She is and has been excluded from school as long as she can remember.

'What's your name?' I ask. She tells me. 'That's a lovely name,' I say. She gives a half-smile. We talk for about 15 minutes. I offer to call a doctor for her. She bluntly refuses. 'I hate doctors.' It's not the only thing she hates. She hates her life. Her eyes tell a story of neglect, of possible abuse, of anger and intense rage.

I want to help her! But I know that's not going to be easy. At



least she's talking. Apparently, she doesn't like talking to strangers.

We part that evening. Youth club is closed for another week. I walk home in the darkness and wonder about her. And I pray for her and the other twenty-three kids like her in the club.

For as long as I can remember, I have believed in ministry that actually touched the lives of individuals in their comfort zones and not in a church environment. Starting up a youth club in an area of deprivation was something that I never dreamed I would be involved in, let alone running on a weekly basis.

The club does not attract the nice kids in the community. The ones that come are from deprived backgrounds. Many, if not half, are excluded from school and their manners and behaviour leave much to be desired. When I return home each week, I reek of cigarette smoke, even though they do not smoke in the club. All the kids smoke. Most of them take drugs and some even try to deal.

Many of the kids come from abusive backgrounds. They are violent and disrespectful to everyone they meet.

There are evenings when I come home from the club and I am totally wound up. Visits from the police are frequent (they even know where I live now). There are numerous complaints from the community about these kids and I understand why. They are a nuisance.

But underneath all the bravado and aggressive behaviour are young people that I love and who I know that God loves too. Working with them is extremely challenging and sometimes I simply want to walk out and forget it all. It is at these times that God says, 'I love them, as I love you. Continue you in my love.'

If God puts a passion in your heart to do something for him, it may be very challenging, but stick at it. 'He who began a good work in you is able to bring it to completion.' Phil 1:6

Catherine Anthony-Boldeau is a freelance writer who lives in Hertfordshire. HP2 is a weekly club which Cathy runs for her local community youth.

by Catherine Anthony-Boldeau



Conference on Teenagers

Friday 30th November – Sunday 2nd December 2007

Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry, Northamptonshire

Tensions between you and your parents?
Are your parents struggling to understand the youth scene?
Is the law for or against you and your parents?

If any of these issues sound familiar, you'll want to encourage your parents to attend this weekend conference being organised by the BUC Youth Department. All these topics and more will be discussed and hopefully your parents will come back rejuvenated, refreshed and ready to cross the age and culture gap. Your lives might never be the same again!

Cost is £125 per person with all meals and accommodation included. For more details and an application form, please call 01923 672251 or email Natalie on ndavison@adventist.org.uk



The summer is ended and the youth team are back in the office. 'Phew.'

The summer kicked off with 'YLC' – also known as the Youth Leadership Convention. This was once again a blessing to all who attended. We had over 120 youth leaders, presenters and staff, attend this convention in Spain. Precious seed was sown and now many look to apply the good knowledge that was attained in their local churches.

The highlight for many at YLC 2007 was the Communion Service that took place on site. Our commitment speaker, Roy Ice, led us to the table and helped plan this experience and directed us to 'dirty our feet' so we could understand the significance of the times when feet were really dirty and smelly after walking for long journeys.

We were humbled as we washed each other's feet and then even more humbled at the sight of youth washing each other's feet. This was deeply uplifting and led us to anticipate the Sabbath even more as it began to draw near.

Summer Camps took place as normal at Chapel Porth and excited juniors, teens, youth, and local community folk enjoyed the setting of Cornwall. As well as summer camps there was a Pathfinder Camporee which took place in the New Forest. All who went to these events were blessed and we continue to see the leading of God in these programmes.

For many the sunshine, as well as good food, good fellowship and good activities, made the time special. The spiritual tone was high in all the camps and this was seen clearly at worship times, and in the teens camp programme there was a baptism as young people gave their hearts to God.

Looking back after a long summer, we feel satisfaction that youth connected with God. They also had a busy yet restful time, a time when they could put their schoolbooks aside and focus on building new friendships. Chapel Porth is a time for recharging low batteries, a time to refocus. We are happy that Chapel Porth remains an affordable option for many in our conference. Whatever the programme, whether the focus is Pathfinders, teens or youth we are happy to serve in these capacities. See you next year – God willing!



