

A Word in Season . . .

Just over 80 years ago, King George VI made his Christmas Day speech to the nation. It was 1939 and our country was at war with Nazi Germany. The future was uncertain. It was a very difficult time and the nation needed to be encouraged, inspired and united together to stand firm against the Nazi war machine.

King George became king on 11 December 1936 after his brother Edward VIII abdicated the throne. He was extremely nervous about public speaking because of a debilitating speech impediment. Yet in spite of this, he rose to the occasion to address his people who now looked to him as their monarch. Nervously but courageously he spoke into the two microphones before him at a pace that was slow but deliberate: "A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how thankful we shall all be. If it brings us continued struggle we shall remain undaunted."

Knowing the challenge her father faced in the days leading up to his broadcast, Princess Elizabeth had placed a poem into his hand, suggesting he might find it appropriate. On that eventful day as he drew towards the end of his speech, his voice continued over the radio, "I feel that we may all find a message of encouragement in the lines which, in my closing words, I would like to say to you . . ."; and continued with the poem his daughter had placed in his hand.

We have now been assured that at the end of this month, the United Kingdom will leave the European Union. This is what our nation voted for in the referendum and the political struggle has been pronounced over the three-and-a-half years since that event. During that time, there have been those who have expressed fears for the future. We do not know how our future will follow although many have the confidence that we shall be free once again to make our own decisions. There need be no doubt that there may be a steep climb at first, but the British people have shown a determination and resilience in the past, just as they did during those years

at war; and our determination and resilience will no doubt remain.

The future may also seem dismal on numerous fronts: climate change, terrorism, the possible imminence of another world war; and so on. Those of us who place our trust and confidence in what God has told us, while sharing concern for the issues in our world, share it with a certain degree of optimism. For Christ said that these conditions would arise just prior to His glorious return. What is more, the failure for the European Union to hold together was foretold in the Bible prophecy of Daniel 2 many centuries ago. Once again, God's Word proves to be true.

That poem, King George's 13-year-old daughter placed in his hand says this:

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
Year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'.
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be better than light, and safer than an unknown way.'"

- Editor

"Food for Thought . . .

"May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all"

- King George VI, 25 Dec., 1939.

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.

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<http://greatyarmouth.adventistchurch.org.uk/>



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Missionaries to the Philippines



Errol and Beth Victorio, who are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lowestoft, went on a self-supporting missionary journey with their three beautiful children to the Philippines last year. At the beginning of this year, they related their experience to the church. They are a lovely, devoted family and are a great asset to the church fellowship in Lowestoft. Errol works in London where he was brought up as a boy. During his teenage years, he was a 'teddy boy' who wasted his former life in a street gang. Those wasted years however did not last. His mum used to pray for him; and after a serious illness wrought by taking drugs and alcohol, Errol's life was turned around. He surrendered his life to Christ. Since that time, he met Beth, a young Christian lady and they were married. They have devoted their lives to Christ. Although Errol works in London, it does not deter him from reaching out to help people far and wide. Together they run a health improvement programme from their home in Suffolk where people come to stay and receive instruction and treatment for a better, healthier lifestyle.

Their busy life did not deter them however from travelling to the opposite side of the world in order to proclaim the Christian Gospel to the inhabitants of the Philippines. They felt the desire to do just that; and after much prayer and consideration, their convictions were carried out. Listening to the account of how God blessed their mission was awe-inspiring; but before that was given, while Errol accompanied them on the piano, Beth and their three children, Ella, Errol (Junior) and Seth sang a family song, entitled *Nothing Is Impossible With God*". That was an expression of their faith in what God would do; and the report that followed certainly revealed how the Holy Spirit accompanied their mission and wrought conversions, resulting in 1,000 individuals being baptized.

It took them a 36-hour journey from door-to-door. Their mission was in the South Philippines, to bring "hope and healing" - i.e. 'healing' by health ministry and 'hope' through the Gospel of Christ, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus' soon return.

. . . Continued on page 2.

Editorial

As soon as I heard their missionary report, I knew that had to be our Cover Story for this next edition of *The Link*. It takes courage, faith, commitment and determination to do what Errol and Beth Victorio did on the other side of the world. I hope you will be inspired as I am by their story.

