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Newbold Annual Awards Ceremony

Kirsty Watkins

The Newbold community celebrated the academic achievement of over 20 students on Sunday 9 July, in a ceremony attended by more than 250 guests.

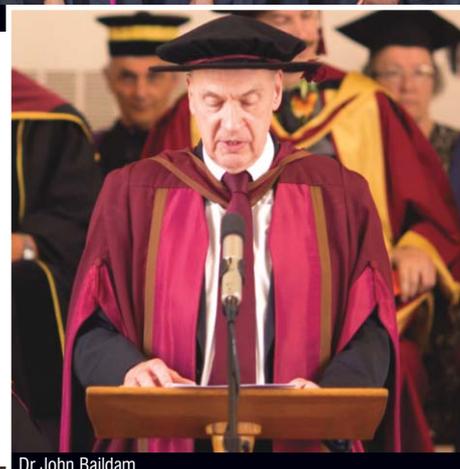
The students, who represented 14 countries, including four graduands from the United Kingdom, have completed the requirements for programmes in Business (through Washington Adventist University), undergraduate Theology (including Biblical and Pastoral Studies), and postgraduate Theology (including Ministry and Mission through Theologische Hochschule Friedensau and the University of Wales Trinity Saint David).

Guests at the ceremony included guest speaker Dr Cheryl Kisunzu, Provost (Academic Administration) at Washington Adventist University, who encouraged them to develop a competitive edge, without which she said their degrees would hold no meaning for them. Dr Kisunzu calls it the Daniel Secret Weapon, based on Daniel 5:11-12, the writing on the wall, in which King Belshazzar's queen recommends Daniel to the King, describing him as the one who can unravel the mysteries, and as having an excellent spirit. Dr Kisunzu went on to discuss five competencies that make for an excellent spirit, and five

Continued on p. 2



UK graduates



Dr John Baidam



Dr Cheryl Kisunzu



characteristics that make for a less than excellent spirit.

According to her, components that make for a less than excellent spirit include 'entitlement', which she described as being characterised by lateness, being reward-focused, and arrogant; 'Be bold, be confident,' she told the graduands, 'but be humble.' The next component she discussed was having an explosive personality, which she described as expecting people to see things your way and getting angry when they don't, putting others down while building yourself up, and disengaging from dialogue.

Making excuses, she went on to say, such as finding reasons why something won't work or can't change, is a further attribute that makes for a less than excellent spirit. 'The world doesn't need more excuses,' she said. Dr Kusunzu also discussed how having an empty mindset (being unprepared with no ideas), and an exit mindset (one which is already ready to leave for the day, or to leave the organisation), are attributes likely to detract from developing an excellent spirit.

Essential competencies of an excellent spirit, according to Dr Kusunzu, include enlightenment. She encouraged each graduand to take the time to verify what is true, and to go beyond the surface of the information presented. 'Connect your mind, your heart, with the One who is the Source of truth,' she advised, 'so that when you come into a situation like Daniel you will be the one who is enlightened.'

Dr Kusunzu also sees enthusiasm as an essential attribute. She encouraged the graduands to be positive, empowered, ready, and fired up to recognise challenges and embrace problems. 'Anyone can solve easy challenges,' she said.

She saw expectancy, or being positive and expecting success, as an essential component for building an excellent spirit. She also went on to discuss edification, or being compelled to encourage others and build them up.

Finally, she discussed the attribute of empowerment, encouraging graduands to pray every day for a 'double portion of the Holy Spirit to infuse your mind with the wisdom promised in James 1:5'.

Dr Kusunzu closed by reminding graduands of the words found in Deuteronomy 28, blessings for obedience. 'You will be the ones who will move ever upward, never downward. You will be the head, never the tail. You will be blessed in your going out, and in your coming in. You will be blessed in the city, and in the field. You will be blessed to lend to many nations, never to borrow. You will be instruments in which our Lord's glory shines, for time and for eternity,' she said.

Dr Baildam delivered the charge to the graduating students, challenging them to live the life of the kingdom of God, to love both God and their neighbours, to remain open to the needs of others, and to make Jesus known through witness and service.

Lorraine Fontaine, a Master of Arts in Theology graduate from the UK, gave the

student response to Dr Baildam's charge, acknowledging the responsibilities laid on them as alumni of the college, and recognising the skills which they have developed during their time at Newbold. 'The college has enabled us to develop within the spiritual, academic and social spheres,' she said. 'In whatever walk of life we find ourselves, we hereby undertake to remain supportive of the ethos of the college and to remain true to the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Special music in the form of an original composition titled *A Brand New Beginning* was performed by Kärt Lazić (Head of the English Language Centre) and Dr Tihomir Lazić (Lecturer, Department of Theological Studies). In addition, the processional and recessional were performed by Newbold community members Austin Blackburn on the oboe, Estilla Keszeg on the cello, and Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett (Director, Study Abroad Programmes) on the piano.

Several students also travelled to Lampeter, Wales, on Friday 7 July to participate in the graduation ceremony at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, the institution which awards some of Newbold's undergraduate and postgraduate Theology degrees. According to Dr Baildam, 'This was a wonderful occasion, and an opportunity to support our graduating students, to connect with our colleagues from the University of Wales, and to show solidarity with our degree-awarding partner within the UK.'

editorial

God hears every prayer, of that I am convinced. On the other hand, just how and when He will answer our prayers, respond to our requests, or intervene in our lives is not always immediately evident. There are definitely times when our faith has to be patient! Times when Psalm 27:14 (NIV-UK) is the text to read:

'Wait for the LORD;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.'

There are those other times, however, when God dramatically steps into the ring with us and goes toe-to-toe with whatever adverse circumstances we may be facing. There is no delay, no waiting and wondering, just the stunning realisation that God has taken charge of whatever you couldn't! Times when Isaiah 65:24 (NIV-UK) suddenly makes so much sense:

'Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.'

How's this for an example?

One of the most dramatic examples of this type of intervention is found in Exodus 14, where the fleeing Hebrews are caught between the Red Sea and the thundering chariots of an angry Pharaoh. According to the narrative, before the people prayed, God had already told Moses that He had a plan to deal with the Egyptian army. Then we read this in verses 10-14 (ESV):

'When Pharaoh drew near, the people of

When did you last have a 'heavenly hug'?



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. **And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD.** [The praying began!] They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. **The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.**"' (Emphasis supplied.)

I am sure you know what happened next.

How about you?

Have you ever been silenced by God's awesome intervention in your life? I'm sure you have. But if nothing springs immediately to mind, just reflect a little and I'm sure you will remember some 'Red Sea' moments of your own.

Recently our daughter, Jeané, reminded me of something very special that happened to her while she was completing her Master's in Clinical Social Work. She was working at the same time and her research had to be squeezed into a busy schedule that allowed her little more than evenings and Sundays for that purpose.

As the thesis submission date drew near she gave a draft of her work to her staff sponsor for evaluation. The response was very positive, but, as the sponsor pointed out, there were two areas of her research that lacked the required number of corroborating references, and this could prevent her obtaining the really high mark that the thesis deserved.

