

NEC 2017 Consecration Service

by Lungani Sibanda (NEC Communication and Media Director)

This historic Service of Consecration was held at Camp Hill Church in Birmingham on 8 January this year. The service was 'historic' in that it was the first of its kind as far as many of the attendees can recollect. It was a service of thanks and dedication for the newly appointed directors, sponsors and workers of the North England Conference, and the venue was filled with these participants, their families and friends, and a number of curious members.

The decision to hold the consecration service at Camp Hill, one of our bigger churches, is also one of the strategies of the new administration – to utilise our churches for Conference events, thereby saving money wherever possible.

In his sermon, Pastor Ian Sweeney, the President of the British Union Conference, asked who the world's greatest athlete is. He then went on to say that, despite how fast Usain Bolt is, nothing beats the effectiveness of a team!

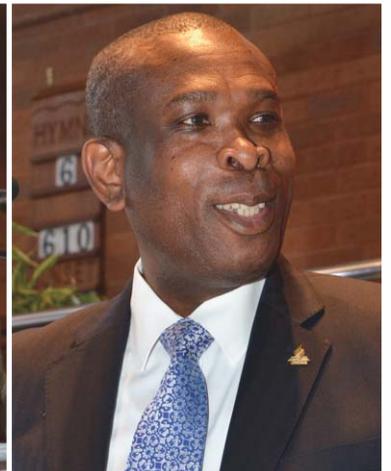
He then went on to explain the mechanics of the relay race and how four Jamaican runners were faster than the South African record holder of the 400-metre race. On average the Jamaican relay team are each faster than Usain Bolt's world record. When people run to hand over the baton they run better and quicker. Even for those who are 'sportically challenged' the message was clear. The survival and the success of Adventism within the North England Conference rest on working together as a unit. It is all about teamwork.

NEC President, Pastor Richard Jackson, had this stirring comment to make: 'We call for the church to rise morally, socially, intellectually and spiritually. People on a mission must never settle for mediocrity as our God of Missions will continue to open doors for us. We should adopt a business-like attitude as missionaries and cut loose of idlers, avoid distraction and put an end to self.' He reminded the congregation that 'The last four years had their fair share of success, achievements and challenges. We are able to look back and praise our Father in heaven for His mercies, for we saw tangible evidence that "The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psalm 46:7, KJV). We look forward with confidence that the same God who was with us during those past challenges . . . is still able to pilot us through the challenges that this new quadrennium will bring.'

Photography: David Bell, Stanborough Press



Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President.



Pastor Richard Jackson, NEC President.



Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Executive Secretary.



The newly appointed directors, sponsors and workers of the North England Conference stand before a packed Camp Hill Church.

MGC NORWAY

2017

TED MASTER GUIDE CAMP

COME WATCH THE MIDNIGHT SUN AND IMPROVE YOUR PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP SKILLS, WHILE EXPERIENCING ARCTIC NORWAY!

- Learn new skills
- Experience practical and helpful workshops
- Participate in inspiring workshops

23.-26. June

PHOTOS: DAG HUGSTMYR

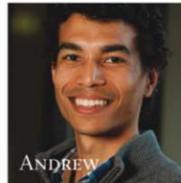


Sommerfryd is a campsite located in the north of Norway, just 2 hours from the city of Tromsø. You will experience the unique nature of the Arctic Circle, the high mountains of the North of Norway and the fjords that the coast of Norway is famous for. Some of the skills you will learn here can not be learnt any other place in Europe. And you will earn the Midnight Sun Pathfinder Honour.

The speakers will inspire and give you ideas to take back to your Pathfinder groups. **Gry Beate Marley** is the Family Ministries Director in Norway. **Andrew Campbell** is pastoring at the Adventist Church in Tromsø.



GRY BEATE



ANDREW

€ 80 masterguidecamp.eu

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc
Health Ministries Director, BUC

Feeling fantastic

Our aim is to feel fantastic this month, so we focus on the following, which are known to provide a well-being boost: *fasting*; *forgetting* negative mindsets; *fluids*; and *fun* activities. So, let's get started with the first two.

Fasts

It is suggested that fasting in a balanced way can enhance well-being. Dr Donald Hendsrud from the Mayo Clinic explains why: 'Regular fasting can decrease your low-density lipoprotein, or "bad" cholesterol. It's also thought that fasting may improve the way your body metabolises sugar. This can reduce your risk of gaining weight and developing diabetes, which are both risk factors for heart disease.'¹

'If you're considering periodic fasting, talk to your doctor about the pros and cons,' says Dr Hendsrud. Obtain timely advice in order to avoid extremes and putting your health at risk, particularly if you are on medication or have a chronic illness.

There are some specific fasts that are controversial and come with cautions. One of these is the fruit fast. Regular fruit fasts – more specifically 'fruitarian' (often called the 'Eden Garden Diet') – are often used as a type of cleanse to detoxify the system. Marisa Moore, registered dietician and spokeswoman for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, gives this warning: 'When you only eat fruit, you're excluding a lot of valuable nutrients from your diet.' She adds: 'Protein is one of the main ones that comes to mind. . . . [Without protein] you lose body weight. Protein acts like a building block for your muscles

and skin and organs.' She also highlights the fact that fats play an important role in maintaining our hormone levels and brain function, and her concern is that fats are missing from a fruit diet.²

Forget negative mindsets

Increasing research has suggested that negative emotions and thoughts are linked with serious health problems. Emiliana Simon-Thomas, PhD, science director of the Greater Good Science Centre at UC Berkeley, explains: 'Many negative emotions such as anger, fear, and frustration become problematic when those emotions turn into a more permanent disposition or a habitual outlook on the world.'³

Health magazine, quoting Emiliana Simon-Thomas, highlights the following research:

- 'A 2014 study published in the journal *Neurology* linked high levels of cynicism later in life . . . to a greater risk of dementia compared to those who were more trusting.'
- 'A 2009 study from the journal *Circulation* looked at data from nearly 100,000 women and found that the most cynical participants were more likely to have heart disease than the least cynical.'

In the light of this, Romans 12:2 – ' . . . be transformed by the renewing of your mind' (NKJV) – makes real sense, doesn't it?

Good health!

¹<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/heart-disease/expert-answers/fasting-diet/faq-20058334>

²<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/01/29/health/steve-jobs-all-fruit-diet/>

³<http://www.health.com/heart-disease/can-negative-thinking-make-you-sick>

editorial

People have been building walls for a long, long time, and for many reasons. They are sometimes built for other purposes, but most commonly to create safe and private living spaces, or to provide special areas demarcated for civic, economic and other community-based activities.

Walls protect

Most ancient cities and important towns were stoutly walled, built that way to protect their inhabitants from marauding bands and invading armies. Not only did the walls allow the city's defenders to see trouble coming, but they also gave them a strategic military advantage when an attack or a siege began.

In 1979, while visiting the Old City of Jerusalem, I had the privilege of a private tour along the top of its walls. Those battlements along which I walked were built between 1535 and 1542 by the Ottoman Turkish sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, and 'stretch for approximately 4.5 km (2.8 miles), and rise to a height of between 5 and 15 metres (16.4-49 ft), with a thickness of 3 metres (10 feet) at the base of the wall'.¹ Looking down from them I soon realised the advantage of those walls.

