

Messenger

News to the churches • 10 November 2017 • Volume 122 • 22

Five ordained by the NEC

by Pastor Richard Daly (BUC Communication Director)

Usually ordinations are held at camp meetings or Conference sessions. This time, however, the North England Conference held its ordination service at Leicester Central Church on Sabbath 16 September.

NEC President, Pastor Richard Jackson, when asked about the change, explained how the ordination service can be quite a rushed affair sandwiched between other programmes. Holding it at Leicester Central Church meant that there was an opportunity to celebrate properly with the ordinands and their spouses as it was the only service to focus on. It was a pioneering idea that met its objectives, as the afternoon service allowed for a less hectic schedule.

The service began with a warm welcome from resident minister, Pastor Vernon Nambo. Pastor George Kumi, NEC Ministerial Director, hosted the programme, ensuring that everything ran smoothly. Paul Lee

was the guest soloist and the main message was presented by BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, who spoke of the minister's challenge to lead among both the wolves and the sheep within the Church. He challenged the ministers to be steadfast and upright in how they deal with their members, regardless of what category they may fall in.

The five ordinands were Pastors Micah Campbell, Paul Dhanaraj, Acquoi Karbah, Lloyd Lambert and Isaac Liburd, and it was a special day for them, their families and their fellow ministers who came out in full to support them. Ordination is the Conference's confirmation of their calling to ministry and it bestows on them all the rights of an ordained Gospel minister.

The ordination prayer, which involved the laying on of hands by all the other ordained ministers who were in the congregation, was given by BUC Executive Secretary, Pastor John Surridge. The charge to the ministers was issued by Pastor Jackson and the welcome to ministry by newly appointed BUC Ministerial Director, Pastor Eglan Brooks.

The spouses were also recognised and encouraged by Angela Jackson and then presented with gifts.

The response to the charge and ordination, on behalf of the ordinands, was given by Pastor Lambert, who spoke of rising to the challenge of ministry, knowing that we are led by the Good Shepherd.

The service ended with the fitting hymn, 'God, Preach My Gospel', and due to there being no follow-up programme there was ample time for well-wishers, family and friends to meet and welcome their newly ordained ministers.



The five ordinands in the middle row, from left to right: Pastors Lloyd Lambert, Paul Dhanaraj, Acquoi Karbah, Micah Campbell and Isaac Liburd



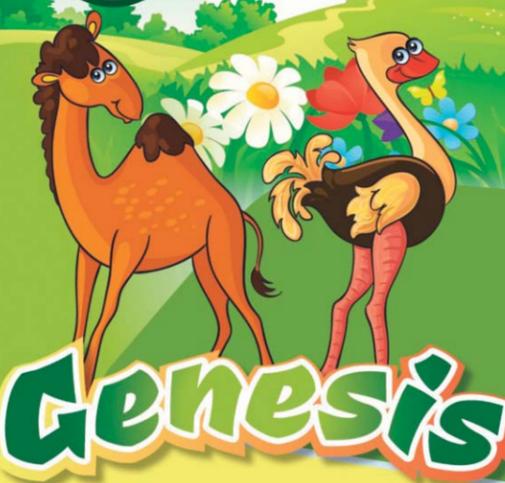
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editorial

Faith is the eye . . .



Julian Hibbert
Editor

A critical element of both the current Sabbath School lesson series on Romans, and the discussions around the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, is the role of faith.

The apostle Paul had no illusions about the importance of faith, as illustrated by the following well-known texts:

'For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – **a righteousness that is by faith from first to last**, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." ' (Romans 1:16-17, NIV – emphasis supplied.)

'For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith** – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.' (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV, emphasis supplied.)

It was texts like these that liberated Luther's guilt-burdened mind, brought peace to his heart, and inspired his theological emphasis on justification *by faith* rather than *through works* in any shape or form.

What does faith mean to you?

Faith was at the heart of salvation for both Paul and Martin Luther, but what about you and I? I know that you don't believe that we are justified by our 'works': those good things that we do, our obedience to God's commandments, what we eat and drink, or even our tithes and offerings. After all, texts like Ephesians 2:8-9 plainly tell us that 'works' don't work!

That notwithstanding, yesterday I heard from a reliable source that some of our congregations are struggling to make sense of Romans. They just don't seem to have grasped this wonderful, joyous message that salvation is the gift of God (by grace) through faith – 'not by works, so that no one can boast'.

Here are a few of the misunderstandings about faith that make it difficult for people to accept God's gift of grace. Firstly, Paul is not speaking about having a 'strong belief in the doctrines of a religion', or in the religion itself. There is no possibility that Paul's words can be made to read: 'The just shall live by Methodism, Pentecostalism . . . or even Adventism.' We are not saved because of our Adventist 'faith' – by being members of this church – but through our personal faith!

There is a second understanding of faith that needs mentioning. Perhaps you have seen it at work during those testimony meetings where the pastor calls on us to bear witness to 'our faith in Jesus'. What usually happens? One after the other, members rise to tell us

about their 'answers to prayer'. We hear about recovery from affliction; successful work applications; documents, phones or wallets miraculously returned; victory over bad habits; and much more. All these are important, and, in most instances, they happen in response to our faith; faith that God is our Father and that we can take this promise seriously: 'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.' (1 Peter 5:7, NIV.)

But how often in such meetings do we hear a trembling soul rise up to say something like this?

*'Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.'*

*"'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!"¹*

Sadly, seldom!

Why?

Why is it easier for us to testify about *God's care* than about *His redeeming grace*? Is it because we don't want to be labelled as Pentecostal or Charismatic? Or is it because we are more concerned about how to get by on *this earth* than to be ready for the *one to come*? Is it because we have not prioritised the pursuit of 'His righteousness'? Is this perhaps what Jesus was getting at in the Sermon on the Mount:

'So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.' (Matthew 6:31-33, NIV, emphasis supplied.)

There you have it: Jesus, Paul and Luther, all with one concern, righteousness by faith. That must be our primary spiritual objective.

Here it is . . .

If the faith by which we lay hold of Christ's gracious gift of righteousness is none of the

above, what is it? I suggest that the answer lies in these comments by Martin Luther and John Stott, respectively (the emphasis is mine):

'**Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace**, so certain of God's favour that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. **Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God** and all creatures. **The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith.**²

'Moreover, **the faith which justifies is emphatically not another work**. No, to say 'justification by faith' is merely another way of saying 'justification by Christ'. **Faith has absolutely no value in itself; its value lies solely in its object. Faith is the eye that looks to Christ, the hand that lays hold of Him, the mouth that drinks the water of life.**³

Let His people say, 'Amen!'

¹From 'Amazing Grace' by John Newton ²Taken from 'An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans', as found in Luther's German Bible of 1522 (<http://www.projectwittenberg.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/luther-faith.txt>) ³From *The Cross of Christ*, by John R. W. Stott (Inter-Varsity Press, 1986), page 187



Enhancing Health

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

Plastic – health and environmental risks – part 3

In the last two instalments, we dealt with the environmental risks of plastic to marine life. This issue deals with the suggested risks to human life.