Colin Stewart, SEC Youth Ministries Director



Every year for the past few years my husband and I have dreaded one particular night of the year. We sit in the house with the lights turned down low, just waiting. . . If we hear a tiny sound outside, we stop talking, hold our breath and wait. Sometimes it is a false alarm, so we slowly exhale and resume doing whatever it was we were doing. But we know that at some point very soon that evening they will be coming. There is no escape. We know that the inevitable doorbell ringing will be accompanied by the sound of high-pitched voices which get louder and louder until there is no option but to be brave, open the door, look into their hideous faces and utter the words, 'Sorry, I don't have anything for you.' This is usually met with a mixture of anger, derision, disappointment and sometimes abuse. So I hurriedly close the door and cower in the living room until the next time the door bell rings. I hate Hallowe'en.

I resent the feeling of being trapped inside my own house all evening, terrified of the doorbell ringing and having to turn away little children (some of them my own neighbours) dressed as Frankenstein's monsters, witches, elves, wizards, pumpkins, etc. I feel like a coward when I apologise for not having gone to shops to spend money on sweets just to conform to some North American custom which has spread over here like a virus – unwanted, irritating and very hard to get rid of.

That is, I hated Hallowe'en. Right up until two years ago when I decided that I wasn't going to put up with this any more. I decided that if these kids and their parents were going to come knocking unsolicited at my door, then I would give them something for their swag bags, but it would be something on my terms. Kids that age shouldn't be eating huge amounts of E-number-filled sweets. Surely these parents have enough trouble keeping the energetic little monsters in control at the best of times, without having to actively seek out more sources of empty energy to feed them?

So I went to the shops, made my purchases and waited. Ironically, the first year I was prepared, no one knocked on the door that evening. I found myself feeling ever so slightly disappointed for the first time ever. But the next year, we had several groups of children knocking. And this time as they opened the door I explained to them that I didn't have any sweets, but I did have a bookmark for each of them, plus a balloon. The bookmarks were especially for children with a Bible verse on each one. The children loved the idea and were all very keen to choose their particular bookmark and collect a balloon. Simple but effective.

I no longer live in fear of my windows being splattered with eggs. My husband and I can talk in normal voices and we won't have bruises from bumping into furniture due to walking around the house in the dark. I don't have to look at disappointed or angry faces (the children's and the bedraggled parents' equally). Now I look forward to each Hallowe'en as I know that I am spreading a

positive message to these children and their parents. In the coming weeks I will be stocking up again from my local Christian book shop or the ABC shop for bookmarks and little gifts and waiting for the doorbell to sound so I can share my faith in a good God. Forget the hobgoblins and the witches and wizards. Our God is much bigger and better than all that. And he loves each child, even the ones with green faces and hooked noses.

Why don't you use this opportunity to see what little miracles you can work as God sends these children to your door this Hallowe'en? You might find yourself enjoying it too!

Isaiah 43:12, NIV:
' "I have revealed and saved and proclaimed – I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God." '

why not try

If you are part of a youth group, why not arrange to go out locally with your youth leader on 31 October? You could offer the neighbours living near your place of worship a small gift with the compliments of the church. If they ask any questions, it will be your opportunity to explain what you really believe about Hallowe'en. I imagine you might find some very surprised and relieved people answering the door to you that evening!

OR

If you have younger children in your house, why don't you spend some time together creating nice gifts to give away? That way your children can have a part in the sharing too. There are lots of websites which have free children's crafts to download and you can also buy CDs with ideas from your local Christian bookshop.

Natalie Davison works part-time at the British Union Conference in the Youth Department and co-edits e. Happily she no longer hates Hallowe'en. She does, however, have a major problem with large spiders.

They're Coming to gEt me !!

NAtalIE DaVIsOn 



Hi everyone,

Well, it's all come to an end – I can't believe I am home. After being a missionary for the past ten months in a foreign land, I am now typing this report in Greenwich Mean Time.

My last term spent in Korea was busy but amazing and was over too soon. God's hand was in all the work that I did there before I left and I believe that students were touched.