Jeané was aware of this problem, but had already spent long hours searching for suitable supporting material in these two areas of fairly recent research. She had physically combed through her library's social work shelves, and done extensive online book and journal searches of the libraries of South Africa's 25 other universities.

It was almost too late

Time was running out for her to do much more because the thesis had to be in the next Monday morning. That notwithstanding, she decided to try one more time – Friday afternoon – directly after work and before sunset. She arrived at around 4pm and, as she stepped into the general Social Sciences section of the library, she prayed again for God's guidance and direction: 'God, I'm leaving it in Your hands. I know that this is not important in the grand scheme of things, but if there is any research to find in relation to these topics, please help me find it!'

The social sciences represent a vast area of academic study, which includes 'economics, political science, human geography, demography, psychology, sociology, anthropology, archaeology, jurisprudence, history, and linguistics'.¹ Knowing she had already scoured so many of its shelves, it was with 'a sense of despondency' that she returned to them that afternoon. Where should she start?

'I'm just going to walk through the library, between the shelves,' she thought to herself, and started down the first row of books until a book caught her eye. 'I pulled it out, opened it up and – I kid you not – on that page was exactly what I needed. Here were statements backing up one of the assertions I had made in my thesis! Stunned by that, I carried on walking randomly between the shelves, selecting five more titles. Together those six books provided me with three pieces of literature to back up each of my assertions: not just the two I needed for each, but three. Within 30 minutes I walked out of that library with those six books!

'That day I got what I call a heavenly hug. That day I knew that God cared about me: that He had done something for me that He didn't need to do; something that impacted nobody else but me – and I knew that He really loved me!'

Jeané received an exceptionally high mark for her thesis, for which God must take most of the credit. **But it is that sense of having had a 'heavenly hug' that she treasures most!**

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_science



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc

Health Ministries Director, BUC

Air quality health risks

The World Health Organisation's (WHO's) work on environmental health includes the provision of a benchmark for global standards in relation to air quality and drinking water guidelines. The following is from their Air Quality Guidelines Global Updates 2005 document:

'Clean air is considered to be a basic requirement of human health and well-being. However, air pollution continues to pose a significant threat to health worldwide. . . . More than 2 million premature deaths each year can be attributed to the effects of urban outdoor air pollution and indoor air pollution.'¹

The UK's Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has identified the following air pollutants as having harmful effects on human health and the environment:²

Pollutant sources:

- combustion from space heating
- power generation
- motor vehicle traffic

These pollutants not only prove problematic in their immediate vicinity but can also travel long distances, giving rise to the following concerns:

- Generally, moderate air pollution levels are unlikely to have any serious short-term effects on those who are young and in a good state of health. Elevated levels and/or long-term exposure to air pollution can, however, have a serious impact on human

respiratory and inflammatory systems, and lead to more serious conditions such as heart disease and cancer.

- People with existing lung or heart conditions may be more susceptible to the effects of air pollution.

Here are some examples of common pollutants and the effects they produce at elevated pollution levels:

- **Nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone:** These gases irritate the airways of the lungs, increasing the symptoms of those suffering from lung diseases.
- **Particles:** Fine particles can be carried deep into the lungs, where they can cause inflammation and a worsening of heart and lung diseases.
- **Carbon monoxide:** This gas prevents the uptake of oxygen by the blood. This can lead to a significant reduction in the supply of oxygen to the heart, particularly in people suffering from heart disease.

In a recent *Telegraph* news report³ by Ashly Kirk and Patrick Scott (July 2017) it was estimated that over 28,000 people in the UK die every year from air pollution.

The next issue examines tips for improving air quality.

Good health!

¹http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/outdoorair_agq/en/ ²<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/effects> ³<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/high-air-pollution-city-does-compare-the-most-polluted-cities/>



'Before they call
I will answer;
while they are
still speaking I
will hear.'



1517-2017 500th anniversary

by Dr David Marshall, former *MESSENGER* editor

Few men have provoked controversy more than Martin Luther (1483-1546). His work as an accidental revolutionary began in 1517, just five hundred years ago. It was then that he did something that brought about, according to a recent authority, 'the dangerous birth of the modern world'¹ and launched, according to another, 'Christianity's Dangerous Idea' that was the core of 'The Protestant Revolution'.²

Who was Luther? An intellectual giant who, unusually, could express himself unforgettably in language ordinary people knew. A miner's son, he, early on, showed signs of genius. But, early on, he was also a *troubled*, almost *tortured* soul.

Acknowledging his son as gifted, Luther's father wanted him to train for the law. This was the way to get on in early sixteenth-century society. Returning home from university in 1505 Martin was caught in a violent thunderstorm featuring a thunderbolt. His horse threw him, and he lay on the ground, terrified; 'Help me, St Anne,' he cried. 'I will become a monk.'

Luther entered an Augustinian monastery. From the first, what he was concerned about was not reforming the Church, but the salvation of Martin Luther. His soul was tortured because he believed that if he wanted to please God, he had to make himself into a good person. In line with Church teaching, Luther then believed that humanity had the capacity to make itself righteous. If an individual did so, God would endorse his transformation and, through the sacraments of the Church, save his soul.

When Luther conducted his first mass in 1507, the transformation had not taken place. He had the strongest possible sense of his personal unworthiness. Who was he to approach God?

His superiors acknowledged that he was outstandingly gifted, but thought, too, that he was given to morbid introspection. Luther struggled in vain to discover a gracious God and the sense that his sins were forgiven. He couldn't find them. They chose to send him to the University of Wittenburg in 1508. There, perhaps, through the discipline of study, he would find what he was searching for. He didn't. As part of his education he was sent to Rome in 1510. The visit made a deep impression on Luther but, despite the stories told by others, he had no conversion experience and found no peace there. On the contrary, much that he saw disturbed him.

On Luther's return from Rome, he was appointed lecturer/professor of theology at Wittenburg. In 1517, in that pastoral/academic capacity, he took the action that would lead to the Protestant Reformation.

Nothing revolutionary . . . or was it? Luther nailed ninety-five theses to the door of the castle-church at Wittenburg. He wrote his ninety-five propositions in Latin, the international language of scholars. He meant them to be the subject of scholarly debate. After all, church doors did double duty as notice boards. There they would attract attention.

They did. And not just among the scholars. An enterprising printer translated the ninety-five propositions into German, and ran off thousands of copies. Martin Luther was addressing a scandal in the Church that was affecting the local community.

The scandal was 'indulgences'. Indulgences were certificates that offered forgiveness of sins in return for money. Those who visit Rome cannot fail to be impressed by St Peter's and the Vatican. But those impressive buildings, then being built, were extremely costly. Costly even for an institution as wealthy as the papacy.

The Church argued that Jesus Christ and the saints had bequeathed to them a 'superabundance of righteousness'. That enabled the Pope, in return for the purchase of an 'indulgence', to issue certificates of forgiveness for sinners willing to pay either for themselves or their relations who had already died (and were thought to be in 'Purgatory'). The local salesman for indulgences, Tetzel, was saying, 'As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, / The soul from Purgatory springs.' Some sales pitch! A local priest said that the prerequisites for an indulgence were three: 'Contrition, confession, and contribution.'³ But that was for personal indulgences. All that was necessary to buy a dead loved one from Purgatory was contribution!