Among the many claims of the dangers plastics pose to human health is the suggested cancer risk: a claim which has been refuted by Cancer Research UK, who state:

'People have claimed chemicals inside plastic leach into food or drink, causing cancer. In particular there have been concerns about Bisphenol A (BPA) and dioxins in plastic bottles or plastic containers. But there is no convincing evidence to show using plastic bottles or plastic containers increases the risk of cancer.'¹

Most of the debate has been around the *level* of evidence that has come to light, variously described as 'some', 'convincing' or 'good'.

Cancer Research UK do agree, however, that chemicals can seep into our food and drink, but remain doubtful about whether they can cause harm. They state:

'Some studies have shown that small amounts of chemicals from plastic containers can end up in the food or drinks that are kept inside them. But the levels of these are very low.'

Other researchers, however, are convinced of the dangers. A *Guardian* article by Amy Westervelt (February 2015) reported on the Centres for Disease Control research that highlights the health risks from phthalates (similar to BPA and present in most plastics). It reveals that, 'while phthalates is a huge class of chemicals, several have been

shown to have negative health impacts.'² The report lists phthalates' links with asthma, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, breast cancer, obesity and type 2 diabetes, low IQ, neurodevelopmental issues, behavioural issues, autism spectrum disorders, altered reproductive development and male fertility issues.

Erik Olson of the Natural Resources Defence Council suggests safeguarding vulnerable individuals: 'If we start by addressing the products where we know there's significant exposure to phthalates, and we start with the most vulnerable communities – pregnant women and children – we can make a real difference.'

In an effort to reduce plastic exposure, the Ecology Centre of Berkeley, California, advises us to 'find alternatives to plastic products whenever possible'.³ They suggest:

- Buy food in glass or metal containers; avoid polycarbonate drinking bottles containing Bisphenol A.
- Avoid heating food in plastic containers, or storing fatty foods in plastic containers or plastic wrap.
- Do not give young children plastic teething toys.
- Use natural fibre clothing, bedding and furniture.
- Avoid all PVC and styrene products.

Good health!

¹<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/causes-of-cancer/cancer-controversies/plastic-bottles-and-cling-film> ²<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2015/feb/10/phthalates-plastics-chemicals-research-analysis> ³<https://ecologycenter.org/factsheets/adverse-health-effects-of-plastics/>

Editor's note: For additional information on Bisphenol A or BPA, readers are referred to the UK Food Standards Agency website: <https://www.food.gov.uk/science/bpa>.



Virtue signalling

by Elize Hibbert

Have you encountered the expression, 'virtue signalling' yet? If you have, you would probably have read it recently. It would probably have been used by a newspaper commentator to make his point about something that someone, usually a politician, has said. It is an expression that describes very well the political game some people play: political 'posturing', if you will.

Here is a definition from the Oxford Dictionaries online:

'Virtue signalling (noun): the action or practice of publicly expressing opinions or sentiments intended to demonstrate one's good character or the moral correctness of one's position on a particular issue. "It's noticeable how often virtue signalling consists of saying you hate things." ' (https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/virtue_signalling)

The next stop is Wikipedia: **'Virtue signalling** is the conspicuous expression of moral values done primarily with the intent of enhancing standing within a social group. The term was first used in signalling theory, to describe any behaviour that could be used to signal virtue – especially piety among the religious. In recent years, the term has become more commonly used as a pejorative characterisation by commentators to criticise what they regard as the platitudinous, empty, or superficial support of certain political views, and also used within groups to criticise their own members for valuing outward appearance over substantive action.' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtue_signalling)

OK, let's get this in simple language . . .

'Signalling', on its own, is non-verbal. A lighthouse sends out light signals to convey danger. We are acquainted with

hand signals: for example, those indicating 'come here', or 'go away'. Signals can be auditory (clapping hands for attention), visual, in the form of gestures, or even body language!

'Virtue signalling', on the other hand, uses words as its signals, to convey, without actually saying so, how good you are. There has to be an audience (whether physically present or via the media) that can appreciate you for being so virtuous.

How, then, does it work?

Often your 'acceptable' views can be communicated by expressing outrage and contempt for a person who has become a symbol of what is generally despised – all the better and more convincing. Attacking those who don't have the 'right virtues' makes the expression of these values seem more authentic! Remember, the goal is to enhance social standing but does not necessarily lead to action.

In other words, hypocrisy? Perhaps it is a modern form of hypocrisy, but because society has changed so much over the centuries there are different nuances. What's considered to be 'good' these days? Human rights and man-made laws rather than the Ten Commandments?

Perhaps it is slightly more than just hiding what or who we truly are; more than just being 'two-faced'. It's preening – preening our righteousness?

Let's get back to hypocrisy. Hypocrisy means pretending to be good, especially in front of others, when you're not – is that right? With the Pharisees, praying a lot and prominently and obsessively observing scores of laws gave the impression that they were very pious, but what was happening on the inside, in their minds?

Let's have a look at what Jesus said

He had a lot to say about

hypocrites; about the old-fashioned virtue-signalling of the Pharisees, who had broad phylacteries* (so they would be noticed) and large borders to their garments,** prayed on the street corners and had the best seats in the synagogues. They liked people greeting them in the markets, and calling them, 'Rabbi, Rabbi'. They made long prayers and paid tithes on mint and anise and cumin, but omitted 'the weightier matters of the law, judgement, mercy, and faith'. They were like tombstones, beautiful on the outside but with dead bones and rotting flesh inside. Read Matthew 23:3 for a brief summary of His long description of the way they worked. He said of them: 'for they say, and do not' (KJV). The desired result was achieved, however, when ordinary men paid them remarkable but undeserved respect.

So what did Jesus actually have a problem with?

Did He have a problem with praying? No, He spent nights in prayer. Did He have a problem with attending the synagogue? No, He was there every week. He even read the scrolls and taught in the synagogues. Did He have a problem with mingling with the people? No, crowds followed Him continually, 'great multitudes of people' as Matthew 4:25 puts it (KJV). Did He have a problem with talking about what was good? No, He had whole sermons extolling what it meant to be good. Did He have a problem with actual good works? No, He did so many that 'they' couldn't even record them all.

Did He have a problem with other people's good works being visible? No. In fact, didn't He say, 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your

***In their religious dress, the Pharisees used two items of clothing commonly worn by other Jews to emphasise their distinctiveness.**

'One of these was the *phylactery*. It was a little box of metal, or band of parchment, which was fastened to the hand or forehead by straps. It contained passages of Scripture referring to the Passover and the redemption of the first-born from Egypt. The custom was based on certain Scriptural admonitions (Exodus 13:9, 16).' (http://www.biblehistory.com/links.php?cat=39&sub=745&cat_name=Manners+%&subcat_name=Phylacteries)

****The other was the use of wide borders to edge their garments.** These garments were associated with being righteous. They inferred it from texts such as: 'I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness . . .' (Isaiah 61:10, KJV).

