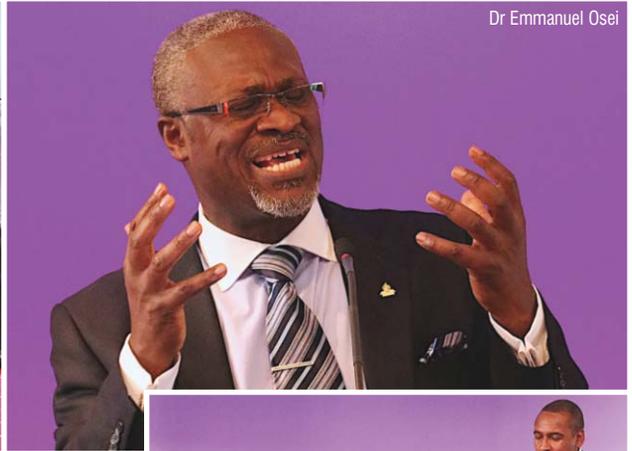


Messenger

News to the churches • 15 December 2017 • Volume 122 • 24

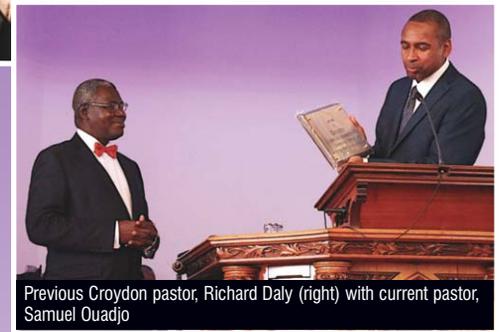


Dr Emmanuel Osei



Croydon celebrates 100 years

by Pastor Richard Daly,
BUC Communications Director



Previous Croydon pastor, Richard Daly (right) with current pastor, Samuel Ouadjo

The work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church began in London in the late 1880s and since then we have been privileged to see the hard work of those pioneers – under the leadership of Stephen Haskell – bear much fruit for Jesus.

The early Adventist churches that were bought or built in this great city are ‘coming of age’, and one of them is Croydon. It has now passed into this special category of centennial churches, and during the month of October its members spent each Sabbath focusing on a different area of celebration that was intertwined with the 500 years of the Protestant Reformation. On 7 October the theme was, ‘The Reformation: why does it matter today?’ while on the next Sabbath they looked at the question, ‘Who are Seventh-day Adventists and who were the pioneers who started the work in Britain?’

On Sabbath 21 October the focus was on the 100 years’ celebration of Croydon. This started with a discussion on ‘Bringing memories of Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Church to life’, which involved a historical reflection by Dr Chris Levy on the early beginnings of the congregation that led to the establishment of Croydon Church.

The morning family service saw an array of representatives of the British Union Conference (BUC) and South England Conference (SEC), along with past Union and Conference presidents such as Pastors Cecil Perry and Sam Davis, who both gave congratulatory tributes. Former minister Pastor Richard Daly, now serving as BUC Communication and Media Director, returned to share in the tributes and well-wishes, presenting local minister, Pastor Sam Ouadjo, with a commemorative plaque on behalf of the BUC.

Representatives from churches that were spawned from the Croydon church (New Addington, Wallington, Beckenham and the Living Room branch) were also present and acknowledged the influence the ‘mother’ church has been in their early development.

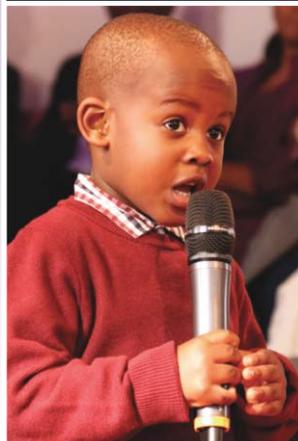
Pastor Ouadjo steered the programme and introduced the speaker for the day, SEC President Pastor Emmanuel Osei, who encouraged the members not to give up on God but to keep focused in these troublesome days, looking forward to the return of Christ.

The afternoon was a further opportunity for members to share their early memories of the church in south London, as well as greetings from previous ministers. Other activities included skits and presentations, which led into an evening social that involved the cutting of the 100th-anniversary cake made especially for the occasion.

We congratulate the Croydon church for honouring this day and recognising the 100 years in which the Adventist message has persevered from small beginnings to what it is today.



Pastor Cecil Perry



The staff of the Stanborough Press wish all our Messenger readers a safe and blessed festive season!

Wanted: AMR Global Mission Pioneer

The North England Conference is looking for someone to fill the vacancy of an Adventist-Muslim Relations (AMR) Global Mission Pioneer. Apart from a basic grasp of English, ideally the candidate will be fluent in classical and spoken Arabic; have an in-depth historical and theological background in Islam; and have familiarity with Islamic jurisprudence and early Islamic scholarly thought. In addition to the above, the candidate should have a deep knowledge of spiritual warfare and the great controversy as taught in Islam. The candidate will also have experience in Bible and Qur'an symposiums/formal debates. The candidate should also be a Seventh-day Adventist believer with an in-depth knowledge of Adventist fundamentals and experience in working with Muslim-background believers.

This is a voluntary position for which full accommodation and a living allowance will be provided. Work locations will be in various areas within the NEC. Starting date: 1 April 2018. Minimum term of service is one year (subject to applicant's suitability).

Apply online via the Adventist Volunteer Service website – <https://www.adventistvolunteers.org> – or to:

Pastor Michael Simpson:
North England Conference
Church Planting Department,
22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park,
Nottingham, NG3 5DB

Application closing date: 11 February 2018.

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.



We wish you all a blessed festive season. The next issue of Messenger will appear on 12 January 2018.



Enhancing Health

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

Antibiotics – the solution

In the last issue of Enhancing Health we looked at global issues relating to antibiotic resistance. A recent *Independent* news report¹ highlights the World Health Organisation's concern that most new drugs are just modifications of existing antibiotics, providing only short-term solutions. The organisation's head 'described antibiotic resistance as a "global health emergency" that would take medicine back to the period before the Second World War unless new classes of antibiotics were developed as a matter of urgency'. With all this in mind, what can be done?

Following World Antibiotic Awareness Week, the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD), held annually on 18 November, encourages the responsible use of antibiotics. Public Health England (PHE) is the lead organisation co-ordinating activities in England for the EAAD.

In their antibiotic awareness campaign, NHS Choices² has posted the following information to highlight the inappropriate use and prescribing of antibiotics, which has led to resistance.

They state that inappropriate use includes:

- not taking your antibiotics as prescribed
- skipping doses of antibiotics
- not taking antibiotics at regular intervals
- saving some for later
- sharing antibiotics with others

Inappropriate prescribing includes:

- unnecessary prescription of antibiotics
- unsuitable use of broad-spectrum antibiotics
- wrong selection of antibiotics
- inappropriate duration or dose of antibiotics

They also state that 'antibiotic prescribing should be made a strategic priority for all hospitals by targeting antibiotic therapy, implementing structured antimicrobial stewardship plans, [and] reviewing local surveillance and assessing microbiological data', as well as making antibiotic prescribing 'a priority in primary care by developing an antibiotic stewardship tool for prescribers'.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) advises: 'To help prevent the development of resistance it is important to only prescribe antibiotics when they are necessary, and not for self-limiting mild infections such as colds and most coughs, sinusitis, earache and sore throats.'³ For these we are to consider alternative interventions instead.

Good health!

¹<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/antibiotics-development-drug-companies-drug-resistance-superbugs-mrsa-who-world-health-organisation-a7957156.html>
²<https://www.nhs.uk/nhsengland/arc/pages/aboutarc.aspx>
³<https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/ktt9/chapter/evidence-context>

editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Remove Him from the frame . . .

The international art community was stunned by the recent sale of Leonardo da Vinci's painting, 'Saviour of the World', for a staggering \$450,312,500 (£342 million) inclusive of auctioneer's fees – the highest price paid to date for a painting on auction. Christie's of New York were the auctioneers, and this is how *The Washington Post* reported on the tense closing moments of the sale:¹

'Three thirty [million] is bid and selling,' said auctioneer, Jussi Pylkkänen, Christie's global president.

'Looking for another bid please,' he said. Noticing the continued phone chatter of auction representatives with their clients, he stopped briefly.

'The conversation continues. So we will pause.'

'At about \$370 million there appeared to be only two remaining bidders on the other end of the phone lines. Each were represented by Christie's specialists, Francois de Poortere and Alex Rotter.

'Back to Francois' clients at \$370 million,' said Pylkkänen, as the room grew quiet.

'Then came [the] \$400 million bid. "Francois is out," said Pylkkänen. "Are you sure, Francois?"

'He then turned to Rotter. "It is with Alex Rotter at \$400 [million] . . . and the piece is sold," said the auctioneer, to great applause.'

Not all are impressed

Yes, the Christie's crowd may have applauded, but not all are impressed with Leonardo's depiction of Jesus. Charles Hope, an emeritus professor at the prestigious Warburg Institute at the

University of London,² had this to say about it: 'Even making allowances for its extremely poor state of preservation, it is a curiously unimpressive composition and it is hard to believe that Leonardo himself was responsible for anything so dull.'³

That is not, however, the way many others see it. Take for instance what an eminent London-based art dealer, Charles Beddington, had to say: 'It is the most unimaginable discovery of the last 50 years. . . . A painting by Leonardo is one of the rarest things on the planet. You can't imagine it's ever going to happen again.'⁴ Or listen to the auctioneer's own testimony: 'It is every auctioneer's ambition to sell a Leonardo and likely the only chance I will ever have,' said Pylkkänen. 'It's the pinnacle of my career so far.'⁵

The painting was on limited display in Hong Kong, London, San Francisco and New York in the weeks leading up to the auction and was viewed by upwards of 27,000 people. We don't know what their general reaction was to this depiction of Christ in a 'blue robe holding a crystal orb, which represents the Earth', but some of them were **definitely less in awe of the painting's scarcity and monetary value, than of its spiritual and emotional impact.** One example of this was the reaction of Nina Doede, who told a *New York Times* reporter the following: 'Standing in front of that painting was a spiritual experience. It was breathtaking. It brought tears to my eyes.'⁶

This begs the question . . .