Not only did the walls of these biblical cities and large towns protect their inhabitants from danger, but they also increased the value of the properties they embraced. Listen to these verses about the advantages of being a city dweller back then: 'Anyone who sells a house in a walled city retains the right of redemption a full year after its sale. During that time the seller may redeem it. If it is not redeemed before a full year has passed, **the house in the walled city shall belong permanently to the buyer and the buyer's descendants. It is not to be returned in the Jubilee.**' (Leviticus 25:29-30, NIV-UK, author's emphasis.)

Walls and gates had another important function in biblical times: they helped the city fathers preserve the practice of Sabbath keeping, as Nehemiah 13:15-16 illustrates: 'In those days I saw people in Judah treading winepresses on the Sabbath and bringing in grain and loading it on donkeys, together with wine, grapes, figs and all other kinds of loads.

It was once about 'walls'; now it's about 'doors'!



Julian Hibbert
Editor

And they were bringing all this into Jerusalem on the Sabbath. Therefore I warned them against selling food on that day. People from Tyre who lived in Jerusalem were bringing in fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them in Jerusalem on the Sabbath to the people of Judah.' (NIV-UK.)

Nehemiah was clearly not a man to waste time on the 'hard of hearing' and he used the walls and gates to full effect the next Friday: 'When evening shadows fell on the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I ordered the doors to be shut and not opened until the Sabbath was over. . . . Once or twice the merchants and sellers of all kinds of goods spent the night outside Jerusalem. But I warned them and said, "Why do you spend the night by the wall? If you do this again, I will arrest you." ' (Nehemiah 13:19-21, NIV-UK.)

Only one wall is impregnable

Sadly, the biblical record also drives home the reality that despite the above benefits only one wall will remain impregnable – that of the New Jerusalem! All the others were besieged and breached: Jericho, Samaria, Jerusalem, Babylon, Rome . . . every last one of them!

Even those great walls we read about on the dusty pages of secular history ultimately failed to resist the relentless pressure of armed conflict and the ebb and flow of displaced nations. Almost without exception, these walls were built to keep undesirables out, or at least restrict their movement. The Great Wall of China is the longest example in the world, with a 'main-line length of 3,460 km (2,150 miles – nearly three times the length of Britain – plus 3,530 km (2,193 miles) of branches and spurs'.²

In modern times we have also seen attempts at wall building for similar reasons. There was the Atlantic Wall, 'an extensive system of coastal defence and fortifications' built by Nazi Germany during WWII along the coast of Europe and Scandinavia to keep the Allies out. Only ruins remain.³ Then there's the Berlin Wall that sliced through the heart of post-war Germany – designed to keep both families and ideologies apart during the Cold War years. And in recent decades we have had the Israeli West Bank barrier or 'apartheid wall', still under construction, but planned to be 708 kilometres (440 miles) long upon completion.⁴

The USA also has a fence/wall along much of its border with Mexico in order to control illegal immigration, people trafficking, smuggling, etc. It now looks, however, as if that barrier will soon extend all the way across the continent – from coast to coast!

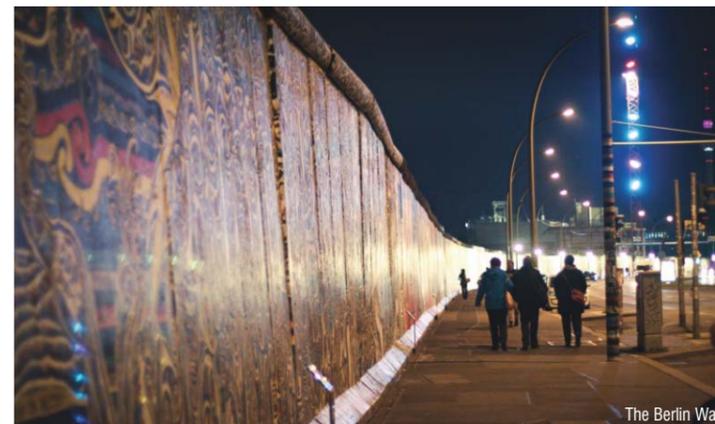
Now it's about 'doors'

So here is my point: **our human nature excels at building walls, irrespective of our religious, cultural, class or political perspectives.** History clearly illustrates our inclination to set up strong barriers and feel safe behind them in the company of those who share our views. Most of us live comfortably within our enclosures of choice, and as Seventh-day Adventists we are no exception – always eager to rebuild the walls of our faith.

Then along comes Jesus Christ in the New Testament and He changes the metaphor. **Where it was once about 'walls', now suddenly it's about 'doors'!** Nowhere do I hear Him saying, 'I am the wall!' But I do hear Him saying, 'I am the way' and 'I am the gate' (John 14:6 and 10:7, NIV-UK, author's emphasis.)

Jesus enthusiastically encouraged His followers to kindness, compassion, goodness and righteousness, **but never to exclusivity.** He urged them to 'go' and 'tell', but they preferred the safety of upper rooms and locked doors. They were inclined to strengthen their community of fellow believers, while He wanted them out at street level mixing with unbelievers in the market place of life.

For Jesus it's all about access. Access to Him – to truth, to grace and to life eternal. In fact, as the 'Door', 'Gate' and 'Way' of the gospels, Jesus becomes the personification of that access. Not to mention the 'Architect' of what is to come: 'On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it.' (Revelation 21:25-26, NIV-UK, author's emphasis.)



The Berlin Wall

¹[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_\(Jerusalem\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_City_(Jerusalem)) ²<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/longest-wall/> ³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Wall ⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_West_Bank_barrier

The Molteni family's spiritual journey

by June Coombs

Little did the Molteni family realise that moving into their new home in Watford would turn out to be the beginning of an amazing spiritual journey that would end up a year later with the whole family forsaking their Catholic roots and joining a Protestant denomination they had never heard of. It was all thanks to daughter Beth's love of music and a neighbourly chat over the garden fence.

The Moltenis – father Massimo, mother Annalisa and daughter Elisabeth (Beth) – shared their inspirational story with the Stanborough Park congregation during the worship service on 10 September 2016. The family lived in Busto Arsizio, a town around 40km north-west of Milan (Italy), but about six years ago Massimo accepted a position with a company in London, although his work still involved a lot of time travelling around Europe. Rather than disrupt Beth's education it was decided that he would live here while Annalisa and Beth remained in Italy. About four years ago it was decided that it was a good time for the rest of the family to move to England, where they lived in rented accommodation, mostly in the West Hampstead area of London. Here they were 'very active' members of their local Catholic church, with Annalisa serving as a minister of the holy communion and Beth as an altar server, helping the priest during the mass. Beth continued her education in local Catholic schools.

Eventually Annalisa decided that she 'wanted to create a new home in the UK' and so they started looking for an affordable property within commuting distance for Massimo. This led them to Watford, and after viewing a number of properties Beth went into one in Garston and instinctively knew that this was the right place for them. 'I've

always had this feeling that this was the right place at the right time,' she said in a perfect English accent that belies the relatively brief time she has lived in this country.

Having moved into their new home they discovered that by a great coincidence their new next-door neighbours also had Italian Catholic roots. They seemed an obvious choice to ask where Beth, who was learning to play the piano and guitar, could continue her music studies. Without revealing that he was a church member, Mr Greco told them that they could obtain music lessons at the Stanborough College of Music, based in the church building just quarter of a mile away, but he assured them that it was totally separate from the church.