The vespers programme I presented on the Ten Virgins had the largest attendance that term with 20-25 students. One girl who enjoyed the programme said that she didn't want to be a foolish virgin: 'I want to be ready when Jesus comes.'

The day I preached my first sermon will be one that I will always remember. My pastor translated from English to Korean for me and it comforted me that he was just as nervous. This showed me that we were both depending on Christ to translate the message for us so that it could reach the hearts of the church and the students. A student of mine told me afterwards that, although his English was poor, he was able to understand what I was saying without much Korean translation – I responded by saying, 'Praise be to God for working through me.'

My last Bible classes were also a blessing, with 5 students attending – there was one lady who actually quit her job to attend my class! She also began taking Bible studies with the pastor for baptism. Her name is Leah and I would like you all to pray for her. I know God is working in her life and that by faith she will give her heart to Jesus.

I cried on my last Sabbath in Korea as I was asked to sing (I don't usually cry, just to clarify) and as I thought about all the people

I had met since I came to Korea, how the students had touched my heart and how I was praying that God would send someone in my place to finish the work which I had started.

Now I am home I am leaning on God to help my mind to stay focused, to take what I have learnt from my experience in Korea and use it for the work that needs to be done in England. I am praying that I will not slip back into my comfort zone, which is easy to do on returning to an environment with familiar faces and routines and, may I add, great food, etc! I am asking God to help me seek opportunities to reach people's hearts through the word of God and the love of Christ which is seen within me.

Only God knows the next step for me – I pray that I can be obedient and follow his calling.

I was so happy to hear that many of my friends have left England to go and get Bible training and do mission work in other countries and I would like to encourage anyone who is reading this, if you feel God calling you, to go and do the Lord's work also.

I pray that your hearts have been blessed by my story. I want to do the Lord's work for life and I hope that every day God can help me to crucify my own selfishness and sinful desires so his will can be fulfilled in me.

God bless and stay focused. Jesus is coming – will you be ready?

Love
Natasha

AVS Focus

The final instalment from Natasha Windsor's Korean Diary July – August 2007



The list below contains all the names of those who are volunteering in the BUC from abroad, plus those resident in the UK who have chosen to volunteer in another country. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Incoming

Matthew Clark – Support Analyst, Stanborough School
Ana Delcasale Damasceno – Asst Girls' Dean, Stanborough School
Deborah Hector – Maintenance Asst, Roundelwood
Jeneva Hector – Maintenance Asst, Roundelwood
Amanda Rae Jardine – Teacher's Assistant, Stanborough Primary School
Anita Kelman – Marketing/Design/Communication, Newbold College
Isaac Koss – Computer Services Asst, Newbold College
Vanessa Pizzuto – Librarian, Stanborough School
Dragos Suciu – Asst Boys' Dean, Stanborough School
Berhanu Tsehaye – Pastoral Asst for Ethiopian Language Group, London

Outgoing

Keneisha Anderson – ESL Teacher, Mexico
Fabrice Baker-Livingstone – English/Religion Teacher, Korea
Colin Brewster – English/Religion Teacher, Korea
Jeremy Brooks – Youth Pastor, United States
Nixon De Vera – AVS Pastor, Japan
Orlene Dunkley – English/Religion Teacher, Korea
John Dust – English/Religion Teacher, Korea
Shirley Grant – English/Religion Teacher, Korea (October return)
Rachel Sears – English Language Teacher, Japan
Merika Tuononen – ESL Teacher, Thailand
Priscilla Burnett – English/Religion Teacher, Korea (October return)
Sacha Gillin – English/Religion Teacher, Korea
Jasmine Frater – English/Religion Teacher, Korea
Abigail Dantzie – English/Religion Teacher, Korea

The sun shone brightly on the afternoon of Monday 30 July as 55 children and young people between the ages of 9 and 17 descended on the camping ground at Lorne House for this year's Irish Mission Summer Camp. It was to be an action-packed 10 days of fun that in the end was cut tragically short.