Scandalous? Luther thought so, whether indulgences were for the living, or the dead.

The reason he thought so was that, between 1512 and 1516, during which he had lectured at Wittenburg, Luther had reached the looked-for answer to his question, the resolution to his struggle. His tortured spirit had found peace.

Specifically, in 1515 and 1516, he had been lecturing on Paul's Letter to the Romans. His research had been clarified by the publication of an accurate Greek New Testament by Erasmus of Rotterdam. His study had also been assisted by recourse to the works of Augustine of Hippo (354-430), which had appeared in print.

The focus of the struggle for Luther had become Romans 1:16, 17: 'I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. . . . For in it the righteousness of God is revealed' (NKJV), 'a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."' (NIV.)

The focus of Luther's puzzlement at first was the phrase 'the righteousness of God'. It seemed to mean the righteousness that God required of him. He knew from experience that such an absolute righteousness was beyond his ability to achieve. He couldn't do it. 'Once, when I was meditating in the tower of the monastery,' he wrote, 'I saw that the Law was

one thing, and the Gospel was another.' When he realised the 'righteousness of God' meant God's gifted righteousness to the repentant believer – the door to God's grace was flung wide open. In his words, 'It became to me a gate to Paradise.'

When Tetzel came to town 'selling' righteousness, Luther was especially affronted: 'The righteousness of God is not a righteousness we achieve by our performance, or buy through indulgences. It is a righteousness that God gives us when we repent. It is the free gift of God through faith.' Luther's favourite verse became, 'The just [righteous] shall live by faith.' Later this would become the core Protestant teaching of Justification by Faith.

In 1517 this teaching began to emerge in the 95 propositions.

In his first proposition he challenged the assertion that the Church could forgive the sins of those who bought indulgences. When Christ said, 'Repent,' asserted Luther, He meant that the entire life of the believer should be one of repentance. By proposition 37 he was stating that any Christian could be forgiven by God without papal indulgence letters. In propositions 45 and 46 he said that Christians who used their money to buy indulgences instead of caring for their families or for the needy would incur God's wrath. In proposition 62 he said that the Church's message, the Gospel, was about the astonishing grace of God.

The enthusiastic reception of the 95 Theses by the wider community in Luther's part of Germany caused concern among some. Albert of Hohenzollern had borrowed a vast sum to buy his archbishopric in Mainz, and was receiving a 50% cut of the proceeds of the papal indulgence. He was uncomfortable. The local German ruler, the Elector Frederick the Wise, was proud of Luther's stand and backed him.

As the implications of Luther's Justification by Faith became apparent, there were political consequences. He became an active, indeed outspoken revolutionary. Luther had wrecked the medieval system of papal control. When the Pope bestirred himself into issuing a bull excommunicating Luther, Luther burned it. When, in 1521, Luther was asked by the Emperor Charles V to recant his beliefs in front of the imperial diet (parliament), Luther refused.

Luther was at the heart of a Europe-wide controversy. There were political and social consequences. There was an outbreak of Bible translations. For a thousand years the Bible had appeared in Latin only. Within a decade or two it was translated into local languages. Luther translated it into vigorous, readable German.

Luther went into print with his beliefs.

He influenced men and women in many parts of Germany, in France, in the Netherlands, in Sweden, and in Switzerland. Luther had his sympathisers in England too. William Tyndale, Thomas Cranmer, Thomas Cromwell, Ann Askew . . . even Anne Boleyn was found in possession of Luther's publications. For entirely cynical reasons England's tyrannical King Henry VIII, who had earned the title Defender of the Faith for attacking Luther, took advantage of the new movement to split with Rome and privatise monastic property.

Europe divided along religious lines. Wars were fought. Men and women were burned for their beliefs. There were massacres. But these political consequences were not the Reformation. The Reformation was the revival of Christianity not seen since apostolic times. That was what made men and women prepared to suffer and die for their beliefs.

But as we look back on it from a 500-year distance, what do we remember? If we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation what, specifically, are we celebrating?

We celebrate Luther's emphasis on the primacy of the individual conscience over controlling and corrupt ecclesiastic power structures.

Luther used the German word *Gemeinde* (community) to refer to the Church. He democratised faith. The Church was a gathering of believers, not a power structure with sacred powers and authority vested exclusively in its clergy. All believers by virtue of their baptism are priests. We celebrate that.

We celebrate the availability of Scripture in language all can understand. We celebrate the right to read and interpret the Bible as the birthright of all Christians.

Above all, we celebrate salvation as the free, unmerited gift of God, received by faith. That is the Christian Gospel. It brought peace and assurance to Luther's life as it can to yours and mine.

In the face of militant/political Islam and militant/political secularism, we celebrate the Reformation's revelation of freedom and assurance through faith in Jesus.

¹Harry Reid, *Reformation: The Dangerous Birth of the Modern World* (St Andrew Press, 2009) ²Alister McGrath, *Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution* (SPCK, 2007) ³Roland Bainton, *Here I stand: A biography of Martin Luther* (Lion Publishing, 1978), pages 76-78.

BOOKSALES

August 17-20 Ghanaian Camp Meeting (York)	
September 3 Stanborough Press Open Day 17 Ilford Central	8am-4pm 10am-2pm
October 1 Newbold 1 London Ghana	10am-2pm 10am-2pm



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met·a·mor·pho·sis

a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means.

by Tottenham Communication Team

With a change in mind, we, the members of Tottenham Church, swapped the comforts of our sanctuary for the West Green Neighbourhood Park opposite the church. 'The Green' became consecrated ground for nine nights of worship.

The venue was chosen after the vision of a young female member was brought to the attention of the pastor and members. The vision emphasised that we should go and meet people where they are, and that the evangelistic meetings should take place outside (of our comfort zone). Prior to this vision, and unknown to the young lady and the other members, the leadership had been planning to hold meetings within the church building.

The programme, named 'The Event', started on Sabbath 22 April at 6pm with the Pathfinders marching from the church to The Green to the beat of their drums.

The grass became our carpet and the sky our ceiling. The pillars of this building were trees and the spaces between the trees were the doors and windows. The prayer room was a small tent and the technical room a gazebo. The café on The Green kindly provided electricity – free of charge.

Special guests attending the opening evening were SEC President, Pastor Emmanuel Osei, who made the opening speech, and SEC Sabbath School Director, Dr Kirk Thomas, who prayed. They both commended our venture to the Lord. The West Green Road Children's Choir and the All London Male Voice Choir sang special items.

While the programme was going on the community stopped, looked, listened and recorded. Passers-by were invited to a table to select literature, where

they also received a gift bag containing a *Focus* magazine, the Adventist Discovery Centre correspondence course card, a *Man's Need of Christ* leaflet, a bottle of water and a leaflet with the dates and times of the meetings.

The evangelist was Pastor Terry Alva John, vice president and senior pastor of the University of the Southern Caribbean.