'Consequently the pious Pharisee was very particular in having a large garment, sufficient to cover himself, with very wide borders; because the larger the garment, and the greater the border, the more the righteousness. Thus this very object that the Lord designed to use as a means to a great end, was perverted from its purpose, and substituted for the Creator Himself.' (www.writtentreasures.org/html/plchap6.html)

good works, and glorify **your Father** which is in heaven?' (Matthew 5:16, KJV.)

That is the key

Our works are not meant to glorify ourselves, our local church, our distinctive brand of religion, our institution, or our family. Our 'initiatives' should not serve for self-aggrandisement or to make any particular person or group prominent. They are not to make you or me look good.

They are to glorify our Father, implicitly, not because we ostentatiously say so, but just because **real good works actually are of the Father and therefore glorify our Father. They should not glorify anybody – or anything – else!**

And what are 'good works'? It's up to each of us to examine our own hearts under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to see whether we may be indulging in any righteousness-preening – or virtue signalling. Do we 'say, and do not'? Do we have our own forms of 'phylacteries' or 'wide garments', while omitting 'judgement, mercy and faith' – characteristics which have a great bearing on the quality of our relationships? In the family, in the church, in our workplaces? Those are just some of the 'works' which men may see in us. Will they be able to glorify our Father in heaven when they see how we relate to each other?

Let's make a firm commitment not to be virtue-signallers. And let's not be hypocrites either.



Deprivation of liberty safeguards: looming threat or potential opportunity?

by Paul Thompson, RCSDA Hand in Hand Disability Ministries

The text came through at 4am. We were on a break in the US and five hours behind the UK time zone, where it was already 9am. The text read, 'We regret we are no longer able to comb your daughter's hair; care standards have designated the act of hair combing in her chair as depriving her of her liberty.' The text continued, 'Were we to continue to do so, it [would] involve our care agency being prosecuted.'

At this point I leapt out of bed and immediately rang the care manager of the agency which looked after our daughter. The manager's voice was shaky, and she was obviously in shock. Her licence to continue trading hung in the balance: the UK care regulator, The Care Quality Commission, had issued an ultimatum.

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) were introduced as an amendment to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and came into force on 1 April 2009. It applies in England and Wales only. The Mental Capacity Act allows restraint and restrictions to be used, but only if they are in a person's best interests. The Care Quality Commission had decided that placing our daughter in a chair was 'restraint', while options to shave her hair off were not explored. In a nutshell, deprivation of liberty means taking someone's freedom away.

A recent Supreme Court judgement decided that someone is deprived of their liberty if they are both 'under continuous supervision and control and not free to leave'. DoLS provide protection for vulnerable people who are accommodated in hospitals or care home settings, in circumstances that amount to a deprivation of their liberty, and who lack the capacity to consent to the care or treatment they need.

The six-million-dollar question, then, is, 'What does DoLS have to do with grooming, i.e., combing my disabled daughter's hair? The key issue seems to be that she is placed in a chair supported with a velcro belt, once per month. The legal challenge derives from the fact that for two hours per month she is constrained.'

Upon arrival in the UK we received a legal letter from the Head of Legal, Social Services. The letter placed us on notice that they intended to prosecute. We contacted several solicitors in our area and all of them refused our case. 'We are sorry, conflict of interest, we work for the council.' What were we to do? We contacted a London firm with which we had a past relationship, and tracked down our lawyer, who had moved and set up his own firm. Fortunately, his career had led him to become an expert in DoLS.

Several thousand pounds later, on a crisp spring morning in March, we stood side by side with Social Services in Family Court, facing the judge. She perused the file and fired a piercing question at the other side: 'Can someone tell me what we are doing here? It is clear to me that these are loving parents with their daughter's best interest at heart: what is it that you need the court to decide?'

The other side gave their arguments, judgement was found in our favour, the case lasted 15 minutes and our lawyer never spoke. He did not need to: God had already decided our case; our daughter continues to have her hair done.

With over 13.3 million disabled people in the UK,* the impact of DoLS cannot be underestimated. They will have a real impact on the ageing population as well as the

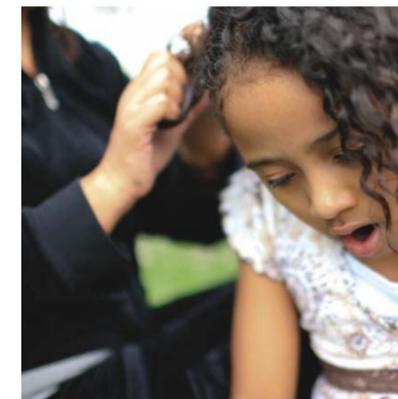
disabled. The question then is, 'Is deprivation of liberty a looming threat or a liberator when it comes to church?' The answer is, 'It has yet to be tested.' As many disabled people begin to access Adventist churches, many are supported by carers who have significant input into care plans which define the daily routines of the disabled person.

So what are we facing? A time when these carers will have an opinion on the style and length of our services and the opportunity to describe in detail whether our disabled family enjoy going to church, compared, say, to the pub? Perhaps the time will come when they may describe church attendance as constraint.

It is therefore important to consider this in the planning, content, delivery and length of time services run. Worship leaders should research creative approaches in worship styles, focusing on a multisensory approach involving hearing, touching, seeing, tasting, and smelling. When this is achieved, carers will become vocal champions for the disabled and support church attendance such as we have witnessed in Reading Central Church, Berkshire.

For more information, email: rscda.handinhand@gmail.com.

*<https://www.scope.org.uk/media/disability-facts-figures>



Hands-on with ADRA

Bert Smit recently visited Nepal with two ADRA-UK trustees. What follows is his report as told to Catherine Boldeau.



House split in half during the floods



Steve and Jennifer



Members of a co-operative

We are in the Terai area of Nepal: the flat, lush green land that borders India in the south. We walk along a path next to a field filled with plants and trees that will soon be fodder for the animals. Ahead is a village to which women welcome us with flowers and a resounding 'Nameste!' The original meaning of this greeting is, 'I bow to the divine in you', and we are humbled by their enthusiasm and happiness.

We sit down and the women take turns to introduce themselves: they are members of a new co-operative established with the help of ADRA as part of the ELIVES livelihood programme that is impacting the lives of 30,000 farmers and their families in this part of Nepal. Most of the beneficiaries are women.

ADRA-UK trustees, Jennifer Phillips and Steve Logan, visited Nepal between 8 and 15 October to monitor this DFID co-funded project that will end in March 2018.

The women tell us how, thanks to ADRA, their lives have changed: harvests have become plentiful; goat-keeping has become profitable; co-operatives are linked to markets; and incomes have increased, often dramatically.

During our three-day visit this success story is repeated over and over again.

While impressive results have been achieved, devastating floods in August killed over 50 people, displaced 100,000 and damaged over 40,000 homes. The floods hit at one of the worst possible times, destroying many recently-planted rice crops in Nepal's most important agricultural region. Some of our project beneficiaries have been affected too, losing their harvests and livelihoods.

Jennifer and Steve witnessed the devastating effects caused when

rivers suddenly ripped through communities, sweeping houses away as they did so.