The first 3 days of camp went as planned. A trip to the seaside; arts & crafts; laser skirmishing for the teens; archery; an assault course & crate climbing at the local Crawfordsburn Scout Centre (where the BUC Pathfinder Camporee was in 2004); group games; chilled out evenings; great food; and some wonderful worships led by Pastor Jim Fitzsimmons from the Newmarket-on-Fergus church around the theme 'On Fire for God'.

However, on the evening of Thursday 2 August the tragedy struck. Melusi Tanaka Maka, who was 12 years old, had been given the choice of attending a football camp or Summer Camp. He had chosen the Summer Camp without hesitation. This year's camp was his first and during the camp he had quickly made friends. On the Thursday evening, while playing sports, he had a severe asthma attack. Despite the quick actions of the camp medical personnel, the paramedics who arrived quickly at the scene, and the doctors at the Ulster Hospital, Melusi did not recover from his asthma attack and died.

That evening his mother, Christine, travelled up to the hospital and was informed of her son's death. The next morning the other 54 children and young people still at Camp had to be informed that one of their friends had died. Later that day arrangements were made to close camp early and get everyone back home.

Adam Keough, IM Youth Sponsor



Irish Mission Summer Camp & a Tribute to Melusi Tanaka Maka

It has been said in the past that, in times of tragedy, people of all ages and backgrounds pull together as one. While the incident was happening on site, while Melusi was at the hospital, and even the next morning when the campers were informed of his death, the staff leaders, children and young people experienced this in action through intense prayer and also as they began to grieve.

On Monday 6 August approximately 40 of the children and young people who had been attending Camp travelled from all over Ireland to Athlone, Melusi's hometown, for his funeral. They wore their camp T-shirts as a sign of unity. Traffic came to a stand-still in the centre of the town as over 500 mourners marched behind his coffin.

At the funeral, a close Irish family friend of Christine, Gary Hughes, told how Melusi was like a son to him. There were tributes from Melusi's friends and Sabbath School teacher, too. The Zimbabwean community from around Ireland gathered close to support Christine and her friends.

During the funeral service Tino Marira, one of the Galway church Pathfinder leaders, shared some moments from Melusi's last days. At camp Melusi had made a T-shirt that said 'I am the best'. He was a true hero, and was known by all and well loved. The number of adults and young people who turned out to say farewell was astonishing. But his mother will miss him most. Melusi was her hero, as he had supported her through so many difficult times.

Despite the tragedy, Christine's faith has been a witness to all present. She knows that her son passed away in the 'best' place. And she knows she will see her son one day soon. Melusi's body was laid to rest in Mount Temple cemetery. We ask that you remember Christine and Melusi's friends and family in your prayers.



The Lord called me to do this project together with the rest of the BUC youth. I have been changed utterly by the project. I think differently now, I talk differently and I am more thankful to the Almighty for the little things that I used to take for granted like sight or even a toilet. The young Maasai that we shared the two and a half weeks with taught me more in that short time than I had learnt in years. I learnt hard work and I appreciated that very much, but, more importantly, I learnt love, patience, caring, perseverance and humility.

Maureen Gatharia, Dublin church

Kenya, a place where everyone has so little and we have so much. A place where the citizens are happy with the little they have and we (the Westerners) are miserable and busy because we have too much. Kenyans look on us as people that can achieve anything and that we are happy for we have everything they wish they could have: money, travelling the world, media communication, clothing and sufficient food. I could go on for ages.

Personally, I wish I was not brought up as a Westerner for it seems harder for a Westerner to make it to heaven than a Kenyan. At the end of the day, Heaven should be our main goal. Our main MISSION!! Whatever sacrifices you have to do

– MAKE IT HAPPEN!!
Troy Flood, Peckham church

I was afraid that I would be a hindrance to the real builders but they assured me that they would take me under their wing and treat me like an apprentice! I enjoyed every minute of it – roof-fitting (I can now talk about gables and trusses with a measure of confidence!), digging trenches, splicing wood, hammering nails. It was such satisfying and gratifying work, all the more for seeing the smiles of love and encouragement from the girls and staff at the school. I felt God with me the whole time, pushing me to give of my best, as only my best was what could have brought the joy and satisfaction I felt. Mission work puts a whole new perspective on life and leaves you raring to pursue God's purpose for your life.