So in September 2015 the family visited the Stanborough Centre, where Jiae Ahn, who organises the music school, arranged some lessons for Beth. Not long after this, rehearsals were beginning for the choir to perform at the annual Toy Service and other Christmas events that were taking place at the church, and Beth was invited to join in by choir mistress, Jieun Ahn. As she had belonged to choirs previously and enjoyed singing, she thought, 'Why not?' and persuaded her parents to let her join with the words, 'After all, it's a Christian church; how different can it be?' – a view which caused a ripple of amusement to spread throughout the congregation! Beth, whose spiritual journey was ahead of her parents at this stage, then added that she also told her mother, 'When I came here [the church] I heard the preacher preach and I was so shocked that I felt that kind of chill when you're [thinking], "Wow, this is where I want to be."'

Naturally, Beth's parents wanted to see her perform in the choir, but were concerned that

they weren't church members. However, Jiae reassured them that this would not be a problem, advising them to 'just come as you are'. So they came, and sat at the back of the church – by the door – in case they wanted to make a quick exit!

Beth now took up the story: 'A couple of months later I said, "Mum, when I go to Stanborough I can feel the words of the hymns. It's not like when I used to go in Italy – there I was just singing – but here I really feel it and I want to keep going. I like it here."' According to her, her mother liked



it there too and wanted to follow her. Annalisa explained that it was clear that Beth was happy and was looking for something spiritual, deep in her heart, and she had no objections: unlike Massimo, who reacted badly when Beth said that she wanted to convert. He admitted that he was angry and felt convinced that it was just because she had found a bunch of nice friends. However, each morning before work found him praying in a Catholic church near his office, asking God 'to enlighten me, to understand what is going on in my family'.

The support of church members also played an important part in the family's decision to join the Adventist Church. In particular, Massimo cited the willingness of Michael Dragoyevich to approach him on that first visit and engage him in discussion. Michael, however, regards himself as being 'fortunate' to have met the couple at this time, and feels that he has been 'blessed by their sincerity, conviction and love for Jesus'.



Also helping the family on their spiritual journey at this time were the Greco family, who had moved away and were watching the church service on Livestream. They were surprised to see Massimo and Annalisa in the congregation and Beth in the choir on that first visit, and decided to get in touch with them. So, one day, they arrived on the Moltenis' doorstep bearing a gift, and, revealing that they were Adventists, asked if the family would like to start their spiritual journey with them – an offer that led to weekly Bible studies, which are still continuing even though the Grecos now live in Kent.

The family decided to discover more about Adventists by attending church regularly and found the welcoming atmosphere there and the fact that people would talk to them and were interested in them a very important drawcard. For a family without many friends or relatives in this country the church soon became a surrogate family.

BUC News: are you subscribed?

BUC News is a weekly email newsletter that is aimed at keeping you up to date with all the interesting stories going on around the British Union Conference. The newsletter recently published its 1,000th issue and is growing steadily – last month it registered its 4,000th subscriber.

The newsletter serves to 'engage' with you regardless of how large or small your church may be, or how isolated you may feel from what's going on in other regions, and to bring you into a union of fellowship. The newsletter also seeks to 'inform', thereby ensuring that you are aware of the latest developments, unique stories, and special events within our churches. Lastly, the newsletter seeks to 'inspire' you to know that God is still at work in the lives of other people, bringing transformation, conversion and edification.

You can subscribe today to the BUC News mailing list by going to the front page of our national website – www.adventist.org.uk – and scrolling down to where you can complete a simple form that will ensure that you too will be engaged, informed and inspired.

PASTOR RICHARD DALY (BUC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DIRECTOR)

More studies followed, including those with church pastor Geert Tap, and eventually the family decided to join the Adventist Church: but they would need to tell their colleagues, and, in particular, their staunchly Catholic families in Italy. This turned out not to be the problem they feared, and their colleagues, and especially their families, were very accepting of their decision to join a Protestant church. Beth also found that her friends at her school in Berkhamsted readily accepted that she was unable to join them in Saturday activities and were keen to know about her new-found faith. All that now remained was to join the church officially. This they decided to do as a family and were baptised on 29 October, Beth's 14th birthday. The family were baptised by youth minister Pastor Geert Tap, who remarked that this was the first time that he had baptised an entire family.

The service was watched online by members of the Italian community both here and in their native Italy. The Greco family played a significant part in the service by reading a passage of Scripture before each immersion. As one member of the Greco family remarked, who would have

thought that an informal chat in their back yard would have led to the baptismal pool?

Pastor Geert stressed how important it was that the family had received so much support and friendship from the church community.

For the Moltenis life is now very different from just over a year ago; they have changed their eating and drinking habits, and look forward to their Sabbath Bible studies: all because of Beth's love of music, a neighbourly chat over the garden fence and the welcoming atmosphere of friendship shown to them when they attended a strange church.

Summing up their experience, Annalisa says, 'We would like to quote 2 Corinthians 3:3 [NIV]: "You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."

'We have been blessed because we were like a ship in the storm and God led us to a safe harbour. However, a ship in harbour is safe, but that's not what ships are built for. We pray God that He will use this ship according to His plans.'

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY
March 18th, 2017



...be the sermon...



gcyouthministries.org • globallyouthday.org • facebook.com/AdventistGlobalYouthDay • #globallyouthday

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

EVANGELISM EVERYWHERE

The South England Conference Sabbath School Department Presents

Sabbath School Retreat

DATE: 10 - 12 March 2017

With Dr. Allison McAlister Thomas International Educator

Dr. Nadine Joseph Collins International Educator

Dr. Kirk Thomas SS and PM Director SEC

Kathleen Hanson BUC Education Director

Malika Bediako SEC Children's SS Director

VENUE: Kents Hill Park Training & Conference Centre, Timbold Drive, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ

PRICE: Single Room £168, Twin Room £137, Children: ages 5-13 50% off, ages 13-16 20% off

Register: Contact Mavis Bramble at SEC, Tel: 01923 232728, Email: mbramble@secadventist.org.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Health message opens door to Mayor's home

by Sharon Platt-McDonald and Grace Walsh

Imagine one of your church programmes making such a positive impact in the community that you find yourself ministering in the home of a key community leader. This is what happened to Grace Walsh (NEC Co-Director for Health, Community Services and Disability Awareness). Here is her story:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is blessed with a number of health education programmes: for example, NEWSTART, CELEBRATIONS, CHIP, CREATION Health, GOD'S PLAN, TEN TALENTS, WIN WELLNESS, Living Free, Depression Recovery and so forth. These are wonderful programmes that give help and hope to those with debilitating conditions like obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, depression, high cholesterol and heart disease. These programmes are scientifically supported and able to help reverse such debilitating conditions. The information they contain is in line with that given by the World Health Organisation, the United Nations and many other health bodies around the world, including the National Health Service and Diabetes UK, who endorse the same evidence-based guidelines that we do.