The ADRA network responded immediately with funding to assist 600 households with shelter, food and hygiene kits.

During the visit it was clear that although some farmers had lost one crop their resilience was such that they bounced back and have planted for the next harvest. We are glad that, thanks to proper planning and training, most farmers in the ELIVES project will be able to continue their

development progress.

The trustees visited nine communities scattered around the Terai to listen to stories from beneficiaries. The project has targeted predominantly women who were empowered to farm their own land and establish co-operatives linked to markets. The results are encouraging, with many telling us that they have escaped poverty, are earning an income and have been able to send their children back to school.

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secretariat treasury

BUC trustees 'lost at sea'

by Pastor John Surridge, BUC Executive Secretary

On Sunday 22 October, British Union Conference trustees held their annual governance training event at the British Library. They were joined by selected trustees from the South England Conference and a representative from Stanborough Secondary School. BUC President Pastor Ian Sweeney set the tone for the day by reminding those present of the four key values held and promoted by the BUC: *Reflecting Christ, Valuing People, Inspiring Hope, and Changing Lives*. These values, he explained, underpin not only the choices and decisions we make as trustees, but also the way in which we conduct our meetings.

This principle was restated in more technical language by the morning's guest speaker, Kirsty Semple. Most widely known as the editor of, and main contributor to, *The ICSA Charities Handbook*, Kirsty is an authority on all matters relating to charity governance. Although much of her first presentation focused on meeting the requirements of the law, and more specifically those of the Charity Commission, Kirsty also acknowledged that Christian values can play a key role in effective governance. In group decision-making it is vital that each person's views are respected and that disagreements are handled sensitively. 'Even if you strongly disagree,' Kirsty said, 'you must be able to leave the meeting as friends.'

In the second session the attendees were divided into groups for an exercise called 'Lost at Sea' where they had to rank a list of survival items in order of importance. After much discussion, considerable laughter, and at least one group being declared drowned as they had not finished the task, the serious points emerged. Firstly, groups generally perform better than individuals when making decisions. Secondly, considerable focus and determination are needed to arrive at a conclusion within a given timeframe.

In the afternoon Dr Auliikki Nahkola, Principal Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Languages at Newbold College of Higher Education, gave a fascinating lecture on biblical sources. After describing the various manuscripts which have been discovered since the King James Version of the Bible was published, Auliikki was asked which version should now be considered the most reliable. Her response was unequivocal: go back to the original sources! Dismissing the cries of protest from those less linguistically gifted than her, Auliikki pointed out that in just seven weeks students at Newbold could read whole verses from the Bible in Greek.

Auliikki concluded her presentation with the dramatic story of the London Sinaiticus, a priceless codex now housed in the British Library. Pictures on the screen gave way to the real thing as she led the group into the public gallery where this treasure is visible to all.



Kirsty Semple



Dr Auliikki Nahkola

'Thank you' for putting God first!

The work of the church only goes forward because of the faithfulness of its members. As this month's tithe report is published, it is with a great sense of thanks. In difficult and uncertain times, the graph shows that our British Union members put God first in their lives. It's a privilege to again say 'thank you' to you all. Returning a faithful tithe reflects our commitment to the Lord. While we are blessed by members who do return a faithful tithe, we're aware of the potential for many more members to experience the blessing of putting God first. In addition to praying about this matter, we invite you to take another serious look at the principles of Christian stewardship during your study of 'Motives of the Heart', the series of Sabbath School lessons planned for January to March 2018. As we study together, who knows how the Lord will speak?

EARL RAMHARACKSINGH (BUC TREASURER) AND PASTOR DAVID NEAL (TED STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES)

Dear Friends,

Talk of interest rate rises, Monarch Airlines' failure, a weaker pound in the face of continuing Brexit uncertainties, and unusual London house price falls make for an interesting economic outlook. Despite these challenges we are able to report a 1.8% increase in tithe over that of last year. The BUC and the three Missions will have regard for these trends as we move into the budget-setting period. We continue to give God thanks and praise for His blessings.

EARL RAMHARACKSINGH (BUC TREASURER)

'Many persons have the wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.'

HELEN KELLER

British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Tithe Report - August 2017

This Month	2017	2016	Inc / -Dec	Variance %
South	£1,071,999	£1,093,342	-£21,343	-2.0
North	£544,822	£445,131	£99,691	22.4
Welsh	£23,279	£28,806	-£5,527	-19.2
Scottish	£45,808	£29,760	£16,048	53.9
Irish	£44,909	£41,230	£3,680	8.9
Total	£1,730,816	£1,638,269	£92,548	5.6%

Cumulative to Date

South	£9,607,964	£9,692,490	-£84,526	-0.9%
North	£4,072,181	£3,737,848	£334,333	8.9%
Welsh	£229,994	£242,832	-£12,838	-5.3%
Scottish	£265,598	£313,068	-£47,470	-15.2%
Irish	£461,990	£387,053	£74,937	19.4%
Total	£14,637,726	£14,373,290	£264,436	1.8%

Budgets

	Annual	To Date	Variance	%
South	£15,531,095	£10,354,063.33	-£5,177,031.67	-33.3%
North	£5,750,000	£3,833,333.33	-£1,916,666.67	-33.3%
Welsh	£378,400	£252,266.67	-£126,133.33	-33.3%
Scottish	£433,000	£288,666.67	-£144,333.33	-33.3%
Irish	£623,000	£415,333.33	-£207,666.67	-33.3%
Total	£22,715,495	£15,143,663	-£7,571,832	-33.3%
BUC	£2,182,500	£1,455,000	-£727,500	-33.3%



Baptism at Aston-Newtown

Sabbath 9 September was a day of rejoicing at Aston-Newtown as we witnessed the baptism of five precious souls in our newly built baptismal pool, each of whom had a unique spiritual journey towards freedom.

Michael Maughan was born into a Roman Catholic family but only attended church occasionally. About two years ago, he was introduced to a Baptist church where he attended regularly. However, the journey to church proved challenging due to dependence on public transport at the time. Then, eleven months ago, a member of Aston-Newtown invited him to our church, which he accepted. Michael is a builder by profession, and when he was subsequently asked if he would build our baptistery he accepted without hesitation. Michael began attending church on a regular basis and desired to be a part of the first baptism in the new pool. And so it was that he became the first one to be immersed in the pool he had built.

Simon Ampabeng Kyeremeh, originally from Ghana, was baptised there as a Seventh-day Adventist, but while establishing a new life in the UK his faith faltered. When he moved from London to Birmingham to seek employment he was introduced to Aston-Newtown by a friend, and attended there regularly for a few years before making the decision to recommit himself to a life of freedom in Christ.

Valerie Rose was invited to our church by a friend (who is not an Adventist) and has not stopped attending! A year earlier she had been baptised into a Pentecostal church, and she continued to attend church on Sunday and Sabbath as she sought the Holy Spirit's guidance. Her answer came in the form of a dream. She dreamt it was the Sabbath, and she asked for some fruit hanging on nearby trees, but was told that she couldn't have any until after sunset because someone needed to climb up to pick the fruit. That dream convicted Valerie that she must keep the seventh-day Sabbath holy.

