

Messenger

News to the churches • 24 February 2017 • Volume 122 • 04



£750,000 . . . and counting

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau (on behalf of ADRA-UK)

In 2015, a narrow two-bedroom terraced house in Islington, north London, went on the market for £750,000. At its narrowest, it was 5ft and boasted a small galley kitchen, yet it was described by

families and 1,000 small businesses. ADRA also indirectly assists 1.5 million families through energy awareness campaigns and by investing in 15 schools, 15 health centres, 15 co-op farms and 30 small businesses, providing them with improved access to sustainable energy.

£750,000 will also help to provide much-needed funds for 'The Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project' in the Yao district of the Batha region in Chad. Although Africa's fifth-largest nation, it is a country of extremes. It is rich in gold and uranium, and has also recently become an oil-exporting state. However, this largely semi-desert country suffers from inadequate infrastructure and extreme poverty is widespread. By improving access to safe water and sanitation through drilling boreholes and wells and constructing latrines, ADRA, in partnership with UNICEF, will significantly contribute to the provision of sustainable access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities for 115,000 people in the area.

ADRA, together with Oxfam (Italy), has submitted a proposal to be able to contribute to the health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation of over 300,000 people in some of Sri Lanka's most disadvantaged rural and estate communities within the Central and UA provinces. Nine out of ten people in Sri Lanka live in these rural areas where extreme poverty is rife. If successful, ADRA will help these communities by providing access to clean water, toilets, sanitary materials, enclosed bathing places to protect girls and women, and the delivery of education in nutrition for mothers and communities. ADRA also plans to work with the Sri Lankan government and local organisations to improve community hospitals, schools and communities to help effect lasting change.

So, how can you help ADRA spend £750,000?

You can help ADRA to spend this money to help alleviate poverty as mentioned above, and here in the UK. You can be a catalyst to directly and indirectly assist millions of people by helping ADRA raise £750,000 for humanitarian purposes by contributing generously during the 2017 Annual Appeal, and encouraging those you know to do the same.

The Annual Appeal runs from 25 March until 9 April (outside London) and 16 April (in Greater London). You can help ADRA to help the world's most disadvantaged people by giving generously during this time. You can also sign up in your local congregation to be a volunteer door-to-door fund-raiser, or participate/organise a sponsored event.

For further details of how to get involved in the 2017 ADRA Annual Appeal and help to raise £750,000 please go to the ADRA-UK website: www.adra.org.uk, email info@adra.org.uk or telephone +44 (0) 30 30 40 10 17. Alternatively, you can contact the ADRA agent in your local congregation.

Help us to spend £750,000 by helping us to raise £750,000!



estate agents as 'well proportioned' in the sales blurb. However, it was acknowledged as 'tiny . . . with little room to swing a cat' by a housing expert.

How would you spend £750,000?

ADRA-UK's 2017 Annual Appeal aims to raise £750,000. These monies will go a long way in helping some of the world's poorest people. The money that you raise will be spread across several countries, including Somalia.

Somalia has a population of 10.5 million (UN, 2015) and is a country that has been torn apart by civil war and anarchy. ADRA is working with local partners to help reduce the effect of conflict, climate change and poverty in rural and peri-urban Somalia, directly benefiting 40,000



ADRA UK
Annual Appeal 2017

Annual Appeal 2017

25 March – 9 April, UK
(extends to 16 April in London)

Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ, England
Tel. +44(0)1923 681723, Fax. +44(0)1923 681744
Registered charity 1074937 (SC037726 – IOM1101)

www.adra.org.uk

GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

March 18th, 2017



...be the sermon...



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

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

FAMILY CAMP

ABERDARON, NORTH WALES

21 July-30 July 2017

Camp Costs:

Adults	£110
Children (12-17 yrs)	£90
Children (5-11 yrs)	£60
Children (0-4 yrs)	Free

Accommodation Costs:

Camping Pods	£250
8 person Tents	£130
Own Caravan	£80
Own Tent	£60

You can apply online at
www.aberdaroncamp.com
Bookings will go live on
Wednesday 1 March

Come to beautiful North Wales and enjoy 10 days of worship and friendship. All meals are included and are vegetarian.

Children's activity groups are organised daily. Family activities are organised throughout the camp including water sports, jet ski, cycling trips, rock climbing, football, quizzes, film night, go-karting and horse riding.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Enhancing Health

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

Feeling fantastic – part 2

In the last issue we highlighted two positive lifestyle habits for boosting well-being – ‘fasting’ and ‘forgetting negative mindsets’. We add two more interventions for feeling fantastic in this issue – ‘adequate fluids’ and ‘fun activities’.

Fluids

How well hydrated are you?

Dr Susan Shirreffs is an expert on dehydration from the Biomedical Sciences Department at Aberdeen University. She gives this advice:

‘Most people probably need to drink between one and two litres of fluid every day to maintain their health. Even small levels of dehydration can create headaches, lethargy, or just overall lack of alertness.’¹

If you are wondering how much fluid is adequate, the British Nutrition Foundation advises that your age, level of physical activity and the weather will impact fluid intake. However, European recommendations suggest 1.6 litres of fluid per day for women (about eight 200ml glasses) and 2 litres of fluid per day for men (about ten 200ml glasses).²

Outlining six key benefits of drinking water, WebMD³ lists the following:

- Drinking water helps maintain the balance of body fluids.
- Water can help control calories.
- Water helps energise muscles.
- Water helps keep skin looking good.
- Water helps your kidneys.
- Water helps maintain normal bowel function.

Drink up!

Fun activities

It's official – having fun is health-enhancing!

A recent study in the journal *Psychosomatic Medicine* revealed the

health benefits of engaging in enjoyable leisure activities. Researchers found that individuals undertaking fun activities had lower stress hormone levels, lower blood pressure, reduced waist circumference, a lower body mass index (BMI) and generally felt better than inactive individuals.⁴

The study interviewed 1,400 people and reported on their frequency of participating in leisure activities. It was found that those who spent the most time undertaking many varied fun activities reaped the most health benefits.

Fun activities outdoors also have an additional boost.

A South University article carried the title: ‘Spending Time In Nature for Your Health – How Outdoor Activities Improve Well-being’.⁵ Dr Susanne Preston, a clinical mental health counselling instructor at South University, Virginia Beach, reports:

‘Research has shown that spending time in nature has been associated with decreased levels of mental illness, with the strongest links to reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety, in addition to increased self-esteem.’ She added: ‘Spending time outdoors is also linked to positive effects on physical health, most notably obesity.’

Action: As you top up on your fluids and engage in fun activities with family and friends, thank God for providing for our well-being.

Good health!

¹http://sabriulkerfoundation.org/Hydration_essential_for_your_well_being

²<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/healthyliving/hydration/healthy-hydration-guide.html>

³<http://www.webmd.com/diet/features/6-reasons-to-drink-water>

⁴<http://www.retreat2wellness.com/health-benefits-fun/>

⁵<https://www.southuniversity.edu/whoware/newsroom/blog/spending-time-in-nature-for-your-health-how-outdoor-activities-improve-wellbeing-102984>

editorial

That great biblical character, David, lived an eventful life and reigned over Israel for forty years, a period that is often referred to as Israel's ‘golden age’. All the significant events of his life are packed between 1 Samuel 16 and 1 Kings 2:11, and again through 1 Chronicles 10 to 29. This is how the story ends:

‘As for the events of King David's reign, from beginning to end, they are written in the records of Samuel the seer, the records of Nathan the prophet and the records of Gad the seer, together with the details of his reign and power, and the circumstances that surrounded him and Israel and the kingdoms of all the other lands.’ (1 Chronicles 29:29-30, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

What I find interesting about the record of David's life is that it is not just about events, activities, achievements, frailties and failures – it is also a record of his emotions. In David's story his feelings do not wear camouflage! Here is a sample of what I mean:

‘David now fled from Naioth in Ramah and found Jonathan. **“What have I done?”** he exclaimed. **“What is my crime? How have I offended your father that he is so determined to kill me?”**’ (1 Samuel 20:1, NLT, emphasis supplied.)