'Metamorphosis' was the theme chosen by the evangelist for the meetings – and how fitting that theme came to be – here are a few stories:

On the first evening a young man who was passing by offered to help with the setting up of the equipment and he was still with us at the end. He is a Muslim and lives with his grandmother. They both want to know more about the Adventist message.

On the Sundays of 23 and 30 April the event started early, giving us time to socialise with the community. A bouncy castle was also set up, and along with the distribution of free popcorn this kept the children happy. Health screening was available under the leadership of Claudette James from Holloway Church, during which more than forty people received hands-on clinical assistance. Health workshops were conducted along with the opportunity for counselling.

The two Wednesday evenings posed the greatest challenges to us.

Wednesday 26 April was the coldest evening and our pastor, Dr Jude Jeanville, told of how he went to visit a neighbouring Methodist Church minister to discuss a matter and, while there, he heard the minister tell his members that he had witnessed a church meeting in the open air on The Green, on a particularly cold evening. As far as he was



concerned, we were a good example for his members to follow!

As we gathered on Sabbath 29 April, there was a surge of enthusiasm in the community. What's going on? What time are you starting? How long will you be here? These were the questions they asked us.

From the first night, it became apparent that the police are kept busy in Tottenham. During that evening there was a car crash up the road and that caused a build-up of traffic. While the situation was sorted out, nobody was annoyed or irritated by the delay. The drivers and their passengers simply became our captive audience.

On Sunday 30 April the song service was interrupted for prayer after an announcement was made that a young man had fallen off a nearby building! For the young man the Air Ambulance crew were his 'visible' attendants, but the evangelist prayed for him as he was wheeled past our outdoor church, asking the Great

Physician to accompany them too. The injured man's brother was distraught and was cared for by one of our elders.

At the end of that evening we gathered in the church to witness the baptism of two precious souls, husband and wife Atkison and Daisy DaCosta. District pastor and area co-ordinator for the pastors in Area 6, Rafael Luz, was present as translator during the service as the couple are Portuguese. An elder and a member who is fluent in Portuguese had studied with the couple. The same couple had brought their baby son, Hayden, to be dedicated to the Lord the day before.

Although we had cold spells, we had no rain until Wednesday 3 May. The venue was changed to the church, but, because many attendees were uneasy about this, prayer was offered on The Green and then the announcement was made to transfer the meeting outside. International saxophonist, Mark Bunney, was invited to play

during the services on the remaining nights and his ministry proved a blessing.

During our worship one evening a young man sat smoking on a bench at the edge of our open-air church. After the meeting some members stopped to greet him before gathering in the church hall for soup. But the pastor, moved by the Holy Spirit, returned to The Green to talk to the man, then invited him over for some soup, after which he and a few other men found a quiet area to pray with him. While they prayed the man began to cry –

then went on to explain that he had been finding life in England rather difficult and that, as he felt unwanted and unloved, he had contemplated ending his life that very evening!

On Sabbath 6 May the meetings concluded with another baptism. The eight candidates were Carlene Graham, Seralee Louis, Lanelle Louis, Glenrick Brown, Fantasia NC Perkins-Smith, Anthony Aisosa Oghogho, Annita Karmara and Joshua Deen. There are currently four candidates awaiting the next baptism.



Chief Programmes Officer Howa Avan-Nomayo and CEO Bert Smit signing the contract

ADRA-UK's latest project

On 20 July ADRA-UK signed a contract for a new development project in Sri Lanka. It is the largest project in ADRA-UK's history, with a budget of £5,144,000, funded by the European Union with co-financing coming from both OXFAM Italy and ADRA-UK.

Working in partnership with ADRA Sri Lanka and Oxfam Italy will allow the project to provide 306,016 community members with access to clean water and toilets, and training in health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation for disadvantaged communities in Uva and Central Province.

- This will ensure that for the next 36 months:
- 50% of children in the project area receive three nutritious meals per day;
 - 60% of women working on the local tea estates will have more than one bath per week, which will help reduce the spread of disease;
 - There will be a 40% increase in the number of people using a safe water source;
 - 300 women of reproductive age will benefit from nutrition interventions that will improve the health of the families: pregnant mothers and unborn children/foetuses.

The project meets United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation requirements.



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.



Choir wins 'Choir of the World' title

Cheers and prayers of thanksgiving rang out in the United Kingdom and across North America as word quickly spread that the Oakwood University Aeolians Choir had won the world choir title (Choir of the World) in the choral category during the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, Wales, Great Britain, on 8 July. The university also received a second award as Jason Ferdinand, the Aeolians' director, was named Outstanding Director of the World Choral Festival.

The competition, which started on 3 July and ended on 9 July, originally began in 1947 as a festival to celebrate 'peace and harmony' that showcases some of the world's greatest musical talents. According to the event's website, each year the International Musical

Eisteddfod welcomes more than 4,000 performers, and as many as 50,000 visitors join the festival in the small Welsh town 'to sing and dance in a unique combination of competition, performance, and international peace and friendship'. The event culminated with the choral competition.

The winner of the Choir of the World competition receives the coveted Pavarotti Trophy and 3,000 euros (£2,684.56, current exchange rate).

In a press release, university representatives said, 'We are proud of the Oakwood University's Aeolians for achieving success on the world stage and representing Oakwood University, Huntsville, and, most importantly, God to the world.'

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION NEWS

Choir members' homecoming

On Sunday evening, 2 July, the world-renowned Aeolian Gospel Choir, who hail from Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama, USA, sang at the Aberdeen Street church in Birmingham.

Much could be said about this prestigious choir, which was awarded World Choir Champion status in both 2012 and 2017; however, many in the audience that night were there to support two of the choir members in particular. Jeharna South, a member of the Pendeford church in Wolverhampton, and Naomi Parchment, a member of the Handsworth church in Birmingham, were enthusiastically welcomed home by family and friends alike.

Applause punctuated their expressions of gratitude to the well-wishers and family who had supported them both tangibly and through prayers during their journey of faith at Oakwood University. Naomi testified, 'They came to Oakwood with not a lot of money but a lot of faith, and God has just blown our minds!' According to her there is no other place like Oakwood, 'where there are like-minded people and Black educators'.

Jeharna emphasised that the presence of family, friends and their church 'family' at the concert was more appreciated than they would ever really understand. Both young women declared how good God has been to them and the emotion with which they spoke touched the hearts of many in the audience.

It was also evident that their parents, Paul and Ruthlyn South and Kenneth and Lorna Parchment, felt that their sacrifice over the years, in order for their daughters to receive this Christian education at Oakwood, was indeed worth it.

The writer, who has ministered to the Parchment family over the years, appreciated both the fine quality of music from the choir and the testimonies of Naomi and Jeharna, saying, 'No finer Sunday evening could have been experienced anywhere in the West Midlands as the name of God was lifted up and praised in a magnificent way.'

BY DR P. HERBERT



Are you ringless in London?