Eva Lazennec arrived in England from France at the end of August 2016. She was a Seventh-day Adventist but her church attendance had been inconsistent.

Hackney's Men's Ministries Day

Hackney's Men's Ministries Day was held on Sabbath 16 September with BBC journalist, Neil Nunes of Croydon Church, as guest speaker. He addressed the question that Jesus posed to His disciples: 'Who do you say that I am?'



Neil Nunes

In the afternoon there was an excellent presentation on bowel cancer by Doctor Dennis Lindo, who mentioned that '30,000 people a year are affected in the UK with this type of cancer – that is 1 in 20 people. It is the third most common cancer and must be caught early.'

Nevertheless, upon her arrival she decided that she must find a church in Birmingham. One day, after visiting Aston Hall with her mum, they became lost while trying to return to their hotel. It was cold and damp, and after walking around for a while Eva became frustrated and suggested that they call a taxi. Something (which she believes to be the hand of God) kept them walking for 10 more minutes until, in the distance, Eva spotted the train station, and right under it a building with a familiar logo! Immediately, Eva thought that it was a sign from God guiding her to a church in which she would feel welcomed. She promised herself to visit that church the following Sabbath, which she did and has continued to do. She states in her own words, 'Because I felt guided to go to Aston-Newtown, it was really important for me to be baptised in that same church, as it is the place where my journey with God began.'

Charmaine Bartlett was born on the Caribbean island of Jamaica, where, for her, church attendance on Sunday was compulsory. When she moved to Birmingham, she realised that Aston-Newtown Church was only a five-minute walk from where she lived and there were actually no other churches in close proximity. As a result of the values instilled in her regarding regular church attendance, she did not allow the lack of a nearby Sunday-keeping church to stop her attending church. However, Charmaine acknowledges that the warm and friendly atmosphere of our church helped to encourage her to keep attending and influenced her decision to become a baptised member.

After the baptism our pastor, Jeffett Nicholson, made an appeal to which four people responded. We now look forward to their baptisms too.

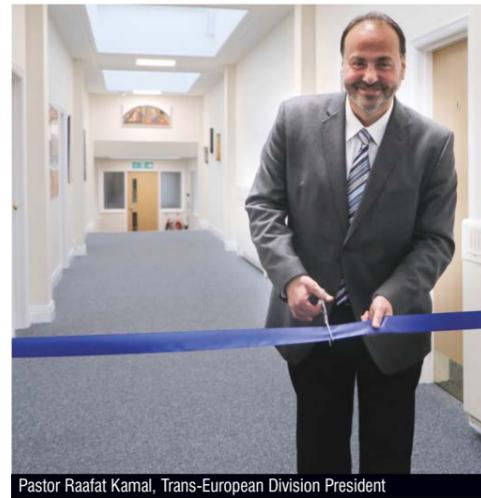
MARCELLE RILEY



Doctor Lindo said the risks of developing such cancer could be significantly reduced by a change in diet along with regular exercise and fresh air.

Hackney's male voice choir then closed the day with a stirring rendition of 'He's the Lily of the Valley'.

DARELL PHILIP (COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT)



Pastor Raafat Kamal, Trans-European Division President



Newbold opens Myrna Dorland Wing

Following a thorough and much-needed refurbishment, the north wing of Newbold's Salisbury Hall was reopened on Wednesday 20 September 2017. Now called the 'Myrna Dorland Wing' in recognition of Myrna's contribution to the college, the refurbishment was made possible thanks to a generous bequest from her estate.

This was used to refurbish the top corridor and the upstairs toilets in Salisbury Hall, and to redecorate and refurnish all the classrooms, both upstairs and downstairs. These are the classrooms where Myrna taught History, English Literature and English Language during her service at the college: 1954-1960, and then from the mid-'70s until her retirement in 1996.

Salisbury Hall houses Newbold's English, History, Music, and Fine



Photo quality as supplied

SMART Love in Paisley

During the third week of September, Paisley youth were blessed to have Pastor Obi Iheoma return to the church he pastored during his time in Scotland, to deliver a SMART Love seminar on issues that are rarely spoken about. The seminars helped the youth understand the importance of developing feelings of self-worth; what dating and being in a relationship really means; and arguably the greatest challenge faced by young people when it comes to dating, the difference between love and infatuation and how to deal with all these challenges in God's way, rather than their own.

Although the youth initially had a sense of 'not this again', the seminar quickly became the highlight of their evenings, as more youth attended each day and also brought some of their friends along. Parents and older adults are not permitted to attend SMART Love seminars, which allows our youth to be more open, ask questions and even share some of their own experiences. Even though the seminars were geared towards teenagers, the young adults (in their early 20s) enjoyed them too. Some even said that the seminars had completely changed their perspectives on dating. It was no longer just about dating, but dating with the intention of marriage and, most importantly, dating God's way.

On the final day of the seminars those who had attended made a pledge to themselves and to God that they would live a life that pleases God, the Creator, who is always there to show them how they are 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. Surely this week will long be remembered by the youth of Paisley.

BENJAMIN BAKINA

Arts programmes, as well as the Principal's and financial administration offices and the main auditorium.

'Myrna passed away on 10 December 2013 at the age of 82, and we were humbled to receive this generous bequest from our friend and former colleague,' said Newbold Principal, Dr John Baildam. 'The changes we've been able to make to The Myrna Dorland Wing will have a long-lasting and significant impact on countless future students.'

Myrna's career in education spanned over 40 years, and her contribution to Adventist education was felt through her work at

Stanborough School, the Nigerian Training College, and the Adventist Seminary of West Africa (now Babcock University). She was also a great supporter of Newbold Primary School.

The event was attended by Newbold staff and students, and representatives from the Trans-European Division (TED), including Pastor Raafat Kamal (President), Audrey Andersson (Secretary), and Nenad Jeuranović (Treasurer).

Myrna's family was also represented by the Hulbert family – her great-nephew Steven Hulbert, who is currently studying postgraduate Theology at Newbold, and Myrna's three two-year-old great-nieces, accompanied by their grandmother, Luisa Hulbert, wife of Myrna's nephew, Pastor Victor Hulbert, who was unable to attend due to an overseas appointment.

KIRSTY WATKINS



Jenna's surprise

Jenna Spedding, Barrie's wife, was the Sabbath School Superintendent that Sabbath afternoon at the Carlisle church.

Jenna had arranged for Barrie to read the mission story. When he had finished reading it he said, 'I have an announcement I would like to make. I would like to be baptised and Pastor Ian Philpott and Bill Kitchen to baptise me. I would also like Bill to study with me in preparation for the baptism.'

Jenna was sitting in the front row listening to everything he said. Suddenly it struck her: Barrie had said that he wanted to be baptised! Upon which she stood up and said, 'I knew nothing about Barrie wanting to be baptised.' Jenna's prayer for Barrie to give his heart to the Lord and be baptised had been answered.

When I asked Barrie why he had chosen to make his announcement without telling Jenna, he replied, 'I did not want the congregation to think that Jenna had talked me into being baptised.'

I had the pleasure of conducting Barrie's baptismal studies, and on 3 June the Carlisle church was packed with members and many of Barrie's family and friends to witness this very special event.

Pastor Ian Philpott preached an excellent sermon, after which Barrie was baptised. When Pastor Philpott made an appeal for others to prepare for a baptism, the first hand up was that of Leia Broomfield.

The day was completed with a celebratory meal and happy fellowship that everyone enjoyed.

BILL KITCHEN (CHURCH ELDER)



'Stay Fit and Stay Focused'

The health expo is a great opportunity to provide basic information and advice on health, well-being and lifestyle, and for the Church to raise its profile and make a positive first contact with the wider community.

Glasgow Church undertook a health expo in one of the city's busiest streets over two days on 9 and 10 July under the theme, 'Stay Fit and Stay Focused'. They were also supported by Glasgow and Paisley Churches and the Glasgow City Council.

The Scottish Mission Health Ministries and Community Services Departments, led by Dr Claudette Comerasamy and John Wilby respectively, helped with logistics and the training of the 20-30 volunteers who were involved in the event.

On Sunday 9 July, within minutes of the marquee and banners being erected in Argyll Street, people were already starting to show interest, and a queue began to build. The volunteers were enthusiastic and

worked tirelessly up to 4pm, by which time they had screened over 200 people in a highly professional manner.

The second day was just as successful. Over the two days, more than 400 people had their health age assessed, with many giving their contact details for the follow-up programmes of the Glasgow Church Health Club. Throughout the expo, many people expressed their gratitude for what the church was doing for the community, with one candidate expressing that it is 'good that the church is still relevant in today's world'.

DR CLAUDETTE COMERASAMY AND BENJAMIN BAKINA



How wonderful to be part of our Adventist family!

Wednesbury Church went camping at the Ratlingaye Scout Camping Centre near Carlisle over the period of 9-16 August. They had a wonderful time together!

FRANK REED/RUDY YAP



LIGHT School in Birmingham

During August a group of Adventists attended a month-long course in the Aston-Newtown church, Birmingham, run by the Lay Institute for Global Health Training (LIGHT), a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The course focused on the essentials of health evangelism, during which the students received theoretical and practical classes on how to combine health with evangelism. These included hydrotherapy, massage, nutrition, healthy cooking, how to prevent and manage common diseases, health expo training, how to share Christ through health, and much more. This course was conducted in conjunction with Wildwood Lifestyle Centre, USA.

The various workshops and presentations were led by a small team of talented and trained individuals consisting of Grace Walsh (NEC Health Director), Cynthia Bonas, Alma Diaz Stewart (medical missionary from Trinidad), Veronica Grandison (a health director from Barbados) and Marcus Williams. At the helm of the visiting Wildwood team was Cynthia Bonas, a registered nurse and naturopathic doctor.

Veronica's practical classes were very popular as she demonstrated how to make soap, toothpaste, deodorant and skin ointment. The students also enjoyed the classes on healthy vegan cooking and bread making. The testimony on all the students' lips was how the course had impacted their lives and how they were never going to do things the same again. Since their graduation a number of them have signed up to the six-month online intensive course, which should further solidify their medical missionary credentials and equip them to reach out to the community.

LUNGANI SIBANDA



Helping and supporting independence in Bristol

Bristol Central Church happens to be next door to Supported Independence, an organisation which provides support and residential services to people with various mental health needs and learning disabilities, and on Wednesday 30 August the congregation was invited to help at their open day.

Pastor Royston Smith has actively engaged with the management of Supported Independence and is now a regular visitor and friend to the organisation and its service users. As a result they now let the church members use their car park on Sabbath.

The manager, Tracy Richardson, had arranged the Community Open Day as a way for the community and the service users to get together, and she invited the Adventist Church to come along and support it. The day was also a social time for staff and service users, and everyone had a chance to mingle, eat and enjoy the atmosphere. A highlight was the revealing of a new wall mural, which had been painted by some of the residents.

The church contributed to the day in practical ways such as providing health checks for blood pressure and blood sugar levels for residents and staff alike. These tests were particularly important for the service users, as many of them would not normally go to a GP's surgery for such tests. In all, 17 people were seen on the day, 13 of whom were service users.

Besides the health checks, the church also helped by bringing along a variety of vegetarian food to add to that already provided. This went down very well. Evan Green, from Newport Church, brought along his smoothie bike to make beautiful smoothies for the service users and staff, which were much appreciated. These activities were organised by the church's Health and Community Ministries team.

One of the service users, Lee, really enjoyed the event and commented, 'It's lovely. I like to support people in this church.' Lee regularly comes along to the church on Sabbaths, and has also helped out with other church outreach activities in the past.

By continuing to work with Supported Independence and service users like Lee, the church hopes that both will benefit.

IAN SABADIN, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, BRISTOL CENTRAL CHURCH



The 'Sharing a Table' initiative

Swindon Church recently welcomed Pastor Les Ackie (BUC Family Ministries Director), and the other Adventist groups in town, to celebrate their Family Ministries Day with them.

It was a wonderful opportunity for old friends to meet and fellowship together, not to mention the chance to listen to an inspiring sermon on family worship by Pastor Ackie.

This was followed in the evening by a three-course dinner function at a local four-star hotel with Pastor Les Ackie as the main speaker. The programme included readings from *The Adventist Home*, a poem by Jenny Hawkins and group singing.

The function also attracted 12 non-members, some of whom had never attended an Adventist church before. The atmosphere, however, was warm and welcoming and the topic of discussion covered by Pastor Les Ackie was appreciated by all present. At the end of the evening, many wanted to find out when the next function would be. The dinner also included a special ADRA appeal from Helia Shepley (ADRA Chief Financial Officer), which led to over £300 being collected.

VIVIAN ZINYEMBA

Godinterest.com

Godinterest.com is a Christian social networking service created in 2014. Its core purpose is to promote Christian values and facilitate spiritual inspiration through the sharing of photographs and other media in the style of Pinterest and Twitter. Its content includes media about Christian history, personal and family-oriented stories and so on from a Christian viewpoint.

The site was developed by Dean, a 39-year-old construction project director who is presently a member of Bedford Church. Since its launch **Godinterest.com** has been featured in the *London Evening Standard*, *Huffington Post*, *Washington Times* and other prime news outlets around the world.

Technology and evangelism

The internet is changing society. At every point God has made a way for His Church to embrace new opportunities to tell more people of His love, and I believe that the internet is no different. At Godinterest we are convinced that God has a purpose for this technology, and we are dedicated to using it to share the life-changing message of Jesus.

Churches can register and share their sermons, videos, photos and updates online. Church members can converse with other Christians in the knowledge that the information shared and stored will not be used for marketing or promotion. Non-Christians are also welcome.

If you're ready to see what's happening on Godinterest, sign up today at Godinterest.com, or contact Dean at admin@godinterest.co.uk for more details if necessary.



