

## A Word in Season . . .

One of the great statesmen of our country was Sir Winston Churchill. Although he was not an overtly religious man, he did believe and trust in God. In fact, he trusted in God's providential care for our nation. As Prime Minister, his internal fortitude throughout his tenure of office was based on such faith. His personal faith was private, but it was foundational to his character and all that he did. Several times during his earlier life, Churchill had experienced miraculous escapes from death. He was convinced that God would protect and preserve him for his life's mission. Strange though it may seem, he held the conviction since being a child that God had a great mission for him in leading our nation safely through some great crisis. We need have no doubt that God did just that.

Another outstanding figure was Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery. He too was a professing Christian of deep conviction. It was in 1952 when both he and Churchill were having a stroll near Chequers, the latter's country retreat. Accompanying them was John Colville, the Prime Minister's private secretary, who recorded the conversation. They were talking about human greatness; and Montgomery "would fire questions at the Prime Minister as from a machine gun, loving to act the part of Grand Inquisitor. How did Churchill define a great man? Was Hitler great? Certainly not, said Churchill; he made too many mistakes. How could Churchill maintain that Napoleon was great when he was the Hitler of the nineteenth century? He was not, Churchill replied. Surely the only great men were the religious leaders? Churchill's reply to that interested me, for he seldom spoke of religion. He said that their greatness was undisputed, but it was of a different kind: Christ's story was unequalled and His death to save sinners was unsurpassed" - Colville, *The Churchills*, p.157.

That last observation of Churchill's is enlightening to say the least. While the world view of human greatness is estimated by power, prowess and achievement, the greatness that came tops in Churchill's estimation is "of a different kind". It is based on the example and character of Christ whose "story was unequalled and His death to save sinners was unsurpassed". In other words, in Winston's mind, Christ was truly the greatest.

I am aware that some may choose to disagree because their idea of greatness is based on a different premise. They may find it hard to reconcile Jesus' humility and submission with greatness; but who can deny the strength of character of One Who gave His life to save sinners? In His humility is seen Christ's true greatness! - *Michael I Walker*.

## Food for Thought . . .

"Give us grace, O God, to do the deed which we will know cries to be done. Let us not hesitate because of ease, or the words of men's mouths, or our own lives. Mighty causes are calling us . . . But they call with voices that mean work and sacrifice and death. Mercifully grant us, O God, the spirit of Esther, that we say, 'I will go unto the King and if I perish, I perish'. Amen."  
- *W.E.B. DuBois*

## Report on Paradise - Continued from p.3.

While we do not yet know the full extent of the damage, our hearts go out to all who are affected by this calamity." Wilson also went on to say, "Living in this sinful world full of unexpected disasters, we hold in our hearts God's promise that very soon, we will live forever in the New Earth free from sin and disasters. Jesus is coming soon! I call on Seventh-day Adventists worldwide to pray for the recovery and resettlement of the thousands who have faced this tragedy. As you see people around you in need, let's follow Christ's ministry of helping people physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually."

## Vegetarian Cooking Demo . . .

Due to lack of space, the vegetarian cooking class that took place earlier this month will bear a full report in the December issue of *The Link*.  
- *Editor*.

## Services of the Church: -

### Bible Study/Discussion . . . .

Saturday 10:00 am

**Children's Class** . . . . Saturday 10:00 am

**Family Worship** . . . . Saturday 11:15 am

**Church Family Fellowship** . . . .

First Saturday

afternoon in each month after the

Worship Service and a fellowship meal.

**Bible Study & Prayer** . . . .

Monday 7:30 pm

We operate a child protection policy.

Marriages – Child Dedications –

Believers Baptisms – Funerals

*The Link* is produced by your local Seventh-day Adventist Church in Burnt Lane, Gorleston, NR31 0PG as a community service.

Editor: Michael I. Walker – email:

[mwalker08@btinternet.com](mailto:mwalker08@btinternet.com)

Minister: Mark Borrett – 07729 997699

Visit our Church Website:

<https://greatyarmouth-adventist-org-uk.adventist.eu>



# The Link November 2018

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## A Touching Testimony of Being Saved from Near Death

~= An abridged version of Nina Jagger's Story =~

First let me say the power of prayer is very strong. When God first brought me to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, I was told by a church member that now you are in the arms of God you will be persecuted on all sides. That night I prayed to God and told Him that I will put up with all kinds of persecution but one thing that I ask of you Lord is to not let me be in pain. I tell you this before my testimony to prove to you the power of prayer is incredible.