Dudley Seventh-day Adventist Church decided to run a Reversing Type 2 Diabetes programme for the community and church members for eight weeks last year. Diabetes statistics are significantly worse in Dudley than in the rest of England. The programme ran every Sunday during October and November and was presented by the writer. The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif, and the Mayoress were invited to open the Reversing Diabetes programme. He was delighted to open the proceedings because one of the charities he supports is Diabetes UK, as he personally suffers from type 2 diabetes. In

fact, he asked if he could be a participant in order to reverse his condition. (Those attending the programme are encouraged to work with their doctors and specialist care teams in diabetes while following the programme, and the Mayor was encouraged to do the same.)

Due to the Mayor's very busy schedule, the writer made alternative arrangements, suggesting that she carry out one-to-one consultations with him at his home in order to fit around his public commitments, and he happily agreed for her to meet with him once a week. When they started the programme the Mayor was on eleven tablets for his diabetes, but after three weeks on the programme his doctor was so impressed with his improvement that she reduced his medication from eleven tablets to eight. The Mayor hopes that each visit will bring a further reduction in his medication. He is very pleased because of the feedback he is getting from those who have noticed that he is losing weight and looking good. His mental status has improved, he is more relaxed, and so happy with what is happening to him that he wants Dudley Church to make the programme available to the whole of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough.

One key aspect of the Reversing Diabetes programme is the focus on incorporating more plant-based food into the diet, which can be achieved by including such things as smoothies made from fresh fruit and vegetables. The Mayor was



so keen to adopt the new healthy lifestyle that his wife had a special surprise for him for his birthday on 28 December – a Nutribullet of his very own! Wanting to make the opening of the gift a special and memorable occasion, the mayoral couple invited a few of us home to witness the occasion. After the box was opened we made a few smoothies and both the Mayor and Mayoress were amazed at the tantalising taste of the smoothies and the simplicity of making them! The Mayor promised to make the Nutribullet



part of his lifestyle in 2017!

We praise God for the excellent outcome of this programme and the positive witness it has been. If you are thinking of outreach initiatives this year, why not consider one of the lifestyle interventions mentioned at the beginning of this report? The results will be rewarding.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Not by chance, but by change

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

'If I wanted to make a difference . . . wishing for things to change wouldn't make them change. Hoping for improvements would not bring them. Dreaming wouldn't provide all the answers I needed. Vision wouldn't be enough to bring transformation to me or others. Only by managing my thinking and shifting my thoughts from desire to deeds would I be able to bring about positive change. I needed to go from wanting to doing.'

These words were penned by the famous John Maxwell, American author and speaker, leadership guru and pastor, in his book *Intentional Living: Choosing a Life that Matters*. Maxwell believes that intentionality is vital for effective change, and without it, it is difficult, sometimes nigh

impossible, for bad situations to turn to good ones.

ADRA also believes in intentionality. Its motto – 'A life does not get better by chance; it gets better by change' – is demonstrated in the work that it conducts around the world. The work being done in Ndego, a remote area in the eastern province of Rwanda, is a typical example of intentional humanitarian assistance aimed at raising the living conditions of the local inhabitants.

Donatta lives with her husband and her five children in Ndego. This isolated region is dry, rugged and unsuitable for farming. Donatta's youngest child was diagnosed with malnutrition, which is typical for many families who live there. Their younger

children, especially those under five, are the ones most vulnerable to disease and malnutrition. She worries about feeding her family because her tiny farm provides just enough food for the family's basic needs. However, despite her best efforts, the crops are still vulnerable to extreme weather, pests and an unstable water supply, all of which makes family life very challenging.

ADRA leaves nothing to chance and is aware of the hardships faced by the families living in Ndego. For this reason it has set up a project to help overcome malnutrition and poverty, and to combat poor farming conditions and the resulting hunger. ADRA, along with the local community, is providing the following:

- Supplemental food to fight malnutrition in children
- Drought-tolerant seeds to grow healthy food
- Nutritional coaching so mothers can make healthy and tasty meals

This year ADRA-UK is being very intentional in shining a spotlight on some of the most vulnerable groups in the world, Ndego being one of them. They

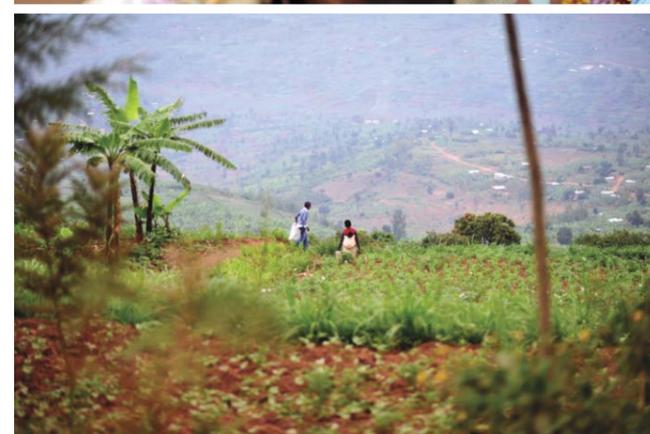
will focus their efforts on women of reproductive age, babies and children under five, living in remote villages, far from the help of government and other humanitarian programmes. By focusing on mothers and young children, ADRA-UK is preventing needless deaths and helping to build a brighter future for those living in Ndego, Rwanda, and elsewhere around the world.

Be intentional! You can help improve the lives of people like Donatta in the following ways:

- Give generously to help improve the lives of people like Donatta.
- Join or start a fund-raising activity in 2017.
- Participate in the door-to-door Annual Appeal from 25 March to 16 April 2017.

This year your generous contribution to the ADRA Annual Appeal will help mothers like Donatta learn new ways to provide for their families in harsh and remote environments like Ndego.

Remember, 'A life does not get better by chance; it gets better by change.' Be intentional. Be part of that change. Get involved in the Annual Appeal, today!



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Aberdaron update



by Malcolm Hayles,
Financial Manager

Dear Friends,
With best wishes to you all for a very happy new year:

I'm writing to bring you up to date with the activities at Aberdaron, following the departure of Les Simpson in September 2016.

As you may know, Les, who has faithfully managed the camp for the last ten years, returned to Scotland to be close to his parents, both of whom are unwell.

His departure prompted a review of the facilities at Aberdaron and, to some extent, the direction in which we are travelling, both financially and with regard to our planned developments.

Following on from the NEC Session report, clearly the financial aspects, which have seen a deteriorating position within the Conference over the last few years, have to take priority in guiding our thinking if the viability of this important church asset is to be assured.

A list of actions has been agreed, and we have already seen a substantial effort applied to completing the five 'pods' so that they will be in full working order for the 2017 summer season.

In addition, the play area is due to be completed during the first two months of this year, followed by a partial internal refurbishment of the six chalets so that all of these facilities will be in use in good time for the forthcoming season.

For the moment, the planned climbing wall and activity area projects have been put on hold until financial circumstances permit their development.

In addition, a survey of the external covering of the cabins has shown that, on each cabin, some remedial work is urgently required to replace rotten or warped planking. It is currently planned that this remedial work will commence in early spring of 2017, initially with the total recovering of the exterior of cabin 1, and with the aim of completing this task next year.

The timing of this particular project will be governed by an additional project that has recently been agreed with the NEC, a project long desired by many: this being the building of a new shower/toilet block with extended and modern facilities, in its current location.