Can you hear that raw emotion in David's outburst? He has consistently served his king with total devotion and absolute loyalty, in spite of Saul's repeated attempts on his life (1 Samuel 19). Can we blame him for that tear-drenched cry, **‘What have I done? What is my crime?’**

Have you ever felt like that?

Have you ever felt like David? Have you ever tried to make a relationship work, only to have your best intentions ungraciously rebuffed? Not just once, but repeatedly! How many times haven't you put your best into a project at school or work, only for that ‘someone’ in authority to sneeringly say, **‘Is this the best you can do?’**

From the moment that David courageously stepped out to meet Goliath he had been at war with King Saul's enemies. Over and over again he had selflessly advanced into battle against the Philistines on his king's behalf: a king who became so obsessed with killing him that history records this: ‘Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, **“Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him.”**’



The ‘Tear Catcher’

(1 Samuel 19:15, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

Imagine that: having your love and loyalty repaid with such cold-blooded hatred! Hatred so strong that it could inspire God's representative – a national role model – with a perverse desire to want to murder his most loyal subject in this manner. Unfortunately, there are clones of King Saul around today. We live with them, work with them and bow in worship beside them!

David reveals a deep truth

Fortunately David escaped and lived on to reveal a deep truth about God – something his struggle with Saul's irrational, unjust and hateful attitude helped him understand. We find this truth in four lines of poetry David penned in direct response to his experience at the hands of Saul:

‘*You've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights, Each tear entered in your ledger, each ache written in your book.*’ (Psalm 56:8, The Message.)

If you are experiencing something similar to what David went through with Saul, you will identify with the psychological and emotional pain it often inflicts on us – pain that is captured so powerfully in the images above: **‘my every toss and turn’, ‘the sleepless nights’, ‘each tear’** and **‘each ache’!**

The simple truth is this: **God knows, shares and remembers your pain.** David's imagery suggests that the Almighty never leaves your side; that He is so close that He feels your every movement; and so compassionately and intimately conscious of your feelings that He records every shed tear. Some other versions have refined that imagery to embrace a tradition that not everyone may be familiar with, that of ‘tear catching’:

You keep track of all my sorrows.

*You have collected **all my tears in your bottle.***

You have recorded each one in your book. (NLT, emphasis supplied.)

‘Tear catching’

This is the first historical mention of something that later became quite common: ‘*Tear bottles were fairly common in Roman times, around the time of Christ, when mourners filled small glass bottles or cups with tears and placed them in burial tombs as symbols of respect.*’ The tradition reappeared during the second half of the nineteenth century, both here and in the USA. In fact there are stories about the wives of American Civil War soldiers who *‘were said to have cried into tear bottles and saved them until their husbands returned from battle. Their collected tears would show the men how much they were adored and missed.’*²

Were David's thoughts drifting in a similar direction when he spoke of God collecting all his tears in a bottle? Was he using this ‘tear catcher’ imagery to suggest that his pain and suffering were so special to God, so valued, as never to be forgotten? I'd like to think so, wouldn't you?

Soon it won't be necessary

There is another snippet of David's poetry that casts further light on this matter. Notice Psalm 116:8-9 (NIV-UK, emphasis supplied):

For you, Lord, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

Although He is undoubtedly the greatest ‘Tear Catcher’ of all time, that work will soon be over. For He will: *“wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death”* or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ (Revelation 21:4, NIV-UK.)

And we will respond: **‘For you, Lord, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears . . .’**

¹In the introduction of Psalm 56 it indicates that David wrote the psalm as a result of the experience in Gath, to which he had fled to escape King Saul's crusade against him.

²<http://www.lachrymatory.com/History.htm>



Julian Hibbert
Editor

a great tradition

Toys open hearts and provide opportunities

by June Coombs

A glimpse of how the annual Toy Service at Stanborough Park is both bringing joy to hearts and influencing the community's movers and shakers.

'You can't have one without the other,' said Baroness Thornhill, addressing the congregation at The Stanborough Park Church Annual Toy Service on 10 December for what may be her last time as Watford's elected Mayor. As a practising Catholic she was referring to the joy of children giving and receiving presents, and the spiritual aspect of the Christmas season – that 'Jesus is the reason for the season.'

In presenting the toys to the Mayor, organiser Pat Walton, whose father started the tradition more than half a century ago, reminded us that Christmas is the time to recognise Jesus as the most amazing gift from God, and that the toys would be distributed by staff from local children's centres, social workers, and a group catering for refugees, and would also be received by some of the families who used the church's welfare centre. Representatives of these groups were in the congregation waiting to pick toys to take away.

Also on the platform were gift boxes produced by the church's teens, who wanted to help other teens less fortunate than themselves and had spent a Friday evening filling and wrapping them. There were also some boxes filled by mothers in the church to be given to the mothers of the needy children.

Surveying the large collection of toys, which she said grew bigger every year, Baroness Thornhill expressed her appreciation for the generosity of church members, assuring



them that their donations would be very much appreciated by the disadvantaged children in Watford.

She started by saying that the Christmas season for her always began with the church's Toy Service, which she has attended for many years. However, she departed from her usual speech to give a picture of the current situation in Watford.

According to the Baroness, three years ago there were about 50-53 families in the council's temporary accommodation. Since then the number has practically quadrupled to 191 families being in temporary accommodation. In addition to this, following a survey, the council officials estimated that there were around 400 additional families affected by cumulative impact. According to the Mayor, the single biggest cause for eviction was tenants falling behind with their rent to private landlords, who were easily able to find replacement tenants willing to pay a higher rent.

Baroness Thornhill also commented on two things that had happened this year that pleased her. Firstly, although the church was known for its work in

become involved in the 'Christians Across Watford' group; for it was good to have 'such a strong church as this batting on the team', she said.

In his sermon Pastor Venter reminded the congregation of the late Nelson Mandela's words that you can judge a society's soul in the way it treats its children. We need to redress the undervaluing of our children and place them at the core of Jesus' heart.

the community it was not widely recognised for this, and she was pleased that she had been involved in talks with senior pastor, Jacques Venter, about how the church could make a bigger impact in the local community. Also, she was pleased that the church had



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

church planting

SOS Community Church Plant lives up to its name!

With 1,500 pieces of literature in hand, the little band of believers known as the SOS Community Church pitched a tent at the top of the High Street in Southend-on-Sea during what a lot of people call the 'advent season'. There they verified the fact about the first advent of Jesus, while also proclaiming the good news about His second advent.

The group filled the area with singing while sharing tracts, witnessing and collecting for the homeless. Throughout the cold winter months, the SOS Community Church is actively involved in a night shelter programme which provides evening and morning meals, a bed and somewhere warm and safe for the homeless people of Southend-on-Sea. A street collection of £396, with further online donations and other pledges of £440 so far, will help towards the building of a shower facility to benefit the homeless.