On Sabbath 13 May at Holloway Church, the singles ministry, **Ringless in London**, got real about relationships and dating in the church from the male perspective. Given the gender imbalance in the church, there was a need to hear their perspective. This

was our second event of the year and we were focusing on the men and modern-day dating. The panel consisted of four single Christian men (Samuel, Dijon, Adrian, Alex) and one married man (Felix), aged 23-35. They provided varied insights into the topic under the guidance of our host, Adaia. The panellists were aged 23-35.

When asked by an audience member why they were single they were honest and gave it to us straight. It was clear that they knew they had some work to do within themselves, and through waiting on God they would receive their greatest blessing. In the words of one of the panellists, 'God is literally breaking me down and moulding me into the man He needs me to be.' A powerful statement, and so true to life! How can we get to know a potential partner when are still working on ourselves? It's a brave thing to know God and allow Him to work on us while patiently waiting for the one He has in store for us. Trusting God's timing with what we desire is sometimes hard, because our desire for what we want seems greater, but it isn't. The discussion was all about dating: what men want; what women think men want; keeping our standards in a world full of temptation; and purity for both men and women. Amid the laughter, smiles and 'amens' that filled the room, the discussion gave our single Christians something to think about.

In our first programme of the year, back in February, **Ringless in London** celebrated one year of online ministry and the focus was love: the search for love and the unconditional love of Christ. Along our journey we fail Him and make decisions we clearly shouldn't, but He's always there pursuing us, even when we feel we're not worth His love or forgiveness. We took to our Bibles and looked at the story of Hosea and Gomer, relating it to our relationship with Christ. With a desire to reach singles and spread the love of Christ, the ministry was started online using social media platforms, and one year on was reaching singles around the world.

Ringless in London is a Christian singles ministry created two years ago. It is a community of Christians dedicated to living pure and saving themselves for the one God has for them, while being a support to others along the way.

If you're a virgin, have never been married, or are a widower, celibate, or a fornicator wanting to stop but addicted to passion, you can find something here for yourself. We are just flawed single people who love Christ and want to date the right way. **Ringless in London** was created through a desire to live right and the struggle to do so. Living in the world and being not of the world in our modern-day society is hard. So I thought, 'Why not create an outlet, a community, where others just like me can connect . . . ?' Yes, there are others, and you are not alone. We are on a quest to do things the right way because it is too easy doing them the wrong way. We are all sinners saved by grace just trying to be better, and do what He has called us to do.

For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/RinglessinLondon>.

ADAIA BWOGA

The Mark Drama Comes to Cheltenham

Every year Cheltenham hosts a Christian Arts Festival during April and May. One of the highlights of this year's festival was the dramatic presentation of all the scenes of Mark's Gospel. The Mark Drama is an international project designed to bring the Good News to people in a creative way. A team of 15 people, without costumes or props, learned the order of the events of Mark's Gospel over a period of six weeks. Then, under the leadership of Mark Drama Director, Andrew Page, they



Robin Beamish on the right, rehearsing with some of the cast

had three intense rehearsals before performing twice for the general public. The performances take place in a compact circular environment, completely surrounded by the audience.

The Cheltenham Mark Drama team was made up of individuals from nine different local churches including the Cheltenham Adventist church's own Robin Beamish, who had one of the main roles as James, the disciple. The learning was diligently done in pairs over the six-week period, during which much prayer took place for the team, the performances, and those who would come to the performances.

The whole team then came together for two evening rehearsals on 27 and 28 April and an all-day rehearsal on Sabbath 29 April. The first performance was on Saturday evening (29 April) followed by a second performance at a different venue in Cheltenham the next day.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The scenes at the end of Jesus' life were particularly striking and left some in tears. Some were also deeply affected by the silences in some of the scenes. Others simply saw new aspects of the Gospel they had not seen before. A number of our local Adventists attended one of the performances and enjoyed it. One said in church the following week: 'Thank you for lifting Jesus up!'

Those who took part will certainly never forget it!

If your church or student group would like to be involved in doing this, please go to www.themarkdrama.com and see how it could come to where you are.

MIKE BEAMISH



Special Tony Spearing prints

Do you have a fond memory of a special event that took place in Stanborough Park Church, such as a wedding or baptism? Does this place hold great significance for you or someone you know? Fifty limited-edition mounted giclée 16x12" prints of the church as it was in 1990 (in watercolour) have been produced by kind permission of the artist and illustrator, Tony Spearing. These are now for sale and all profits go to the Crieff Church development fund. Please contact Caroline Swain for further information: caroline49a@gmail.com.



Newmarket Church has much to celebrate

Seventh-day Adventist members from County Limerick and County Clare celebrated the official organisation of their company into a church on Sabbath, 24 June. This change of status is a significant milestone in the remarkable history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the West of Ireland.

This history was recounted during a service with the theme, 'The Blessing of the Newmarket Church', during which its development was traced from a one-room flat to a dark rented hall, then to rented hotel rooms and finally to the present spacious Kinasoolagh site. This was done by long-standing member Sinead Galvin, who also told of the many pastors who dedicated their ministry to develop the church and the conversion of its first members. She made special mention of the late Eithne McNamara Amos, who distributed literature, visited all in the area, and gave Bible studies to those longing to know the truth. Eithne's sister-in-law, Monica, who was present at the ceremony, said, 'It was Eithne's influence that began the church group in Newmarket.'

Another original member of the church, Angela O'Brien, gave her own personal story of joining a convent in her quest to become a nun and subsequently leaving again – disillusioned. She then found Jesus on the street right outside her own home where she encountered Eithne, who could answer the spiritual questions Angela had been asking since childhood. 'She spent time with me and many Bible studies later I became the first in my family to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church,' Angela reflected.

Tribute was paid to Pastor Don Vollmer, who now lives in California. He was the first pastor to lead the group when it began in 1982. He is fondly remembered for his grace and patience in bringing a then-unruly group to know Christ. Pastor Vollmer was based in Galway, but travelled down to Newmarket almost every second week. He pastored the group until 1991 when he returned to California. He is presently



Sheffield Manor youth weekend

Fellowship and fun was had by the many youth who spent the weekend in beautiful Edale, Derbyshire. The theme was 'The Fourth Musketeer' and focused on making a commitment to Christ. Many thanks to Mrs Marlene Lee and her team for making this a success.

ANDREW YESUDIAN



involved with ASI and has also become a member of the celebrated Wedgwood Trio singing group.

Local pastor, Tony O'Rourke, welcomed members from the west of Ireland churches and Dublin. He told of the respect the local community has for the congregation and the positive influence it has had, particularly for the many health expos and vegetarian cookery classes it has run over the years.

The Emerald Health and Education Foundation, California, financed the church school, which ran for several years. The present seven-acre property, located on the outskirts of the village of Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare, was also purchased by the Emerald Foundation in 1987. They further financed various projects, developing not just the church building, but the camp site, mission house and Pathfinders barn which stand on the campus today. 'Without the support of Emerald we would not be sitting in this beautiful building today,' said Pastor Tony. He also acknowledged other financial donors who wish to remain anonymous, the British Union Conference, the Adventist Frontier Missions, the input of Pastor Jeff Freeman and many volunteers, who have transformed the original stand-alone cattle shed into the many buildings on the campus today.