Stanborough School's excellent GCSE results

As you are undoubtedly aware, our pupils sat the new-style GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Maths for the very first time this year. Not only is the content of the new exams more challenging, but the grading format has been amended from letters to numbers – from 9 to 1, with 9 being the top grade. Despite this, 100% of those who took GCSE exams at Stanborough Secondary School achieved five or more A*-C grades; 93% of the pupils achieved five A*-C grades when Maths and English are included. The pupils have worked hard and we are extremely proud of their accomplishments! In all subjects, with the exception of Physics, our pupils outperformed the national average. These outstanding results reflect the commitment of each pupil and the dedication of every teacher. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our pupils and thank our staff for successfully managing the challenges of the past two years to produce these superb results!

LORRAINE DIXON, HEAD TEACHER

Subject	National average	Stanborough School
Art	75.60%	100.00%
Business Communication Systems	61.90%	100.00%
Biology	90.40%	100.00%
Business Studies	63.20%	100.00%
Chemistry	89.90%	100.00%
English Language	64.90%	93.00%
French	69.60%	90.00%
Portuguese	89.00%	100.00%
Geography	64.80%	92.00%
History	65.20%	100.00%
Literature	72.00%	100.00%
Maths	68.90%	100.00%
Physics	90.80%	86.00%
Religious Education	71.30%	100.00%
Spanish	70.80%	86.00%

BOOKSALES

November

12 Tottenham West 10am-2pm
18 Cardiff After sunset
26 Sheffield Burngreave 10am-2pm
26 Wolverhampton Central 10am-2pm

December

2 Dublin DOF After sunset
3 Belfast 10am-2pm
3 Northampton Central 10am-2pm

ABC Shops

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

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01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Adventist
Book Center.com

Vacancies at International Stanborough School

- 1. English Foreign Language Teacher**
Requirements:
 - A degree in English
 - Ability to teach English as a foreign language to visiting international groups
- 2. Teacher in Humanities**
Requirements:
 - A degree in their area of speciality
 - Ability to teach students whose first language is not English

Applicants must be able to:

- Prepare and deliver appropriate learning materials
- Carry out assessments
- Deliver dynamic lessons in an interactive manner
- Teach and effectively differentiate among students with different levels of English proficiency (levels A1-C1)
- Demonstrate excellent pupil behaviour management

Successful candidates will be called upon as and when the need arises. An hourly rate will be paid. Offers are subject to a satisfactory disclosure certificate and suitable references, and all applicants are expected to support the Christian ethos of the school.

Applicants must submit a CV and letter of application by **30 May** to Mrs M. Mumbo, PA to the Head Teacher (mmumbo@spsch.org) – tel. 01923 673268.

- 3. Volunteer International Groups Co-ordinator Assistant (Male)**
Responsibilities:
 - Assist the International Groups Co-ordinator to plan and carry out a varied programme of activities for international groups after school and on weekends.
 - Assist kitchen staff after hours and during weekends with serving meals and cleaning up.
 - Emergency care for students; strong support of the International Groups Co-ordinator in maintaining both a safe and pleasant environment and a warm and friendly atmosphere during group events.

Starting date: Immediately.

All applicants are expected to have a satisfactory disclosure certificate and suitable references, and to support the Christian ethos of the school. Interested applicants must contact Mrs M. Mumbo, PA to the Head Teacher, for the application package (mmumbo@spsch.org; or tel. 01923 673268).

Stanborough Secondary School scholarships and bursaries registration is now open!

Once again, Stanborough Secondary School has worked hard to secure additional funding for its Scholarship and Bursary Fund, to enable more pupils across the British Union to benefit from the good educational programme it offers.

The scholarships and bursaries examinations in Maths, Science and English will be held on 11 January 2018 from 9.30am to 1pm for prospective students entering Years 7, 8 and 9 in September 2018. **The maximum award is worth a 50% reduction on tuition fees (boarding fees are excluded). Seventh-day Adventist parents of successful candidates will obtain this tuition fee reduction in addition to their 30% denominational discount.** Awards are multi-annual.

Candidates must register (deadline: 15 December 2017) and pay an administrative fee of £10. You can download the application forms from the school website. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Sonia Poddar: spoddar@spsch.org, or call 01923673268.

Stanborough School would like to thank the alumni and friends of the school for making this support possible. If you have benefited from Seventh-day Adventist education or feel that God is impressing you to help make Adventist education more accessible, please contact the BUC Treasury Department and ask how you can support the Stanborough Secondary School Scholarships and Bursaries Fund.



Athletics Day

Many young people watch the Olympics and World Championships every few years, see the likes of Usain Bolt and Jessica Ennis, and dream of being able to stretch across the finishing line to claim gold themselves. This year in the NEC we had the Conference-wide Athletics Day, which gave those who came the opportunity to create such moments in their lives.

Held at the Alexander Stadium, a world-class facility in Birmingham, on 23 July, NEC Athletics Day started at 10am with registration. Races began around midday and by then there was a good showing from some of the churches in Birmingham as well as Leicester St Matthews. As the day progressed each church got points based on where their members finished in each race. The contested races were the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m, while the field events were the shot-put, long jump and high jump.

There was a good atmosphere and vibe all day, with Leon Fuller and Jonathan Reid as the hosts, and a healthy, friendly competitiveness among the church teams. Birmingham put in a strong showing with Camp Hill coming in fourth; Handsworth, last year's winners, third; and Erdington first – taking the trophy for this year. For the second year in a row, Leicester St Matthews came in second place with a very well-supported team.

Horace Radcliff from Bournville Church, who was there to support the youth, said, 'It's great to see everyone enjoying this event. My dream is to see this as an event where other athletes, even professionals, want to participate.'

There were activities for the children as well, with a mini Olympics in the middle, as well as face painting and bouncy castles, making it a day out for the whole family to enjoy. We would like to thank those who volunteered to make the day as special as it was.

More photos of the day can be found online at www.facebook.com/necyouth.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN

Big Six

Big Six is one of the favourite events in the annual North England Conference youth calendar, and this year was no different. Over 600 youth from around the NEC came to Aldersley Leisure Village on 9 July to participate in either football, basketball, netball, badminton or table tennis. We had beautiful weather, making it a great day out for competitors and spectators alike.

Teams came from as far as Middlesbrough, Wellingborough, Liverpool, Preston, Nottingham, Leicester, Sheffield, Leeds, Coventry, Northampton, Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Having the opportunity to see friends from around the Conference and make new ones is part of the fun and enjoyment and something that people look forward to.

The football tournament, as always, was the biggest, with some excellent teams, including a pastors' team who managed to win several of their games. The final was contested by Wellingborough and Wolverhampton, with the latter winning the trophy. The under-14s' tournament was won by a team from Preston. The basketball tournament had a good showing this year, with teams from the young and those a little older. A team from Coventry ended up as the winners on the day.

Wilson Mazawaina from Preston Church said of the day: 'I personally enjoyed Big Six. As an older youth who wants to carry on playing sport and exercising into my old age I feel like it's something that could be promoted to more adults to promote their exercise, health and fitness too.'