Sandy Officer, Chiswick church

It was late in the day. There were about 4 or 5 of us still working on the building project (all men) when I went to use the WC round the corner from the building. As I got to the corner there was a young girl crying her heart out – all alone. Being a man, I felt at that moment completely useless. I went to find a female in the school but could not find one. By the time I got back she had gone – I do not know where. I prayed to the Lord to look after her because I could not.

Keith Colliss, Loughborough church



KENYA REPORT

'Full of surprises,' 'Backbreaking but rewarding work,' 'A great cultural experience,' 'We've done two weeks' work in one week,' 'As the building is going up the family is growing up.' These are some of the comments from the team who travelled to Kenya on 28 June–17 July as part of the BUC Youth Department Mission Project.

The aims of the mission were fourfold: building a two-classroom extension (to serve as a computer lab) to an existing school building at the Kajiado Adventist Girls' School for young girls from the Maasai people; conducting community health clinics; promoting personal health matters to pupils in schools and evangelistic meetings.

The approach of this project was to join with local workers and youth volunteers in supporting them toward completing this assignment. The funding for this project came from our 2006 ADRA-UK Annual Appeal, of which £25,000 was allocated to the project.

Sabbath highlights included worshipping with the local congregation from 9am until 1pm, escaping the sweltering heat in the shade of the trees. Special music was provided by the Kajiado Girls' School choir whose lovely voices blended beautifully to offer a memorable act of worship to our Lord. Four of our own young ladies also graced the waiting church with their beautifully harmonious singing.

The evangelistic campaign actually took place in an open air venue at a busy crossroads with people coming and going and children playing and fighting! Fascinated observers watched and listened from shop doorways. Pastor Sam Davis and our own young person, Troy Flood, were both speakers in the evening campaign.

Work began on the building with a passion on Sunday morning and it was a wonderful sight to see everyone in their purple project T-shirts (PAW) buzzing around the building site, carrying water, wheelbarrows of sand, stones, ballast and cement and mixing that into mortar. They also built scaffolding and made it safe. Imagine the 'chain gang' of people passing stones and bricks from one to another, eventually dumping them onto the foundation of the dining area. It was fascinating to see how the local folks worked untiringly without breaks. Before long some of our folks began to show signs of blisters with the accompanying cuts and bruises from the rough and rugged stones – all in a day's work for the good name of our Lord and Father. Hearts touching hearts indeed!

Our school team addressed issues like HIV awareness, self-esteem, cultural differences and personal and dental hygiene. This team was led by Justin McKenzie who is an art teacher. Pastor Wilson, school chaplain and a teacher, remarked that 'this was a unique opportunity for both teachers and pupils to see and hear a different perspective of life and a freshness of the presentation on subjects which do not form part of the

regular curriculum.'

From a health perspective, the medical team went into two of the neighbouring Maasai villages where they saw, in total, almost 1,000 patients with ailments ranging from upper respiratory tract infection to eczema.

'The work was tiring and long but rewarding,' says Millie Williams, co-ordinator of the health team, together with the Health Ministries Director for the Central Kenyan Conference, Mark Mwathi.

The final Thursday was a busy day with a visit to a traditional Maasai village in the morning and the handing-over ceremony in the afternoon. Many local and civic leaders were present for this event, including the Chief Executive Director for the CKC, Pastor Peter Ndeto, and the Union Conference Executive Director, Pastor Paul Muasya. Country Director for ADRA Kenya, George Baiden, was also present. I had the privilege of representing the BUC, ADRA-UK and the group of Trojan warriors who devoted so much time, finance and energy to ensuring that the project was completed.

Some highlights from the handing-over ceremony included a melodious contribution from the school choir, a touching rendition by some girls about the hardships of being brought up as a Maasai woman. During the ceremony a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the work that the BUC team had done. The ceremony over, we rose to the challenge of a football match against the Kenyans, but came away with plenty of bruises to our bodies and egos as we lost, but by just one goal!

On Friday morning we had our devotion and prayed that the Lord would bless us for our journey on safari. Our senses were treated to the wonders of God's beautiful creation in the forms of gazelles, zebras, elephants, jackals, monitor lizards, hyenas, eagles, vultures, hippos, crocodiles, a secretary bird, ostriches, giraffes, impalas and of course several hundred cattle.