On 11 March, I took myself to A & E as my skin was turning a bright yellow colour almost overnight. I was admitted and waited in a corridor on a gurney for 24 hours until they finally found me a bed. Over the next few days I was given a barrage of tests and procedures. During that time, I had several blood tests, lots of pills and an IV drip. Lots of doctors were popping in and out to see me and asking the same kind of questions: 'Was I vomiting?', 'Do I have a fever?', 'Is my urine dark?' and 'Am I in pain?' All these things were synonymous with liver failure. I had only three of the symptoms. The doctors could not understand why I was not in pain because apparently, pain is one of the biggest factors that liver failure can give you. It was unheard of - a liver problem without pain!

One of the procedures I underwent was an MRI scan where they found a slight collapse of the common bile duct and gallstones even though my gallbladder was removed in 2003. On the 16 March, I was taken to the University College Hospital in London to have a procedure done; they found no gallstones but put a stent in to stop the bile duct collapsing. A day later I was diagnosed with pancreatitis. After a week-and-a-half of antibiotics and close observation, the pancreatitis eventually dissipated.

For days the professionals came in and out and were saying things like, 'Why isn't she in pain?', 'Why are there no signs other than the jaundice and dark urine?'. They decided to send me home. On the third day, a nurse came and took another blood test. A few hours later I received a phone call saying that my bilirubin levels had gone up by 200% in an hour. There was still no pain. That night I was taken by ambulance to the Royal Free Hospital in London where I could be amongst specialists who dealt with liver failure and liver transplants. None of the doctors nor specialists could understand why my liver was failing and why I had no pain, no fever, no vomiting, all of which were associated with the condition.

In a short space of time, I started to slowly regress into delirium, shakes and was unable to talk properly, but still no pain. Due to the lack of pain, most thought it would improve with steroids. My daughters came to visit me on 5 April and they were also convinced I would be OK as I was in no pain. On 8 April I went into acute liver failure and was put into an induced coma to reduce any further complications, like brain damage and organ failure. My family were told to come as I was deteriorating. I was placed on top of the UK register and a search for a liver began. The following morning my children and family were called to the hospital again due to the circumstances. I needed a liver and the chances of finding one in 24 hours was unheard of and I had not long to live.

They told my daughters to go home and put my affairs in order. Nothing is impossible with God. I had informed my daughters previously that because I love Jesus, I'm not scared anymore. Having been a clairvoyant for 26 years, I believed when you died you went to the 'spirit world' - now I know of "the blessed hope" in Jesus Christ and His eternal provisions for those that love Him.

While in a coma I had a cardiac arrest. It took three hours to stabilize me. My pastor remained . . . /Continued on page 2



## Editorial

Most news items in the media today seem to be of the negative variety. Perhaps that is a selling point in today's society! I frequently hear comments from individuals about how discouraging it is to be constantly bombarded with news about crime, warfare, terrorism, fraud, vandalism, etc., etc. On the other hand, encouraging accounts are positive items of news. It is for this reason that we have chosen to give extra space in this newsletter to a remarkable story of faith that testifies to how God answered prayer.

Do take note in your diaries of the Christmas Carol Service for next month; there will be a special collection for a local charity. Please also note the special session that has been arranged concerning the current problem faced by so many young people that has been highlighted in the media during the last week or so. Anyone, whatever age, suffering from depression or interested in helping someone they know who suffers moods of depression would be welcome to attend - *Editor*.

### Saved from Near Death - Continued from page 1

with me and prayed for me. The whole of my church was now praying for me. My daughters were told there was approximately a 6-hour window left in which to find a liver close to where I was, but it needed to be a perfect match with the following 8 matching markers: T-cells, Liver enzymes, T-lymphocytes, Gender, Age, Red blood cells, White blood cells, and Ethnicity. The drive home for my children (not being Christians) must have been awful. They feared the worst. It takes two hours to drive home and just as Carole-Anne, the youngest, got home the hospital phoned. She knew it could only be one of two things - I'd died, or they'd found a liver. She feared the worse. She could not believe what she had heard. They had found a liver and were checking to see if it was a match. A later call confirmed it was an exact match with all eight matching markers. They were sending me for the transplant at 1.00 am on the 10 April.

The church members left their homes and came to pray in the church all night. To have a liver with a complete match found within 24 hours was a miracle! Throughout the whole of my recovery the doctors and surgeons who came to my room continued to mention again and again that it was a miracle. They said they had never heard of this happening before. One other doctor told me that I also had a heart attack while on the table for the second surgery for a bleed; it was no ordinary heart attack but a broken heart. It was so rare that they put it in the journal.