The formal upgrading from company to church was presided over by Pastor Paul Lockham, who is the Associate Executive Secretary of the British Union Conference. He was joined by Pastor Dan Serb, President of the Irish Mission, and they jointly blessed the church, while also encouraging the members to continue the work begun by its pioneers.

Special music items were sung by the Newmarket Church choir. Afterwards a delicious lunch was served by the ladies, who remarked, 'We all pulled together and what an amazing outcome! To God be the glory! What a historic day in the life of the Newmarket church.'

BETTY O'ROURKE

25th anniversary of the 'Miracle Hall'

On 24 June the Crieff church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the opening of their church hall. Pastor Bob Rodd calls it the 'Miracle Hall' because of how it was funded and built. When the church was built, about 40 years ago, there were no funds to build a hall, which restricted the members in the programmes they could run. Funds to build the hall were, however, wonderfully provided. An American student at Edinburgh University, Betsy Ross, visited the Crieff church for a weekend and stayed with Pastor and Mrs Rodd. When she left she said, 'Is there anything I can do for your church?' With tongue in cheek, Pastor Rodd replied, 'A church hall would be very nice!'

Two years later Betsy wrote to say that she had raised £45,000 and obtained Maranatha Flights International's agreement to come and build the hall. For those who have not heard of Maranatha, it is a group of volunteers, mainly retired, who are willing to travel the world at their own expense to build churches, schools and medical clinics. When Pastor Rodd met the group, he thought they looked rather ancient. The stone mason was 75 (Pastor Rodd now thinks that is quite young!) and had a hernia operation six weeks before. However, when he shook hands with him he knew immediately that he was a hard-working man.

The celebration was held after the morning service and consisted of an excellent three-course, sit-down meal at beautifully laid tables. The programme included musical items, the reminiscences of some who had been members before the hall was built, and the reading of two wonderful letters from Betsy Ross and Andrew Finlayson, who had been the project's architect. I will quote just a few sentences from his delightful letter.

'I remember happily working with Bob and members of the congregation to develop a suitable design for the hall. The whole process went swimmingly well until the programme for the works came to be discussed. Rather than accept my estimation that the job would take some three months to complete, the church expressed the hope that the hall could be erected in a week.

'I was not so wet behind the ears as not to suspect that some hint of group delusion was at play. There was no way the hall could be erected in a week. It would take months and the church would, I was sure, learn a sobering lesson only too soon.

'In the end it was I who learned the lesson. Never, before or since, have I seen such a sight as greeted me on the first days of



construction. The building site was pretty much filled with people of various nationalities, old and young, working in happy unison. It was like a scene from a Hollywood musical – and the hall was built in 8 days!

Mr Finlayson concludes, 'All in all, it was, for me, a remarkable and uplifting experience. If only the subsequent 500 projects I have since worked on had been done with such speed, harmony and love, I might have been able to retire 10 years ago!'

Since then the hall has become the centre for the church's activities, hosting the weekly mother-and-toddlers group, the Pathfinder club, church board meetings, the weekly fellowship meal after the Sabbath services, evangelistic meetings and many other activities. The hall is also open to the community to hire and we have been pleased that many groups have used it.

The celebration ended with the naming of the hall. In gratitude to Betsy Ross for raising most of the funds necessary, and contacting Maranatha, it was decided to name it 'The Ross Hall'. This also has a nice Scottish sound.

The Crieff members are very grateful for the way God made it possible for them to have a hall to hold their various activities in and trust it will still witness for God.

PASTOR BOB RODD (RETIRED)

Chatham back on the high street

Following a successful free health screening day in Chatham five years ago, the local members were inspired to run another in Chatham High Street on Sunday 11 June. 'This time, the plan is to make this event a yearly tradition,' said Trina, one of the organisers. She added that health is everybody's concern, so to provide such a service in the busy high street on a Sunday, where people can stop for a quick health 'MOT' and information, is a good thing.

It was not just the Chatham church's health professionals who turned up to volunteer; many other members, including numerous youth, also turned up to help. Also assisting were members of Southend-on-Sea Community Church, with whom Chatham Church has partnered on various community outreach programmes, both in Medway and in Southend-on-Sea.

Our hard-working men rose early and erected the gazebos. Later they were joined by many others, young and old, to set up the tables, chairs and leaflet stalls. A line of information banners forming the word 'NEWSTART' caught the attention of passers-by and many stopped to read what each letter of the acronym NEWSTART means.

Throughout the day, our volunteers walked Chatham High Street encouraging the public to get their health checked or just drop in for a chat with us. They also distributed leaflets and booklets. Large quantities of health leaflets and information about Seventh-day Adventists were distributed to the community.

It was 'exhilarating' to see how our members interacted with the community and how the latter streamed in to have their health checks done or just have a chat. Many said they were pleased to see something like this brought to the community. One person even requested to join our choir.

After a full day of smiles, lots of interaction, laughter and discussions, plans have already begun for another one in the near future.

COMMUNICATION TEAM



Women's Health Retreat a winner at Aberdaron

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Director for Health, Women's Ministries & Adventist Community Services

Have you ever wanted to just get away from it all to a scenic location where you could be rejuvenated in body, mind and spirit? Well this became a reality for a group of enthusiastic women who had signed up to attend the BUC's first Women's Ministries Health Retreat.

This residential well-being week for women was run from 21 to 26 May at the scenic Aberdaron campsite in Wales.

Designed as a health-enhancing, stress-relieving, pamper-and-recharge retreat, the programme was a rich tapestry of training, testimonies and activities which included the following: • A health and fitness schedule • Health presentations on spiritual, emotional, physical and social well-being • *Forgiveness as Healing* and *Emotional Resilience* training • A *Ministry Boxes* workshop • Food demonstrations • Weight management • A 30/60-minute Thai massage • A *Colour Me Beautiful* workshop • Craft classes • Coastal/beach walks • Free time.

The event was organised and run by the writer in collaboration with Aberdaron Site Manager Malcolm Hayles, who helped spearhead the initiative.

He states:

'The recent Women's Health Retreat was a tonic not only for the attendees, but for the staff at Aberdaron, who had the privilege of providing the back-up services and meals for the event – the first of what we hope will become a regular feature on the calendar.'

'Our aim was to provide the location, the accommodation and segments of the programme which we hoped would have a beneficial effect on those taking part.'

'With Sharon sharing the vision, and leading the programme, I believe everyone involved felt blessed and revived, and left knowing they had been a part of something quite special.'

And this was certainly reflected in the evaluation forms of the attendees as they reviewed the scope of the retreat and its impact. So what made the difference?

A key contributor to the retreat was Eugénie Burton, a fitness and lifestyle coach who has been in the fitness industry for over 30 years. Each morning she took attendees through 30 minutes of varied exercises targeted at fat burning, muscle strengthening and toning, body reshaping and fitness maintenance. Her engaging health presentations challenged everyone to rethink their health habits and embrace wholesome principles for optimum health.

Twelve days later (following the retreat event) attendee Pilira Zapita reported that she is keeping up with the exercise regime and feeling better for it.