Big Six provides a place for the youth to network outside of normal church hours or programmes and runs each year with the help of the many dedicated and committed volunteers. We would like to thank all those who came and participated and those who volunteered to make the day what it was.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN





the hall, which were led by Michaela Banton, Sheri Lawrence and Denise Bain. Outside, Wayne and Sarah Brooks combined with Daniel Caines to provide some excellent and fun games each day. Symon Burgher also led out with the ever-popular camp ball, among other activities.



NEC Earliteen Camp

This year we held the biggest earliteen camp for at least 25 years when 89 teens from around the NEC came to Aberdaron for what would prove

to be an excellent week. Aberdaron Advent Camp provides a great retreat for our young people where they have the chance to get away from the hustle and bustle of normal life and make real, lasting friendships. Many of the teens who came this year had been before, either to Teens Camp or Junior Camp. There were also many who were there for their first camp, no doubt encouraged by the stories they had heard from others who had been before.

Aberdaron is a small village located on the tip of the Llyn peninsula in North Wales, and for the last 53 years the NEC has owned the site and run family and youth camps there. There is something about the camp that is special and that draws people back each year. This year we were blessed with good weather all week and the team put on a full range of activities. This included some great arts and crafts activities in

Reversing diabetes in Birmingham

The MTTC Health Team launched its first Reversing Diabetes course on Sunday, 3 September 2017.

Approximately 25 volunteers and 19 participants attended the Community Hub on the fourth floor of the John Lewis store in the new Grand Central shopping centre, Birmingham. Some of the volunteers wore smart polo shirts indicating they had recently completed the Lay Institute for Global Health Training course and were keen to be involved.

The energy-packed two-hour session saw registration, photographs, blood pressure, weight, height and blood sugar/cholesterol measurements being taken. Cooking demos, an exercise segment and a helpful presentation were the main components of each session. There was also a prayer and a brief devotion each session.

Pastor Haworth and Grace Walsh led out in the course, supported by an excellent team. Contacts originated from Dr Ing's tour of several Birmingham venues and numerous health expositions run over the summer months by the Area 5 churches.

The course was a gradual programme on how to reduce or eliminate type 2 diabetes, and ran over a period of eight weeks.

Anyone who is interested in knowing more about the Reversing

This year we were blessed with an incredibly popular new piece of water sports equipment – a jet ski. This was used to give rides as well as pull the campers along in inflatables such as 'doughnuts' and the 'banana boat'. Along with the paddle boards, kayaks and canoes there was an opportunity for everyone to participate in those activities they wanted to.

The day trip on Thursday was once again to the nearby go-kart track where everyone was able to pit their driving skills (or lack of them!) against each other, before coming back to the campsite for the annual banquet. This year the banquet had a 'Heaven' theme and many of the campers really made an effort with some lovely outfits. Each tent performed items, and prizes were given out to the best-dressed campers, while the campers had a chance to choose a camp king and queen from among themselves.

Throughout the week the campers were blessed with worships by Pastors Ramdin, Hush and Liburd, who encouraged the youth to give their lives to Jesus and to find their identity in Him. We would like to thank the camp's leadership team of Anthony Banton (camp master) and Denise Bain (assistant), who did an excellent job. In addition we thank all the counsellors who came to volunteer at the camp, along with all the other activity staff, kitchen staff and summer staff who allowed the camp to run as smoothly as it did.

We encourage all those wishing to attend next year to book early. This year we were full to capacity and even had to turn people away.

Photos of the week can be found online at www.facebook.com/necyouth.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN

Diabetes course should please contact Jacquie Halliday-Bell on 07800 761612.

JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Photo quality as supplied

"Are you equipped to fight in this spiritual warfare?"

Mums In Action proudly presents

mothers PRAYER CONFERENCE

Theme: 'WE DECLARE WAR'

24 - 26 NOV 2017
LONDON IRISH CENTRE
(McNamara Suite)
50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB

Main Speaker: Pastor Hyveth Williams

FRI 24th, 8.30pm: Radio Show, "What's in Store" live call-ins
SAT 25th, 9:15am: Registration
10:10am: Joint Praise & Worship
10:40am: Prayer School - How to Fight the Spiritual Battle - Sis Laura Osei
12:00pm: "We Declare War" - Pastor Hyveth Williams
2:00pm: Spiritual Warfare - "Let's Do It!"
SUN 26th, 8.00am: Celebration Brunch - Hyland House School

Eventbrite
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mothers-prayer-conference-we-declare-war-tickets-37362092023

SUNDAY BRUNCH
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mothers-and-fathers-celebration-brunch-we-declare-war-tickets-37362183296

PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH AND A LOVE OFFERING

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

"Are you equipped to fight in this spiritual warfare?"

Mums In Action proudly presents

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Eventbrite
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fathers-prayer-conference-we-declare-war-tickets-37361694835

SUNDAY BRUNCH
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mothers-and-fathers-celebration-brunch-we-declare-war-tickets-37362183296

PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH AND A LOVE OFFERING

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Do you have experience as a radio presenter? Would you like to gain such experience?

If you do, Emerson Ferreira of the Swindon church would like to make contact with you. He has obtained a 30-minute slot on Swindon 105.5 and is looking for English-speakers to serve as presenters on a voluntary basis. All programme content (music, interviews and devotionals) will be supplied. Contact details:

radioswindon@gmail.com or 07847438118.



Wood Green went global

On Sabbath 2 September, Wood Green hosted its International Day, with 26 countries represented in its congregation. The theme of the day was 'All Nations, Many Peoples, One God'.

Wood Green played host to His Excellency Orville London, the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, who was thankful for the invitation and urged members to keep on spreading the Gospel. Special greetings were also received from the Jamaican, Polish and Ghanaian embassies. Pastor Eduard Keshishyan and other members from the London Bulgarian church were in attendance and made a significant contribution to the day's programme. Paul Lee, from the SEC, was invited to minister on the theme, 'Music as an International Language'.

The Family Service was one of testimonies, thanksgiving and praise, followed by a fellowship lunch with international cuisine from Africa, the Caribbean, Bulgaria, Poland, America and Mauritius, to name but a few. The vegetarian curry goat went down well with our Bulgarian friends.

The afternoon programme was in the form of a mini gospel concert in the Wood Green Shopping Mall. Paul Lee and Wood Green's own praise group, DnA, performed a number of songs for appreciative shoppers. Some Wood Green members took the opportunity to interact with passers-by through words of encouragement, prayer and the

distribution of literature, including the special Reform-a-Nation Focus magazines, assisted by our friends from the Bulgarian church. We can't wait for the next one!

BARBARA SOMMERS

Messenger

Volume 122 • 22 – 10 November 2017

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

COPY FOR NO. 24 – 16 November 2017

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700

Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

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

For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Nov 10	4.18	4.31	4.17	4.14	4.30
17	4.09	4.21	4.07	4.02	4.19
24	4.01	4.13	3.58	3.52	4.09
Dec 1	3.55	4.07	3.52	3.44	4.03

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