How would you react if given a chance to stand before Leonardo da Vinci's 'Saviour of the World'? Would it appear 'dull' and 'unimpressive', or 'breathtaking', bringing tears to your eyes?

Gazing quietly at a masterfully executed painting of Jesus Christ on a gallery wall is one thing, but trying to imagine yourself in the sandals of those who actually, physically met Him, locked eyes with Him and heard Him speak, is another. Choose your favourite Bible characters and visit those locations where they met Jesus face-to-face. Become bold and audacious, assume their roles, impersonate them!

Find yourself dripping, shivering, crouching beside His fire on the shore of Galilee . . . listening humbly to His gracious words as He invites you back to ministry despite your recent failures: 'Feed my lambs. . . . Take care of my sheep. . . . Feed my sheep.' (John 21:15-17, NIV-UK.)

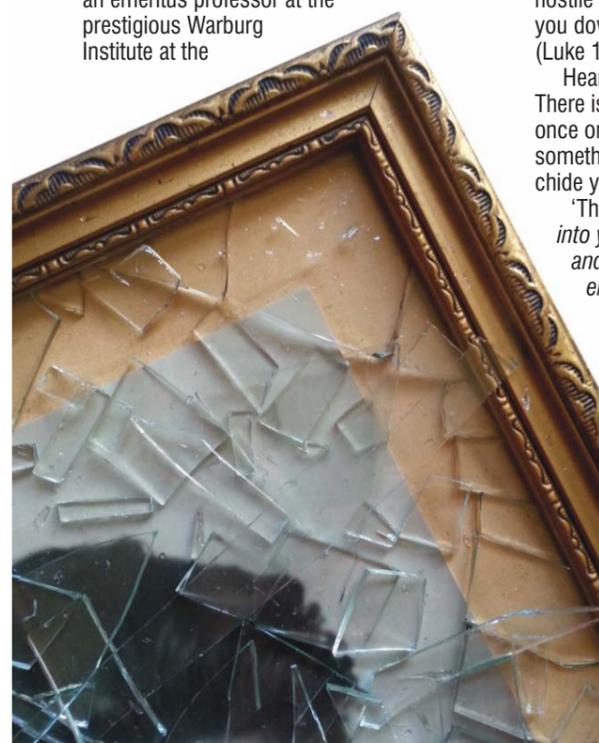
See yourself straddling a branch over a crowded Jericho street. Hear a chorus of rude and hostile remarks flung in your direction. The people hate you . . . but the Rabbi doesn't. He invites you down to the safety of a relationship with Him. He invites Himself to your home for a meal. (Luke 19:1-10.)

Hear the congenial atmosphere freeze over as you begin to 'wash' Christ's feet with perfume. There is a clear murmur of disapproval from the 'religious right': especially from some who were once on your client list. There is even the sound of disappointment from among the disciples . . . something about money that could be better spent! But the Master doesn't pull His feet away, or chide you for your intimate display of gratitude. Instead, He defends your actions:

'Then he turned towards the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." ' (Luke 7:44-47, NIV-UK.)

Remove Him from the frame . . .

Leonardo da Vinci painted the 'Saviour of the World' on a walnut panel 'measuring approximately 15 by 17 inches'.⁷ The experts cleaned Him up and established His provenance. Christie's put Him on display and auctioned Him off. Now I invite you to remove Him reverently from the heavy frame that constrains Him, and let Him come alive as your personal Saviour . . . this Christmas and forever more.



¹https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2017/11/15/unimaginable-discovery-long-lost-da-vinci-painting-to-fetch-at-least-100-million-at-auction/?utm_term=.9416075aea62 ²According to their own website, 'The Warburg Institute is the premier institute in the world for the study of cultural history and the role of images in culture.' See <https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/> ³https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2017/11/15/unimaginable-discovery-long-lost-da-vinci-painting-to-fetch-at-least-100-million-at-auction/?utm_term=.9416075aea62 ⁴Ibid. ⁵Ibid. ⁶Ibid. ⁷<https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/homes-and-property/fine-art-antiques/leonardo-da-vinci-s-saviour-of-the-world-sold-for-45-in-1958-now-for-sale-at-100m-1.3265906>

from the presidents

Pastor Raafat Kamal (Trans-European Division President)



How do you reflect on a year that has seen stalling Brexit negotiations, currency fluctuations, terrorist attacks and sex scandals? Pay too much attention to the news headlines and the world appears a depressing place.

I prefer to look elsewhere! Across the 22 countries that make up the Trans-European Division I see seeds of hope, and a vision to share Jesus' love with our communities.

How can I tell? Partly from attending the Pan-European Youth Congress along with 4,000 enthusiastic, passionate youth – over 400 of them from the British Union. Listening to their singing, joining them in the prayer room, talking with them in the corridors and watching them sign up for mission – that, to me, was inspirational.

I also see it in the more than £81,000 of seed money requested for mission-focused projects in the British Union. This includes support for using the Reformation's 500th anniversary celebrations as an opportunity to tell our story. We voted funds to support the *Lineage* video series made by the NEC Youth Department, the amazing 'Here I Stand' drama organised by Mervyn Weier and the SEC, and the BUC Reform-a-nation celebration on Stanborough Park. This is in addition to both practical and financial support for urban and creative evangelism, five church plants and student and community projects.

As a Division we supported your Union and the rest of Europe with a specially prepared mini-series of social media videos, *Reformation Journey*. The aim was not 'yet another' documentary, but to make the themes of the Reformation accessible to today's generation. Feedback indicates that this has been a success. While receiving worldwide support, the highest viewing figures are from the UK, supporting your mission and witness.

An early highlight of my year was a meeting between the Division directors and the NEC ministry team. This gave opportunity to share ideas, recognise common themes, and network together. The meeting led to greater co-operation in a number of areas. We have a similar meeting planned with the SEC ministers in the spring.

It is not easy to be a Christian in the twenty-first century. Society has changed, yet even in secular Europe the human heart still has a yearning for something more. That is why we are encouraged by, and supportive of, new and continuing initiatives in your territory. This includes the development of Adventist Radio London, a great opportunity to involve all our members in witness. The same is true for Hope FM in the north.

This autumn I was invited to speak at the European Parliament during a Reformation 500th anniversary celebration. As a Seventh-

day Adventist leader I sat with Lutheran academics, Orthodox priests and MEPs of various faiths. While listening to the variety of presentations and perspectives, I was struck with the idea that the Reformation must continue.

As one of the last speakers, I led the audience back to the concept of grace, expounding on the Old Testament principle in Micah 6:8, to 'do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God' (NKJV).

Pastor Ian Sweeney (British Union Conference President)



As I began to write this message, news had just broken of the political turmoil and uncertainty in the country of Zimbabwe, where the army had placed its president of 37 years, Robert Mugabe, under house arrest. The anxiety of the situation was heightened with Mr Mugabe's sacking as party leader and the appointment of his former vice-president in his place. This situation is very concerning for a number of our members in the British Isles who have roots in Zimbabwe and strong connections to the country. We want to assure you, however, that many of us are praying for a peaceful political outcome for the situation.

Now, while Zimbabwe's situation is unique, what are commonly witnessed around the globe are numerous campaigns by individuals, political parties and varied interest groups to either seize leadership, hold on to it, or overthrow it. Whether we think of the USA, North Korea, Myanmar, Kenya, the UK, Ireland or many other countries, the wrestling for leadership and power continues unabated.

Readers of this message in the British Isles are accustomed to leadership being gained via democratic processes. Indeed, we may judge that democracy, as reflected in granting its citizens the right to vote according to their conscience, is the best way of appointing leadership. However, while democratic mandates may be our preferred method for securing leadership, sometimes leadership is hereditary, or achieved via military or political coups, and even corruption/bribery.

Two thousand years ago, an angel made a surprising announcement to the virgin Mary that she was pregnant. More than this, the angel said that the child she was carrying was to be a remarkable Leader (Luke 1:32, 33, ISV):

'He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.'

According to the angel, Jesus was a hereditary Leader who would succeed to the throne of King David.

Those of a republican mindset may have a problem with Jesus, because, for them, hereditary monarchy undermines the place of merit! The monarchs earn their position without any need of achievement. In addition to this, republicans would argue that the presence of a monarchy stands in opposition to democracy. It denies a people the right to elect their head of state, an office for which all citizens should be potentially eligible.

Jesus' leadership position, however, goes beyond the typical roles of monarchy that we witness in our world.

While Jesus was announced as royalty, He was certainly not born with a 'silver spoon in His mouth'. The nativity story tells us that Jesus was born in a shed that housed farm animals and his first cot was an animal feeding trough. Jesus gave up the glories and privileges of heaven to be born in such a setting. Ellen White wrote of this so powerfully when she stated:

'The story of Bethlehem is an exhaustless theme. . . . We marvel at the Saviour's sacrifice in exchanging the throne of heaven for the manger, and the companionship of adoring angels for the beasts of the stall. . . . Yet this was but the beginning of His wonderful condescension. It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man's nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity.' (*Desire of Ages*, pp. 48, 49.)

Those few short words encompass our attitudes to our families, our neighbours, our lifestyle and our witness. It affects the way we deal with social issues, and the practicality of the way we witness. We stand by principle, holding firm to the words uttered by Martin Luther during his trial at the Diet of Worms: 'Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason, my conscience is captive to the Word of God.'

That intellectual and emotional challenge, together with the justice, mercy and humility of Micah 6:8, is what gives me hope and challenges me for 2018.

To find out more, visit the TED website: <https://ted.adventist.org>, or watch the video, TED Mission Journey: <https://youtu.be/9cIjKwQVbdQ>.

While Jesus is royalty, He also embraces the democratic principle of individual free choice, allowing each of us to choose whether we let Him into our lives or not. As Jesus said: 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.' (Revelation 3:20, NKJV.)