After 8 days, my body started to reject the liver, but this was treated with steroids and other medications as well as through prayer. I also suffered a bowel infection and a bladder infection. It was like, what could go wrong was going to go wrong. The devil didn't like me getting better: he didn't want me back on my feet, he wanted me out of the picture because I had forsaken spiritualism and now loved to talk to people and glorify God's name instead. As a result of my hospital experience on the wards, God used me to lead four people to Jesus. So, the devil couldn't stop me!

When they did a biopsy on my liver they still could not find what caused it to deteriorate in the first place. It was an anomaly. It was unique. The liver was eating itself from the inside out and they knew not why. I think it was as it was with Job in the Bible: the devil who caused his suffering was also the cause of mine in order to silence me. Three months later I had another relapse and was back in hospital. There were problems with the new liver and an anomaly. It took them two weeks to get a diagnosis. During this time, there was much prayer.

My friend called and said: "Speak to the liver, 'In the name of Jesus stay with me. If you reject we both die'." The next day they did my blood tests and the results showed it was better and I could finally go home - again, one of God's miracles.

My daughters now feel sure that if I didn't have faith in Jesus, I would have died. I think so too. I was just a few hours from death. My recovery was very quick.

As I mentioned earlier, my prayer upon becoming a Christian was that I don't mind being persecuted but asked God to shield me from having pain. God answered my prayer during the whole time. I was in no pain during the entire experience - prayers are powerful!

[Editor's comment: *Nina's experience in hospital galvanized much media attention. Several local newspapers took up her story*]

Understanding  
**Youth Depression**  
Free seminar - All Welcome

Is depression affecting your life, or the life of a friend or family member? As a leading cause of illness in the UK, depression is on the rise, especially among young people.  
But there are ways to help!

Guest Presenter: Mr. Luka Mhishi, Qualified General and Mental Health Nurse  
When: November 30, 2018  
Time: 7:30-9:00 p.m.  
Where: Function Room, Adventist Church, 48 Burnt Lane, Gorleston-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, NR31 0PG  
[greatyarmouth.adventistchurch.org.uk](http://greatyarmouth.adventistchurch.org.uk)

Depression does not have to ruin your future.



**Christmas, it really happened!**

**Community Candlelight and Carol Service** (with Refreshments)

**Saturday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm**  
At Great Yarmouth Adventist Church, 48 Burnt Lane, NR31 0PG.  
([greatyarmouth.adventistchurch.org.uk](http://greatyarmouth.adventistchurch.org.uk))



A Charity Collection will be taken at the above service for the East Coast Hospice, Gorleston, as in previous years

## Inferno in Paradise



Recent news bulletins of the raging fire storm in Paradise, California have sent a shockwave through the media. Thousands of acres have been devastated by the ravaging fire in the Sierra foothills. Local Councillor Schuster said that it "gave Paradise the dubious distinction of being the only place in America where the entire town council is homeless". The number of fatalities is currently unknown because the search for bodies continues. 6,400 homes have been burnt. That is a lot of homes to search and in addition there are hundreds of burnt-out vehicles strewn all over the roads that also need to be searched.

Our prayers go out to all those who have lost homes and loved ones. This harrowing tragedy must be painful for them to bear. Everyone in that community has been affected. Pastor Mark Borrett, minister of the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft Seventh-day Adventist Churches, who returned from a wedding in California and knows several people in that locality has informed the editor that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a large presence in Paradise. Information at the moment is limited due to the whole area being an evacuation zone; but the Adventist Church has also been destroyed in the fire and the kindergarten through fourth-grade section of the church's Paradise Academy campus has also gone; but the rest of the school remains intact.



A more recent report by Pastor Ted Wilson, President of the World Church of Seventh-day Adventists, has reported that while the church building was destroyed, we praise God that as far as we know there was no loss of life amongst church members and friends. He also reports that much of the Adventist Health's Feather River Hospital was preserved, and he pays tribute to the Adventist Health team at Enloe Medical Centre and Oroville Hospital and all the first responders who safely evacuated the staff and patients of Adventist Health Feather River Hospital.

Wilson also said: "We want to express our sincere condolences and Christian love to the many people who are facing great loss from the horrific fire in the town of Paradise and other parts of Butte County in northern California.

.../Continued on p.4.