The writer presented her *Forgiveness as Healing* course and delivered interactive workshops on *Emotional Resilience*. These sessions equipped those attending with tools to re-evaluate relationships, resolve conflicts, develop wholesome thinking and build emotional strength to face life's challenges. In other presentations outlining issues that impact female health, the writer also presented solutions to address health threats and promote healthy ageing. Her *Ministry Box* workshop provided an introduction to a new resource designed to address the brokenness people encounter in life, provide solutions for recovery and disciple those seeking to enrich their spiritual life.

Maxine Dennis embraced the idea of the ministry boxes as being 'relevant . . . to meet the needs of people we are trying to reach out to in the community'.

The retreat provided opportunities to relax and recharge with the wonderfully therapeutic hour-long Thai massages set against the breathtaking landscape of the hills overlooking Aberdaron.

Another enjoyable segment was the series of craft classes led by Carolyn Schulz, where new skills were acquired in card and gift making. One assignment for the craft class was to gather appropriate stones on the beach, to be decorated for use as a ministry gift.

On the Thursday evening the group enjoyed the beauty of the outdoors and had worship against a sunset backdrop that was awe-inspiring.

The daily workout sessions and after-lunch walks, deliciously healthy meals, enriching presentations and engaging activities created a rich collage of learning and enjoyment which paid off by the end of the week. In fact everyone reported that they felt lighter in body, mind and spirit – evidenced by looser-fitting clothing, brighter smiles and spontaneous thanksgiving to God for a new sense of vitality.



Another Lewisham baptism

Three more precious souls were baptised on Sabbath, 10 June, at the Lewisham Church. Chardonay, Audrey, and Carmen gave their hearts to the Lord during an exciting and long-awaited service. This baptism came not as a result of some public evangelistic outreach, but through the continued work and dedication of lay members, Bible workers, and elders.

The service was conducted by Pastor Colin Stewart, the local pastor, after which the new members were welcomed into the fellowship of a vibrant and happy church by first elder, Belands Parchment. Glory to God for the great things He is doing!

LEWISHAM COMMUNICATION



PHOTO: TONY MACINTOSH

Always room for one more!

In the first quarter we saw a wonderful start to the year with new additions to our church family at Holcombe Road. On Sabbath 18 February, seven souls were baptised after a week-long youth series by Chaplain Gregory Davies entitled 'Beyond the breaking point'.

The baptism at the close of the week was conducted by our own pastor, Sam Davies. As he finished his sermon and looked out at the candidates, he made a final call to anyone who wanted to take that step and be baptised. A hand was raised from the back of the church. Then as the pastor called the man forward shouts of joy and amens filled the air. As he passed the candidates tears filled their eyes, for this brother had come forward to join his oldest son, who was about to be baptised. Moments later they took to the pool together. That day seven candidates entered the water and were transformed in Christ. With tears of joy and the broadest smiles they freely gave their lives to Him.

ADAIA BWOGA



Leeds Central baptism

'I have found a new life' and 'The water is troubled' are some of the songs that were sung on Sabbath afternoon, 24 June, when Leeds Central members witnessed yet another baptism, bringing the total so far this year to 15. Eight new members were baptised during the joyous event by resident minister, Pastor Sam Gardner.

In the accompanying photograph the new members are seen flanked by Pastor Gardner and the head elder, Adonia Nkomo.

NQABAYEWE COSTA NDLOVU
(COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)

New initiatives launched

Have you ever thought that Bible study could be an exciting adventure, one in which you not only caught a fresh vision of God and gained key information, but had fun in the process? How about an evangelistic programme that our young girls can get involved with and invite their friends to? Well, unless you were present at the BUC headquarters on Sunday 28 May you will have missed an excellent training session where this was experienced by those in attendance.

So what was on offer and what difference will it make to our churches and communities? Organised by Sharon Platt-McDonald, training on two key programmes – 'Creative Bible Study' and 'Girls for Christ' – was delivered by TED Director for Women's and Children's Ministries, Clair Sanches. Just to whet your appetites, here's a brief overview of each programme.

'Creative Bible study': For those of us present at the training it was the most engaging and enjoyable Bible study we have ever attended. Two key aims of the training were to discover what makes us excited about God's Word and to identify our personal learning styles.

We engaged in several activities, such as analysing Bible passages through a reflective journaling process; undertaking focused group discussions; enacting Bible verses through skits; creating pictorial and craft designs depicting specific scriptures; and using twenty-first-century language to explain popular Bible segments. Just think of the impact that engaging in this form of Bible study could have on our youth and community members.

Attendee evaluations were as follows: 'This programme has been more than excellent, educational, fun, and informative. We need to promote this well and execute it.'

'Engaging, informative, relevant!'

'Has made me excited to go and do Bible study for

self-improvement. Loved the creativeness of Bible journaling.'

When was the last time you heard such an enthusiastic evaluation of a Bible study?

'Girls for Christ': Realising the importance of nurturing the spiritual growth of our young girls, I feel that 'Girls for Christ' is an effective way of engaging them in a form of evangelism that is relevant to them. The 'Girls for Christ' initiative is packaged in a format that will appeal to girls from ages 8 and upwards.

Clair Sanches explained the initiative as follows: 'This is a mentoring programme for the local church. It is a club which is starting all around our Division. We want to keep our girls in church and to do that we need to invest in their lives. Become part of the "Girls for Christ" family as we embark on a new adventure together.'

The programme is run as a series of sessions with associated materials over several weeks. The activities and materials are designed to reach the unchurched and postmoderns. An innovative aspect includes peer witness as young girls engage their school and community friends in the course.

Comments from the evaluation forms included the following: 'It was . . . excellent training which I am excited to start implementing straight away among our young people.' 'The training was worth attending. I learned a lot which I can impart to others.'

Representatives from the Conferences and Missions who were present will now take these initiatives to their local churches and communities. It is hoped that both these programmes will be taken up across the BUC.

SHARON PLATT-MCDONALD (BUC DIRECTOR FOR HEALTH, WOMEN'S MINISTRIES & ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES)



Stoke District investiture

On Sabbath, 17 June, Stoke District Pathfinder and Adventurer Club held their investiture service. Ten Adventurers and four Pathfinders were invested after having completed their classes for the year, while a further fourteen children were awarded certificates for the honours they had earned.

The club is blessed with a number of very active junior counsellors



Southern Asia prays for Manchester

As part of the Prayer Initiative programme in Manchester, Manchester Southern Asia Church participated in these outreach events on 17 and 24 June in Manchester's city centre. The purpose of the event was to pray with people, distribute tracts of hope and encouragement, and show solidarity with those in this city who were affected by the recent atrocity there. People were offered the opportunity to be prayed with and many accepted. It was a heart-warming experience for both parents and children to make the physical presence of our church known in the Manchester community in a time such as this.

DIAMOND SATHE

and one of them, Christine Chibwe, received the Junior Counsellor of the Year award for her work with both Pathfinders and Adventurers. Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi, North England Conference Pathfinder Director, was the worship service speaker and his sermon was entitled, 'Nothing can separate us from His love'. He charged the Pathfinders to remember that, whatever happens in their lives, nothing can separate them from the love of God.

During AY the Pathfinders and Adventurers shared reports with the church about what they had accomplished during the year. The Adventurer mime group also performed an energetic mime entitled 'It's about L-O-V-E!' and Pathfinder Nomonde Bhebe sang a beautiful solo. Stoke District Pathfinder and Adventurer Club is deeply committed to developing its children and youth for Christ.

HASTINGS KANDAYA (CHURCH ELDER)



Stewardship Day at Stoke-on-Trent

On 10 June the Stoke-on-Trent church held its Stewardship Day, during which Pastor Paul Liburd thoroughly instructed and inspired the congregation on this theme. He spent the afternoon taking them through various scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy testimonies that highlight the importance of stewardship in the Christian life.

Pastor Liburd also told the church children a wonderful story which emphasised the importance of being faithful to God, after which two of them volunteered to pray. This church is fully committed to developing their children and youth to be good stewards of all that God entrusts to their care.

HASTINGS KANDAYA

Congratulations to Zara Williams of Nottingham Central on successfully completing her Master of Pharmacy degree (four-year honours programme) with a 2:1 classification from Aston University.

obituaries

June Powell (1943-2016) d. November.

June was mainly brought up by her grandparents from the age of 6 because of childhood illnesses, and was privileged to have been able to travel with them, leaving her with a lifetime longing to be out and about and walking in all weathers. After they died June moved to Devon, where her family roots were, and settled in Torbay.

She had had a good Christian upbringing, and after attending an evangelistic series and receiving Bible studies she became a member of Torquay Church, although she had visited and had friends in other churches.

She loved and knew her Bible, and had a beautiful way with the written word, writing prose and poetry, putting her thoughts and feelings down on paper. Those she trusted often saw her beautiful smile and the way her eyes would sparkle when she gave it.

In her latter years she slowed down as she developed major health problems which eventually resulted in hospitalisation. June is now free of pain and her walking days are over. She loved Jesus, and knew she would one day smile again and be with Him. Her seat at church remains empty, but she is remembered with love and affection.

R. MORRIS (TORQUAY CHURCH)

Lily Owens (née Thompson) (1922-2017) d. 4 January.

Lily was born and bred in Leeds to Clara and Arthur, the second of four children. Although both her mother and grandmother had been baptised and became members in 1903, Lily tended to go to the local Baptist church and belonged to the Girls and Boys Brigade in her childhood.

She married Fred Owens in February 1944. Following Bible studies with Jean Cooper (now Graham), they were baptised in 1951 and became members of Leeds Church, holding various church offices. After Fred died in 1999 Lily moved to Coniston House in Paignton, Devon, until becoming a resident in a nearby



care home. Her sense of humour remained with her, and she kept the carers constantly on their toes and amused.

Lily died peacefully in her sleep with one of her daughters beside her. She leaves behind her three daughters: Ruth, Jen and Joy; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren, who will always remember her with love and affection.

R. MORRIS (TORQUAY CHURCH)

Ifor Gimson (1939) d. 28 June.

Ifor Gimson was born on 30 April 1939 at Dinas in the Rhondda. After leaving school he worked on a farm and then as a silver service waiter as far afield as Wells and Edinburgh, before joining the Royal Mail and entering the exciting world of telecoms. In 1975 he met a disgruntled telephone customer and solved her problem so effectively that before long they were married!

Pat and Ifor moved to the Isle of Wight, where Ifor filled out a form offering a free Bible. A few days later Pastor Bernie Holford called round with the Bible and the first of a series of lessons.

Pat wasn't interested, but she was fascinated by archaeology and gladly attended a series of lectures on biblical archaeology in Ryde. As a result they were both baptised in 1991.

Due to ill health, Ifor was forced to give up work and they decided to return home to Wales, settling in Llandrindod Wells, where for a number of years they ran a successful B&B. As isolated members I had responsibility for them and my wife and I came down once a quarter to hold a service in their home. This was the beginning of the Llandrindod Wells company.

Pat and Ifor formed a real team, witnessing for their faith to all they met. Despite little encouragement from the church administration, they kept the company going, providing what I can only describe as 'pastoral care' for the growing number of members.

Ifor's health continued to deteriorate and he fell asleep in Jesus on 28 June, 2017. I had the privilege of conducting Ifor's funeral service, which was well attended by family and friends. I have no doubt that there will be many stars in the crown he receives from Jesus' hand.

PASTOR KENDALL K. DOWN

North England Conference Women's Ministries
Presents a week of spiritual growth & restoration

Move Your Mountain

"...thy faith has made thee whole..." Matt. 5:34

26th August – 1st September 2017

Venue:

University of Wolverhampton
Science Park, Glashier Drive,
Wolverhampton WV10 9RU

Times:

Sabbath 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Sunday: 11 am – 2 pm
Monday – Friday: 7 pm – 9 pm
Bring your friends

Speakers:

- ❖ Lorraine Daniel-Palmer – Minds For Eternity
- ❖ Joanna Daniel – The Journey from broken
- ❖ Joan Saunders – Through the eyes of a child
- ❖ Beulah A. Plunkett – Living hope and Faith

Cost:

£10.00 – Employed and £5.00 – Unemployed
Lunch is provided on the Sabbath – We cannot bring food onto the premises.

To book a place:

Go online to: <https://uk.bookingbug.com/home/33185-NORTH-ENGLAND-CONFERENCE>
Or Call the NEC office: 01159606312 and ask for the Women's Ministries Secretary
For further information call Beulah Plunkett WM Director at the NEC office

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

London special needs church initiative

South England Conference Areas 6A, 6B, 6C and 6D disability leaders and carers, along with their BSL signers, are notified of an important meeting to be held at Balham Church on Sunday, 10 September, from 11am until 2pm. Refreshments will be provided. Nearest train and Underground (Northern Line) stations are Balham, 5-7 minutes' walk from the church. There is also parking at the address: 83 Elmfield Road, London SW12 8AD. Please contact Garfield McIntosh on garfmackin@gmail.com or send text messages only on 07432422719 for further information.

Messenger

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Aug 18	8.17	8.29	8.25	8.42	8.48
25	8.02	8.14	8.09	8.25	8.32
Sep 1	7.47	7.59	7.53	8.07	8.15
8	7.31	7.43	7.37	7.49	7.58

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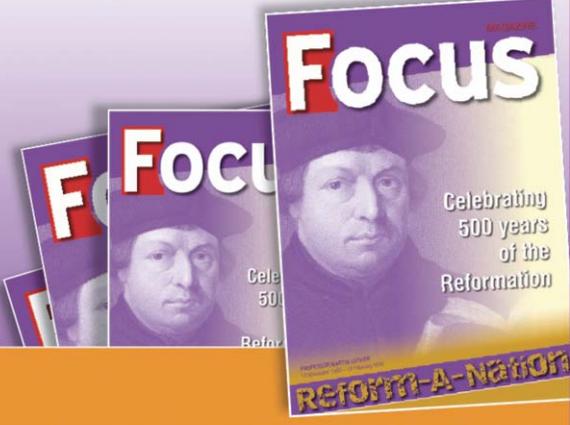
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