This project is in the very early stages, but it is hoped to lodge a full planning application with the local authorities within the next few



weeks, with the aim of commencing groundwork in February/March and construction work in March. It is planned to have the project completed by the end of April, to be ready for the 2017 'season'.

However, the timing of this entire project rests with the local planning authorities and obtaining their full co-operation in processing the planning application. Should we experience *any* delay in this, the commencement of this much-needed project may have to wait until autumn 2017. These are the larger projects that are under way at Aberdaron.

As previously alluded to, for Aberdaron Camp to thrive, much work needs to be done to attract more visitors to improved facilities, and thereby increase income.

In addition to a new website currently under construction to help raise the awareness and profile of Aberdaron, we are also introducing a number of ways that enable you to help support Aberdaron all year round, in addition to your attendance at Family Camp. We hope that one or more may be of interest to you.

There are currently four opportunities to help:

- 'Friends of Aberdaron'
- 'Gifts of Time'
- Sponsorship
- 'Gift Aiding' camp fees

1. 'Friends of Aberdaron'

We are seeking approximately 100 'Friends', each of whom will undertake to donate a sum

of money – £10-20 per month – initially for a period of one year. This is open to all, those who have visited just once, and those who have been visiting for decades.

'Friends of Aberdaron' would help us raise between £120 and £240 per 'Friend' each year.

The difference it makes will be substantial, enabling us to achieve some of the improvements that will make your stay more comfortable and memorable.

For example:

50 Friends x £240 = £12,000 per annum, which, with the addition of Gift Aid, increases by £3,000.
Total = £15,000 per annum.

If we dare to think of attracting 100 'Friends' Aberdaron would benefit by:

100 Friends x £240 = £24,000 per annum, which, with the addition of Gift Aid, increases by £6,000.
Total = £30,000 per annum.

Imagine the improvements this would allow!

As recognition for being a 'Friend of Aberdaron' you would be entitled to a 5-day mid-week stay for up to 4 people for just £75! (*Dates by arrangement in off-peak periods.*)

If you would like to become a 'Friend of Aberdaron': Please complete the enclosed coupon and forward directly to Aberdaron



Aberdaron needs 2017 summer staff
The Aberdaron Retreat needs 10 volunteer maintenance staff for its 2017 summer camps over a period of nine weeks.

Food and board will be provided, along with a monetary allowance.
Please send your CV to:

Aberdaron Advent Campsite,
Glan-Yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron,
Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT

or email it to:
enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com.



Camp as indicated, or email to: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com.

2. 'Gifts of Time'

A 'Gift of Time' is a way of enabling family, friends or someone in the community to enjoy a mid-week break at Aberdaron, perhaps for the very first time.

This gift could be used for any occasion – birthday, anniversary, or as part of a church outreach programme – where the recipient receives the gift of a 3- or 5-day mid-week break at Aberdaron for up to 4 people.

- A 3-night break is based on offering 3 nights for the price of 2, resulting in a 3-night stay costing just £110 instead of £168 (= £37 per night, per chalet).
- A 5-night break is based on offering 5 nights for the price of 3, resulting in a 5-night stay costing just £165 instead of £280 (= £33 per night, per chalet).

In addition:

The first 25 bookings will receive **either**:

- 1 x breakfast for 4 at the Bakery Café in Aberdaron

or:
• 1 x afternoon tea for 2 at the Bakery Café in Aberdaron.

There is limited availability for this unique gift. (*Dates by arrangement in off-peak periods.*)
If you would like to purchase one – or more – of these unique gifts, please complete the enclosed coupon and forward directly to Aberdaron Camp, as indicated,

or email: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com.

3. Sponsorship:

As suggested by the title, 'Sponsorship' is the funding of a specific amount of money for a specific project.

For 2017, the specified project is the new shower/toilet block.

Perhaps not the most glamorous of projects, but recognised as the greatest outstanding need, in enabling Aberdaron Camp to provide the essential modern and comfortable facilities the site has needed for many years, particularly for those staying in tents, caravans, and pods.

Sponsorship can be per building block, per window, per door, per cubicle or square metre of wall, roof, etc.

If you can help in this essential project, please apply for further information regarding individual sponsorship items by completing the coupon below, and returning it directly to Aberdaron Camp, either by post or email.

Your interest and help is greatly appreciated, and each sponsor's name will be acknowledged on a 'Roll of Honour' in recognition of their help in bringing this much-needed facility to reality at Aberdaron.

Again, if you would like to sponsor the new shower/toilet block, please complete the coupon below, and forward directly to Aberdaron, or email: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com.

4. Gift Aiding your camp fees:

This is a major opportunity which has recently been identified.

If we are interested in receiving further information on:

- 'Friends of Aberdaron'
- 'Gifts of Time'
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Gift Aiding camp fees

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Mobile: _____

Email address: _____

Send to: Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan Yr Afon, Anelog, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT
or email: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com.

Thank you

It has been confirmed that as Aberdaron Camp registered as an independent charity, it is possible that the fees paid to attend Family (and any other) Camp can now benefit from 'Gift Aid' – once again, substantially increasing income, *at no cost to yourselves!*

If you are a taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid coupon attached to your camp application form, and Aberdaron will benefit fully from the Gift Aid recovered.

Should you feel that you would like to participate in any of these four opportunities to help improve Aberdaron, we can in return guarantee you that 100% of the funds raised will be invested back into Aberdaron as we continue to strive to create a 'centre of excellence' over the coming years, fit for all needs, interests and ages.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you back again at Aberdaron soon!

Youth baptised at Plumstead

Three young people waved goodbye to 2016 as they gave their lives to Jesus on the last Sabbath of 2016. Pastor Bernard Akakpo encouraged them to ride out the storms of life that they will face in their Christian walk.

Mattheu McDonald (13) was eager to give his life to the Lord, and Pastor Akakpo commended his parents for providing him with sound Christian teaching at home. Elizabeth Dawtola had been eager for baptism for some time, but, after receiving the truth from another young member, she had to wait until she turned eighteen, at which time her parents gave their blessing for her to enter the church family. Now a teenager, June Owusu had grown up in a devout Pentecostal family, but, after being invited to Plumstead Church by one of her peers, she heard about the significance of the Sabbath during a sermon that left her speechless. Since then she has faithfully attended church and received Bible studies.

Pastor Akakpo commended the young members for their ceaseless witnessing to their peers about the love of God, and the dedication



Highs and lows at Yardley

The Teens Day at Yardley Church (17 December 2016) was an event of both 'highs and lows'. Three members shared their birthdays that Sabbath, one of whom was their 82-year-old Sabbath School superintendent, who was back after a lengthy illness. It was also Pastor Pardon Chenjerai's last Sabbath after he and his wife, Annastacia, had ministered at Yardley for two years. Stan Stevens, a local elder, paid this tribute to the pastoral couple: 'You will be missed by everyone here at Yardley but we know that you will give your all to your new congregation!'

Then, in the afternoon, came the highlight of the day as Pastor Chenjerai baptised his own daughter, Lynn, during a moving AY service at which Pastor Adam Ramdin was the speaker.

YARDLEY COMMUNICATION TEAM

A perfect end to 2016!

For the Hackney church, 2016 came to a perfect end with the baptism of three precious souls on Sabbath 10 December: Sherece Sealy, along with her twin daughters, Hania and Huda.