In this Christmas and New Year season, let us prayerfully seek opportunities to share His story, as well as our story, of the wonderful difference King Jesus has made in our lives.

Dr Emmanuel Osei (South England Conference President)



During my postgraduate studies at Newbold College in the '80s, there was a poster in the library of an arrow flying upwards into the blue sky. The caption below it read, 'If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time.'

It is important for every organisation to have a goal to aspire to. However, it is also of vital importance for us to review what has been achieved so as to inform us of what we should be aiming for in the future. In 2017 we emphasised the need for all our churches to become relevant in their communities. Many churches embraced this strategy and made contact with their local authorities.

Relationships were made and community activities were initiated. Health initiatives seemed to feature very impressively and visibly around the Conference. 'I have never met so many mayors in my life as I did in 2017!' said Dr Chidi Ngwaba, our Health Ministries Director, during our recent directors' meeting.

Many health expos have taken place around the Conference, and as a result many community members have come to a knowledge of the church. Baptisms have taken place in areas where this strategy was followed, for which we praise God. We wish to encourage other churches to get on board and become relevant to their communities. The process is simple:

- Go and visit your local council and introduce yourselves as members of the local Adventist church. Find out what their needs are, which vary from council to council;
- Meet as a church board and discuss these needs. Prayerfully select one or two of these challenges and make that your ministry;
- Engage with your community by ministering to their needs;
- Open your church doors and invite your community members to enjoy worship.

This must be ongoing, and, by so doing, the local church will become relevant in that community.

We are launching EEE Refresh in 2018. The theme for this year is reclamation. We are seeking to encourage each church to conduct a membership audit so as to have an accurate record of active and inactive members. This needs to happen at all our local churches. Studies have shown that the three most likely groups to leave the church are:

- New converts;
- Young adults without families in the church;
- Converts from major public evangelistic meetings.

Interestingly, the three top reasons for people leaving the church are:

- Perceived hypocrisy;
- Conflict in the local church;
- Lack of friends.

The parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15 indicates that the Good Shepherd took an audit of his sheep and found that one was missing. Even though it was risky to leave the ninety-nine and go in search of the one that had gone astray, the Good Shepherd was willing to pursue the missing sheep because it was precious to Him. This shows that, to avoid a 1% loss, Jesus was prepared to risk everything in search of that one sheep. Today, our church statistics tell us that we are losing 40% of our sheep – our church is in crisis! Doing a membership audit will give us a golden opportunity and the motivation to redeem those who have left. As we reclaim our members, let us do so like the father of the prodigal son and embrace those who return. We will roll out an exercise which will help us to conduct the membership audit at our Evangelism Expo on 7 January 2018.

We would also like to be intentional in having millennial representation (18-34-year-olds) at all levels of our church leadership structure. We have already implemented this at our directors' meeting. This might mean amending our constitution to ensure that the millennials are represented in our leadership and have a voice in the decisions of the church. They are the demographic unit within our church family that can mentor our teens and offer relevant, up-to-date ideas and support to the older generation. By working closely with our millennials, we can create safe places for our young people to develop their spirituality and give direction to the church. Our church was started by young people, but, sadly, today we are reluctant and frightened to allow them to share in leadership.

As we focus on reclamation in 2018, we

Pastor Richard Jackson (North England Conference President)



Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther, a 33-year-old theology professor, publicly posted his 95 Theses for all to see. Luther would later be forced to appear at various hearings and give numerous accounts of what he believed. The pressure weighed heavily on Luther, who was told to recant his teachings or face the prospect of death. This was his response: 'Unless I am convinced by proofs from Scripture or by plain and clear reasons and

need to ask the question: what are we reclaiming? Is it just lapsed or missing members? I submit that we also need to focus on reclaiming our finances. We have a goal of raising £65m by the end of this quadrennium. The Treasurer informs us that we are on target and so I would like to commend our members for their faithfulness. However, we are not doing so well with our Gift Aid. There is a lot of money that we can reclaim if only our tax-paying members would sign up. It is our legal right to divert part of our taxes to a charity of our choice. Here is a resource that is so easy for us to reclaim at no effort to ourselves.

Much of 2017 was spent befriending our community. We engaged with them and even ministered alongside them in helping others. We thank God for those who responded and gave their lives to Jesus Christ through baptism. In 2018, we want to shift gears and invite the community to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. To those churches who have used 2017 as a year of befriending, we would encourage you to now engage in reaping programmes. Throughout our Conference, evangelistic meetings should be taking place. Pastor Mark Finley will be running outreach meetings for those in Area 7 during the spring. In central London we are planning to hold a series of outreach meetings at the Advent Centre. Throughout London we hope pastors will take the lead in conducting evangelistic meetings locally. We want to reclaim our evangelistic fervour in 2018.

Another area that we need to reclaim is that of discipleship. We do well in working to lead people to the baptismal pool, but, sadly, there is little follow-up, which often contributes to the loss of these new members. We urgently need to have discipleship training programmes and ensure that our members are attending. It's obvious that we urgently need to stem the flow of members leaving our churches. In 2018, a plan will be put in place to nurture and retain those who join our churches. We need to be more intentional with our discipleship programme if we are to grow numerically as a church and retain our members.

Finally, through the medium of our DAB Adventist Radio London, we will be broadcasting live programmes to reach the British population in that city and beyond. These programmes will be aired 24/7 throughout the year, covering a wide range of health, family life and evangelistic subjects. I am excited about the great opportunities that await us in 2018, and look forward to working with you as we anticipate great things from our Master.

arguments, I cannot and will not retract, for it is neither safe nor wise to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen.' As heirs of the Protestant Reformation we recognise the impact that it had, not only on Christian believers, but also on the wider world.

Of course, much has changed since that day in 1517, but what has not changed is the Word of God and the truths in it that gave Luther the theological foundation to challenge Rome and make known to millions the great message of salvation by faith alone.

The Bible, for which millions of faithful believers sacrificed their lives, has lost its prominence in the lives of large sections of the Christian Church. As heirs of the Reformation we believe that we are to uphold the authority of the Bible and the truths it contains.

It was in Romans that Luther found the great truth of 'justification by faith alone'. It was here that this man, struggling to find personal assurance of salvation, uncovered this great truth – not just of Romans, not just of the New Testament, but of the entire Bible – about the plan of salvation 'which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began' (2 Timothy 1:9, NKJV). This is the truth that salvation is found only in the righteousness of Christ. It is a righteousness credited to us by faith, a righteousness granted to us apart from the keeping of the law. Paul so clearly expressed it in Romans: 'Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law' (Romans 3:28, NKJV).

A number of vital but forgotten and suppressed Bible truths were brought to the fore in the sixteenth century, primarily by Martin Luther, who was willing to stand alone against the mighty power of papal Rome. However, in the twenty-first century God is still calling for reformers. We need a reformation in our own lives. Millions have died simply because they stood up for biblical truth, a freedom we now take for granted.

It is our prayer in the North England Conference that, as we remember the Reformation, we will make a deeper commitment, as did Luther, to make God's Word the centre of our lives and determine to stand for the truth of 'righteousness by faith' as we await the coming of our Lord.

Pastor Paul Tompkins (Scottish Mission President)

At the time of the London Olympics a number of famous former athletes were interviewed. One was Sir Roger Bannister, the first man to run a sub-four-minute mile. I remember listening as the interviewer asked him what had motivated him to run. Instead of giving a bland answer he caught my attention with his reply as he quoted the following proverb:

'Each morning, in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the quickest lion, or it will be eaten. Each morning in Africa a lion wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the slowest gazelle or it will starve. It doesn't matter if you are a gazelle or a lion, but when the sun comes up you had better be running!

His point was, to be successful at the Olympics, every athlete needed to be up and running daily. My point is, running the Gospel race is no different, but most definitely more urgent.

As I write this message I am at a meeting giving the year-end reports for the church. The word 'uncertainty' was used in reflecting on the world conditions and economic outlook. Yet through uncertain times there is no doubt that the Lord has blessed His church and that the everlasting Gospel message is going forward. This is because faithful men and women, in so many countries, are daily up and running with the certain news of a soon-coming Saviour.

In the Scottish Mission the church is moving forward with the realisation that we are not responsible for the actions of the next generation; neither can we change the past; but we are responsible for *our* generation. It is now our turn to run the race of life.

The new year of 2018 lies before us. As we all know, the political landscape is dominated by news of the Brexit negotiations and there is great uncertainty and fear as to what the future will bring. Although we cannot personally influence this process much at all, it does give us a clear and God-given opportunity, because it has long been recognised that unsettled people are far less likely to have closed minds!

I believe we now have an opportunity to do a 'larger work' in the cities and towns throughout the UK. This will need each local church, and each individual member, to become involved in faith-sharing outreach projects according to both ability and giftedness. If we are willing to run the Gospel race, in 2018 and beyond, God will without doubt show us the way.

Keep running the race of life so you also will one day be able to exclaim: *'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.'* 2 Timothy 4:7, 8, NIV.

We hope that the new year will lead us to further study the Reformation and gain a richer understanding of God's Word. If you have never considered what the Reformation stood for, may it arouse your curiosity to learn more, for as you do so you will meet Jesus on the journey.



Pastor Emanuel Bran (Welsh Mission President)



Life places certain milestones on our path – natural incentives to recalibrate the way we think, what we deem important and even how we are going to behave. They give us the opportunity for new beginnings. In this past year, many of us have encountered such milestones as a new-born baby in the family, enrolling at university, relocation, a new job, a relationship break-up, an unexpected diagnosis, a tragic accident, even bereavement . . . dare I say, even the new year!

To me, all these events can impact us to such an extent that we will forever measure our lives as the time 'before' or 'after' they happen. I guess the most suitable example on a grand scale was the birth of baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Somehow this miraculous birth and the hope that He brings has split time as we know it into BC (before Christ) and AD (anno Domini).

For many who encounter such life events, there will come a time when you think that all is lost. However, that can also be a new beginning! Take for instance the new year. Just as we welcomed 365 new days into our lives almost a year ago, so we can resolve to let go of our past and embrace God in our present and bring change to our future.

When God divided the days and created the week, He intentionally gave us an opportunity to have a new start each day, and, in the process, the prospect of learning how to trust Him more and do things with a better outcome.

Dr Martin Luther King Junior said: 'You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.' At times we become so overwhelmed with the prospect of climbing

such a tall mountain that we forget each journey is made one step at a time. To reach the summit one needs to start doing what is necessary, then move on to do that which is possible, and suddenly you are going to find yourself doing the impossible.

If you happen to look at a US \$100 note you will see the face of Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the United States, who earned the title of 'The First American' for his early and unrelenting campaigning for colonial unity. He said the following: 'Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let each new year find you a better man.' What a difference it would make if all of us would subscribe to this motto for the coming year, pledging that last year's words belong to last year, while this year's words await a new voice that will make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Paul writes, 'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.' 2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV.

So how can this become a reality? Let us

begin by forgiving what has been done, repenting for the things that we must, remembering that we are not the sum of our past, but that God is our future! And this is His wish for us: 'Forget the former things; do not

dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.' Isaiah 43:18, 19, NIV.

Pastor Dan Serb (Irish Mission President)



1 Peter 4:10-11

There is one dimension of ministry and life, one blessing – one of the greatest – which I have seen at work lately within the lives and ministries of both pastors and members in the Irish Mission. I do not claim that this is unique to our Mission (and praise the Lord that it isn't), or that this alone makes this field so special and blessed, but I acknowledge it as an indispensable trait of Christian character and missionary proficiency. It is what I call all-inclusiveness. I am not talking about unity in diversity only, or multiculturalism, but an attitude whereby we truly make room for others, allowing each and every church contributor to bring their own unique gift as an enabling and holy sacrifice on the altar of service.

In Africa this is called *ubuntu* – meaning that each one of us is what he or she is because of the care, influence and contribution of others. 'I am because you are' – this is a saying which probably best describes ubuntu; and in our church community this is evident.

It is my privilege every Sabbath to visit a different church, and wherever I go this aspect of service and fellowship blesses my soul. It isn't an artificial, forced or somehow tolerated reality; it is truly a blessed willingness to work alongside one another and let the Spirit of God bring us together while we 'bring in the sheaves'. It is achieved by embracing each other's uniqueness. As I travel, I witness this in the way our congregants worship, the items of music rendered, the differing styles of sermon delivery and, of course, the very appetising lunches served.

Our church is truly Adventist, and there is but one unifying and peculiar message preached, but this is mostly achieved through an all-inclusiveness defined by recognising each other's

uniqueness. What do I mean by that?

Have you noticed how each day is different from the next? Even if you seem to be doing the same thing day after day, there are many ways in which that thing can be done, different people you can do it with or for, and a multitude of reasons why you do it. Furthermore, each person we meet will affect us differently. Even though some may be very predictable in their actions, we have the freedom of reacting to those same acts in different ways each time. One doesn't have to try too hard to be different. Each of us is an individual walking the same old path of human existence. We're not the first to cry, or to celebrate, or to succeed, or to fail: but at least we're doing it a little differently from anyone else.

We are all undeniably human, with so much in common, but at the same time each one of us is unique. God, in His infinite wisdom, created us this way. The moment we give up on our uniqueness – the moment we stop being our very peculiar selves – our family and colleagues start longing, the neighbourhood becomes poorer and the world duller. And, I would suggest, our ministry suffers.

So, for the year ahead, together with my best wishes, I invite you all to celebrate this blessed opportunity to see God work wonders through His people by embracing and affirming all-inclusiveness, wherever we may find ourselves in His kingdom.

Looking for a retirement home?

Here are some options.

Sheepcot Villas is a prestigious development of seven retirement flats for the use of members of the Adventist Church on a life tenancy basis. Flats are of an attractive and traditional design suitable to meet all modern standards and requirements.

There is presently one flat available, which comprises an entrance lobby; a well-proportioned living/dining area; two bedrooms (a good-sized double bedroom and a generous single); bathroom with steam extraction to the outside; and a fully-fitted kitchen. The flat has a sunny, southwest-facing balcony overlooking the garden. For a full list of its other comforts and conveniences please make contact as indicated below.

The grounds are attractively landscaped and screened with trees, shrubs and other foliage, and include pathways, seating areas, and ample designated car parking. The flat is a short walk to a doctor's surgery and half a mile from Stanborough Park Church, and has a good bus service to Watford Town.

For more information please contact: Steve Okelo, Treasurer/Secretary – Seventh-day Adventist Association Ltd, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ. Tel: 01923 672251; email: SOkelo@adventist.uk.



You may also be interested . . .

You may also be interested in Coniston House, another retirement property run by the Seventh-day Adventist Association. Currently there are two refurbished flats available. The property is located in Paignton, a seaside town on the coast of Tor Bay in Devon, an area known as the 'English Riviera'. Full details were not available at the time of publication but may be obtained from Steve Okelo using the contact details provided.



Crieff student walks 1,000 miles

Jenny Logan, a member of the Crieff church and a former Edinburgh University student, has walked the famous 500-mile Camino de Santiago, the Way of St James, north Spain, twice. She first walked it in 2016 to help with the thesis for her Master's degree in Social Anthropology. She walked most of the way alone except for a few days with a friend and three days with her father, Dr Stephen Logan. She completed the walk in 35 days. However, after finishing her degree in 2017 Jenny decided to walk it again with her father and her friend Hamish.

Her father was the one who had originally told Jenny about this special walk and had encouraged her to do it. However, this time they were walking it for a different reason. Jenny's mother, Dr Muriel Logan, and her 19-year-old brother both suffer from the debilitating disease ME (also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). Alister has missed the last four years of his schooling because of the severity of his illness. So Jenny and her father decided to raise funds for ME research at ME Research UK, a Perth-based biomedical charity.

They completed the walk again in 35 days and to date have raised more than £3,400 for the charity. This walk brought great fulfilment to Stephen as he had long wanted to do it, and to do so with his daughter was a real bonus. It also brought sadness because Jenny could do it but his son, Alister, could not. It brought home the privilege of being able to walk long distances.

To further raise awareness of ME, Dr Logan and his wife sponsored a screening of the award-winning film, *Unrest*, at the Ross Hall, Crieff Church, on 1 November to an audience of around 50 sufferers, supporters and interested visitors whose kind donations raised another £430 for this worthy cause.

Unrest tells the personal story of a Harvard PhD student about to



Left to right: Hamish, Jenny and Steve

marry the love of her life, when she's struck down by a fever that leaves her bedridden. When doctors tell her it is 'all in her head' she goes online and finds a hidden world of millions confined to their homes and bedrooms by ME, commonly called chronic fatigue syndrome. Steve and Muriel hoped that the screening of this film would help ME sufferers and their relatives to understand more about ME.

Three ME Research UK directors were present and one of them, Dr Vance Spence, took questions from the audience. He said that up to 240,000 people in the UK are thought to have the disease and yet research funds only amount to about £250,000 per year, compared to about £75,000,000 for cancer research. Doctors seem to know very little about ME and so many sufferers are just forgotten.

It is also hoped that some who attended may continue to have a connection with the Crieff church and be helped by that connection.

If you would like to join Jenny and Steve in assisting the UK's ME sufferers please visit iwouldwalk500miles.org.

BOB RODD

voice to young people. Through forum discussions, poetry nights and social events it encourages community engagement and empowers young people to achieve the changes they want to see. Her work has made a positive and lasting impact on Croydon.

Shaniqua has appeared on the *Victoria Derbyshire* show (BBC2), when she was invited as a panellist prior to the last general election to discuss young people and politics. She was also the topic of an article in the *Guardian* newspaper that looked at her short film, *What Would You Say?* which focused on young people having a voice and making themselves heard.

She has also been part of a European youth project called 'The Complete Freedom of Truth', which enabled her to travel widely and interact with young people from across Europe to develop creativity and discuss youth issues. As a result, she launched a pilot of the project in Croydon in August, which was attended by the Mayor, who was very impressed by Shaniqua's hard work and passion for young people's issues.

GODWIN BENJAMIN



Young Achiever of the Year award

Shaniqua Benjamin from the Croydon church won the Young Achiever of the Year award at the Mayor of Croydon Civic Awards 2017. The award is given to a young person (aged 15-25) who has made an outstanding contribution to the Croydon community and is helping to transform the lives of others.

Shaniqua founded Young People Insight (YPI), a platform that gives a

Jaime Jorge at Nottingham Central

On 28 October Nottingham Central Church held a special evening of music with world-famous Jaime Jorge, entitled 'Come to Worship'.

Jaime, who was born in communist-run Cuba, began playing the violin at the age of five. Later he had the chance to represent his province and won. His father, a pastor, faced arrest and harassment because of his ministry but remained faithful, as did both Jaime and his mother.

Jaime's talent was recognised by the authorities and he was offered a scholarship to Moscow on condition that he relinquish his faith in Jesus, which he refused to do. Fortunately, when Jaime was ten the family were miraculously allowed to leave Cuba for the USA, where he received a Christian education and the chance to study under the eminent violinist, Cyrus Forough. Since 1988 Jaime has travelled the world with his music and released 17 albums to date.



On the evening at Nottingham Central, Jaime was accompanied by violinists Tristan and Ty Watts during the playing of Martin Luther's great hymn, 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'.

DENNIS TAYLOR, COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT

Rhyl's ADRA concert

Leslie Riskowitz, accomplished Adventist musician from the Rhyl church in Wales, has presented two mini-concerts in aid of ADRA this year. The second of these was in October and it raised £112.65 for this worthy cause.

Leslie usually involves some of his music pupils in these events, and this time it was the turn of Tomos Jones, a charity worker for children, who played a colourful Chopin prelude and accompanied Leslie on his guitar as he sang 'The Shamrock'; and of Tyler Davies, aged twelve, who played compositions by Mozart and Clementi.

Leslie played pieces by Beethoven, by the Norwegian composer, Sinding ('The Rustle of Spring'), and 'By the Light of the Moon' and 'Gardens in the Rain' (Debussy).

Pastor Malcolm Turner gave appreciation to all, including Geraldine Griffiths and those who helped her provide delightful refreshments after the recital.

BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY LESLIE RISKOWITZ



Cheltenham baptism

The weather stayed dry for an outdoor baptism in an open-air swimming pool at Sandford Park Lido in Cheltenham on Sunday 24 September. More than 140 church members, family and friends crowded round the pool to watch Rawleka Wilson, Oquin Dundas and Joanna Shepley committing their lives to Christ. Pastor Kirk Thomas, a long-standing family friend of the Dundases, baptised Oquin, while Pastor James Shepley, fresh from his ordination the previous day, was blessed to be able to baptise his daughter Joanna, and Rawleka, one of her best friends! It was an unforgettable experience. One person in attendance said, 'Even the birds were singing in time!'

PASTOR JAMES SHEPLEY

friends and family. Leia was formally prepared for baptism by the writer but her loving family laid the foundation for her decision. This was her testimony at the baptism:

'When I was younger, I thought God was a magical person that gave me what I wanted. Now that I am older, I understand that God is our Saviour and I feel that I understand the Bible. I know my decision to get baptised is what I want, and what I have always wanted. I think that God will be returning very soon, so I want to show everyone I have made my decision by being baptised.'

The final event was the ordination of a new deacon and two deaconesses on 30 September by visiting preacher, Pastor Julian Hibbert. Those ordained were Barrie Spedding and his wife Jenna, and Eva Rea, who have already shown themselves to be hard workers in our happy and growing church.

Leia was baptised by Pastor Alan Hodges

BILL KITCHEN (ELDER)



Carlisle news

Carlisle Church in Cumbria has been busy and here is a brief summary of some of their activities. Firstly, on 15 July they dedicated three children to the Lord: Janelle, daughter of Dr Johnson Ekea and his wife Jessica; and Sarah and Lucas, children of Dario and Josilene Pereira.

The Carlisle church will only hold forty-six people, so we hired a larger church to cope with visitors. The service was conducted by the writer.

The second event was the baptism on 9 September of Leia Broomfield by Pastor Alan Hodges, before a church packed with her



Left to right: Jenna and Barrie Spedding and Eva Rea

Christmas Specials 2017

Games and Puzzles

Jesus at the Helm
by Harry Anderson
1000 piece puzzle

Two by Two
by Russell Viner
1000 piece puzzle

"May I Hold Him?"
by Harry Anderson
1000 piece puzzle

Eden Morning
by Russell Viner
1000 piece puzzle

Harry Anderson 1,000-piece Jigsaws (very limited stock)
"May I Hold Him?"
Two by Two
Eden Morning
Jesus at the Helm
Was £12.95, now £6.95 each

Life of Christ – Bible Journeys 2 (family game)
An exciting way for the whole family to walk with Jesus along the dusty paths of Palestine.
Was £12.99, now £8.99

Bible Scramble (word game)
Match your wits and memory against your opponents.
Was £11.95, now £8.99

The 1000 Sticker Bible Storybook
More than a 1000 stickers and colourful illustrations, there are plenty of opportunities to make timeless Bible stories stick with this interactive Bible Sticker Storybook.
978-1-78665-997-2
£3.95

God Can When You Cannot
(Adult Devotional)
Thoughts and prayers by ordinary women.
978-1-907244-24-7
Was £5.95, now £4.50

The Ellen G. White Encyclopedia
This masterwork brings together hundreds of articles that describe the people and events in the life of Ellen White.
978-0-8280-2504-1
Was £49.99, now £35.00

Daily Devotionals 2018

Words to Live By (Adult Devotional)
Written for busy people who long to grow in their walk with Jesus.
978-0-8163-6296-7
Only £12.50

Notes of Joy (Women's Devotional)
Did you know that God delights in you? 365 devotions for women by women.
978-0-8163-6326-1
Only £12.50

What if? (Junior Devotional)
Character sketches from the Bible. Have you ever wondered what would have happened if...?
978-0-8163-6298-1
Only £10.50

Christ Triumphant (Adult Devotional)
This daily devotional from the pen of Ellen G. White traces the hand of God from Eden to eternity.
978-0-8280-2827-1
Only £12.50

God Space (Teen Devotional)
God can seem like so much outer space. But life's more than a long fight for last place.
978-0-8280-2828-8
Only £10.50

God's Wonderful World Devotional 2018
A perfect gift calendar for the new year.
978-1-78665-988-0
£1.70 each (buy 10, get one free)

God's Wonderful World Devotional 2018
A perfect gift calendar for the new year.
978-1-78665-988-0
£1.70 each (buy 10, get one free)

General



Adventist Book Center.com

ALL OFFERS MUST END 31 JANUARY 2018

Special Opening Hours for ABC Shop, Watford:
Sunday 10 December
Sunday 17 December from 10am to 3pm



Special offers also available in the ABC shops in London (Advent Centre), Watford (BUC) and Aston Newtown. For more information please go to: www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

All prices are subject to Postage + Packing charges

01476 591700
sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk

find us on:
g+ Adventist Book Centre (UK)
f Adventist Book Centre - UK

Cafe church

On Sabbath, 27 May, Winchester Church held a cafe church, which was very well attended by members and friends. Our theme was that of the wise and foolish builders of Matthew 7:24-27 and a great deal of hard work was put in by the Redman family. The brunch consisted of cold nibbles and plenty of hot or cold drinks.

Our pastor, Laszlo Liebhardt, was there to give us five-minute sermonettes between the various activities. I don't think anyone will forget this particular parable. We were challenged to make a house from cotton wool balls, cocktail sticks and tape. One table actually made their cotton wool house with a cross at one end, and placed it on a small Bible, so it really did have a firm foundation.

Our final challenge was to make the tallest construction we could from spaghetti and marshmallows! Our whole morning was fun, creative, enjoyable and informative. We gained so much from the morning that we decided to have another cafe church on 11 November.

This is a great way to bring friends to church where there is a non-threatening atmosphere, so much so that our visitors from last year have stayed faithful and have become very good friends with Winchester Church members.

WENDY BRADLEY (COMMUNICATIONS)



Ellie with the display

St Austell's Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival on 14 October at St Austell Church was another opportunity to celebrate God's bounty. Our preacher, Pastor Ken Clothier, commented on the lovely array of colours: purples, reds, greens and yellows, to mention a few. How fortunate we all are to enjoy the wealth of fruitfulness that God surrounds us with.

As usual Pam and Terry Symons were among those who came on Friday to arrange the display of flowers, fruits and vegetables. Pam and Barbara Leigh have done this for years while others helped bring the display to life with tinned foods and greenery.

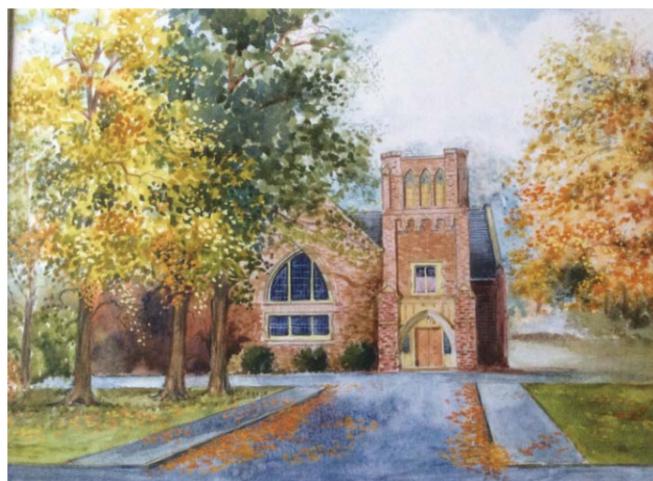
On Sabbath a few more people brought fruit, vegetables and tins. After the service several stayed to organise bowls of fruit and flowers, then pack the remaining fresh food into bags for STAK, the local kitchen which offers meals at £1 and desserts at 50p for those in need.

Later the tins were given to the Food Bank and flowers and fruits were given to elderly or infirm members, friends and neighbours.

It's so good to be able to contribute to the local area that we care about. Quite frankly it's always good to share and bless others when God has so richly blessed us. All praise and thanks to Him!

FRIDA PEAKE

We wish you all a blessed festive season. The next issue of Messenger will appear on 12 January 2018.



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.

EEE* Refresh

The South England Conference directors and administration spent 4-6 October envisioning, praying and planning for 2018 and beyond. It was also a time of introspection as we discussed our achievements and failures during 2017.

In order to contextualise our plans we first listened to Mfakazi Ndebele's picture of UK Christianity today. From it we learnt that Christianity is on the decline, with some experts predicting that unless something is done strategically, and this path of decline continues at its current pace, Christianity will be extinct in the UK by 2067 and that the Church of England will close its doors by 2033.

Statistical evidence shows that immigration from Christian countries such as Poland and African nations has helped to slow down the decline. Fresh expressions and immigrants have been attributed with pushing back the rate of decline by about 5 years. The latest data on religious affiliation from the British Social Attitudes Survey (4 September 2017) reveals that the proportion of people in Britain who describe themselves as having no religion is at its highest ever level. More than half (53%) of the British public now describe themselves as having 'no religion', up from 48% in 2015. There's no denying that Christian churches are in trouble.

According to Mfakazi, the extent to which a leader is successful depends on four factors identified in the following text: 'And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.' (1 Chronicles 12:32, KJV.)

It is important to note that the four factors are:

1. Understand the culture;
2. Have a sense of timing;
3. Have a strategy;
4. Exercise authority.

As leaders of the SEC we have been called to lead at 'such a time as this'. The strategies and methods we employ must address the cultural context and the problems of today. Applying yesterday's methods to today's problems will have no credence nor command a following.

Our Youth Director, Pastor Anthony Fuller, made a strong case for including millennials within our planning, and when we reviewed the results of the 50*7 Project we discovered:

1. The Church is haemorrhaging young adults/millennials;
2. There is a lack of trust between the leadership and those under 35;
3. The Church, in the past, has tried to address the issues without necessarily taking the steps required to establish what the contributing factors were.

We also discovered that this haemorrhaging is happening worldwide. Statistics confirm that 43% of those leaving the Church are young adults, and of the newly baptised 49% eventually leave the Church. And 73% of the 23-30-year-olds stop attending church regularly. Even though we were staggered by the findings, we were encouraged to learn that the young adults are willing to work with the SEC leadership and begin dialogue.

What does EEE Refresh really mean?

Our annual themes will remain the same. In 2018 we will focus on reclamation, inviting each church to look closely at their membership and conduct an exercise of reclaiming those who may have left the church. A document will be shared very soon to facilitate this exercise.

The four strategies will remain the same; however, there is to be a special emphasis on us being more relevant in our communities. We have appointed Pastor Doug McCormac to lead out in improving the



retention of our members by helping us become a more nurturing church. We have also appointed Pastor Mike Mbui to lead out in encouraging each member to be involved in outreach and mission by becoming a more relevant church. Thirdly, we have appointed Pastor Ebenezer Jones-Lartey to lead out in improving the quality of personal spirituality, both as pastors and members. Finally, Pastor Todd Frias was appointed to encourage systematic financial giving for us to become a better-resourced church.

After praying about the challenge before us, we sought for God's guidance. We decided to hold a consultation early in the new year with our young adults/millennials and plan some outreach activities together for the year. We aim to work side by side, allowing the young adults to lead as we give counsel.

Based on our strategic plan, 2018 is the year of reclamation. We want to reclaim those members who were once a part of our Church. We will be asking each local church to participate in an exercise to achieve this goal.

There will be a stronger emphasis on making our churches more relevant. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is still the answer to the problems of this life. We will be inviting each church to run outreach events locally in 2018. It is our hope that local pastors and lay-leaders will take the lead in these programmes rather than inviting overseas speakers.

Finally, we will be intentional in engaging our millennials throughout 2018 as we seek to do evangelism.

PASTOR EMMANUEL OSEI (SEC PRESIDENT)

*Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere

Vacancy: Export Sales Manager

The Stanborough Press (based in Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, UK) seeks to employ an Export Sales Manager who will be responsible for the generation and enhancement of sales outside the UK.

Candidates who apply for this post should have:

- Account management experience
- A minimum of two years' experience in a similar role
- Familiarity with the Seventh-day Adventist Church's publishing and organisational structure
- The availability and inclination to travel extensively and frequently
- The right to reside and work in the UK

The ability to speak certain foreign languages (for example, Portuguese, Spanish or French) will be an advantage.

Denominational salary scale applies.

Deadline for applications: 8 January 2018.

A detailed job description and other relevant information is available on request from Elizabeth Parkinson, PA to the General Manager. Her contact details are:

Email: eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Telephone: +44 (0) 1476 591700

Postal: The Stanborough Press Limited,
Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs., NG31 9SL

Applicants who have previously submitted a CV for this position need not do so again, as these are on file.

Cheltenham Youth Camp

Over the weekend of 15-17 September nineteen youth from Cheltenham, including a few visiting friends, met at Cranham Scout Centre in Gloucestershire for what is turning into an annual camping event. Although the weather was a little chilly to say the least (especially overnight), the atmosphere and the friendships were warm, and there was plenty of warm food and drink to go round as well.

Worships were centred on the subject of respect, and we explored what it meant to respect God (including His Sabbath), one another, and the world God created. Discussions were enthusiastic and productive, and the singing during the worships was also very lively, especially when we heard a group of cubs and scouts singing over by the bonfire. We were invited to join them a little later, and just before the cubs and scouts went off to bed we were asked to lead in a couple of our songs, which were really appreciated.

Much time was spent by the fire singing, talking and, on Sunday, cooking a very tasty lunch: a thoroughly agreeable way to finish off the weekend.

Away from the bonfire pit, time was spent walking and playing games, and just generally enjoying one another's company.

So how successful was the weekend? Let the youth have the last word on that . . .



Golden October Sabbaths in Exeter

During the month of October we had two special Sabbaths in Exeter. On 7 October the annual health checks, organised by Pastor Ian Lorek, were conducted in St Stephen's Church. Nearly one hundred people attended, with many expressing their gratitude for this service to the community. A large number of them return for a check-up each year. This year was the best year for staffing, and we appreciated having more medically qualified staff so that people could take a break from their stations.

There was another golden Sabbath on 14 October when Jesse Mogeni was baptised by Pastor Ian Lorek. The pastor and his wife had spent several months studying with Jesse, who wanted his baptism to be as near to his thirteenth birthday as possible. Two days before his birthday the church was packed to witness this special occasion. Many friends came from Hull, Liverpool and other parts of the country to encourage this young man who has chosen to follow Jesus' example. His parents, Samuel and Rose, supported him throughout the service and his sister had helped to choose some of the hymns. In his sermon, Pastor Lorek said that baptism was the beginning of a new way. The future is unknown but Jesus is there to guide. Christians are called upon to make more disciples but they must also continue to learn – to keep in step with the Spirit and bear His fruit. Pastor Lorek and the writer welcomed Jesse into the fellowship of Exeter Church and presented him with gifts and a card from the church.

There was a fellowship lunch after the service when members were able to welcome him and sing 'Happy Birthday' to him as he cut a beautiful cake which had been specially made for him. Dr Geoffrey Mbugua, a friend of Jesse's family, gave spiritual encouragement to Jesse after the meal, and a number of guests joined the family in singing a hymn in Kiswahili.

We wish Jesse every blessing as he grows in the grace of Jesus.

STELLA JEFFERY



Rawleka – 'I enjoyed bonding with church friends!'
Emma – 'Everyone was sooo welcoming and wanted me to be their friend. I had a wonderful time. I really enjoyed the worships. I have made a whole new set of friends.'

Looks as though they'll be back for more next year!

MIKE BEAMISH

Romford's second screening event

Following a successful free health screening in Havering a year ago, Romford Community Church was inspired to run another free health check at Havering Community Centre. This time it was very successful, so the plan is to make it a yearly tradition every August bank holiday weekend.

Health is everybody's concern, so to provide such a service in the community centre, where other activities are happening, provides a good opportunity to attract many people to these free health MOT checks. Many members of the Romford church turned up to help: health professionals, other professionals and youth. This event attracted approximately 400 people who had mini health checks, received advice on healthier ways of living and were given literature to read.

Throughout the day our volunteers walked up and down the centre encouraging the public to get their health checked or just drop in for a chat. They also distributed leaflets and booklets. Large quantities of health leaflets and information about last-day events were distributed. It was also exhilarating to see how our members interacted with the community and how the latter streamed in for their health checks or just to have a chat. After a full day of smiles, good weather, lots of interaction, laughter and discussions, plans for 2018 have already begun.

RACHEL CHAKADONHA (COMMUNICATIONS TEAM)



BUC Women's Retreat

The British Union Conference (BUC) Women's Ministries Retreat is one opportunity every three to five years where women can enjoy a festival of worship, fellowship, teaching and recreation.

This year's event over the weekend of 13-15 October at the Park Inn Hotel in Northampton proved to be just as joyful.

There were more than 250 women in attendance and registration was a time of reunions, laughter and surprises. They come anticipating a weekend away from their normal cares and a chance to engage in an inspiring programme of activities designed to meet their spiritual, mental, social, and physical needs. The event was planned by BUC Health, Women's Ministries and Adventist Community Services Director, Sharon Platt-McDonald, and her team. Park Inn Hotel was the perfect choice, with beautiful surroundings, excellent leisure facilities and a staff of workers who made the whole weekend special for their guests.

Sharon Platt-McDonald welcomed all the attendees, including the Conference and Union officers and directors who were present. North England Conference President, Pastor Richard Jackson, welcomed all on behalf of his Conference. Women's Ministries counterparts in the Conferences, Beula Plunkett (NEC) and Pastor Maslin Holness (SEC), also gave their greetings.

In her introduction, Sharon highlighted the theme for the weekend – 'Chosen: For Such a Time as This' – and drew attention to the experiences of Queen Esther and the relevance of her life for the women of today.

The conference room was decorated with beautifully coloured arrangements that gave it an oriental feel on each of the 40 circular tables. The front of the hall contained seven long tables that displayed Esther's key attributes: courage, faith, prayer and fasting, wisdom and both inner and outer beauty. Additionally, two exhibits, captioned 'Seasons' and 'Bride-In-Waiting' (with an accompanying bridal table complete with wedding gown and cake), signalled twenty-first-century messages for the life stages women encounter. A key exhibit was the

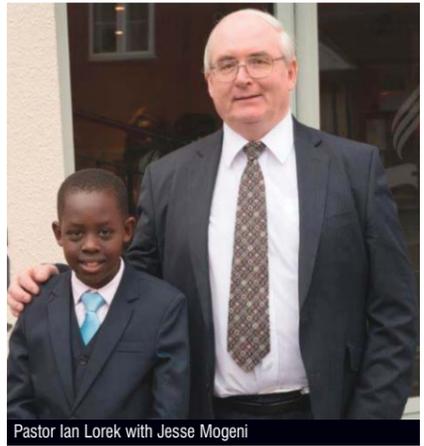
Newbold Business student interns at TED

Under a new agreement between Newbold College of Higher Education and the Trans-European Division (TED), Newbold Business students are now able to undertake an internship at the Division's St Albans office.

'Our internship programme with the TED aims to support the Division's need for new Business professionals while also giving our students the opportunity to serve the Church during their internship,' said Dr Päivikki Kuoppakangas, former interim head of the college's former School of Business (now combined as the Department of Humanities and Business).

'Developing leaders is one of the core strategic goals of the TED, and one of the main objectives of this new collaboration with Newbold is to combine professional education with an opportunity to experience how the Church works in the Treasury Department, which is an integral leadership function fundamental to how our organisation operates,' said TED Treasurer, Nenad Jeuranovic. 'We hope that this programme will also serve as a way to motivate and inspire young people to consider contributing to the wider work of the Church.'

Final-year student Loïc Baltyde is the first to have undertaken an internship with the TED, which he completed over four weeks during this



Pastor Ian Lorek with Jesse Mogeni

'Esther gown' handmade by Maxine Dennis in rich gold fabrics befitting a queen.

The main speaker for the weekend was Raquel Costa Arrais (General Conference Women's Ministries Associate Director), who has an engaging, humorous and energetic style of delivery.

On the unseasonably warm and bright Sabbath morning there were presentations, workshops, devotionals and opportunities for prayer. Among the presenters were June Thompson, Beulah Plunkett, Halcy-Ann Platt and Sharon Platt-McDonald. There was something for everyone. Raquel Arrais preached on the topic, 'CHOSEN: Qualified and Filled'. The comments of 'truly inspiring' and 'wonderful and spiritual' were the phrases expressed during the Sabbath lunch break.

The afternoon catered for those who preferred to rest, walk, or socialise. The informal setting provided a relaxed environment to absorb and take in all that was being presented.

After this relaxation the official opening of the Esther Institute of Excellence (EIE) took place. Sharon shared the vision behind this important initiative that will hopefully support women in their spiritual and holistic needs. The dedicatory prayer was offered up by Karen Plumb.

In the evening there was a banquet. The conference room was tastefully redecorated by the Park staff and the dress code for the evening was for those attending to wear the colours of their national costume. The entrance into the dining room was done alphabetically by country, which led to an international gathering of women holding flags and cheering enthusiastically as each country was introduced. This year the Zimbabweans, who were in full force, expressed their presence by way of a beautiful rendition of their local welcome song.

All countries were recognised and the rest of the evening was made special by musical items, recitals, and the wit of Pastor Isaac Liburd – MC extraordinaire.

On Sunday the women were up early and by 7am a full Zumba class led by Eugénie Burton was in full swing.

During the morning Raquel Arrais shared further presentations on Women's Ministries Global Impact Day. Her closing address was 'Courage to Stand: ONE THING', which was a rallying call for women to take their stand for God and to be used by Him to engage in new and exciting forms of ministry. An array of workshops, addressing issues such as leadership, trauma, ministry boxes, writing skills, creative ministry and health, received positive appraisals from the attendees. The feedback session allowed participants to share what they had learnt in the workshops and how they would use it in their personal and church life. Sharon Platt-McDonald concluded the successful weekend with thanks and appreciation.

PASTOR RICHARD DALY (BUC COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR)

summer with the Division's Treasury team. 'I was able to get experience in and expand my knowledge of a range of accounting and finance tasks,' said Loïc. 'I came to Newbold with an unflinching determination to discover more about the way we could implement our Christianity in the business world, but also how we could apply some business concepts to our Christian lifestyle and our Church. Studying at Newbold has definitely impacted and confirmed the fact that I would like to work with the Church.'

KIRSTY WATKINS

BOOKSALES

December
17 Hyland House 10am-2pm

Adventist Book Center.com

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

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



Pastor Kavaloh on religious liberty

During a Religious Liberty Day programme held at the Hackney church on 7 October, Advent Religio-legal Perspective Director, Dr Brighton G. Kavaloh, spoke about various current issues at stake surrounding religious liberty. With reference to Christians being silent on issues upon which they have been given an opportunity to voice their opinion, Dr Kavaloh quoted the following from Ellen White: 'We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience.' Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 714.

According to Pastor Kavaloh, some of the issues at stake currently include those of creation versus the theory of evolution, traditional biblical marriage versus civil marriage, and the Sabbath versus Sunday as the true day of rest. 'When Sunday becomes an issue it provides Seventh-day Adventists with an ideal opportunity to witness and talk about the true biblical Sabbath,' said Dr Kavaloh.

He also reminded his audience to be 'sheep' in the midst of 'wolves' as well as to be 'wise as serpents and harmless as doves'. 'We must be able to challenge principles without attacking personalities and be assertive without displaying aggression, as these were the characteristics of Jesus Christ when He was wrongly accused and provoked by others.'

Dr Kavaloh concluded by saying that we should 'always have a reason as to the hope we have in Christ Jesus', and that when put on trial for our faith we should know that God Himself will put the words we are to speak into our mouths as we put our faith and trust in Him.

For more information about religious liberty please visit the following website: www.adventrtrip.com. DARELL J. PHILIP (RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DIRECTOR)



Erdington regain the title!

On Sunday 23 July, many Adventists from the West Midlands gathered at the Alexander Stadium (Birmingham) for the Annual West Midlands Sports and Family Fun Day. Members from the Adventist churches of Nottingham, Leicester and as far as Bradford competed in the different track and field events.

Although the day got off to a miserable, drizzly start, it soon brightened to allow athletes and spectators to enjoy the different events, such as 100m, 200m, 800m, 1,500m, shot-put, high jump, long jump and many more! The famous 'pastor race' took place again this year, and although there was a strong contingent it was Corby's pastor who took the first place.

The children and young teens didn't miss out on all the fun, as they competed in their events too, which included egg-and-spoon and various relay races; while some had their faces painted with beautiful colours and patterns and enjoyed the gigantic red-and-yellow bouncy castle.

So which church were this year's champions? Erdington Church! After missing out on the chance to compete at last year's sports day, Erdington regained the title after being winners in 2014 and 2015. But it wasn't an easy win for Erdington as they faced a lot of worthy competition. Coming in at a close second was Leicester West Church, and close behind in third place was Handsworth Church. Well done to all those who competed in this wonderful event: let's get ready for the next West Midlands Sports and Family Fun Day. REBEKAH ECCLES

NEC ADVENTIST STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

ASC ADVISORY 2017/18

VISIT NECYOUTH.ORG.UK FOR MORE DETAILS

CHANTAL - COVENTRY

NAOMI - LEEDS

ABIGAIL - WOLVERHAMPTON

KALLIE - READING

TIMOTHY - MANCHESTER

PR. ADAM RAMDIN - NEC YOUTH

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



'Ignite and Excite': BUC Church Planters' Conference

Over the weekend of 29 September to 1 October, the inspirational Church Planters' Conference took place in Windsor, a joint initiative of the South England Conference (SEC) Church Growth and British Union Conference (BUC) Evangelism Departments.

There were around 90 in attendance, some with little or no experience in church planting but lots of enthusiasm; and others with a lifetime of it, like Daniel Cudjoe Senior, who established Gambia's first Seventh-day Adventist church in 1948. Pastor Thomas (BUC Evangelism Director) introduced all to the rallying cry, 'Ignite and Excite!' He and co-host Pastor Simon Martin (the outgoing SEC Church Growth and Discipleship Director) led out in the training, which attendees described as 'deeply stimulating', 'wholesome' and 'awe-inspiring'.

In his opening address, Pastor Martin expressed his desire for church members to develop a passion for the work so that there could be church plants throughout the UK, and used quotations like this as support: 'Many of the members of our large churches are doing comparatively nothing. They might accomplish a good work if, instead of crowding together, they would scatter into places that have not yet been entered by the truth.' Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 8, page 244.

Main speaker, Pastor Roger Hernandez (Ministerial and Evangelism Director for the Southern Union, USA), was inspiring to listen to. Among his many comments he pointed out that from the life of Moses we see how 1.6 million people experienced the 'Promised Land' because one person was willing to say 'Whatever' to God and allow God to use him however He chose.

Newly appointed SEC Church Growth Director, Pastor Wayne Erasmus, shared a story about a missionary working for a tribe which held marathon singing sessions so the village could hear the latest news. His mission was painfully slow until a new Christian from the community sang the Gospel in the local style. Pastor Erasmus encouraged attendees to do likewise: to 'sing the old song' of the Gospel 'in new melodies which resonate with communities around us'.

Dr Bjørn Ottesen (former president of the Danish and Swedish Unions and Head of the Department of Theological Studies at Newbold College of Higher Education) identified a rise of the 'individualist'



Dr Bjørn Ottesen

Pastor Ian Sweeney

mentality and the rejection of organised religion. He used research to make a compelling argument for the Church to be relevant, add value to people's lives and shed unnecessary customs which hamper effective evangelism.

Mfakazi Ndebele (non-stipendiary pastor of the Oasis church plant) spoke on 'Designing Your Church for Maximum Engagement', which involved encouraging every member to sign up to a ministry so their church plants may flourish.

Adrian Peck (pastor of King's Lynn Church) shared his qualitative research in which he discovered that, despite the challenges of a secular environment, growing churches thrived by tailoring every detail of church life towards being accessible to unchurched people.

Dee Edwards (intern pastor of Luton Central Church and pastor of the Dunstable church plant) did a poignant enactment of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples, based on John 13:1-12, explaining how He shared the 'full extent of His love' through service which necessitates direct contact with people's often 'messy' lives.

Pastor Jon Gendle (discipleship pastor) urged us to 'never lose sight that we are in a battle' for which we need 'spiritual tools'. He highlighted how the 'beauty of the Gospel must come through in all our teachings' and the critical need for people to be 'born again' as no one will see the Kingdom of God without it (John 3:3). Exciting resources authored by Pastor Gendle will be available via the SEC in the near future.

Pastor Maureen Rock, Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC), reported that indigenous members of the public have been inspired to contact the ADC and request correspondence Bible courses. She also promoted free courses which are available for every church to offer to their local community.

Attendee Kevin Thomas of Chiswick Church commented that the event 'allowed you to think about witnessing in a different way, to turn off your preconceptions about how things should be done' and 'focus on what actually matters'. He appreciated the testimonies of people who are 'doing what we are discussing so you know it works', and the idea of doing something different in his local church to make it more visitor-friendly.

Pastor Thomas thanked Pastor Martin for all his work in the SEC. Pastor Martin addressed the very appreciative church planters for the last time before his departure with parting words urging them to 'keep the 'Ignite and Excite' church planting going. That is our legacy. Thank you for the prayers and support. God bless you.'

DIVINIA REYNOLDS, BALHAM CHURCH

Bible Doctor app

Troy Flood, a member of the North England Conference, has developed an aid to Bible study and witnessing called Bible Doctor. This app is available free of charge for both Apple and Android devices. The app will provide you with a list of texts in support of various subjects that you may wish to study or share with others, especially in those spontaneous situations where you may have to support your assertions with biblical support.

Salvation Promises
Love God
Death Faith
Forgiveness Prophecy

BIBLE DOCTOR

"Making it easier to find the answers you are looking for"

YouTube Google play
CITEO App Store

Bradford Central VBS report

Bradford Central Church hosted its first ever annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) themed, 'Dare to be a Daniel', from 21 to 25 August. It was organised by the Children's Ministries team led by Gloria Manchisi in partnership with other church departments. The main objective was to strengthen children aged 0 to 14 years, from both the community and the local church, to build characters that will fearlessly stand the temptations and pressures facing children today. It provided a great opportunity for the children of the church to reach out by inviting their friends. Attendance was very good with an average of 38 children per day.

The church hall was exquisitely decorated for the event, and at 10am each day the children's praise team, backed by instrumentalists, joyfully led the VBS participants in singing fun and spiritually uplifting songs. This was followed by a devotional and a Bible quiz. Children of different age groupings (0-5, 6-9 and 10-14) participated in different stations at different times every day. The stations included drama, arts and crafts, spiritual lessons, and a health corner, all of which were tailored to meet the learning needs of each age group. The daily activities concluded with exciting games and music, in which both children and volunteer staff participated. On Friday, the children were treated to a bouncy castle and a banquet.

The next day, the children demonstrated the lessons they had learnt during the week before a fully packed church, along with a selection of songs and various items of beautiful music by the children's choir. Bekezela Kwesa preached the sermon, urging both children and parents to identify themselves as 'super kids' and 'super parents' in Jesus. A total of 51 children graduated and were given certificates of attendance and hard work.

It was humbling and encouraging to see children and parents turn up



for the sessions each day. As an evangelistic event the church was delighted to welcome five children from the community, who, along with their families, are being nurtured accordingly. The children and volunteer staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience, while the parents and other church members felt that the impact of this work would still be felt long after our children have grown.

GLORIA HINGOMA



From Liverpool Stoneycroft to Liverpool North

The Liverpool North church hosted a milestone event on 23 September when they consecrated their new church building on Park Street, Bootle. Visitors were there from near

and far, including the North England Conference President, Pastor Richard Jackson, and Charles Bramble, the NEC Treasurer.

After about ten years of holding their Sabbath services at the United Reformed Church, they finally have their very own building. It has been an arduous journey for this congregation, formerly known as Liverpool Stoneycroft, which was an offshoot from Liverpool Central Church in 2006.

In the morning, a panel of former pastors and current members spoke of the timeline of their movement from Liverpool Central to their own church – and all the less suitable venues along the way!

Charles Bramble reminisced about his visit to view the building and how he fell in love with both the building and its congregation. He mentioned that the building had been on the market for two years, which made him conclude that God had kept the building as a 'gift' for the members of Liverpool North. He also commended the members for the fact that since their start in 2006 they had not allowed the absence of a building to stop them from doing God's work.

Pastor Richard Jackson, the NEC President, preached a sermon entitled, 'We have made it', based on 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NIV): 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.'

Music played a big role on the day and the 'Liverpool Strings' and 'Echoes of Joy' did not disappoint. This wonderful day culminated in a concert which was a fitting tribute to a wonderful God who does all things well and caters for all our needs. Please keep Liverpool North Church in your prayers as they serve their local community.

LUNGANI SIBANDA



'The Messy Call of God'

Around 120 students from the Newbold College of Higher Education and youth from Newbold Church met every night throughout the week of 30 September to 7 October to explore 'The Messy Call of God' during the college's Week of Spiritual Emphasis, with guest speaker Pastor Jeff Carlson, young

adult and worship pastor from Asheville, North Carolina.

Pastor Carlson used a selection of Bible characters, including those of Abraham, Lot, Leah, Jacob, and Joseph, who struggled with making mistakes, misinterpreting God's will, or events in their lives generally not progressing as they had hoped or planned.

'This week was a real blessing for me,' said undergraduate Theology student Anton Tostesson. 'The messages from the story of Abraham were big but still practical and relevant. I sensed the Holy Spirit was present and touched my life for a better future walk with Jesus.'

Pastor Carlson also used the story of the seven-mile journey in the wrong direction to Emmaus, where Jesus walked alongside the questioning and grieving travellers, to illustrate the way that God pursues us. He also used the story of Joseph to remind us that integrity – even under pressure – is possible when we keep our eyes on Jesus.

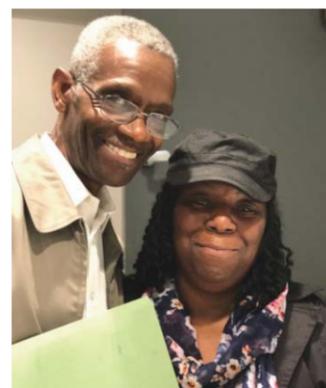
Diabetes Reversal update

The MTTC Area 5 Diabetes Reversal programme completed its eight-week schedule with some of the committed participants showing notable improvements in their health and well-being. Each week approximately 25 participants attended the Community Hub in John Lewis Birmingham.

At the start of the sixth

session, Paul, one of the participants, produced a large shopping bag containing four 1kg packets of white sugar. He indicated that since starting the programme he had reduced his sugar intake by that amount in his tea, beverages and food. He's already made a significant weight loss and is much improved in health. His random blood sugar is dropping week by week, suggesting improved diabetes control.

Approximately 30 volunteers support the programme with at least 12 being present at any time to welcome the participants, complete the



Paul and his happy sisters



'The message of the week was to hear the call of the kingdom and to let the light of Christ shine through us. I can say with great confidence that I have seen this light in all the students that put their best efforts into this week. I feel very blessed to have been a part of this experience,' said Humanities student Naomi Grit, who was also part of the worship team for this event.

'It was wonderful to see such large numbers of students, youth

and even families attending. Jeff engaged very well with the audience by using personal anecdotes and familiar Bible stories, applying a practical approach, and incorporating a twist in each message to highlight the reality of life for Christian living today,' said Pastor Alastair Agbaje, Newbold Chaplain and co-ordinator of the college's Campus Ministries activities.

The week also featured special musicians, Mikael Takamaa and Minttu Rantanen, from the Finnish high school Toivonlinna, who also performed at the Adventist European Youth Congress in Valencia, Spain, in August.

According to Pastor Agbaje, 'We are already planning our next Week of Spiritual Emphasis programme for 24 February to 3 March, 2018.'

Videos of the programme are available on the college website: newbold.ac.uk/wose.

KIRSTY WATKINS

Messenger

Volume 122 • 24 – 15 December 2017

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

COPY FOR No. 02 – 4 January 2018

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

Fax No: (01476) 577144

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

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700

Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

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

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

Printed in the UK.

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

ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Dec 15	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
22	3.54	4.06	3.50	3.40	4.00
29	3.59	4.12	3.56	3.46	4.05
Jan 5	4.07	4.19	4.04	3.55	4.14

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.*

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

This venture has involved volunteers from several churches in Area 5, and it has been a Mission to the Cities project that has benefited participants and volunteers alike! A number of participants graduated from the course on 22 October. JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL

Nottingham Area Music Day
16 December 2017
The Power of Ministry IN Music

Featuring in Concert
SO REAL
RONNIE CLARKE
SOUTHRIST MUSIC
FAITH HOPE & LOVE

Praise & Worship
Josh Elliott Associates

Songs in the Key of Christ
A Deeper Experience

Your Music Ministry Saves Lives
Nottingham Central Seventh-day Adventist Church
St. Anns Well Road NG3 1EJ

Music throughout the day to
Lift the Heart and Move the Spirit
with a
Free Admission Fund-Raising Concert
at 6:15pm

RACHEL FRANCIS *SOUL* **LADONNA KEZIA BUNNEY**
TRISTEN & TY WATTS *SOUL* **DAVID FRANCIS**
DAVID FRANCIS *SOUL* **EDDIE FRANCIS** *SOUL* **GRACE**
YOUNG TEMPLE MUSICIANS *SOUL* **BARRY GRIFFITHS**
KIDS CHOIR *SOUL* **STACEY-ANN REEVES-SMALL**
ESSENCE OF PRAISE *SOUL* **JACQUIE-ROSE WILSON**

Roy Morgan
The Power & Place
of
Music in Worship
at 9:00am

Mike Johnson
Breaking the Bread
11:00am
Praise & Testimony
3:30pm

LUNCH AVAILABLE TO ALL VISITORS

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

**TREASURERS
CONFERENCE 2018**
23rd - 25th FEBRUARY 2018

De Vere Staverton Estate,
Daventry Road, Staverton,
Northampton, NN11 6JT

Accommodation
£125 p/person **SINGLE** occupancy
£70 p/person **DOUBLE** occupancy

SEC Contact:
Pauline Peck
Email: ppeck@secadventist.org.uk
Telephone: 01923 232 728

NEC Contact:
Voahangy Bohoussou
Email: vbhoussou@necadventist.org.uk
Telephone: 01159 606 312

BUC & MISSIONS Contact:
Lucinda Calvert
Email: treasurer@adventist.uk
Telephone: 01923 672 251

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Repara
una *Reparación*

Dominican Republic

REPAIR PROJECT

BUC YOUTH MINISTRIES MISSION PROJECT

SPACE IS LIMITED

25th FEB - 4th MAR 2018

£ 220
for food & accommodation,
plus cost of flights to Las
Americas International
Airport (SDQ).

TO REGISTER:
PASTOR DEJAN STOJKOVIĆ
EMAIL: bucyouth@adventist.uk
MOBILE: 07919 172176
WEB: adventistyouth.org.uk

QUESTIONS:
PASTOR CARLOS PATRICK
EMAIL: jpatrick@secadventist.org.uk
MOBILE: 0785 33 222 42

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

1970s

REUNION
3-5 AUGUST 2018

SAVE THE DATE

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO RECEIVE
MORE INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE

REGISTER NOW:
newbold.ac.uk/1970s-reunion

NEWBOLD COLLEGE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted