

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland Messenger

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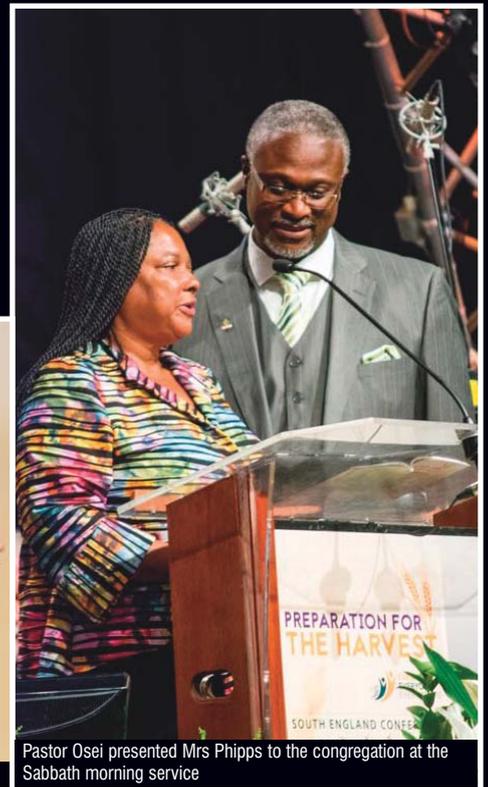
SEC Camp Meeting Preparation for the harvest (19-25 June)

by Pastor Sam Davies, SEC Communication Director

With the help of Ian Lorek, George Dadey, Matthew Herel, Bernie Holford, Jude Jeanville, Richard Daly, Jonathan Barrett and James Shepley. *Photos: Ligia Buzac*



The commitment speaker – Pastor Wintley Phipps



Pastor Osei presented Mrs Phipps to the congregation at the Sabbath morning service

This year's South England Conference Camp Meeting involved a return to Pontins at Prestatyn, North Wales, which invoked mixed feelings among some.

That aside, over 2,500 turned up to enjoy the event and they were not disappointed. Perhaps this comment by Janet de Souza of Reading West Church sums up the way most felt: 'I like every aspect of this year's camp meeting, because of the spiritual impact it has made on me personally. It has been a blessing.'

During his opening remarks, Conference President, Pastor Emmanuel Osei, first expressed delight at seeing all the attendees before referring to the unfortunate incident in London that very day in which a man had driven into a crowd of Muslim worshippers in Finsbury Park, London, killing one person and injuring several others. He then asked all to keep the nation in their prayers.

On that first night, the world-renowned vocal artist and pastor, Wintley Phipps, then gave the audience a taste of what to expect, as he did for every presentation, a solo rendition before his commitment sermons. Under the theme of 'Preparation for the Harvest', he coined his subtitle, 'The Biggest Problem in the Church'. With this title, he

undertook to show in all his messages 'the most important mission of the church'.

Focusing on the conversion of Paul, who said this about himself in Galatians 1:15, 16 (NKJV): 'God . . . called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me', Phipps said that this is the mission statement for Christianity – the first goal of the soul. He went on to say that the purpose of the church is 'to grow people who look like Jesus', making the point that the Christian must resemble, reflect and reveal the character of Christ. Without Christlikeness everything we tell the world is hollow, because people will not join a church where its members don't look like Christ.

The daily schedules included a rich offering of Bible studies, conducted by Trans-European Division Education Director, Dr Daniel Duda. Among the many questions he addressed was 'What is the Bible all about?' In answer to which he says, 'As Seventh-day Adventists we often think of the Bible as a textbook for our 28 doctrines. We can prove the "Sabbath" or "the state of the dead", but we are not great at explaining their relevance to our society today.' He challenged us to read the Bible differently. Our Scriptures contain powerful, life-transforming stories that can impact the way we live in our communities.

The health talks presented by Dr Chidi Ngwaba centred on emotional well-being. Among his material he outlined four lessons for tackling the emotional causes of depression in presentations that drew from his own personal experiences. **1. Look back in forgiveness.** To forgive, we need to walk in someone else's shoes. **2. Look forward in hope.** Bad things that happen to you can be used for your good. **3. Look down in compassion.** Do good for someone who can never pay you back. **4. Look up in gratitude.** Say 'thank You' for each day.

The early morning Prayer and Praise sessions led by SEC Teens Director, Pastor Juan Carlos, inspired many as they shared testimonies and made prayer requests. The various devotionals were taken mostly by various SEC pastors who shared topics under the theme of 'Preparation for the Harvest'.

The young adults focused on the letters to the seven churches in Revelation, with a variety of speakers who made their messages relevant for today's young people. Six young people decided to be baptised at the camp meeting along with another six from among the adults. This year, as with every camp meeting, the children's holiday Bible school benefited those children who attended.



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Enhancing Health

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

Let's get moving! – part 3 – sedentary lifestyle a concern

Research continues to demonstrate that physical inactivity has a negative impact globally.

Addressing the dangers of a sedentary lifestyle, *The Lancet* (a weekly peer-reviewed general medical journal) sheds light on the scale of the problem:

'Worldwide, we estimate that physical inactivity causes 6% (ranging from 3.2% in southeast Asia to 7.8% in the eastern Mediterranean region) of the burden of disease from coronary heart disease, 7% (3.9-9.6) of type 2 diabetes, 10% (5.6-14.1) of breast cancer, and 10% (5.7-13.8) of colon cancer. Inactivity causes 9% (range 5.1-12.5) of premature mortality, or more than 5.3 million of the 57 million deaths that occurred worldwide in 2008.'¹

The Lancet published this research in July 2012 under the heading: 'Effect of physical inactivity on major non-communicable diseases worldwide: an analysis of burden of disease and life expectancy'. The report concluded with this comment: 'Because much of the world's population is inactive, this link presents a major public health issue.'

More recent research demonstrates that a sedentary lifestyle is a pastime indulged in by both young and old, with adverse consequences. One such study published in *ScienceDaily* (June 2017) carried the heading: '19-year-olds as sedentary as 60-year-olds, study suggests'.²

The research findings sounded a note of caution that exercise deficits are contributing to the growing obesity epidemic, particularly

among children and teens. There is concern that the levels of inactivity appear to be lower than previously thought.

The study's senior author, Vadim Zipunnikov, assistant professor in the Bloomberg School's Department of Biostatistics, states: 'Activity levels at the end of adolescence were alarmingly low, and by age 19 they were comparable to 60-year-olds,' adding that 'for school-age children, the primary window for activity was the afternoon between two and six pm. So the big question is how do we modify daily schedules, in schools for example, to be more conducive to increasing physical activity?'

Researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health highlight the following study outcomes:

- From age 35, activity levels declined through midlife and into older adulthood.
- For all age groups, males generally had higher activity levels than females, particularly high-intensity activity.
- After midlife, exercise levels for men dropped off sharply compared to females.
- Among adults 60 years of age and older, males were more sedentary and had lower light-intensity activity levels than females.

The next issue highlights UK guidelines and practical tips to increase activity levels.

Move more!

¹[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(12\)61031-9/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(12)61031-9/abstract)
²<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/06/170615142701.htm>

editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

The parable of the paint pad

Many of us may be vaguely aware that baby naming traditions differ quite widely from culture to culture. For at least two successive generations on my father's side of the family, the name Alfred was in vogue – just Alfred. His father was Alfred, and he was named that way as well. When I came along, tradition took a break and I ended up with Julian Gavin as my forenames. Well, initially at least.

Those were my official, registered names. I had the good fortune, however, to grow up in close proximity to people from an African culture who believed that a child should be named twice, at birth, then again at a later date. This second naming could be related to some important event, but was often based on some physical feature or quirk of the growing child.

In my case, it was based on a quirk. According to 'oral tradition', as a toddler I once took an intense interest in the paints and brushes of a team of decorators who were giving our house a facelift. I waddled around in my nappy and vest, doing my best to impersonate them – and for my efforts they called me 'Mapendaan' (Ma-pen-dan), 'the one who paints' – and the name stuck!

The parable

Which brings me to the parable of the painter. Despite being named 'the one who paints', I make no claim to expertise in this area, and in the past few weeks my attempt at repainting some walls and ceilings at home has made this painfully obvious!

This is what happened. After prepping the walls and covering them with quality white undercoat, I was ready to apply the colour, Dulux almond white, 'specially designed to give a stunning finish to your walls & ceilings'.

The instructions were clear: 'Simply apply each coat with a brush or roller and leave for 2-4 hours to dry.' However, as I was starting in the confined space of the entrance hall, I chose to use a nifty rectangular paint pad

which allowed me to deftly reach all the narrow strips of wall around both doors, and the fuse box.

Stepping back

Stepping back to admire my efforts is my favourite part of painting. And I did that quite a few times before I realised that something was happening that wasn't mentioned on the can. Whittish streaks had begun to appear. What could be causing them?

I then tried another wall, with similar results. What could be wrong? *Must be the undercoat showing through the colour*, I thought, and dutifully applied a second coat . . . with the same outcome. Now, although I am not a skilled decorator, there is a certain logic about these things. So, if it's not the undercoat showing through, and the paint is well stirred, then it must be the paint pad. Bingo! There was residual white undercoat in the pores of the paint pad. I had cleaned it well, but not well enough.

The hard lesson had been well learnt – new paint, new paint pad – and that is the parable of the paint pad.

The parable applied . . .

Jesus must have had this 'new paint, new paint pad' theme in mind while dealing with the Pharisees of His day. They were an austere group, 'severe or strict in manner or attitude'. There seemed little in their theology and practice to attract anyone to God, let alone the common men and women of the time. John the Baptist's disciples saw the sharp contrast between the religious approach of Jesus – forgiving, gracious and affirming – and the aloof, unsympathetic, harsh and judgemental manner of the Pharisees, and they brought this question to Him:

'How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?' (Matthew 9:14, NIV-UK.)

Jesus quickly seized the opportunity to drive home a fundamental point about the Christian faith:

'No-one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out, and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.' (Matthew 9:16-17, NIV-UK.)

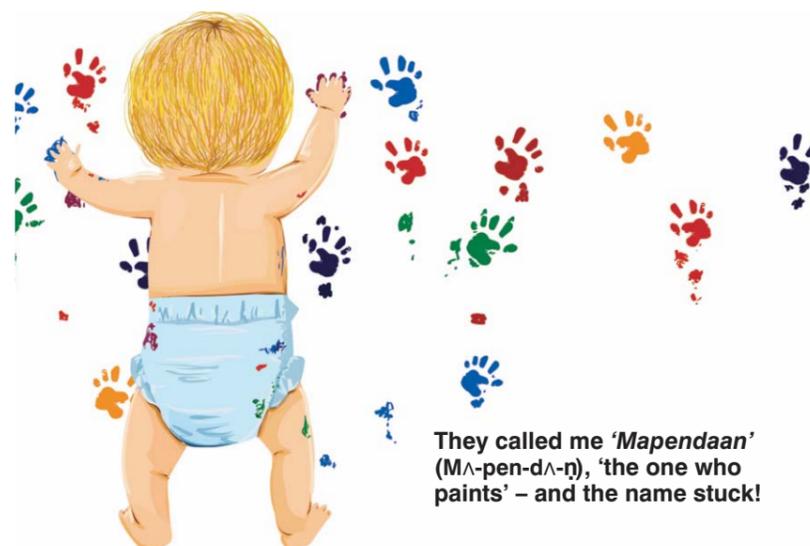
New paint, new paint pad . . . new wine, new wineskins! What did Jesus mean by this reference to new wineskins? Simply this: that the Gospel of His grace cannot partner with formalism or legalism. For our Christianity to be successful we need a **new heart** (Ezekiel 36:26) and a **renewed mind** (Roman 12:2), through an experience so radical that He called it the **new birth** (John 3:3-13). All of which is made possible under **new terms**, not by works (personal achievement) but by faith (total trust) in what Christ has already done for us on Calvary.

A second opinion

There are times when a second opinion is really helpful when looking at the symbolism that Jesus used. Here are some thoughts from *The Desire of Ages*:

'The vital truth of God, like fermenting wine, would burst the old, decaying bottles of the Pharisaical tradition. The Pharisees thought themselves too wise to need instruction, too righteous to need salvation, too highly honoured to need the honour that comes from Christ. The Saviour turned away from them [and] in the untutored fishermen, in the publican at the market place, in the woman of Samaria, in the common people who heard Him gladly, He found His new bottles for the new wine. The instrumentalities to be used in the gospel work are those souls who gladly receive the light which God sends them. . . . **If through the grace of Christ His people will become new bottles, He will fill them with new wine.**' *The Desire of Ages*, page 279 (emphasis supplied).

Makes sense, doesn't it? New wine, new wineskins . . . new paint, new paint pad!



They called me 'Mapendaan' (Ma-pen-dan), 'the one who paints' – and the name stuck!

reform-a-nation



Up close and very personal

by Pastors Ian Sweeney and Eglan Brooks

If you attend a prayer meeting on a Wednesday evening with a handful of people, you'll often hear the one leading out say, apologetically, 'For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them' (Matthew 18:20, KJV). Although completely well-meaning, you could be left with the impression that God is only present in church, in tiny gatherings that are intimate and intense. God is present in small gatherings in His house, but He's very present in big gatherings too, outside of the confines of our four-walled buildings.

Immanuel – God with us – says much about the attitude and nature of Jesus Christ, who spent so much time 'mingling' with the 'common folk' outside the temple – so much so that the religious leaders called Him a 'wine-bibber'! He sat down with crowds on the mountainside and had a simple dinner. He conducted 'health checks' with the sick, lame and blind, and provided healing. He went fishing with His friends and had a great time. He wasn't God from a distance: He was God, up close and very personal.

People flocked to that kind of God because He wasn't aloof; He didn't shun them. He was Immanuel having fun, Immanuel talking and laughing, Immanuel sharing a meal.

Outreach

On Sunday 13 August, as part of the Reform-a-Nation initiative, we want to demonstrate the 'Immanuel' principle by hosting Fun-in-the-Park. From 12pm to 4pm we are inviting you and the local community to enjoy some wholesome quality time together. There will be children's activities, stalls, food on sale, live music in the form of a gospel concert, free health checks, tours of the schools on Stanborough Park, and a tour of the BUC office, as

well as a five-a-side football tournament. It's going to be absolutely awesome. And I believe that, by using the Immanuel principle, we can interact with our community in a way that is balanced and engaging and – like Jesus – meet them where they are. That's evangelism!

Inreach

As part of the Reform-a-Nation weekend, we are hosting a Friday evening thanksgiving service at Stanborough Park Church from 7.30pm. This programme will celebrate the contributions that Adventists have made throughout the years. Our speakers for the evening are Dr Roy Adams, retired associate editor of *Adventist Review*, and Pastor John Surridge, Executive Secretary of the BUC.

Dr Jeff Brown, Associate Editor of *Ministry* magazine, will deliver our Sabbath School lesson and Dr Ron Halvorsen Jnr, President of the Ohio Conference, is our main guest speaker in the worship service. These services will be held in a 1,000-seater marquee pitched on the Park, and a free lunch is provided for those who register through Eventbrite.

On Sabbath afternoon, Dr Gaunone Diop, PARL Director from the General Conference, will join Dr Adams and Pastor David Neal, TED Stewardship Director, at our Bible conference to answer the question, 'Are Adventists heirs of the Reformation?' This conference will be hosted by Dr John Baildam, Principal of Newbold College, and Maureen Rock, Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre.

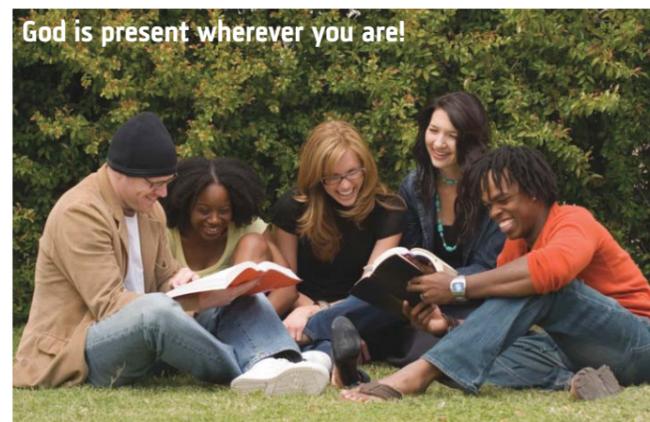
Invite your friends

In the evening there is a special concert entitled 'Hymns of Reformation – from ancient to modern' – featuring the London Adventist Chorale, Croydon Gospel Choir, the London Ghanaian Choir, Holloway Male Voice Choir, the Filipino Choir, and Tessera, along with renowned musicians, Ken Burton,

Tina Brooks and Mark de Lisser.

Please join us over this weekend. Use the Eventbrite website – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reform-a-nation-weekend-tickets-35876697167> – to get your

tickets. We aim to celebrate our heritage, worship together as an Adventist family and mingle with the community. Join us over the weekend of 11-13 August to Reform-a-Nation using the 'Immanuel' principle.



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10 November 1483 – 18 February 1546

Reform-A-Nation

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prayer



Thoughts on prayer

by Elize Hibbert

I had a stressful experience recently. I lost a very important document! Our marriage certificate!

From birth to death, life is accompanied by such IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS as birth certificates, proof of educational achievements (degree certificates, etc), marriage certificates, passports, identity documents (for certain countries). My list of essentials has extended to, among others, two passports, a naturalisation certificate, retention of South African citizenship official letter, identity book, as well as my well-worn original birth certificate that was issued in Kenya, and an equally well-handled original

marriage certificate.

Of course, certain documents have to be renewed regularly. In this instance it involved the renewal of my South African passport. There was a long list of original documents required, all of which had to be presented (along with two copies of each) for the official at the High Commission to verify before having my fingerprints taken – yes, all ten! On top of all this there were also three different forms to complete! Some with questions to which I didn't even know the answers because they involve such ancient ancestry!

I gathered the originals together, very aware of the need to take care of them. I



photocopied them, then put them back where they came from.

The evening before our planned trip to London to take care of the application, I wanted to get everything in a row again. Slightly nervous, I wanted to make sure, once again, that I had everything . . . but I didn't. I couldn't find the original marriage certificate!

Sinking feeling. Discuss with husband. Rush back to office where photocopies had been made. No luck. Search and search through my already gathered documents. No luck. Think and think where it could have gone.

I knew that this was a major crisis. The passport had to be renewed. The anticipated turnaround time was four months. No time to waste. If I couldn't produce a document they deemed essential, would I have to wait for a new marriage certificate before I could proceed? People sometimes struggled and struggled to get their documents. What would my fate be?

When in crisis, what do Christians do? We pray. My daughter promised to pray too, as did some friends from work. I reminded God that He has said He will hear our prayers. But we hadn't found the missing certificate.

Some of that Thursday night was filled with sleepless hours. In my mind I interrogated in general what prayer was for. What about people facing violence and war who prayed? Were they released from their burdensome circumstances – much more burdensome than mine? What about John the Baptist? In jail, undoubtedly prayed for and praying, and yet he lost his head. What about those Christians around me, suffering from fatal diseases; those killed in car accidents despite having prayed that morning for protection? Are both God and prayer there to make our lives easier? God serving us?

I reminded myself that I actually have a lot to be grateful for. I have more blessings than I know how to count. It wasn't the

end of the world. People sometimes lose everything they have, including documents, in a fire, yet it's not the end of the world. I have always felt uncomfortable over the testimonies of how people believe that God answered their prayer for a parking space just to make their day easier, while other Christians languish in jail or are dismissed from their jobs for sticking up for their principles. I knew that my problem was actually quite trivial in comparison to those of so many people, but that didn't stop me from feeling very tense.

It was a long drive by car and nearly an hour by train to get to the High Commission in London. It was a long wait in the waiting room. I prayed that whoever dealt with me would be kind and reasonable. My husband kindly procured whatever was necessary for a new application for a new marriage certificate, and taking this with me I eventually found myself in front of the window of an official. When presenting all the many documents to her, I asked whether she would need to see the original marriage certificate (I had the necessary copies). Her response was that she was there to facilitate, not make life difficult for people. What a relief! Both applications were taken care of very efficiently.

How does God answer our prayers, then? What is His aim for our lives? To remove all obstacles from our path? Or does the Christian life involve choosing a path where all will not be plain sailing, where obstacles crop up and prayer toughens us up to endure whatever the enemy may place in our path to trip us up? Does prayer first of all change our hearts and attitudes *in spite of* . . . ?

This whole experience has been valuable to me because it has made me face some very relevant questions. I can say that I have affirmed with as much vigour as I can (and pray that God will grant me the strength to go along with it) the necessity of this frame of mind: 'Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him' (Job 13:15, NKJV).

Reform-A-Nation

FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 2017
19:30 - 20:30 | Thanksgiving Service
Venue: Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, Watford, WD25 9JL

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2017
11:00 - 12:30 | Worship Service (Lunch Provided)
15:00 - 17:00 | Theological Conference
19:00 - 21:00 | Hymns of Faith
Venue: Marquee Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2017
12:00 - 19:00 The Enlightenment Festival featuring stalls, displays, health checks, sports day, an outdoor gospel concert, BUC office tours.
Venue: Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ

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For more information contact British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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Photos: Ligia Buzac



The commitment speaker – Pastor Wintley Phipps

The Ladder of Christian Progress

by Pastor James Shepley

World-renowned vocal artist and preacher, Wintley Phipps, delivered a series of emotional and uplifting talks in a study of what he called the 'ladder of Christian progress' (2 Peter 1:5-7) at the SEC Camp Meeting. 'More than anything else I have ever preached, in my forty years of ministry, this study has changed the character of the members of my church,' he said.

'But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.' (2 Peter 1:5-7, NKJV.)

In rich and measured tones, Pastor Phipps explained that this list of Christian virtues is 'a ladder of progress that we can and must climb on our way from a burning earth to the safety of the kingdom of God. Until we master these eight dimensions, we cannot expect to be in the kingdom of God.'

He preached powerfully on faith, virtue, and godliness/holiness during his four sessions, which started on Tuesday night and finished on Sabbath. These sessions also featured him singing 'How Great Thou Art', 'I Believe' and 'I Choose Thee Again and Again' to the joy and appreciation of the congregation. Pastor Phipps emphasised how the Christian must come to 'resemble, reflect and reveal the character of Christ'. 'Without Christlikeness, everything we tell the world is hollow, because people will not join a church where its members do not look like Christ.'

'Your good works do not add one brick to the foundation of your salvation,' he reminded the congregation, 'but that doesn't mean you don't have to do anything. You have to surrender to Christ. You need to believe Him. You need to receive Him. You need to obey Him every day.' While his message often soared, he also delivered practical advice. 'Would you like to know the most powerful way for you to strengthen virtue in your life?'

asked Pastor Phipps. 'It is through developing the habit of secret prayer.' Pastor Phipps shared how he learned to pray every hour on the hour, by buying a digital watch which vibrated every 60 minutes.

Holiness of character is a gift which Jesus longs to bestow. But it is also a work of transformation. 'Our thoughts, our words, our deeds, our actions, are to be to the glory of God. Holiness means constant, consistent right-doing all the time. It means becoming like God in character.' 'The most difficult thing that a Christian has to do,' contended Pastor Phipps, 'is to maintain a consistent Christlike character.' 'Moses, David, Joshua, Noah all fell short. So do we. You have to learn to let God guide you all day, every day.'

The audience were on the edge of their seats when Pastor Phipps shared his personal story in an intense emotional climax to his series on Sabbath. 'All my life the eye of God has guided me,' he said, 'even from the womb. You see, I was an accident, an unintended conception, but my mother had me by faith.' His two grandmothers met and covenanted with the Lord, praying that God would 'make this child's life a blessing to the world'. In answer to those grandmothers' prayers, 'God gave me a voice unique in the world,' he said. That is no exaggeration.



School of Evangelism graduation ceremony

by Dr Jude Jeanville

The South England Conference (SEC) School of Evangelism graduation exercise, which has become a regular part of Camp Meeting, commenced just before the ordination service on Sabbath afternoon. It began with an arresting accompaniment of music by the Pathfinder club's drum corps after the robing of students. The students were from a cross section of the Conference's churches and had completed a variety of courses: Entrepreneurial Evangelism, Colporteur Evangelism, Bible Worker/Instructor, Christian Counselling Skills and Mediation Level 2, Christian Counselling Level 2 (Accredited), Lay Preaching and Advanced Lay Preaching, to name a few. It was spectacular to see just over 126 students dressed in their regalia, being presented for graduation with many family and church members attending Camp Meeting to support them.

According to Dr Kirk Thomas, Director of Personal Ministries at the SEC, 'The School of

Evangelism trains, resources and empowers lay members to serve the church.'

Special recognition was given to the following: the Adventist Business Professionals Association for investing in new start-up businesses for youth; David Da Silva of High Wycombe Community Church for starting a charity, 'Connect to Serve', which engages with the local community to meet specific needs; and Andrew Rock, a qualified driving instructor, for doing a parachute jump in aid of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), which raised over £4,000.

Dr Emmanuel Osei, President of the SEC, appropriately seized the opportunity to inform listeners of the decision of the British Union Conference (BUC) to call Dr Kirk Thomas to serve as Personal Ministries Leader of the BUC. Dr Osei thanked Dr Thomas for his commitment and leadership as Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Director of the SEC and wished him God's blessings



as he assumes wider responsibilities at the BUC.

Officiating in the ceremony were Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President; Pastor Patrick Johnson, Trans-European Division Personal Ministries, Missions and Ministerial Director; and Pastor Jonathan Barrett. The various tutors ecstatically presented their candidates for graduation.

Dr Thomas brought the service to a climax with a burst of enthusiasm, with all graduates repeating exuberantly, 'Go SEC.' His parting words were, 'Efforts belong to us; success belongs to God.'



Ordinations at SEC Camp Meeting

by Pastor Richard Daly

The ordination service is always one of the highlights at Camp Meeting. It's the pinnacle of ministerial achievement for those affirmed by their conference to engage in pastoral ministry with all the ecclesiastical rights of an ordained minister. This year there were eight ordinands – Deyvid Batista, JooJo Bonnie, Sam Gungaloo, Max McKenzie-Cook, Wilson Lagos, Adrian Peck, Royston Smith and Julian Thompson – and so, on Sabbath afternoon, 24 June, the auditorium was filled with those offering them their support.

As each ordinand was introduced by their pastoral mentor, they made their way onto the platform supported.

Pastor Paddy Boyle was the keynote

speaker and he spoke about the 'men of Issachar', who understood the times and knew what to do, as recorded in 1 Chronicles 12:32. The theme question throughout his message was: 'Do you have a sanctified ambition to be like the men of Issachar or are you hiding on the margins of non-entirety?' Pastor Boyle's timely message raised poignant truths such as: 'Preaching is a privilege and an honour', and 'Standing in harmony with the Holy Spirit leads to the privilege of standing in unison with Christ for the salvation of souls.'

Carmela Bran followed the message with the song, 'There is power in the name of the Lord'. The SEC Ministerial Director, Pastor

Ebenezer Jones-Lartey, presented the prayer of ordination as all ordained ministers present joined in with the laying on of hands.