Ann Williams and Ruby Merchant prepared the family for baptism, and Ann had this to say: 'Every week these young ladies have come to Bible studies, often getting to church before us – imagine that! This just shows how eager and dedicated they are in wanting to learn more about God. . . .'



Pastor Joojo Bonnie



From front centre: Mattheu McDonald, June Owusu, Elizabeth Dawtola

of the Personal Ministries Department to nurture the enthusiasm of candidates and new members.

ANGELA LEWIS (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)



Dudley's newest member

Not even the cold, wind and rain on 3 December 2016 could keep Carmen Christi from her baptism. Her daughter read her favourite Bible passages, Psalms 91 and 121, which reminded us of the wonderful protection, providence and sovereignty of God in these last days of earth's history. Pastor Dan Majaducon's message also gave hope, encouragement, and assurance to Carmen that afternoon at West Bromwich Church. She has joined the Dudley church in the Midlands.

MARA WALSH



Sherece with her twin daughters, Huda and Hania Sealy

The family were baptised by Hackney's pastor, Joojo Bonnie, who said: 'Heaven is rejoicing today because a family has been won for Christ. No matter how far away we have been from God, He always waits with open arms for us to return to Him.'

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

Bristol celebrates

Bristol Central Church rejoiced on Sabbath 10 December 2016, when Yvonne Watson and Mikayah Campbell were baptised by Pastor Royston Smith in front of a packed audience of friends and family.

Yvonne had planned to be baptised several times before, but circumstances had prevented it. Speaking after the service, she said, 'I just can't express how I feel. Words are inadequate. I feel like I'm on top of the world!' She explained that a visit to her mother, who may be suffering with dementia, helped her to make her decision. She felt that 'It's best to make that decision while you can.'

Yvonne invited several of her work colleagues to the service, including her manager, who had never been in a church before.

The second candidate was 11-year-old Mikayah Campbell. She was brought up in an Adventist family at Bristol Central, and after witnessing several of her family and friends being baptised she decided to follow their example.

Describing how she felt after the service, she said, 'I feel clean; like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders!'

IAN SABADIN (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER)



Baptism at Bearwood

Bearwood Church recently held its first baptism since being organised in May 2016. Ten precious souls were baptised by Pastor Pardon Chenjerai on his last Sabbath with this congregation. Officiating minister, Pastor Samuel Appiah, led out in the baptismal service, which was the firstfruits of a dynamic revival led by Pastor Ray Patrick. After the baptism those present were treated to a colourful programme of shared Bible texts, personal testimonies and songs in Twi (Ghana), Italian and English, praising God for His mercies. To God be the glory!

NOAH NAYLOR (ELDER)



Some of Welling's 2016 highlights

Among the highlights at Welling Church last year were the baptisms involving Sinead Scafe and her parents, Mr and Mrs Scafe; Sinead's aunt, Sharon Burke; and family friend, Emma Tuyen; along with Paryse Sharpe, June Addison and Maple Thomas.

Another highlight was a surprise 'special day' arranged for the church's senior members – 70 and over – for their dedication and service to God and the church. The event included a celebratory banquet and a gift of appreciation for their commitment. One member exclaimed, 'I will never forget this day as long as I live.'

ELIZABETH PICART, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Bournemouth loses two but gains five

On 12 November 2016, Bournemouth Church was packed for the baptism of three teenagers: Happiness Matseke, her sister Precious Matseke and Jack Vine. They had been prepared for the event by Pastor Daniel Thompson and marked the climax of Daniel and Hilary's five and a half years of dedicated ministry in the Bournemouth district, which comprises the churches of Weymouth, Dorchester, Bournemouth and Winchester. The couple have left to make their home in the USA.

The day was also an opportunity to warmly welcome Pastor Laszlo Liebhardt and his wife Edit, who have transferred from the district of Wokingham. We pray for God's blessings to rest upon them and their family in the future. PASTOR RICHARD L. VINE (BOURNEMOUTH COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



Left to right: Pastor Daniel Thompson, Elder Stanley Taxeira, Elder Khonzani Sibanda, Happiness Matseke, Precious Matseke, Jack Vine, Douglas Vine, Pastor Richard Vine, Elder Rodrigo Cerenovich.

Picture quality as sent

SEC Evangelism Expo 2017

Over 1,000 pastors and lay members packed Newbold College's auditoriums and Newbold Church for the South England Conference's (SEC) annual Evangelism Expo, making this the best-attended event of its kind.

Pastor Mark Finley, Assistant to our General Conference President, commenced the special one-day training seminar with an encouraging message, entitled 'Preparation for the Harvest' (8 January).

According to him, 'God is on the move in the South England Conference. The Holy Spirit is touching hearts,' and '2017 provides an amazing opportunity to touch people for Jesus' kingdom.'

As part of the four-year 'Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere' plan, 2017 is about 'Restoration', and the expo was the perfect opportunity to share this year's emphasis.

These annual Evangelism Expos have a dual purpose. Firstly, they are a training and developing opportunity for new members and a refresher course for those who have been before. The training is provided mainly through workshops run by the SEC's departmental directors. The expo also keeps churches connected with each other about the progress they are making or with other important issues. As SEC Executive Secretary Douglas McCormac put it, 'A number of people have spoken about the fact that they want to see the Conference be more like a family and this brings us together, lets us see what everyone is doing and encourages us to work together to share the Gospel message.'

Secondly, the Evangelism Expo is geared towards evangelism. Throughout the day, pastors and members are taught what actions can or cannot be taken, rules and regulations, whys and wherefores. Also, this is an opportunity for churches and individuals to learn how to interact with members of the community, whether it is for knocking on doors or connecting with the local press. The Departments and the Adventist Book Centre (ABC), along with other exhibitors at the expo, provided resources specifically geared towards evangelism.

One of the points the SEC's Acting President, Pastor Emmanuel Osei, raised was why it is important to work with local councils by asking them: 'How can we help? Tell us what we can do to work together.' Pastor Osei noted that such questions expose the church to

the community in a positive way and help our members to have more pride in their communities.

Fund-raising for Moldova in Plymouth

Late last year Plymouth Church held the first of a number of fund-raising events to raise funds for a mission trip to Moldova in August 2017. The youth were eager to organise another mission trip after the success of their 2015 trip to Romania.

They aim to raise £6,000 for two projects: firstly, to help a lady called Helena finish her house, which has no bathroom or kitchen; and secondly, to build Elena, a single mum of three young children, a new, free-standing brick kitchen and a stable roof.

Gemma and Jackie Hall started off with two well-known carols. The youngest performer, Meghan Herman (9), was accompanied by her brother Matthew on the piano, as they sang 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear'. The LIVE St Austell team supported the event with great performances from Jena and Steven Hulbert and Jake Jackson.

Victoria Balan delivered some powerful performances of Christian melodies, while Daniel Costin (saxophone) and his brother, Denis (piano), wowed the audience with their enthusiastic playing. Older brother Alex played a superb rendition of 'O Holy Night' on the pan flute.

Some Moldovan carols were sung by the trio, Adriana and Sofia Banari and Violeta Dulgher, while George Boston, accompanied by his wife Mihaela, played a beautiful Moldovan song on the pan flute.

Nearly £1,300 was raised and friends and family came from near and far in support. For more information on the project please visit www.plymouthadventist.org.uk.