In addition, we include a heart-warming account of the recent *Carol & Candlelight Service* which took place just before Christmas; this annual event saw the church packed to capacity as folk from the community came to share in that annual event.

Do take note of the next *Vegetarian Cookery Class* and mark it in your diary to give it a try. It offers some beneficial and money-saving alternatives you may find you really enjoy!

- Editor.

Missionaries to the Philippines . . .

The whole mission programme was carefully planned before embarking upon it. It was an itinerant programme in which they worked for a week before moving onto the next region. They offered health presentations, including health screening, over a seven-day period. Most people in the Philippines believe in God but do not know what the Bible contains. In following Jesus' example, by ministering to their physical needs, the doors opened for them to talk about God and His Word. The Mayor in one town offered the gymnasium for free in order for them to hold a health expo and to proclaim the message of Jesus. Some 2,000 attended the event. In fact, this large area became a venue where many people were introduced to their Saviour and rejoiced in the hope He offers to everyone.



In the gymnasium donated by the city mayor

Our missionary family worked closely with the district pastors and the local Adventist Church members as they pursued their missionary journey. Their first baptism was of 38 people in the sea. Every weekend after that, the Lord gave more baptisms as people committed themselves to their new life in Christ.



First baptism in the Pacific Ocean

Their ministry was also taken into the prisons, which were packed with inmates, many of whom heard the Gospel of

Christ for the first time. There were many young people incarcerated for their crimes; but as a result of Errol and Beth's ministry, a lot of the prisoners gave their lives to Christ and were baptized. Since one particular prison was unable to provide a suitable baptistery, the prisoners were immersed in oil drums filled with water. Errol watched in amazement, as a rather large prisoner stepped into the oil drum - it looked as if he was too large in every direction to duck down into the water! Yet, as the baptismal formula was pronounced by the pastor, Errol watched "the impossible" take place, the gentleman somehow went down and came up again with what appeared the greatest of ease! In another city jail, all the prisoners who attended the Gospel Meetings were baptized.



One of several prisons in which they ministered and baptized inmates

During the time in the South Philippines, several couples who had been co-habiting, decided to get married following attendance of the meetings. This resulted in counselling, having a mass wedding, and being baptized. While out there, Errol and Beth were invited to run family seminars on *Hope Radio*.



(Above) 5-year old Seth preaching through the translator



Engaging in Children's Ministries

In fact, God had several unexpected surprises as their experience progressed. They were involved in feeding the poor in the streets, clothing them, and a host of other philanthropic projects. Their youngest boy, 5-year-old Seth, preached a sermon, speaking through a translator, and that resulted in several people deciding for Christ and asking for baptism.



There is no limit to what the Holy Spirit can and will achieve through the lives of anyone who is surrendered to Him.

That family song that Beth and the children sang, *Nothing Is Impossible With God* was no doubt based on their experience. It reminds me of something someone once said: "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God!" That is very true.

- Editor.



You are Invited To A Vegetarian Cookery Demonstration

And Afterwards to Sample the Food
by sitting down to enjoy a healthy free meal

at 12.30 pm

on Sunday 9 February 2020

In the Function Room,

Seventh-day Adventist Church

Burnt Lane, Gorleston, NR31 0PG



This is a free Community Service Programme

You are also Invited

To our Annual
Social Event
for this New Year
Sunday 26 January
in the Church Function
Room, Burnt Lane,
Commencing at 3pm

Food
Treats
Fun
Games
Laughs
A whopping Good Time!



Christmas Carol Service Was a Sell-Out!

If those who came to our recent *Carol and Candlelight Service* on 21 December had bought a ticket to attend, it would have been described as a sell-out! Fortunately, the event



was free; but we have never had such an influx from the community as we did this last year. For some, it was standing



room only (our apologies). The service was opened with a rendering by the choir. We had various readings and everyone joined in singing the carols. The children's contributions were also enjoyed. Pastor Mark

Borrett gave a timely message from the experience of the magi, suggesting we also take the journey to see Jesus. Almost £200 was collected in aid of the *East Coast Hospice*. Afterwards, all were invited to enjoy mince pies & mulled berry punch.