We stopped at one point near a small airport and sat in the grass, singing and worshipping our Creator God for his wonders and his unfailing love.

ADRA Kenya, under the directorship of George Baiden, had organised a lunch for the group. At this time the group members all received a ceramic image of the ADRA logo as a memento of their visit to this beautiful country. We praised God for the blessings upon us in taking and bringing us safely.

As a group we unanimously decided that we should continue doing something to assist the children and the school. We voted to start the process by forming a trust to administer the funds we would all donate. If any of you reading this report feel moved to make donations, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Looking back I see an interesting group of people from different backgrounds, cultures, occupations and ages that stepped in to a new adventure not knowing exactly what to expect, but having one thing in common – knowing that this was the right thing to do! I have seen the way he united us in Kenya because we had his love, because we believed him and because we all had the same goal. I pray that as a family, we will unite and finish the work he has given us. He is willing! The question is – are we willing? Or is the world too comfortable? I want to go home. What about you my friend?

Nelson Martins, Liverpool church

Building two additional classrooms at the Adventist School in Kajiado for young Maasai girls rescued from forced child marriages, slave labour or genital mutilation provided plenty of hard exercise, learning new skills and forming friendships with friendly school staff, pupils and local workers and craftsmen. Our work hours were made the more enjoyable by the frequent singing coming from classrooms. We had the satisfaction of seeing the work completed within 2 weeks, including landscaping the site and planting trees and shrubs. The icing on the cake for us was a safari to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve.

Harry Wilby, Crieff church

You don't know what to wear; make up to put on; restaurant to dine in? Oh yes, after a mission trip, things will never be the same for you. Suddenly you don't care what you wear (your jeans don't have to be Gucci or Armani any more) because the God of love has opened your eyes to see that the most important thing to wear is love. You feel gratitude to eat and have food, simple food which tastes delicious as well. You are so thankful to God just to have food. Go ahead, live – go on a mission trip. I can guarantee that you will find your childlike passion and you will fall in love again with God, with friends, with life. So take the ride of your life!

Virge Merigan, Newbold

DES BOLDEAU



For most teens, six weeks of summer holiday means a chance to hang out with friends and sleep late. Teens overdose on this newfound freedom immediately after school closes, but by the second week into summer holidays, catching up on lost sleep has all the excitement of watching grass grow. If there were ever to be a teen survey to find the best summer activity, would sleeping come out tops? For over three hundred teens, Summer Camp in England and Hong Kong proved to be the best activity for the summer.

Stanborough School began Summer Camp in England over ten years ago. What started as a basic two-week English Language programme for twenty European teens has now grown into six weeks of fun-filled activities for hundreds of teens from Europe, Asia, South America and the UK. Each two-week Summer Camp caters for up to 70 teens – and each session is oversubscribed. In the morning teens choose between learning a foreign language, being coached in a sport or gaining Pathfinder honours. In the afternoon there's punting in Cambridge, visits to Thorpe Park, craft workshops, cruises to London and sports tournaments. The fun doesn't stop at sunset because the evening offers colour battles, talent shows, virtual gaming, pizza parties and banquets.

For UK teens who wanted to travel further than Watford for summer excitement, Stanborough Camp in Hong Kong offered Cantonese and Mandarin lessons in the morning and visits to Victoria Peak, Stanley Beach, shopping in Mong Kok and learning Tai Chi in the afternoon. In the evening there were Masked Balls, 007 Night and Canto Pop Karaoke. Every night teens were able to enjoy real Chinese food, which really improved their chopsticks skills.

Summer Camp in Hong Kong and England gave teens the opportunity to make friends from around the world and learn about different cultures. UK teens discovered punting! Teens who went to Hong Kong now can count sheep in Cantonese – although they should have no trouble sleeping after their summer of excitement.

To find out more about Summer Camp 2008 or view Summer Camp photos, visit www.spsch.org and click 'Summer Camp'.

Stanborough School Summer Camp Report

Stephen Rivers
Director of the International Stanborough School



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