With the official welcome to pastoral ranks given by BUC President Pastor Ian Sweeney, Adrian Peck, on behalf of his colleagues, gave their response to the charge to serve in joint ministry with Christ.

The SEC ministerial spouses also played their role in presenting gifts and Jody Burnett had words of wisdom and upliftment for these spouses who will also contribute to their husbands' ministry in a significant way. Jody said, 'You are a central part of God's image; there's not a typical pastor's wife . . . and you cannot fit into a box of what people expect of you.' She concluded: 'Use your talents and passions to serve God and become a rescuer beside your husband, not behind.'

The service ended with the singing of the hymn 'So send I you', a reminder that God calls each of us to minister with Him whether in full-time or lay ministry.

Pastor Adrian Peck, who gave the response, with his wife

news

'Best thing that ever happened . . .'

From 22 April to 6 May, Dr Patrick Herbert ran an evangelistic series at the Great Brickkiln church. It was well attended by members and community visitors alike, who all enjoyed the special-interest quizzes each night. The 'Series Champion' prize was won by one of the youngest attendees!

A baptism was scheduled for the final Sabbath. The day was also special because Dr Jeff Brown, former pastor of GBK, and now General Conference Ministerial Secretary, was one of the preachers. After the appeal for baptism decisions, of which there were several, one young man requested baptism that very day! Gideon Janssen will never forget this momentous day, and described his baptism as the 'best thing that ever happened to me'.

JOSEPH HIGGINS



Left to right: Dr Patrick Herbert, Dr Jeff Brown, Gideon Janssen and Pastor George Kumi



Vacancy: CHIP Regional Co-ordinator

The Trans-European Division (TED), in co-operation with the Lifestyle Medicine Institute (LMI), seeks to fill the position of TED CHIP Regional Co-ordinator.

The Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) is a lifestyle-enrichment program designed to reduce disease risk factors through the adoption of better health habits and appropriate lifestyle modification. Its results have been published in over 31 scientific articles in peer-reviewed medical journals, and it is endorsed by the Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), the Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), and the International Nutrition Research Foundation.

This is a full-time position based at the Trans-European Division Headquarters in St Albans, England, which is a regional office of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists serving 22 countries in Europe.

Summary of role: The CHIP Regional Co-ordinator will assist the TED Health Ministries Director by a) leading the strategy to ensure growth of the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) within the TED, and b) driving the day-to-day operational aspects of the program.

Requirements:

- BA or higher qualification in a health or business-related field
- A good working knowledge of English
- The right to live and work in the UK
- A current driver's licence
- A good understanding of, adherence to and reflection of the ethos and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Preferred experience:

- Management experience in a health-related industry
- Knowledge of UK/Europe health care/medical system
- Start-up business experience
- Business development experience

For more information on the Trans-European Division: ted.adventist.org

For more information on CHIP: www.chiphealth.com

Deadline for applications: 20 August 2017

For a more detailed job description and to submit your application please contact TED Secretariat: bcoysten@ted.adventist.org



Pastor Jeff Freeman



Cork's dream came true!

On Sunday 14 May the new church building of the Cork church, Ireland, was officially opened, full to capacity with members and just as many guests from the community. The ribbon tied between the two columns outside the church was cut by Cork's Councillor Deputy Mayor, P. J. Hourican.

The atmosphere was joyful as congregants recognised that this day marked the culmination of many years of hard work involving both legal ramifications and construction work.

Irish Mission President, Pastor Dan Serb, officially declared the new church open and then later shared words of hope and encouragement as the keynote speaker.

Prominent among those in attendance were Pastor Paul Lockham, representing the British Union Conference in his position as Associate Executive Secretary; and Dr M. Kaare, an elder of Cork Church, who gave an insightful historical overview of the Adventist presence in the area. The building project culminated under the supervision of Pastor Lorraine Johnson, who paid tribute to the many key individuals who played a role in the project, presenting each with a gift.

Pastor Johnson also acknowledged the work of his predecessor, Pastor Jeff Freeman, who flew in from the United States for the event. Pastor Freeman, who started in Cork in October 2008, had initiated the project and told of how it was transformed from a synagogue to its present bright and spacious state, covering two floors. He said, 'My initial vision was for the church to be a centre of influence looking very similar to how it looks today . . . so when I first walked in I cried because the dream came true.'

After the service refreshments were served, which allowed for interaction and fellowship between all who attended.

PASTOR RICHARD DALY



LIFESTYLE
MEDICINE
INSTITUTE



Pathfinders reach out

On Sabbath 6 May the Hackney Pathfinders drummed and marched along Haggerston Road, where the church is situated, through a community diverse in age, religion and culture. As they did so, literature – tracts, magazines, etc – was distributed among the many community members who came out to enjoy the parade. Leading the drummers was Hackney’s Pathfinders Director – Andrea Simpson – who said: ‘It’s our duty to reach out to our community to let them know that God loves them and that Jesus is soon to come. It’s always a pleasure to see the community come out and listen or watch as our young people drum and march for the Lord.’ She went on to say that some of the young people in our club were themselves from the community, and as a result of our ministry they were baptised and joined our team.

All that went on during the day was in preparation for Hackney’s One Life campaign, which took place on 3-17 June with an initial emphasis on health by the presenters of the Natural Healing through the Laws of Health radio show, Natalie Nash (Trinidad) and James Luke (Antigua). The main theme of the series, which focused on the timely issues surrounding the great controversy, was presented by Hackney’s very own evangelist and pastor – Joojo Bonnie.

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)



Langley Annual DOF

Earlier this year the Langley church (West Midlands) held their Annual Day of Fellowship, which was well attended by local members and many from elsewhere. Pastor Richard Jackson, NEC President, was their speaker, and he and his wife were welcomed in the traditional Indian way with garlands of flowers.

ROHEET SUBRAI



MSY Week of Prayer

‘Our highest aim’ was the theme of the Manchester South Youth Week of Prayer held earlier this year (13-17 March), during which talented preacher Sebastien Braxton was the speaker. All the churches in the wider district of Manchester participated and 26 young people responded to the call to receive Bible studies/discipleship training. As a result two youth groups are already meeting for this purpose.

The blessings of the week were multiplied by the use of talents of the MSY team to live-stream the event via the church’s website and its Facebook page, with more than 4,678 views to date. They have also set up an MSY YouTube channel to which all the sermons have been uploaded.

The general feedback has been positive and those who attended were blessed.

BASED ON A REPORT BY MANCHESTER SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS AND MSY TEAMS



Pastor Gordon and baptismal candidates, Reuel and Latia Corion



Baptismal candidate, DaVinci Stanislas



Baptismal candidate, Dante Grant



Baptismal candidate, Garfield Stewart with Lewisham first elder, Belands Parchment

Two campaigns, two baptisms and two farewells

The Lewisham church was engaged in evangelistic campaigns during April and May. The first took place during the Youth Week of Prayer and the speaker was Stephen Fuller, a well-known and respected layman from London. Stephen was the main speaker but others also presented during the week, including Asher McKenzie and local boy, Daniel Anti. Their combined ministry led to two young people deciding to be baptised: Dante Grant, who among other things is the church drummer, and DaVinci Stanislas, who plays the violin. This was truly a high day in the church, and many family and friends witnessed this moving service.