JENNIE HALL



He also said that he was inspired by the number of people attending and was challenged by Pastor Finley's message because it spoke directly to the needs of the Conference.

The whole expo was geared towards teaching the members to reach people in areas where we have not met them before and to introduce the church to them in a very positive way. This is all leading towards the 2018 Evangelistic Campaign, and the Conference can expect Mark Finley to visit before the end of this year for more training.

An exhausted, yet very inspired and excited Acting President concluded by saying: 'As we leave this place we do so recharged and inspired and enthused, ready to do something for God in this mission that He has given us.'

NATASHA MIRILOV



Left to right: Daniel Costin, George Boston, Victoria Balan and Denis Budaev.



The fantastic musicians.



NEC church officer training

On Sunday 15 January the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists had its first officer training session under the new administration, and it was well attended. About 600 people came from around the Conference to glean information pertinent to their church office. This is a first for the NEC, having all departments deliver

training at the same time in the same venue. According to the Personal Ministries, Church Planting and Church Growth Director, Pastor Mike Simpson, 'This centralised training has been a long time coming and it was so good to see the team together in one place delivering their message. I believe the day went very well. Hopefully the team will have some time to assess the day and put forward some positive proposals for 2018. There is one thing that we can do almost immediately and that is start looking for a larger venue and secure it now.'

This event was a great success indeed, not only because it was an opportunity for new officers to be equipped and armed with an arsenal of new skills, but because it was also a day to fellowship and network. This event shows a willingness by the members to work together to ensure success. The administration is eager to hear what your experience was and your thoughts on how we can make this event bigger and better for 2018.

LUNGANI SIBANDA (NEC COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA DIRECTOR)



Haverhill VBS

Haverhill Fellowship of Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church went back in time over the summer holidays, retracing the story of Joseph in Egypt – from prison to palace. Thirty-six children passed through our Holiday Bible Club between 1 and 5 August; twenty-five were children from the local community!

NAOMI MARANDURE

Dr Chidi receives prestigious award

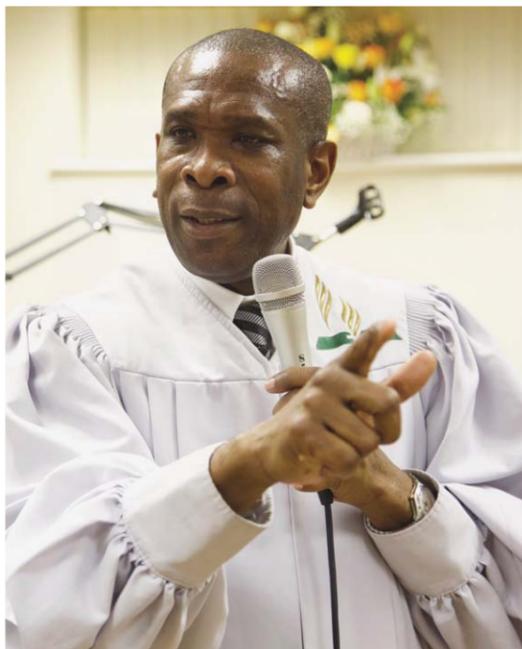
At a ceremony for the inaugural Leadership Awards in London last November, Dr Chidi Ngwaba was privileged to receive an honorary award in recognition of his inspirational work in the prevention and reversal of lifestyle diseases. Dr Chidi serves as the South England Conference Health Ministries Director, and was also instrumental in the recent One Life campaign throughout London as the main health presenter.

Dr Chidi is very active and prominent in advocating healthy lifestyle choices that may prevent disease. He has featured on *Good Morning Britain*, and has spoken on TEDx talks at King's College, London.

On this occasion leaders in business, charity, education, NGOs, health, and so on, were being honoured. We congratulate Dr Chidi on his latest achievement.

PASTOR RICHARD DALY, BUC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR





Pendeford celebrates 10 years

November 26 last year marked the 10th anniversary of Pendeford Church, which was formerly known as Dovecote Pub. There is something about the church that just grabs you as you enter the doors – a sense of openness and brightness. The sanctuary is built on what used to be the cellar of the pub, where the beer and spirits were stored, but now the Holy Spirit has taken residence over that space.

It was fitting that the guest speaker for the day was none other than the North England Conference President, Pastor Richard Jackson, who was involved with purchasing the building when he was the local pastor. In his sermon he regaled the congregation with stories of the negotiations to purchase it, including how some of the members even remortgaged their homes to make it possible.

To end this day of celebration a baptism was held in the afternoon, during which Aliyah Pearce and Nisa Maxine Chisipochinyi were welcomed into membership. It has been an exciting journey for Pendeford Church, and God has been faithful all the way.

LUNGANI SIBANDA

South England Conference vacancies

An experienced Accountant/Associate Treasurer is required at our Watford head office to assist with key accounting functions within the Treasury Department and report to the Conference Treasurer.

Key responsibilities for the Associate Treasurer will include but not be limited to:

- A rollout of the complete Church Pal software to the churches;
- A project to update the valuation of all of the church-owned properties in the SEC;
- Management and control of 'internal audit' of the churches by contractors;
- New social media channels for giving by church members (giving by text, apps and touchless); and
- The overhaul of the monthly management accounts pack and in-house preparation of statutory statements for the Executive Committee.

Responsibilities will depend on qualifications, and based on the level of experience the salary will range from £28,912.94 to £35,964.24 per annum.

The successful candidate will need to be a qualified/part-qualified accountant with treasury experience in a busy and large charitable or corporate environment, and able to commence employment with immediate effect.

The South England Conference is offering this fast-paced and interesting full-time position within the organisation with the opportunity for further professional development after a qualifying period.

The successful candidate is required to have the right to work within the UK and all necessary checks, which include a pre-employment medical, references and an enhanced DBS check, will be carried out. Previous applicants need not submit their interest.

Applicants are invited to request an application form, person specification and job description from:
Mrs Jacqui Crawford – Human Resources Manager, South England Conference, 23 St Johns Road, Watford, Herts. WD17 1PZ.
Or email: jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk

Deadline for both applications: 28 February 2017.

The South England Conference is an equal opportunities employer.

Full-time Local Church Trainer and Auditor: Based at our Watford offices and reporting to the South England Conference Treasurer, the purpose of the role is to provide auditing and treasurer training services to our churches within the South England Conference.

Depending on experience, salary (which includes London Weighting Allowance) will range between £26,796.84 and £34,553.88 per annum.

The successful candidate will be required to have:

- Management or Accounting first degree
- ACCA or other relevant postgraduate qualification (part-qualified will be considered)
- Ability to learn new accounting software and train others in its use
- Proven ability to oversee the work of others
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office software – Word, Outlook, PowerPoint and Excel
- Knowledge of Sun Plus or similar accounting package would be advantageous
- Knowledge and experience of working in the not-for-profit environment would be advantageous.

Essential criteria:

- Empathy for the work, values and ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Excellent organisational skills
- A keen eye for detail
- Excellent communication skills
- Flexibility and the willingness to adapt to constantly changing routines, as well as the ability to work alone
- The ability to meet tight deadlines
- The ability to build strong relationships with church members, work colleagues and members of the public.