Church plant leader, Dr Colin Gordon, found the public more receptive to discussing religious themes during the Christmas season. 'They know about the baby Jesus laid in a manger and this is linked to Christmas celebrations, but then what? We try to sow seeds of hope in the hearts of the general public.' One young man that morning was on his way to the train station when 'a voice inside him said, "Walk on to the next station, there's something you need to do."' When, on his way, he saw the SOS Community Church sharing the good news about God's love, he realised what God's calling was about and the reason for his unexpected change of



SOS Community Church members and helpers on Southend High Street, including (in front) Colin Gordon and Gilson Edward, who, with his wife, Monica, and Ossie Butcher, also featured above, were baptised in August last year. Gilson was met for the first time during a similar street ministries programme in 2015.

route. He promised to start coming to church and to give back to the community.

Dr Gordon reports, 'Ernesto, our first contact of the day, was impressed by our street ministry and wanted to find out more about the church and to visit us soon. What was strangely curious about this was that when I got home that Sunday night, there was

a cake stand box on my kitchen counter that had been there, unnoticed, since before I left my house that morning. On the box were written the words, *Ernesto* (the name of the supplier), *Service* and *Stand*. "Very

interesting," I thought; "How many times do you have to see and hear the unusual name Ernesto in one day before you realise God is trying to tell you something?"

We are praying that, by the grace of God, our contacts will honour their New Year's resolutions by keeping God's commandments. DR COLIN GORDON (SOS COMMUNITY CHURCH PLANT LEADER)

A note to our many church planters . . . where it is possible and appropriate send us reports of what you are doing for Jesus in your community.

Stanborough School, an Independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and a family atmosphere, seeks to employ the following volunteer staff to commence work from August 2017:



Volunteer ICT Technician

General responsibilities

1. Provide both hardware and software technical support.
2. Help assess the technical and functional capability of existing systems and contribute to the strategic plans of the department.
3. Maintain the IT department's asset register.
4. Administer the daily backup of networked data and assist in the restoration of same.
5. Help maintain the department's intranet.
6. Undertake additional duties as required by the IT manager.

All the above posts come with a monthly stipend of £175 and include all meals and accommodation. The starting date is August 2017 and the appointments are all for one year each.

Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Interested applicants please contact the PA to the head teacher for the application package. Email: mmumbo@spsch.org; tel: 01923 673268. The closing date for the receipt of applications is **28 February 2017**. Interviews will be held after 17 March 2017.

Volunteer Assistant Dean, Boarding School – females required – 2 posts available.

Volunteer Assistant Dean, Boarding School – males required – 2 posts available.

General responsibilities

1. Caring for all sick boarders and coping with any emergencies or accidents in the boarding house.
2. Routine organisation of all aspects of the physical care of boarders, and sharing with the other Housemaster/Matron the duties of the boarding house.
3. Assisting the Housemaster/Matron and resident staff to plan and carry out a varied programme of activities for boarders after school and on weekends.
4. In an emergency, caring for day pupils is required. Strongly supporting the Housemaster/Matron in maintaining a safe, pleasant environment for boarding pupils.
5. Maintaining a warm, friendly atmosphere in the boarding school so that parents, governors and school visitors feel welcome.

Lessons from Hacksaw Ridge

by Darell J. Philip



Mel Gibson's critically acclaimed film, *Hacksaw Ridge*, was released in the UK on 27 January. The film, which has been nominated for three Golden Globes, six Academy Awards and five BAFTAs,¹ was inspired by the true story of Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist who enlisted in the US army as a medic during World War II, and ended up saving 75 lives without touching a weapon. While the broad narrative within the film is the battle for supremacy between the US and Japan in Okinawa, within this is the riveting story of a man who by the end of the film has earned respect from his comrades for staying true to his religious beliefs and convictions while doing his duty as a soldier. Having watched the film I learnt a number of lessons, five of which are highlighted below.

1. The word of God is still relevant

The film's opening scene has a voice-over of Isaiah 40:29-31 (NKJV): *'He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.'* This scripture

formed a launching pad for the film, which was initially preoccupied with the enlisting and training of young American servicemen. Several scenes in this part of the film also show Doss (played by Andrew Garfield) in the barracks or outside in the field reading his Bible, often to great ridicule and contempt from his comrades. Playing the lead role was a revelation for Garfield and won his admiration for the mental and spiritual strength of Doss's character. In a recent interview with *The Guardian* about his role in the film he said: 'I think everyone can relate to that feeling of exile. That feeling of being misunderstood, not being seen in a deep way. Kind of kept out of the inner circle.'² The actor, who is familiar with the role of a hero after having played such roles as Spiderman, also highlighted the qualities that make Doss such a hero in *Hacksaw Ridge*: *'He was treating Japanese soldiers in the middle of a war. He doesn't see skin colour. He doesn't see an enemy. He sees humanity.'* Such qualities result from an active engagement in the word of God, which, as Paul says in his epistle to Timothy, 'is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NKJV).

2. We are engaged in a spiritual war

The scenes of war depicted in *Hacksaw Ridge* remind us of that very spiritual war we are also involved in – the great controversy between God and Satan, which is heating up on the earth. Just as the soldiers in the film battled against their enemy, we too must battle

against the enemy of our souls using the weapons of Ephesians 6:10-18: '... be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might' and 'put on the whole armor of God, that [we] may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil' (NKJV). Once we are armed and dressed for war we know that victory is guaranteed. For the One we serve – Jesus – has already defeated our adversary at the cross of Calvary. Therefore we must put our trust in Him and accept His sacrifice on our behalf.

3. Don't forget the Sabbath – our seal

One of the interesting scenes, near the close of the film, was the soldiers' reluctance to engage the enemy until Doss had finished his Sabbath devotions and was ready to join them. The soldiers stood still as Doss quietly finished his prayer and Bible reading – then and then only did the battle begin! This is a brief but powerful reminder to the millions who will see it that God has His special day and that respect for it is always relevant even on the battlefield. It was like that at Jericho, and nothing has changed! The Sabbath existed at creation and is, especially in these last days of earth's closing history, our special seal to let the world know that we belong to Christ and that it is to God alone that we give our worship.

4. The rocks will cry out

Having directed *The Passion of the Christ* (2004) and the Oscar-winning *Braveheart* (1995), Mel Gibson has bounced back with some very real and intense war scenes in *Hacksaw Ridge* which pull the audience into the heat of battle. In fact, there is a certain sense in which those jagged and blood-splattered rocks of Hacksaw Ridge are crying out in proclamation of things to come. They cry aloud that God is alive and well and very much at home on the battlefield of modern life. The proclamation of the three angels found in Revelation 14:6-12 along with

the Gospel of the Kingdom is to be preached in all the world as a witness

Secretariat evaluations – a world first for SEC and NEC

by Pastor John Surridge, BUC Executive Secretary

Dear Editor

I am writing to you in order to put you in the picture as to my situation.

I am 80 years of age, and have been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since I was 27 years of age. My wife and I have lived on the Isle of Wight. Her name, by the way, is Ruth.

I was taken to St Mary's Hospital recently, where Ruth was informed to contact all my relations and tell them to come to this hospital on the island to say 'goodbye' to me because I had a blood infection and was dying. But I was not aware of this. Many people came to see me and I got out of bed to greet as many as possible. My relatives seemed surprised to see me up and about.

Little did I know that my wife had organised prayer groups at various places. Do you believe in miracles? I do! The first letter I opened when I was back home was from the South England Conference. It was a letter that spoke of the 'power of prayer'. How true that statement is. I was in the jaws of death, but didn't know it! A doctor at the hospital later informed me that 'some time in the future God will use you for His purposes.'

It may be of interest for you to know that I suffer from Parkinson's disease. This was why my relatives were surprised at me being able to walk unaided.

Well, my message is finished. May it be an encouragement for everyone, old as well as young, to be more useful for His work.

JOHN HEMMING



Team with SEC office staff



Team with NEC office staff



Claude Richli with John Thomas behind

to all nations, and then the end will come (see Matthew 24:14). God will use anyone – including Mel Gibson – who is willing to be used by Him to ensure that His message is universally heard so all have an opportunity to be saved.

5. God is not dead

A few years ago a slogan ran on buses and trains throughout the UK, which said: *'There's probably no God . . . now stop worrying and enjoy your life.'*³ For many, living in an increasingly secularised world makes it harder to see the relevance of religion and God in postmodern society. However, with the release of *Hacksaw Ridge*, Seventh-day Adventism has been put in the spotlight to let the world know that God is not dead and Christianity is very relevant and crucial during these modern times of despair and uncertainty. As this film premieres around the world we have an opportunity to witness to those around us, letting them know that the God of Desmond Doss is alive and still available to all who seek Him.

On Sunday, 22 January, General Conference Associate Secretaries John Thomas and Claude Richli flew to the UK to hold the first ever Secretariat evaluations at Conference level. Under the spotlight were Pastors Douglas McCormac, South England Conference Executive Secretary, and Alan Hush, his counterpart in the North England Conference, together with their Secretariat teams. Gideon Reineke, Executive Secretary of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, flew in from Johannesburg just to observe the process. 'We'll soon be repeating this process in our territory,' he said, 'and we need to know how it all works.'

'Secretariat evaluations should not be seen as a threat,' said John Thomas, whose grandfather came from South Wales. 'We're here to support and commend as well as to give recommendations on how processes and systems can be improved.'

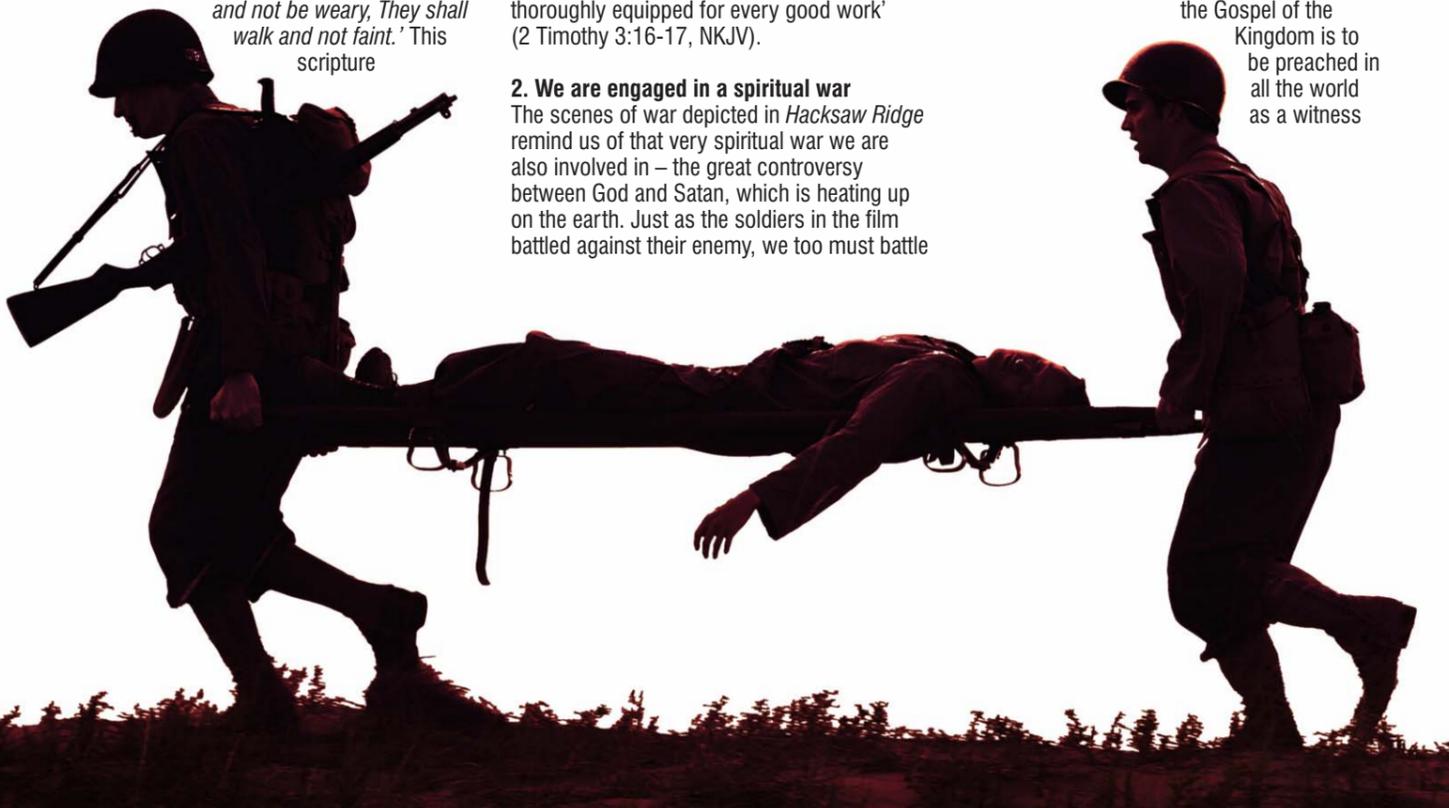
Claude Richli, who studied at Newbold College in the 1970s, also stressed that his role as a General Conference evaluator was to encourage and affirm those working in Secretariat. 'However, there is a great deal at stake in the work that executive secretaries perform,' he said. 'Around the world the church is losing hundreds of millions of dollars because of mistakes or missing data in our contracts, employment records, and other

legal documents. If it can be shown that we are not strictly following our own policies and procedures, we are wide open to litigation.'

As part of the evaluation process, which also covered the British Union Conference, office staff, directors, and the executive officers of each field were interviewed and asked questions about the internal protocols and procedures in their offices and on their committees. Among the suggestions for improvement were: off-site storage for copies of vital paper records; multi-site or cloud storage for the vast amount of electronic data that our offices now generate; the use of recording secretaries on major committees; and a more rigorous approach to archiving.

The evaluations were co-ordinated by Trans-European Division Executive Secretary, Audrey Andersson, together with Associate Executive Secretary Dean Papaioannou. A formal report will be sent out from the General Conference to the participating fields in due course.

¹See www.imdb.com/title/tt2119532/awards
²<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/dec/30/andrew-garfield-never-compromised-who-was-spider-man>
³<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1106924/Theres-probably-God-stop-worrying-enjoy-life-Atheist-group-launches-billboard-campaign.html>



A new range of Halloween 'treats'

On the evening of 31 October last year, children emerged from the darkness as goblins, wolves and all sorts of other fearsome things, relentlessly knocking at all the doors in our street. They were in search of treats, but got much more at our home. We invited them in and asked them to choose a book from the selection on our living room table. Well, on the living room table there they found bright, captivating Bible story books, full of stories about Noah and the flood, Joseph, Daniel and many others. There were also Bible activity books, speaking of God's love for a lost world. Group after group gladly received the books we had on offer that were now being scattered like autumn leaves. Twenty books in all were given away that evening and we pray that God will plant a seed within the hearts of the recipients that will someday yield a mighty harvest.

The NEC Children's Ministries Department 'Share the Word Challenge' spans three months, October, November and December. It's a season when children look forward to receiving gifts. What if we all took the opportunity to impact a child's life for the good – reaching out to our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, family friends; reaching out relentlessly to the children within our communities? God will create opportunities for you to make a difference. Take the plunge and stock up, purchase your books from the Stanborough Press and be equipped for the challenge.

PASTOR PATRICIA DOUGLAS
(NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR)



Christmas FAB Friday

What do Elvis Presley, a queen, a smelly down-and-out, a religious person and someone who loves evil have in common?

On Friday evening 16 December last year, four Adventist kids and five of their non-member friends gathered at the Springbank Youth Centre in Cheltenham for a Christmas Food and Bible (FAB) Friday club. Following a tea prepared by Jill Swainson the children, aged 8 to 13, along with Pastor James Shepley and the writers, were ready to sit round the table with easy-to-understand Bibles and read about the first Christmas. They read parts as both characters and narrators, and learned about the poor smelly shepherds, the wealthy wise men, and the religious Anna, who all welcomed Jesus after He came into the world. The youngsters then explored the idea that Jesus came for everybody, and were encouraged to paint a banner and posters depicting this. They depicted many different characters, including those in the question above. The story doesn't end here though.

On Sunday 18 December the Cheltenham church organised a community carol sing-along in the Springbank Community Centre, where the kids' posters and banners were put up on the wall for all to see. The sing-along was our first go at something like this and we were pleased with the turnout from both church and community. We sang well-known Christmas carols and had a short humorous Christmas play, with the chance to mingle over free refreshments and with free books on offer afterwards. We now have a couple of community families who are interested in the FAB Fridays and Messy Church events we run there.

Please pray that we will continue to impact this largely unchurched community and that more families will be able to get to know Him better.

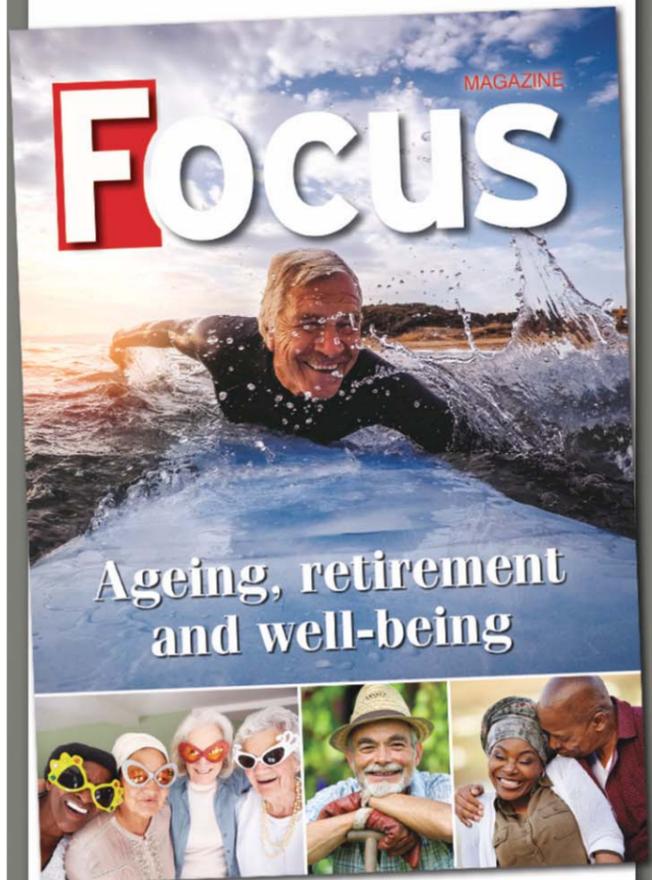
If you want to know anything more about the FAB Friday concept please contact the writers at michael.beamish@tesco.net.



Stojkovic dedication

Zara Stojkovic was impeccably behaved during her dedication service at Stanborough Park Church on 31 December last year. She is the daughter of BUC Youth Director, Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, and his wife Deana, and was dedicated by Pastor Dan Thompson, a family friend, as is Pastor Paul King-Brown, who preached the sermon. JUNE COOMBS

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Are you making the most of the 'Third Age'?

If you are in or approaching that increasingly influential segment of our population between 65 and 80+ then you may want to reflect on these questions: Am I prepared for the 'Third Age'? Am I making the most of it? Am I using it as creatively as God wants me to?

These are among the issues covered in the latest *FOCUS* magazine on 'Ageing, retirement and well-being'. Do you have your own copy? Have you been giving it out in your community? It is an excellent tool to use as a bridge to non-members at a time when ageing is a media talking point.

The magazine is a good blend of 'milk of the word' relevant topics and a hope-filled article on the end of this life and the good news about the one to come. Take the chance to stock up on this witnessing tool by ordering today through your local Personal Ministries secretary or by contacting the Adventist Book Centre (ABC) directly at either 01476 591700 or email: sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk.

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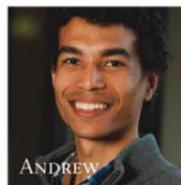
PHOTO: DAG HUGSTMYR

Sommerfyrd 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

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As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Newcastle's 2016 investiture

On 17 December 2016, Newcastle Church hosted their annual Pathfinder and Adventurer investiture in recognition of all the hard work done by them and the club's staff over the past year.

The attendance was excellent and it included a number of special guests, such as the NEC Pathfinder officers and the Middlesbrough Pathfinder club.

The investiture was held during the worship service and the format was adjusted accordingly. After the welcome there was the customary procession of club members marching in time with the drum beat, followed by the platform party and the colour party.

After our pastor's message the Adventurers recited their pledge and law, illustrating both with a skit called 'Pledge and Law in Action', whereby they warned the congregation about the effects of smoking, alcohol and drugs!

The Pathfinders repeated their own pledge and law and then each one lit a candle to symbolise their commitment as Pathfinders. Some Pathfinders explained the meaning of each line of the pledge and law to the audience.

Area One Pathfinder Co-ordinator, Simon Facey, then delivered his inspirational message using the text, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13, NKJV). Simon told the audience that he is a keen musician and mathematician and explained that he had only succeeded as a musician and Pathfinder with the help of Jesus.

The Adventurer awards took place under the direction of their leader, Mylah Abuel, who read out the names of 17 candidates. The Pathfinder awards were directed by their leaders, J. R. Narciso and Daniela Silva, who had 19 candidates invested, while 10 of them also earned participation awards.

New teachers and leaders under training, Tawonga Muchenagumbo and Mercy Sibanda, were congratulated for completing their Level 1 training before they go on to complete their Master Guide coursework. Their progress shows Newcastle's intent to become more involved in the national Pathfinder Camporees and Rally Day.

The closing remarks were from Kevin James, the Area 3 Pathfinder



leader, who congratulated Newcastle on their success this year. Overall, it was a successful day with many things to praise God for.

ETHAN MARATA

New avenues for Adventist TV in the UK



A rescheduling of the broadcast times for Adventist TV on the Sky platform with Revelation TV has taken place.

These programmes will now be aired twice a

week at peak times: 8pm on Friday and 2pm on Sunday afternoon. The programmes featured will be a mixture of conversational discussions about current issues in society that relate to the Church, as well as interviews of Seventh-day Adventists around the country who have a faith-based story to share. In addition to this we will be airing programmes devoted to prophetic teaching and sermons, as well as talk shows on health, family life and educational issues.

These programmes will continue throughout the year, with the Friday evening slot suitable for Sabbath viewing and the Sunday afternoon one aimed at a wider audience of those from other denominations and any individuals who may be looking for something spiritual to enhance their understanding of God.

In addition to the Sky terrestrial programme slots, our very own Hope TV UK as been relaunched on a brand-new website: www.hoptv.org.uk. This provides Adventists in the UK and those around the world with 24/7 TV programming. In addition to the website, Hope TV UK is also available via the Roku Stick, which can be purchased at most electronic stores and inserted in the back of the TV. With the Roku, there is no need for a satellite dish or monthly fees. Programmes are streamed via your wi-fi and are completely free of charge.

Hope Channel is also available on your smartphone or tablet device by downloading the hope Channel application.



The vision for BUC Media is that continued developments will be made using the various media platforms available, to provide quality programming, for both the church and the wider community of those within the UK, that will be engaging, informative and inspirational.

PASTOR RICHARD DALY (BUC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DIRECTOR)

Corrigendum: We wish to apologise for the inaccuracy that appeared in the recent report entitled 'At work and play in Cambodia' (*MESSENGER*, 27 January, pages 8 and 9). The reference to 'four latrines' being built per day should have read 'four structures' were built per day (a latrine, a water tank, an enclosed garden and a children's playground).

THE EDITOR

Publisher's reminder

Those who submit date-sensitive adverts or notices to the Editor for publication in *MESSENGER* must ensure that these reach him in time to make sure that they will appear well before their due or closing dates. The 2017 publication schedule for all issues of *MESSENGER* is available on request from Elize Hibbert at editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk.



Part of congregation with candles

Carols and candlelight at Great Yarmouth

Each year our Great Yarmouth church holds a Carol and Candlelight Service for the community. It is a great way to bring people into the church and witness in a non-threatening way, and several have been coming regularly. This past year was no exception when, on Friday night, 23 December, we opened our doors once again for this event. Included in the congregation were some who have been attending our evangelistic meetings at the Shrublands Centre.

The service commenced with a warm welcome to everyone by Mike Clarry. Members and the church's friends then read various Scripture readings and we enjoyed listening to the church's musical talent – both vocal and instrumental – but especially the children's performances. Pastor Rio Espulgar gave the Christmas message, reminding everyone of the real meaning of Christmas, appealing for all to receive the Christ-child into our hearts.

During the service a special offering was taken, and, together with monetary gifts hung on the Christmas tree, we were able to make a donation of just over £187 to the East Coast Hospice in Gorleston, Great Yarmouth. After the service was over, everyone retired to the upper room where we socialised together while enjoying mince pies and hot berry punch!

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



Parallel's first baby dedication

Seven years have passed since the Parallel Service was established at Stanborough Park Church to provide a contemporary-style worship service alongside the traditional one. Since then it has proved to be immensely popular with the young families and the youth who attend the church. However, it was not until 27 November last year that it celebrated its first baby dedication, when founder members Dan and Diana Sabatier brought their first child, MacKenzie Millie, to be dedicated.

Dan and Diana are key players in the Parallel Service with Dan providing musical accompaniment on his guitar and Diana using her vocal talents. Before the dedication she sang a hymn of commitment, 'For this child', which repeated the words, 'I dedicate this baby back to You.' Pastor Paul Clee conducted the dedication.

JUNE COOMBS



LEOS turns 16

On a bright Sabbath day last year, attendees gathered in Clapton for the annual Lay Evangelism Outreach Seminar (LEOS). 2016 marked the sixteenth anniversary of LEOS, which features a combination of vibrant Sabbath worship, street witnessing and prayer. The event is organised by the London Prayer Tower ministry of Plaistow Church in conjunction with the Personal Ministries Department of the South England Conference.

LEOS began as a result of the weekly Prayer Tower meetings that take place in Plaistow. During prayer sessions one day, the team was inspired to host an event aimed at reaching out to people in the community.

Today, LEOS is annually attended by visitors from more than twenty-five churches, some from as far afield as Grenada in the Caribbean. Leader and co-founder of LEOS, Brenda Edwards, was happy to note that it had a record number of churches in attendance.

At the door, attendees were welcomed by a team which included Carol Linton, the event's co-founder and assistant leader. The Sabbath school included excellent contributions by Pastor Kirk Thomas (SEC), who took the lesson, and Brenda Edwards, who gave a talk.

This was followed by an inspirational worship service with Pastor Thomas as main speaker. He reflected on how, even in his time of imprisonment, the apostle Paul considered his circumstances to be an opportunity to let the people around him know that Jesus is alive.

Throughout the Sabbath, worship was enhanced by vibrant congregational singing, the music ministry of saxophonist Sandra Clark of Chingford Church, and the Prayer Tower's own choir.

Each year the morning service is followed by an appetising lunch, after which the congregation forms a street procession during which they distribute large quantities of books, magazines and tracts. These are handed to people on the streets and posted through letter boxes as the procession tours the local area, led by the dynamic Plaistow Pathfinders Drum Corps. This breaks down barriers in the local community, causing many passers-by to stop and watch, as local residents look on from their windows or migrate to the street outside to observe the group marching by.

Cassandra and Isaura Williams of Plaistow, who came to lend support, report that they enjoyed the event. Cassandra said there was 'no negativity' and that most people accepted the literature they were offered.

Back at the church, having completed their assignment, the participants enjoyed refreshments while reactions on the day were shared. According to Carol Linton a variety of people of different races, backgrounds and religious affiliations received the literature, and this was confirmed by other participants.

To encourage attendees in their outreach efforts, gifts were also given to everyone who attended, and the day concluded with a special presentation during which Pastor Thomas honoured the organisers for the dedication they have demonstrated for so long and presented them with plaques with their names especially engraved upon them.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Annual Christmas Picture Competition award ceremony in Garston

The year 1844 is as significant for the Co-op as it is for Adventists, as it was the year that the organisation was founded. Over the years it has developed a policy of helping the less fortunate, recognising that it's the simple things in life that make a difference to lives. These days it gets involved in projects to 'do something special' with churches, schools and community groups.

One such project is the Co-op Food Christmas Theme Picture Competition, which had its fourth annual prize-giving ceremony at the Stanborough Centre on 8 December. Enoch Kanagaraj, an employee of The Co-op Food, is the Chairman of the Community Chaplaincy Service at Stanborough Park Church, which was hosting the event and has been the driving force behind the event, which is sponsored by the company. This led to the ceremony being attended by a team of staff from 'The Co-op Food', who provided a buffet of Co-op 'goodies' for those attending the event.

The Co-op Food Regional Manager, Tina Mitchell, spoke of the Co-op movement's history of being part of the community, working with local groups to do something 'pretty special' and help people to feel valued. Sponsoring this art competition was a way of helping children to feel valued, and she was certainly very impressed with the quality of the artwork on display and congratulated the children on their achievements.



The criteria for the entries was that they should depict Christmas scenes in any medium chosen by the children – but were not to include any computer work or enhancement – and no significant adult help! Children from six primary schools stretching from South Oxhey to Hemel Hempstead entered their designs into the competition.

The ceremony was well-supported by parents, including members of the minority ethnic communities, and the prizes were presented by Councillor Walford, Chair of Watford Borough Council. Entries were displayed on the surrounding walls and the judges admitted that it was a hard job choosing the winners. There were 6 winning entries for this year's competition, which was split into two age groups: 4-7 and 8-11 years. In addition to these, 17 minor prizes were presented in the 'Commended' and 'Highly Commended' categories to encourage more children to enter the competition. The schools attended by the winners of the first prizes also received a cheque presented by Senior Pastor Jacques Venter.

JUNE COOMBS

Brits make an impact abroad

The Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council (PELC) has become the largest and oldest annual gathering of Seventh-day Adventist pastors and leaders in the world. With its theme for 2016 being 'Contend Together' and each session and sermon geared to explore conflict as it appears at each level of ministry, the atmosphere was highly charged from the onset. With international preachers of renown such as Dr Jerry Carter of the Calvary Baptist Church, New Jersey, and Dr Rudolph McKissick Jr of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, Florida, in the line-up, the listeners were on their feet shouting encouragement to the preachers in that typical 'call and response' manner.

However, it was in the middle of the conference in one of the 5pm sessions that the former Brits led the service. Pastor Stefan Burton Schnull, formerly of the SEC (now pastor of Mount Holly Church, New Jersey), prayed the invocatory prayer.

Naomi Parchment, a daughter of the North England Conference, led out in the music meditational and all who heard her were moved. Naomi is a student at Oakwood University, leads praise and worship for Pastor Carlton Byrd at the Oakwood church, sings with the Aeolians of Oakwood University and also has made her debut as a recording artist.

The scene was now set for 27-year-old Pastor Laurent Grosvenor to stand behind the sacred desk and preach. He was born in Manchester and has been preaching since the age of 9, with wide international experience. He is a graduate of both Oakwood University and the Andrews Theological Seminary, and a recipient of the C. D. Brooks Evangelism Award. Since January 2015, he has served as the pastor of Temple Gate Church, Selma, Alabama.

Having said all this, many will remember him as the teenager who was referred to as 'Preacher Boy!'

As a 27-year-old Laurent entered the pulpit, undaunted and



unflinching, and delivered his message as a man of years. It was based on John 21:14-21 and entitled 'Living Beyond Jealousy'. It took us through Peter's experience with Jesus, posing deep thoughts for our quiet contemplation, like:

'The gradient of God's grace is steeper than the gradient of your sin.'
'What do you do when the word you get from God is not a word you want to hear?'

'When you focus on your God-given mission, you have no time for jealousy.'

Pastor Grosvenor's sermon had the audience responding with shouts and applause, and even had well-wishers on their feet. The writer was heard to have commented, 'Preacher Boy has come of age!'

It is evident that God was using him to minister to ministers, many of whom were his seniors. We thank God for our Brits living abroad and pray that they will continue to be a blessing in those distant parts.

DR P. A. HERBERT

International 'grub' day at Failley

As he stood in the church that his grandmother opened over 20 years ago, Councillor Jim Finn, of Ward 4 in West Dunbartonshire, jokingly said that when Failley Community Church was built he was the 'tea boy', making sure the servings of tea kept the workers well watered!

This was a different occasion, though, for, on 18 December last year, the Adventist members who bought the church around five years ago were holding their annual festive party, dubbed 'International Grub'. The community were encouraged to attend, free of charge, just to socialise and 'grab some grub'. With an attendance of over 100 people, over 15 nationalities were represented. Food being the culture we all have in common, there were close to 40 dishes that the church members had prepared, as well as various non-alcoholic cocktails to go with them.

Musical performances were interspersed with the meal, which included a Zambian/Zimbabwean quartet. After the meal there were further performances representing Scotland, Malawi and Zimbabwe – including 'hoshho', an African rattle from Zimbabwean women dressed in their traditional clothing. Guests from countries like Barbados, Rwanda and Montserrat also gave short presentations on the best things about their countries.

Wilma, a local Failley resident who spoke at the event, mentioned



how the community has changed over the last 30 years, and that the church was positively involved in the community.

In the past four years, since moving into the premises, Failley members have involved themselves in community projects supported by the local authority, such as litter-picks and gardening projects for nearby residents who are unable to do the work themselves. (For more information visit: failley.adventistchurch.org.uk/blogs/community-blog.)

The international 'grub' day was supported by people from the following nations – Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Montserrat, Barbados, Australia, Fiji and Scotland – and was a huge success.

AUDREY MUTONGI AND PRISCILLA ABASI



Hackney shared its Christmas cheer

For many people Christmas is a joyful time spent with family and friends at the fireplace eating mince pies while reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the one to come. For others, however, Christmas can be a very difficult time, especially for those who live on the streets with very little to eat or hope for. At the end of each year, members of the Hackney Community Ministries team go out into central London to share some practical gifts and the love of Jesus with those who, through unforeseen circumstances, have had to make the streets their home. During the outreach the team ministered to the needs of numerous homeless people, ensuring that they received a hot meal, hot drink and some warm clothing as added protection against the winter chill.

Hackney's Community Ministries director, Vilma Williams, and her team see it as their duty to reach out to others in this way. She said: 'It is our duty as commissioned by Jesus to reach out and minister to the needs of those less fortunate than us. By feeding and clothing the homeless, as well as sharing the love of Jesus with those we meet, we hope to play a small part in ensuring that people have a memorable Christmas and know that they are thought of and valued by a loving and compassionate God.'

DARELL J. PHILIP



Pathfinder history made at Emmanuel Church

On Sabbath 26 November last year history was made at the Emmanuel church, when, after starting our first ever Pathfinder/Adventurer club in August 2015, we were able to hold our first ever investiture service involving eleven Adventurers and one Pathfinder.

This is a commendable achievement because in starting a club we faced many challenges, such as not having a building of our own. In spite of these our club has been successfully operating, with positive feedback from our young people and parents.

And, if this were not enough, the club director, Audrey Esson, along with two of the club's counsellors, Beverley Robinson and Sorraine Hibbert, were also invested as Master Guides at a Pathfinder rally day just three Sabbaths before.

The service was extremely well supported by church members, visiting friends and other clubs, including Willesden, Southall and North Wembley.

The North Wembley drum corps was a particular highlight, drawing crowds from all around as they marched down the street with Emmanuel Adventurers, Pathfinders and Master Guides.

We are already looking forward to a successful 2017 investiture.

SORRAINE HIBBERT

obituaries



Audrey Nolan (1922-2016) d. 24 November.

Audrey Elias was born into a Seventh-day Adventist family on 10 December, 1922 in Perth, Scotland. The youngest of four siblings, Audrey also went to Newbold College like her oldest brother, Pastor K. A. Elias, and only sister, Leila, later wife of Pastor John Handysides. She worked for the church in Watford in the 1940s, and briefly in Australia in 1950. Former pupils remember Audrey affectionately as a cracking teacher whose skills and pastoral care would lick the most unpromising into shape: 'One of my very best teachers,' says Dr John Woodfield, then head master at Stanborough Park School. While there, Audrey met and married Philip Nolan. They marked 69 years of happy marriage only days before her death on 24 November, 2016.

Both Audrey and Philip enjoyed full and fruitful lives as committed Christian teachers in Derbyshire. Later Audrey

fulfilled a lifetime's dream by gaining a BA from Sheffield University and returned again to teaching, while caring for elderly parents. She always had a special place in her heart for all her nieces and nephews in the UK, Germany and the USA, who treasure her memory and generosity.

When Audrey and Philip retired to West Wales some thirty years ago, they soon became active in their village community as well as caring lay members of the Carmarthen church. Their initiative and contacts contributed to extending the church building and making it accessible to all. Always warm, lively and outgoing, Audrey became an active member of the local WI, joined Philip delivering 'meals on wheels', and ran an annual poetry competition, receiving entries from far and wide, which raised money for charities.

Latterly, because of ill health, she was well cared for at Glyn Nest Baptist Residential Home in Newcastle Emlyn for three years. 'Residents and staff would remark on Philip's devotion and faithful visits and Audrey's winning smile, a powerful witness

to their faith. So, on 9 December 2016, Philip chose to hold Audrey's funeral at Glyn Nest, followed by a short service at Parc Gwyn Crematorium, Narberth. Dr Brian Phillips, former Welsh Mission president, together with Revd Carys-Ann from the local chapel by their cottage, shared words of comfort and hope with Philip Nolan, cousin Michael Thompson, nieces and nephews, friends, neighbours, and church members from Carmarthen. Audrey's faith was firm; she looked forward to meeting Jesus and those she loved in heaven. 'That'll be just super,' she'd say in her Scottish brogue.

CYNTHIA BENZ



Thelma Rosemary (Peggy) Smith (née Carter) (1922-2017) d. 20 January. Peggy was the first of three children

born to Agnes and Fred Carter of Barry, South Wales. Her sister, Bernice (Bernie) Harlin, survives her and lives in Crieff; her younger brother Bert Carter, now deceased, worked at the Stanborough Press for many years. Peggy trained as a state registered nurse at Shrodells (now Watford General Hospital) and nursed there until the outbreak

of World War II, when she returned to South Wales and became part of a team giving first aid to rescued seamen being brought back to Barry docks.

She was also a district nurse in Barry, where she met Ted Smith, who used to holiday there. They eventually married and moved to Feltham, where she lived for most of the rest of her life. Peggy attended the Hounslow Cornerstone church, and was a faithful member, holding various church offices, including Personal Ministries Secretary for many years. Her husband Ted died when she was only in her early 50s, after which she worked as a private nurse to a lady with a spinal injury, and later as a dental nurse at the army barracks in Feltham. Peggy enjoyed attending the meetings at Amersham from time to time, and was an enthusiastic potter in her spare time.

She died peacefully in hospital, and leaves behind her son, Peter; daughter, Charlotte; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; nephews and nieces, Carole, Sandra, Graham, Julie and Nigel. She was full of fun with a ready smile, and remained faithful until her death in the blessed hope. She will be remembered with much love.

CAROLE PEACOCK

Northamptonshire District Day of Fellowship

This has been planned for Sabbath 18 March. The day's theme is: 'Nurture and Win', and the speaker will be Pastor Ian Sweeney.

The venue: The United Reformed Church, Wellingborough, NN8 4HW. There is plenty of parking in multiple parking areas opposite the church.

Please bring a packed lunch and plan to stay for the whole day. There are facilities available for the group to be together at lunchtime. Invite friends, neighbours and work colleagues to attend.

Please note that the Kettering church will be closed for the day.

AVS Vacancy
The Watering Hole church plant in Totton has a vacancy for an Adventist volunteer between 19 and 21 years of age with some theological training, starting April 2017 for up to two years. Contact Pastor Rosemary Lethbridge at rosemary@thewateringhole.org.uk for more details about the vacancy and its remuneration. Alternatively, call her on 02380 661781.

Messenger

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Nottingham	Edin	Belf
Feb 24	5.32	5.45	5.34	5.37	5.50
Mar 3	5.45	5.57	5.47	5.52	6.04
10	5.57	6.09	6.00	6.06	6.18
17	6.09	6.21	6.13	6.21	6.32

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Newbold lecturer awarded Doctorate in Theology

Dr Tihomir Lazić, who joined Newbold's Department of Theological Studies in September 2015 as a Lecturer in Systematic Theology, was recently awarded his doctorate by the University of Oxford.

Dr Lazić's thesis, entitled 'Remnant in Koinonia: Towards an Adventist version of *communio* ecclesiology', focuses on rethinking the identity of Adventism in the twenty-first century, and redefining who we are as Adventists and how we relate to other Christians and non-Christians.

'Recent tensions that Adventism is experiencing in relation to the issue of women's ordination, and the nature of church unity and authority, are a strong reminder that we can no longer afford to ignore a foundational task of spelling out a more comprehensive vision of church,' Dr Lazić claims. 'A more thorough ecclesiological engagement,' he argues, 'will not only enable a deeper understanding of our shared spiritual identity, but will also help Adventist community to retain its global unity, maintain its relevance in the world at large, and participate in a more fruitful and meaningful interaction with others.'

Dr Lazić's thesis is described by Oxford examiners as a 'ground-breaking and original piece of work that seeks to bring the traditional distinctive ideas of Seventh-day Adventist theology into a dialogue with wider Christian scholarship.'

When asked to comment on his experience as a student at the University of Oxford, Dr Lazić said that his favourite moments were those he spent debating and interacting with other students and world-leading scholars in an informal context. 'Our visions of theology and Christianity in general were quite different, and even conflicting at times, but, after long hours of conversing with them, I realised that there is no better path to a deeper self-understanding than a dialogue with somebody who can challenge the unquestioned assumptions that we hold about the world, and stimulate fresh thinking.'

'If we really want to grow in our knowledge and spirituality,' Dr Lazić said, 'we should not avoid hard questions; neither should we shy away from those who think differently from us. If we decide to engage in a dialogue, we should do so with an open mind; not only to teach others, but also to learn from them.'

Dr Lazić, who also oversees efforts to reduce the ever-increasing number of Adventist students who leave the Church during the period of their university or college studies through his responsibility for Public Campus Ministry (PCM) in the Trans-European Division, will be incorporating his research and findings into Newbold's postgraduate Theology degree. The new module, Emerging Perspectives in Ecclesiology, will focus on the nature of the church and will be introduced in the spring semester 2017. It is hoped that this newly launched module will inspire and equip current and future generations of students to engage in the important task of developing a mature and more complete vision of what it means to be a church in the twenty-first century.

KIRSTY WATKINS



BOOKSALES

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DATE: 10 - 12 March 2017

Dr. Allison McAlister Thomas
International Educator

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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

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

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PRESENTER - DR JASMINE RHAMIE. Dr Jasmine Rhamie is Principal Lecturer and Deputy Director of the School of Education, University of Roehampton. She has worked as a qualified teacher and has taught in Adventist and state schools in the UK and Caribbean. She has been an education consultant to a number of local authorities and is the author of *Eagles who Soar: How Black learners find paths to success* (Trentham Books). Jasmine has published widely on matters related to social justice, race and ethnicity and teacher education. She was the Co-Convenor of the British Educational Research Association's Race Ethnicity and Education Special Interest Group (2013-2016). Jasmine has been involved in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) for over 10 years. She has run parenting workshops in the US and UK. She has two children Serena and Jonathan. She brings her wealth of knowledge and experience to supporting and guiding parents in developing their children educationally and spiritually.

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