Following this, in May, Family Life speaker Pastor Peter Gordon from the West Jamaica Conference conducted a series of meetings aimed at the family, and at the end of the series five precious souls were baptised: Donna Nelson, Garfield Stewart, Latia Corion, Reuel Corion, and Carla Forte.

At the end of the series we said farewell to Pastor Peter Gordon, wishing him safe passage back to Jamaica. At this time the church said farewell to Pastor Otis Lewis, who had worked in Lewisham for the past three years. He and his family served Lewisham well and he is now the sole pastor for the newly organised Downham church and the Sydenham church.

PASTOR COLIN STEWART

Don't forget to plan your day out at the **Stanborough Press Open Day**

Sunday 3 September

Guest speakers are: Dr George Knight and Dr Chidi Ngwaba

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Plus many special offers on books and food

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 ✉ KerrineGuthrie@adventist.uk ✉ Evangelism@adventist.uk

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Leicester Central's 3Ts

It's not often that one comes across a cause, calling, project or ministry – call it what you may – and is left with the question: 'Could this be the blueprint for how church should be done?' Leicester Central Church is doing something which seems to tick all the boxes and leave one excited, wanting to do more.

It started off as the '3Ts' – short for 'Tea, Toast and Talk (chat)' – with the aim of providing a way for the church's Community Services team to interface with the local community. According to Grace Belgrave, team leader, the project started in recognition of needs that had been identified in the community.

Upon my arrival I noticed that the foyer of the church was a choreography of movement as the team prepared for the arrival of those who would access the services. Food was being prepared on one side, clothes were being put on hangers and then on a rail on the other. Through all of this Grace Belgrave was the epitome of multitasking: writing notes, fielding queries, and keeping an eye on the preparations. Then the 'twelvish' team members gather to have an inspiring devotional, led by one of the team, encouraging all to remain unshakably firm in their identity as Christians.

Although the programme was to start at 2pm, some visitors arrived as early as 12pm and stayed well beyond the closing time – simply because they love the place. Those present have a devotional at 2pm, then share a meal, after which all receive a parcel of some necessities. The place is soon a vibrant multicultural hub of men, women and children, somewhat reminiscent of Matthew 25:34-40, which culminates in the declaration (NLT): 'And the King will say, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"'

In the words of Thulani Thebe (team member and local elder): 'I love this because this is what Christianity is all about. This is what keeps me going, this is why we are so happy. Some guys have come straight from night duty but they can't miss coming to do something for the community because this is what we live for. And when you see it happening, it actually arouses your spiritual connection with the Almighty and that's why they are smiling. They are working so hard but they are smiling, and that's the reason they are smiling.'

The programme, open fortnightly on Mondays, has been operating since 2010 without state or local funding, relying completely on donations and contributions from the church and its members.

LUNGANI SIBANDA (NEC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DIRECTOR)



Two feet . . . will be fine

From 6 to 12 May, North Wembley Community Church hosted the 2017 Core of Adventism series with enthusiastic visiting Brooklyn (USA) preacher, Pastor Easton Marks, as speaker. The theme song, 'Ancient Words', also resonated with the members as a timely reminder of the confidence we can have in our God.

The closing Sabbath highlight was the baptism of Michael Baptiste, brother of long-serving member, Sister Blaise. He was so keen to be baptised that the fact that the pool had not been filled, and that his sister was ill and unable to attend, did not stop him. She told the pastor, 'If my brother wants to get baptised . . . then baptise him.'

Amazingly, the slow-filling pool had less than two feet of water in it when the baptism took place, and Pastor Marks said that he had never baptised anyone in such shallow water before! North Wembley rejoiced at this demonstration of, as the song says, 'ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you . . .'

NORTH WEMBLEY COMMUNICATIONS



BOOKSALES

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30 Croydon 10am-2pm

August
17-20 Ghanaian Camp Meeting (York)

September
3 Stanborough Press Open Day

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Birmingham, Aston-Newton, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm,
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Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset. 0207 7236849

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3 Missions Retreat 2017

The picturesque Cairngorms National Park in Scotland was home to some 90 Seventh-day Adventist young people from Scotland, Wales and Ireland over the Easter weekend. The theme of the 3 Missions Retreat 2017 was 'Let's Go Against the Flow'.

From its inception, it was clear that the experience was going to be a great blend of social and spiritual nourishment, and that all attendees would enjoy exercising their faith in fellowship with their peers. The worship sessions were especially wonderful, featuring the giftedness of enthusiastic singers and musicians, combined with stimulating and soul-stirring presentations from our two speakers, Pastors Costa Vaggas (ages 13-16) and Zlatko Musija (17+). Drawing from the experiences of Daniel and the three Hebrew boys, our speakers challenged participants to be confident in what they believe; proud of who they are as Christians, even though it may be unpopular; and always prepared to stand up for Christ when temptation knocks.

Not to be outdone were the equally exciting leisure activities. From the friendly competition of games in the Games Room and the gentle warmth of the pool, to the more adventurous activities of canoeing, zip lining and archery, the campers were thrilled by what was on offer. It definitely got their blood pumping, in their quest to conquer every challenge and beat every opponent. On the other hand, some campers

overcame deep-seated fears through these activities, taking their triumphs well beyond the simple act of bettering an opponent.

Of course, we certainly cannot forget the epic 'Battle of the Missions Talent Show' on the Saturday night, which displayed acts by the genuinely talented and the sincerely ambitious; and decisions by judges who were apparently unable to distinguish between the two! In the end, Scotland emerged as champions at the talent contest and scooped up the grand prize of Easter egg chocolates.

As with all programmes of this nature, there were administrative issues – young people wishing to stay with their friends; fire alarms being set off by curling irons while we were getting ready on Sabbath morning (causing young ladies to run out with half-combed hairstyles and half-completed make-up); but, all in all, the fellowship was truly amazing and the messages were absolutely phenomenal. Lives were most certainly impacted, timeless friendships formed and wonderful memories made.

RENEE JOSEPH

Vacancy for Biology Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher at Stanborough School

Experienced Biology Teacher required for September 2017, to teach Biology at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Applicants should have a Bachelor's degree in Biology and an appropriate teaching qualification. Teaching experience within the UK is preferable. The successful applicant will be required to take up the Assistant Head Teacher role as well. Salary range is up to £35,000.

Stanborough School is a co-educational independent school with students from ages 11 to 18. For more information about the role and Stanborough School, please visit our website at www.spsch.org.

Applicants should send their CV and letter of application to:
Mrs M. M. Mumbo, PA to the Head Teacher (mmumbo@spsch.org).
The position will remain vacant until filled.

Finance Assistant (16 hrs a week)

ADRA-UK is looking to engage someone to work part-time as a Finance Assistant. You would provide financial administrative support to the ADRA-UK Accountant. Your main role will be to assist with our general book keeping, the Annual Appeal reconciliation, donations processing and cash accounting. You must have excellent numeracy skills, be proficient in using Excel, and possess great attention to detail. Previous experience in a finance role or with digital accounting software would be an advantage.

Starting at £12,330 per annum (16 hrs a week)

Closing date for applications is 31 August 2017.

If interested please complete an application form, which is available from our website at <http://adra.org.uk/contact/work-adra/> or alternatively call us on 0303 0401017 to find out more.

obituary



Christina Olive McGoldrick (née Burgess) (1944-2017) d. 4 June.

Christina was born in Dundee on 18 July 1944. She and her sister

Margaret were brought up by their mother, as their father left the family when the girls were young. Consequently, her early years were quite hard.

Christina always believed in God. As a teenager, she attended a 'Christ and modern youth' evangelistic series run by Pastor Howard Parkin, and as a result Christina became a Seventh-day Adventist. After completing her nursing training, she felt she needed to learn more about the Bible: so, in 1965, she decided to go to Newbold College to take the Bible Instructor's course, something for which she really

had to save and work long hours to raise the funds. She always said being at Newbold was just like being in heaven, with other Christians who loved the Lord. Throughout the rest of her life she maintained many of the friendships she had there.

After Newbold, Christina went back to nursing and completed the midwifery course. She obtained a midwifery position at The Canadian Red Cross Hospital at Taplow, near Maidenhead, as she wanted a job near enough to visit Newbold regularly.

It was at work that she met a fellow Adventist, John McGoldrick, a medical scientist; and in 1971 they were married at Stanborough Park Church by Pastor Howard Parkin, who had baptised both Christina and John separately, well before they met each other.

They were blessed with three

children, Stephen, Suzanne, and Joanne. Both Christina and John were proud of their children and their achievements. While the children were growing up Christina enjoyed good health. However, in recent years her health deteriorated. She experienced the challenges of breast cancer and open-heart surgery, as well as complications with type 2 diabetes which resulted in the amputation of one of her legs below the knee.

Christina always loved working for God and the church. In the Bradford church she served as elder, church clerk, Sabbath School superintendent, Pathfinder leader, YP leader and communications secretary, as well as a deaconess. She was distressed when she could not do so much because of increasing ill health.

In recent years John was her loving and attentive full-time carer. In the last few months before she died, Christina had several bouts of ill health. However, one week before she died she said she really wanted to

get to church, which, with John's help, she did. She was glad to see some of her church friends again.

On 3 June, after developing a very high temperature, she was taken into hospital, where she died peacefully in her sleep the following morning.

Several times in her last few months she had expressed her desire to simply rest until Jesus comes again. Despite her problems both she and John found themselves drawn closer together and to God.

The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Paul Haworth and was a wonderful celebration of Christina's life, with beautiful musical items, poems, and tributes. Christina is survived by her husband, John; her children, Suzanne, Stephen and Joanne; grandchildren, Jenna and Scott; her sister, Margaret; and her cousins, Irene and Cherry.

The family would like to thank all the friends and extended family for supporting them at this time, some travelling from as far as Denmark, Switzerland, and Burundi.

ANNE AND LAWRENCE TURNER

retirement



Have an active retirement

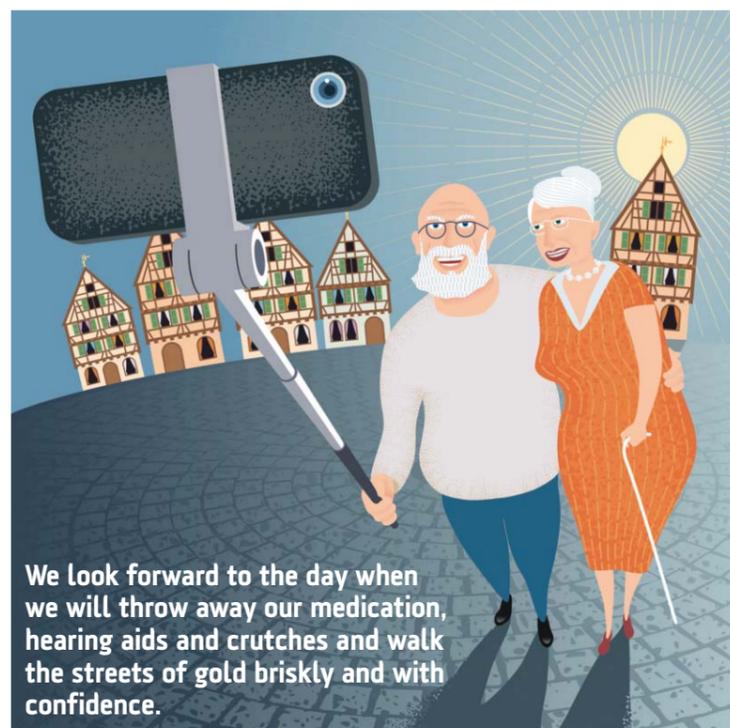
by Pastor Claude Lombart*

What do pastors, or former church employees, do when they retire? What do any of us do upon retirement? In this May's joint letter to the British Union Conference's retirees, Pastor Emanuel Bran, Welsh Mission President, proposed a six-point plan to infuse meaning and purpose into retirement, which works whether you were a church worker or not. I have experienced the benefit of such a plan, and a little more, since I 'retired' on 1 October 2011. His six-point plan, plus one of my own – since we aim towards perfection – will work for you too.

Allow me to succinctly summarise, and highlight how it's been working for me, bearing in mind that my personal 'retirement' motto is: 'Live to the full today, in Christ, so there will be no regrets at the end of it.'

1. Take some time to travel. I am by nature a pilgrim; therefore I travel. Ever since I left Mauritius as a teenager I have had the privilege to travel to over 60 countries. Retirement provided more time for my explorations and I am still on the go. I am now in the process of applying for a visa to China for at least a month's stay, which could extend to five years, if not more. If you are concerned that your retirement funds won't outlast travelling abroad, then consider the joy of exploring the British Isles instead – or even using your bus pass to explore your local county's many towns and villages.

2. Volunteer your time. This is what I spend most of my time enjoying. Like many retired ministers I try to keep up with a variety of pastoral duties, including preaching and teaching in different churches across



We look forward to the day when we will throw away our medication, hearing aids and crutches and walk the streets of gold briskly and with confidence.

the SEC. I also enjoy holding seminars on all sorts of 'hot potato' topics. I used to get paid to do what I loved doing because of my calling. Now I do it simply for the love of it, but I am thankful for travel expenses reimbursed by the SEC.

A most profound bliss is that I no longer have to chair church boards and church business meetings! There are many other volunteer opportunities for retired people to be involved in; why not find one (or more) that suits your interests, skills and available time? You will be all the richer for it.

3. Visit your local library. Whether local, or anywhere else, I love libraries. A library, for me, is one of those public places I enjoy visiting the most. Literary treasures of all sorts can be discovered within its walls, and they are usually free. And remember that libraries also have DVDs and CDs on loan – not just books – so if good movies or music are your thing then try them out.

4. Take up one or two hobbies. That's another great one. I gave myself a long-overdue Christmas present and bought a good camera. Oh, the sheer pleasure of capturing memories. I post the results on Facebook to the enjoyment of others. Since retiring I have written and published a book on relationships and am now in the process of taking courses to sharpen my writing skills. The list of hobbies to choose from is virtually endless and you will easily find something stimulating to keep your hands and thoughts busy. Give hobbies a try – you won't be sorry.

5. Find a group with similar interests. When I was in primary school I was near the top of my art class. I have now revived that as a hobby and since produced several watercolour, acrylic, pencil and charcoal 'works of art'. Enrolling in a part-time art education course not only allowed me to receive professional guidance, but it brought me in touch with a friendly bunch of people who were all art enthusiasts. Joining groups who have similar interests to yours, who meet regularly, can really be stimulating. They provide opportunities that give structure and meaning to our retirement, not to mention the chance to make friends and grow your skills.

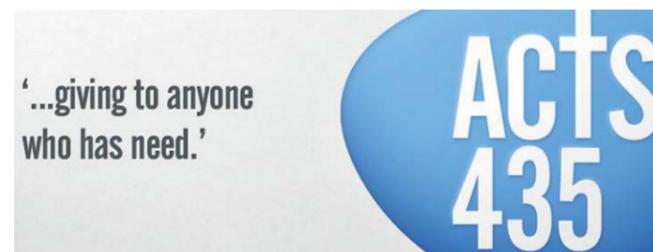
6. Keep up with old friends. Thanks to Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter I have connected with old friends and long-lost relatives, and made new friends. Just yesterday I wrote my second email to someone in Australia who I grew up with and with whom I had lost contact for five decades. Perhaps there is someone in your life you need to rediscover! Reminiscing can be such a fun experience.

7. Keep as fit as you can. This is just as important as the others, and as Adventists we cannot overlook holistic health: spiritual, emotional, mental, social, intellectual, and physical. We all ought to be knowledgeable about this, but knowledge must be translated into daily practice, otherwise we will short-change ourselves. A lot of effort, willpower and discipline is required to do 'digestive walks' after each meal, reach the 10,000-steps mark by the end of each day, and burn 500+ calories in the process. But if that's what it takes to keep fit, let's march on! If we require two glasses of water first thing in the morning and another six for the rest of the day to keep hydrated, let's drink up. If we need to attend some stress seminars in order to unwind, be more relaxed, and enjoy life more, go for it!

In conclusion, being wiser and older in our mature years, we can make the most of every day we are granted by an extravagantly gracious, generous, loving and caring God.

We look forward to the day when we will throw away our medication, hearing aids and crutches and walk the streets of gold briskly and with confidence. Forever young. Eternally!

*Claude's original article was adapted to give its important message a wider appeal.



Church partners with Acts 435

On Tuesday 4 April, two members of Barnsley Church attended Lambeth Palace for afternoon tea. The event was held at the invitation of Archbishop Justin Welby and was in support of the charity Acts 435, a national charity administered from Bishopsthorpe Palace in York, home of Archbishop John Sentamu and his wife, Margaret.

The guests were mainly financial supporters of the charity but included some advocates. All the money donated by supporters reaches the people in need.

Among the speakers was Julian Richer of Richer Sounds, who was inspired to start the charity and who donates a percentage of the profits of his company to it.

This charity exists to provide money to people in need and makes grants of up to £120. Advocates can apply for up to three grants per year for an individual.

Barnsley Seventh-day Adventist Church has three advocates for the charity and they have applied for grants for local people in need. These range from money for bus fares to visit children after marriage break-ups, to money for washing machines or other essential household items. We have also been able to give grants for school shoes when the Clothes Bank was unable to supply them. We have been 100% successful in the grants we have applied for from Acts 435.

The church continues to help local families and individuals through the Clothes Bank but is able to enhance the aid through the partnership with Acts 435. We are grateful for this partnership with other Christian churches in order to show the love of Christ in practical ways to those in need.

Visit the website www.acts435.org.uk for more info.

MIKE AND ALISON ALLEN

Do you know this person?

The country director of ADRA Uganda would be grateful to receive any information about John Palmer, who once served in that capacity. If you are related to John or know of his present whereabouts please contact Pastor Charles Ed II Aguilar at cd@adraUGANDA.org. The local union wishes to honour him for his contribution to the work of ADRA in Uganda.

Calling for participants in an academic study:

If you have ever cared for or are caring for someone, you are invited by Valdeiza Costa, an Adventist member who is pursuing an MA in positive psychology, to fill in a form for research purposes in this regard. The study looks at the correlation between Adventist spirituality and the giving of different types of care to ill family members by Adventists, and the results of the study are anticipated to have a positive impact both within the church and in worldwide academic circles. It takes 20 to 30 minutes to complete and is done online by filling in the relevant parts.

Valdeiza is working to a tight deadline so your prompt participation would be very much appreciated. Go to the link provided below, fill in the relevant parts, and it will be sent online when you reach the end.

https://uelpsyh.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmaiWwKtXhST7h

Messenger

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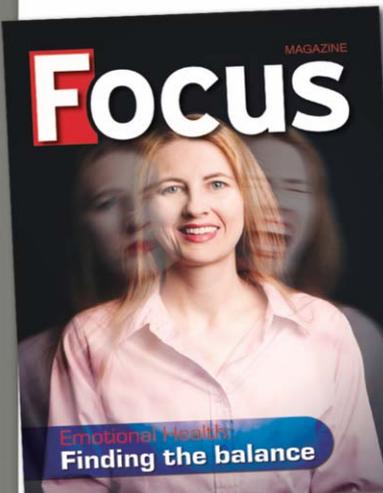
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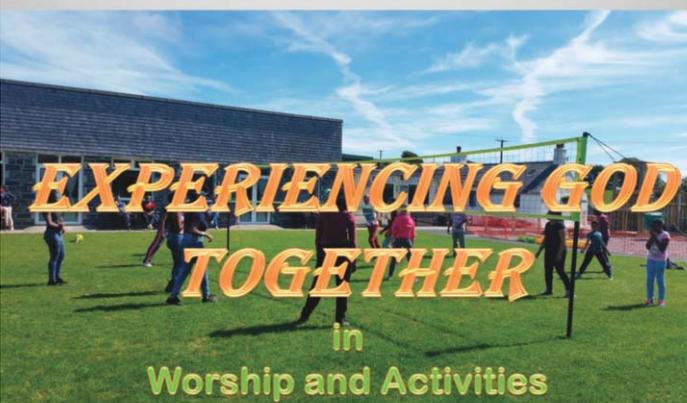


Here we have our latest FOCUS magazine – packed with excellent articles about all aspects of emotional health. It's a great give-away issue – order some today for your friends and family.

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