The successful candidate is required to have the right to work in the UK. A valid passport will be necessary as some overseas travel may be involved. Necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out.



Princess Michael of Kent meets Watford Adventist

What started out as a routine short stay at the local hospice for Adina Farrant turned out to be an opportunity to meet a member of the royal family.

Mrs Farrant, a retired senior lecturer and member of Stanborough Park Church, discovered that her stay at the Peace Hospice in Watford in early October coincided with a visit by Princess Michael of Kent to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the hospice, which she formally opened in 1991.

During this visit Adina, accompanied by her husband, Douglas, had a private chat with her lasting about 15 minutes in which she told her about the building's history. The princess was very interested to hear this and subsequently informed her how much she had enjoyed their conversation as she had never been told of the hospice's former use.

Adina was able to speak to Princess Michael again later and have another photo taken with her. This time they discussed modern medicine, and pain relief in particular, and she was able to demonstrate how her syringe driver worked, which the princess found fascinating.

Recalling the occasion, Adina described the princess as being 'very elegant' and 'responsive', and that she 'had the ability to make others feel at ease'.

JUNE COOMBS



Remembrance Day at Bartley Green

Last year the Halesowen and Bournville churches responded to an invitation by Councillor Des Flood of Bartley Green to enhance their Remembrance Day services with the music from the Pathfinder drum corps.

The two churches not only provided music, but also a platform for the Remembrance Day parade.

Councillor John Lines, while in conversation with Pastor Obi Iheoma, commended the Pathfinders for their excellent discipline, saying, 'Keep up the good work you are doing with your parishioners; they are a great asset to the Bartley Green community.'

PASTOR OBINAYA IHEOMA

obituary



James Quishney Francis (1935-2016)
d. 9 November. It is with heartfelt sadness that we record the loss of James Francis,

affectionately known as Jim to his family and friends. He was the last of seven children born to David and Louisa Francis in Manchester, Jamaica, on 25 April 1935. After his father's death (1939) he was raised by his mother and elder brothers, and attended the Pratlville Primary School. After this he trained as a carpenter. During this time his relationship with Inez Scafe produced a son, Leslie. In 1962 Jim followed his brother Charles and other family members to England and settled in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, where he plied his trade. During this time he had another son, Chris, with his second wife, Clarice Stephenson. Jim later married Joy, his surviving widow, when he settled in Norfolk.

Jim was a very religious person and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for most of his life. He was rebaptised in 1962. He loved music and enjoyed singing, as well as playing the piano. He became well known throughout East Anglia and during the last 12 years he attended the Great Yarmouth church, where he supported virtually every church activity and even took up lay preaching. During evangelistic meetings in Thetford in 2007, and subsequently in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, Jim was one of the most reliable members of the team. In recognition of Jim's loyal involvement, he was invited to accompany the writer to a church planters' training seminar at Friedensau Adventist University in Germany.

One of Jim's contributions in the civic arena was his prison ministry. For several years he served on the Prison Monitoring Board at Weyland Prison in Norfolk, and accompanied the writer on his chaplain duties.

In recent years he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, but he would still telephone several members to encourage them and offer a word of prayer. On the day of his tragic death he rang the writer and did just that. Later that same day Jim died in a fire that destroyed their bungalow – what a shock it was for Joy when she returned home!

His funeral service was held in Norwich Church on 14 December with well over a hundred people in attendance, about half of whom were villagers from Great Hockham, where they lived, and where he was greatly respected. Assisted by Pastors Rio Espulgar, Jeff Nicholson (Jim's nephew), and Adrian Peck, the writer led the service and paid tribute to Jim as a close friend and faithful soldier of the cross. The committal took place at the nearby Earlham Road Crematorium.

Jim is mourned by his wife, Joy; his only sister, Emily; two sons, Leslie and Chris; his step-daughter, Yvonne; his grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER

Messenger

Volume 122 • 03 – 10 February 2017

Editor: Julian Hibbert
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 5 – 16 February 2017

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Send high-resolution pictures to:

dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700

Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For general enquiries, email:

info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

| | London | Card | Nott | Edin | Belf |
|--------|--------|------|------|------|------|
| Feb 10 | 5.07 | 5.19 | 5.07 | 5.06 | 5.21 |
| 17 | 5.20 | 5.32 | 5.21 | 5.22 | 5.36 |
| 24 | 5.32 | 5.45 | 5.34 | 5.37 | 5.50 |
| Mar 3 | 5.45 | 5.57 | 5.47 | 5.52 | 6.04 |

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.*

*Postage will only be charged for single copy subscriptions and overseas airmail.

BOOKSALES

February
12 Hyland House 10am-2pm
19 Plumstead Community 10am-2pm
26 Shrewsbury 10am-2pm

ABC Shops
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.
01923 893461
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm,
Sunday - 11am-3pm.
0121 3286380
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm.
Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset.
0207 7236849

Order on our Sales Hotline
01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Adventist
Book Center.com



Diversity Centre lectures, spring 2017

Spring semester

Tuesday 7 March Dr David Landrum, Director of Advocacy at the Evangelical Alliance, *Christianity, Free Speech and the Challenges of Secularism*

Tuesday 4 April Dr Jenny Taylor, Director, Lapido Media, Centre for Religious Literacy in Journalism, *Fear and Loathing in the Newsroom: How journalists understand religion*

All lectures will be held at 7.30pm in the Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, RG42 4AN. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

Date for your diary . . .

Tuesday 10 October – 2017 Beach Lecture Professor Alec Ryrie – Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, *Faith and Politics: A Reformation anniversary view*

Contact Helen Pearson on 07775 612610

REKINDLE THE SPARK



£300

PER COUPLE

Couples Retreat

28-30 APRIL 2017

DEVERE HORSELY ESTATE, OCKHAM RD S
East Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT24 6DT.

Payments to: REKINDLE THE SPARK
Sort Code: 20-78-58 Account No: 63690725

* A £100 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED
* SPACES AVAILABLE FOR 80 COUPLES

*Deposits MUST be paid by 28th February 2017.
*Payments can be made in installments.
*Full payments MUST be made by 31st March 2016.
*Registration form and deposit are required to secure your place.



guest speakers

Pr. Charles Wesley Knight
& Sis Stephanie Knight

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Linda Mukwada 0792 085 0311, Nozi Connor 0795 636 5534 or Nana Bonnie 0749 696 6035

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

FINALCALLPRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



AND THERE WAS WAR

Written & Directed by Jermaine Wong

18TH FEBRUARY 2017
BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE
TOWN HALL APPROACH ROAD, TOTTENHAM GREEN, LONDON, N15 4RX

DOORS OPEN: 6:30PM PERFORMANCE: 7:00PM
ADMISSION £15 CONCESSION £12
BOX OFFICE: +44 (0)208 365 5450
BOXOFFICE@BERNIEGRANTCENTRE.CO.UK

www.finalcallproductions.com

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Restore

Sabbath
18 Feb 2017
9.30am - 5.30pm

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;...for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4

Methodist Church
49 High Town Rd
Luton, LU2 0BW

For info contact:
Sevi: 07961514435
David: 07905712660

Guest Speakers
DR. & DR. HURST
Carolyn & Jerome

A ZIM DAY OF FELLOWSHIP
organized by Zimbabwe-UK Seventh-Day Adventist Fellowship

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted