Romanian churches conduct health expo

by Pastors Sorin Petrof and Bogdan Dumitru

n 26 November 2017, under the motto, 'Be happy! Be healthy!', the Harlesden Romanian and Watford Romanian churches organised a joint health expo at Sangam Centre in the Burnt Oak area. It was the third in a series of health expos that the Romanian churches started in 2015. The team of over 25 people, including a medical doctor, offered all the regular free checks and related consultations: cholesterol, blood sugar, blood pressure, body fat index, lung peak flow and ear check-up. There was also the opportunity for a massage, medical advice and free literature on health-related issues.

Over 175 people from the community benefited from the event, with most of the participants being visibly impressed, not just by the team effort itself, but mostly because the Seventh-day Adventist Church was out there trying to help people. As the SEC President, Dr Emmanuel Osei, mentioned, 'This is what we are about — being relevant within our community. Even if the people do not come and worship with you, minister to them anyway.'

The Romanian churches in the SEC strongly believe that we need to be where the people are, reaching them with a message of comfort and healing backed by intentional actions that are designed for their benefit. The administrator of Sangam Centre commented that, although he accommodates other religious groups as well, it is only the Seventh-day Adventist Church that seems to care enough to do something like this for the community. This event clearly showed us that there is a huge need in the community, and that we are being called upon to step out of our comfort zones to reach them: one soul at a time. With this vision in mind we have decided that for the next six months we will hold an expo every month at the same spot, then conclude this stage of our health mission with a two-day health expo in June this year (2018).









How healthy are you? Part 1 – keeping track of your well-being

Public Health England (PHE) is the government body tasked with improving the nation's health. This issue highlights two of their interventions to keep us focused on our well-being.

PHE have launched the 'One You' project which incorporates an interactive health quiz entitled 'How Are You?' Designed for over-18s, it is a well-being coaching tool. This 10-minute quiz provides the user with a personalised health score, but it comes with this notification: 'It's not a medical assessment – if you're worried about your health you should speak to a health professional.

The quiz is an assessment of your lifestyle habits and comes with the reminder that 'Around 40% of deaths in England are directly related to

Your score out of 10 provides a visual presentation in red, yellow or green to indicate where you are on the spectrum of healthy lifestyle practices, with green indicating optimum health. A breakdown of your score provides advice on how to improve health outcomes.

The quiz concludes by offering ongoing assistance, asking, 'Can we stay in touch to help you keep on track?' It then offers email follow-up with information to enhance motivation to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Having taken the test myself, although I was generally pleased with the results, I realised I could do a little better on the exercise element.

I'd encourage you to try it for yourself at: https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/ hay#3pAtQ7DYdj5QodVX.97.

Walking assessment app

Another health-tracking tool from PHE created to improve daily exercise input is an app called Active 10, designed to encourage at least 10 minutes of brisk walking a day. PHE introduced this initiative realising that national exercise targets were not being met. Their recent data found that over 6.3 million adults aged 40 to 60 failed to achieve just 10 minutes of continuous brisk walking per month. In their report they quoted one Daily Mail article stating: 'Health bosses say 45 per cent of over-16s are so sedentary they do not manage the health-boosting ten-minute walk."

These alarming findings fall well below government targets for 30 minutes of daily exercise. Public Health England highlight that physical inactivity directly contributes to one in six UK deaths.3 NHS Choices advise: 'One way to do your recommended 150 minutes of weekly physical activity is to do 30 minutes on five days every week."

The free Active 10 app shows daily steps, helps achieve walking goals and tracks progress. Visit: https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/active10/home #UAAHBZww8Q0YWe4J.97.

Good health!

https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/fitness/Pages/physical-activity-guidelines-for-adults.aspx







I just love summer

etween approximately 8 December and 7 January each year-end, Elize and I experience a brief 'window of opportunity' during which we can step off the Messenger treadmill, pack our bags. and take our annual leave to South Africa.

We spend those precious weeks with our son, other loved ones and friends. We quiz them about anything and everything that has happened in the past year, chuckle and gasp over the country's colourful political tapestry, go on a game drive, watch majestic African thunderstorms brew and burst, wet our pale feet in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, and soak up the sun like two thirsty

Since returning to the UK, I have reflected on those things I like best about these annual summer visits. My list includes some things you may find quite strange, but be assured, I am not going to bore you with that list today, with one exception.

A chance to visit churches

Being on holiday is never an excuse for us to stay away from church. In fact, I enjoy my summer visits to those churches where I was previously the pastor, or may have been involved with various local projects. My reason for this is twofold: firstly, I find it inspiring to see how faithful so many of our members are. Year in and year out, you'll find them in the pews, supporting the local programme, still doing whatever they did so well before, often in the face of illness, loneliness and adversity.

But it's not just those faithful ones who inspire me; it is also the others who have matured to new responsibilities: those who are now doing things for God that I never thought they *could* or *would*!

Imagine my surprise this summer to find a retired businessman – who had been reluctant to teach the Sabbath School lesson during my tenure as his pastor – stepping up to teach a difficult lesson in the main class with insight and tact. Then there was the young woman in another congregation who helped me set up my computer prior to the sermon. She had seemed disinterested and uninvolved for years, but now nothing seemed too much trouble for her to sort

Sadly, there have been casualties too. Some have stopped attending for various reasons, but they are not forgotten. Members are still praying for them and reaching out wherever possible.

Paul enjoyed it too!

As I said, the reason I enjoy my summer church visits is twofold, for, like Paul, I believe that even a fleeting Sabbath visit can do more good than we realise. Luke penned this simple verse to drive home that fact:

'After spending some time in Antioch. Paul set out from there and travelled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.' (Acts 18:23. NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

I thank God that Elize and I were able, in some small way, to strengthen the flagging faith of a few of Christ's disciples during our recent summer visit to South Africa. An encouraging sermon, a listening ear, helping to settle a theological issue, a prayer, a warm Christian hug – God has many ways to strengthen His disciples.

Then there was this ...

On the last of those summer Sabbaths, something happened that left me speechless . . . but let me

back up by a few weeks to 2 December, our last Sabbath in the UK. We spent that weekend with our daughter and her husband and attended church with her in Cheltenham. There, between the services, I was introduced to a South African man who had begun attending the Adventist Church after listening to a series of lectures in Afrikaans, his home language. Henry told me how much he had enjoyed them and expressed the desire to obtain them in English so that his wife could benefit too. He also mentioned two of his family members back in South Africa who wanted a set each in Afrikaans.

Well, he couldn't have found a more interested ear than mine that Sabbath: for the simple reason that my son helps run a DVD ministry from his local church through which they distribute these and other evangelistic sermons to the surrounding community. I asked Henry to email me his relatives' addresses, which I immediately passed on to my son with an order for the three required sets.

Then on our last Sabbath, 6 January, my son asked me to present a brief Personal Ministries report. I was happy to do so, and told the congregation about Henry's request for the DVD sets to be sent to his family in South Africa. As I read from his email, the members of a recently baptised family suddenly realised that they knew Henry and his family very well. In fact, one of those requesting the DVDs lived just around the corner from them!

And yes, you guessed it, they were only too happy to deliver the DVD set personally and take a special interest in Henry's family. The other family members will receive their set by post ... and I will let Henry have his wife's set when I visit my daughter again.

I just love summer! Don't you?



Messenger 1-2018 | 3 **2** | Messenger 1-2018

(Inspiration Innovation

With God there are no coincidences

A brief story of God's impeccable timing and guidance

of the Brighton and Hove and Worthing churches celebrated the Coppard Christian (son); and Jasmine

agnostic, but, despite all the trimmings of the 'good life' that they enjoyed, there was still something missing. Eliza began to explore a number of Christian denominations, and

encouraged her young family to join her – the void, however, was still present. The family listened to a number of David Shin's* podcasts, which raised a multitude of questions for Eliza. She emailed David Shin, who recommended that she watch 'Millennium of Prophecy' by Doug Batchelor. This brought some excitement to Eliza and the void she had felt seemed to be filling up.

In Eliza's own words, 'After praying to God to direct me to the truth, no matter what that might be, I ended up doing a night shift with a young Adventist nurse, who encouraged me to join her at the church on Saturday. I did, and I knew that this was where God was calling me to be. My family didn't really understand why I was going to church on a Saturday; and, try as I might, I wasn't getting through to them at all! Then one day Alice, the nurse I worked with, told me that unfortunately her landlady had problems and was kicking her out at short notice. She literally had nowhere to stay, so I invited her to stay with us — and in the three months she lived with us we all began going to the church!' Surely, with God there are no coincidences!

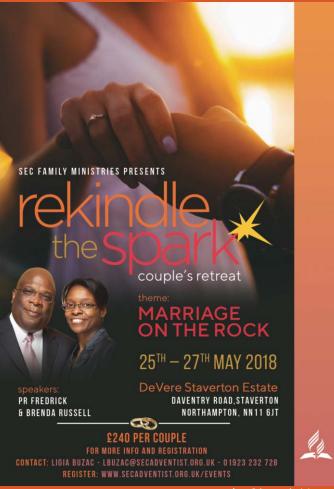


Award ceremony in Stratford

Friday 1 December was an historic day in Newham. For the first time ever a faith group was presented with the prestigious Stratford and West Ham Community Neighbourhood Recognition Award. Blossom Gillin, Eutella Simon, Natalie Bryant and Monica Vassall were presented their awards by the Mayor of Newham, while Pastor Dennis Mingo received the award presented to Stratford Church at the Stratford library. This was in recognition of the work that they have been doing with the Community Neighbourhood Senior Officer in the borough. Congratulations!



During the Coppards' attendance at Brighton and Hove Church they completed a series of Bible studies with Pastor Julian Thompson, which resulted in their joy-filled baptism. As a church family we are delighted with our new brothers and sisters, and pray that we will continue to support them in every challenge they may have to face.



Caring, collecting and sharing

A helpful tip for all 'Community Service' departments

t Tottenham Seventh-day Adventist Church we have intentionally involved ourselves with the community, especially over the past 18 months. Recently, when one of our sisters in Christ, Maureen Pollock, discovered a new way of engaging with the community, new avenues opened for us at Tottenham that have never been seen or tried before.

Tottenham is a church with over 400 members on the books, of which 200 to 250 attend regularly. Occasionally, there is an announcement asking members to donate one item of food for our Community Food Barrel; however, only a few appear to respond and we have not seen the barrel even half-full for years.

This changed recently because Maureen Pollock asked the pastoral team to write a letter from the church to all our local major supermarkets (ASDA, Tesco, Morrisons and Sainsbury's) asking if we can approach their customers, to assist in donating food (from a specific list). The letter stated that the donated food would feed the poor, distressed and needy in the local area and be of help in the community.

We were delighted with the response we got

and were given permission by Morrisons in Wood Green to canvass customers over a two-day period. As a result, on Friday 27 October Maureen stood alone in the fover of Morrisons canvassing customers with a list of about 30 items that were needed.

The following day at church she asked if I would help collect the donations from Morrisons that evening, after Sabbath

I arrived in my eight-seater car (which, when the seats are lowered, turns into a mini transit van) to see exactly what Mrs Pollock was up to for myself. When I returned to church my car was packed with shopping bags, with over 500 individual food items.

The Community Food Barrel is now packed to the top with tinned foods and we had to purchase eight large plastic containers to hold the many bags of pasta, rice, biscuits and other food items.

There were no items nearing their 'sell by date' or 'best before date'; all were fresh. The public

carefully chose, kindly bought and generously donated.

What the church could not accomplish in years. one member managed to do in one day and an evening, single-handed; without assistance from any of the 400 members on the books!

We would like to encourage other churches to use this strategy in their local area, and are willing to share the template letter we used with those who may want to try this initiative for themselves and to help the hungry and destitute in their communities.

It is amazing what one person can do, not in their strength but in the strength of the Lord. ROGER CHARLES (AN ELDER)

Let's Explore . . .

he Adventist Discovery Centre, in partnership with the Welsh Mission, is pleased to report that the Welsh Mission's Let's Explore Children's Bible study programme was launched on Tuesday, 9 January

Pastor Maureen Rock, ADC Principal, visited the Newtown area in December 2017 and led out in a training event for the Welsh Mission's Let's Explore Bible co-ordinators. The event was hosted by Eileen Mckenzie (WM Children's Ministries Sponsor) and attended by a group of eleven comprising Bible co-ordinators, parents and children. A video of the event was produced by Germain Mckenzie, one of the youth from Newtown Church, and distributed to all *Let's Explore* Bible co-ordinators across the Welsh Mission, thus allowing for remote training and preparation for the launch.

At the time of reporting, the *Let's Explore* children's Bible study programme has been embraced by eleven churches across Wales, incorporating eleven Bible coordinators and 108 students with an age range of 5 years to 14 years. Eileen Mckenzie reported that the first broadcast via a private YouTube link – was viewed by 73 families. It is not, however, too late for parents to sign their children up for this exciting programme. Just contact your local church pastor in the Welsh Mission.

According to Eileen, there are going to be 15 lessons in this series and the response so far has been very positive. No wonder she was able to say enthusiastically: 'What a way to start 2018!'

Mission President, Pastor



Emanuel Bran, had this to say: 'We are excited to be able to pilot this programme in the Welsh Mission by bringing together the resources of the Adventist Discovery Centre and the giftedness of our Children's Ministries Department. Although it is still early days, we can already see great results. God is surely working in the lives of our children and their families.'

Those from other areas who are interested in this new approach should contact Pastor Maureen Rock at the ADC. According to her the lessons are aimed at 7-12-year-olds. specifically to help them discover their own personal friendship with Jesus, and are available free of charge from the Adventist Discovery Centre. Contact details: 01923 672606; info@discoveronline.org.uk; or via www.discoveronline.org.uk. PASTOR MAUREEN ROCK, ADC PRINCIPAL

Forming a

4 | Messenger 1-2018





BUC National Lay Bible Workers' Convention

Over 350 people turned up for a weekend of training in effective soul-winning at the BUC National Lay Bible Workers' Convention, an annual event, held at the De Vere Staverton in Northampton last year (24-26 November).

The attendance was the highest of the past few years, with some from as far afield as Scotland.

Dr Kirk Thomas, in his new role as Evangelism Director for the BUC, took over the reins of this weekend from Pastor Eglan Brooks, who is now BUC Ministerial Director. After registration on the Friday afternoon and a welcome meal prior to the commencement, Pastor Thomas welcomed all attendees and introduced the first of the guest speakers, Pastor Louis Torres, Conference Evangelist in the Michigan Conference, a regular invitee to these events; he was the first guest speaker for the weekend and he spoke on effective ways of leading souls to Christ. Some of his topics included 'Dynamics for Decision Getting' and 'Reaching the Heart'.

The evening worships were led by Pastor Nicardo Delahaye, from the Breath of Life Fellowship Church in Stanford, USA. This young minister spoke eloquently each night on spiritual growth and Christian discipleship.

Throughout the weekend meetings were provided for the teens and youth, as well as a children's club to ensure that parents could attend without the concerns of childcare. The spiritual nature of the weekend was evident, with frequent breakout times for prayer as well as a dedicated prayer room open throughout the day and in the evening.

The small-group workshops provided attendees with sufficient choice in over 15 topics, including 'Conducting a Bible study', 'Looking at key doctrines', and 'Discipleship'.

A special feature on the Sabbath morning was recognition for the work of Pastor Brooks in his 10 years as BUC Evangelism Director. This was expressed through acknowledging the entire family on the platform, with gifts and a special cake. Pastor Patrick Johnson, TED Ministerial Director, led out in prayer for the family.

Dr Alistair Noble, from Scotland, was the third guest speaker. He has lectured on scientific and religious topics both in the UK and abroad. His seminar, entitled 'Intelligent Design — Changing World Views', was appreciated by all.

In between the guest speakers, the convention hosted a number of local

ministers who contributed in different ways. BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, led out in the morning devotions and Newbold student, Adil Habib, spoke on the topic, 'SDA Offence to Bible Defence

Bible Defence Conservation Solutions'.

The weekend, although seemingly packed with lectures and seminars, allowed space for people to mingle, fellowship and have opportunities for enough free time to explore the natural surroundings of the venue.

Here are some of the

many positive comments from those who attended:

Pastor Kirk Thomas, when asked about the success of the weekend, said, 'It was all about preparing members with the effective tools and skills to better equip them for service, and I believe we accomplished this over the weekend.'

One Tottenham church member expressed her appreciation for the weekend, as she had the daunting task of preaching her first sermon the following week and wanted to learn about making appeals. 'I'm now going home a lot more confident,' she remarked.

Another lady from Wales, who came for the first time, said she was getting baptised the next week together with her son, but came because she was 'hungry to learn about the Word of God'.

Indeed, the weekend was a spiritual feast that empowered and inspired many to be used for God in His service.

PASTOR RICHARD DALY (BUC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR)

GO Scotland

A dedicated group of members and ministers from the churches in Scotland met in early December on one of the coldest weekends of the year to discuss church growth and evangelism.

The GO Scotland programme began with an update on the very latest research from the Barna Group entitled 'Transforming Scotland', which was followed by further challenging and motivating presentations. These topics included 'Church growth principles from the book of Acts', 'A theological framework for church planting', 'Motivating personal evangelism' and 'Nurture and retention'.

The speakers for the weekend were Dr Kirk Thomas, BUC Personal Ministries Director; Dr Paul Tompkins, Scottish Mission President; and Pastor Rory Mendez, pastor of the Glasgow district of churches. Each morning the group also met together for prayer sessions, during which Pastor Njay Njabulo reminded the group that, no matter what challenges we face, 'Jesus has the last word.'

The concluding sessions dealt with a model for nurture, retention and evangelism, and a discussion around the way forward, leading up to and beyond the next Scottish Mission Session in 2018. One suggestion that resonated with those present was that the attendees were being encouraged to 'Go' and become champions of evangelism where we are.

The meeting concluded with the charge for all present to become 'ambassadors' for Christ to the 5.4 million inhabitants of Scotland, 'as though



God were making his appeal through us' (2 Cor. 5:20, NIV). It is our intention that 'GO Scotland' will become an annual event as the Scottish Mission seeks to fulfil its vision to 'grow healthy local church communities who love God, love sharing our faith, and love each other and our neighbours'.

DR PAUL TOMPKINS (SCOTTISH MISSION PRESIDENT)



They were there despite the weather

The Pathfinder Level 1 training course held from 8 to 10 December last year at Smallwood Manor, Uttoxeter, was surprisingly well attended despite the adverse weather conditions, which included snow! Club leaders and counsellors came from locations throughout the North England Conference: Huddersfield, Preston, Manchester, Derby, Birmingham, Nottingham, Northampton, Coventry and Wolverhampton.

The following comments are representative of how the 50-plus participants felt about the event.

'When I first heard about the Pathfinder Level 1 training, I knew I had to do i because I was unable to attend last year with my mother and sister. I applied straight away, but then realised that I had no friends going with me and that I would have to make the journey alone. So my mum agreed to pay and do the course again so she could accompany me!'

'I found the course very effective because it gave me all the information needed to be a Master Guide. The atmosphere of the group was almost family-like as we all bonded very quickly, and I managed to make some new friends. I'm very happy that I attended this Master Guide Level 1 training because it told me about things like risk assessments — something I didn't know was needed when taking Pathfinders on trips. I've received so much information to tell my Pathfinder club because all the Master Guides at my church did the course many years ago, so I'll be able to inform them of the requirements for being a Master Guide today. I feel as though I have spiritually gained from the training and my devotionals have been enriched because we all shared ideas of how we worship. I would definitely recommend this training for all who are interested in becoming Master Guides.'

SASHA (PRESTON)



Youth 'artwork'

The youth of Lewisham created a vibrant tapestry of colourful artwork in their church hall for their special poetry evening on 11 November last year. The next day the Community Services Federation of Area 6B found it an inspirational environment in which to hold their autumn meeting, surrounded by the autumn leaves and other emblems the youth had used to glorify God. The Community Services theme for the day was 'Reaching out and helping others'.



6 | Messenger 1-2018 | 7

Bristol youth baptism

On Sabbath 16 December Bristol Central Church witnessed the baptism of five precious young people. With most of the candidates being under the age of 19, it really brought home the importance of our youth making decisions for the Lord at the right time.

The first of the candidates was Grace Mwilima, who was raised in the church, and first came to Bristol Central with her family when she was 8 years old. She said, 'I just feel very happy, but more than anything I feel very calm. There's this overwhelming peace. I feel like I've really made the right decision. The thing which really connected it was going to the Youth Congress. I felt like this is where I'm meant to be. I don't want to be

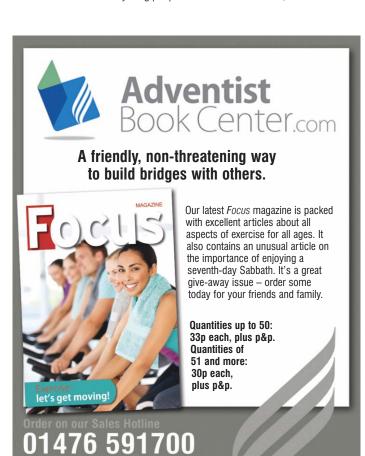
anywhere else, so there's no point delaying my decision. . . .'

The second candidate was 9-year-old Danica Dankwa, who had wanted to be baptised for some time, but her parents had wanted her to wait and be sure of her decision.

Nineteen-year-old Angela Adjei from the North Bristol church was baptised next. 'I feel excited, and I feel part of the family,' she said after the service, going on to explain that it was something she had been thinking about for a while, including at previous baptisms, wondering whether she should go forward.

Two Pathfinders, William Adjei, the 14-year-old brother of Angela, and 12-year-old Kieran Atkinson, also from North Bristol, were then baptised in their Pathfinder uniforms, flanked by an honour guard of fellow Pathfinders.

Pastor Smith commented after the proceedings, saying he was 'excited about the fact that these young people had chosen to commit, and were





actively involved in Bible study'. Speaking on the importance of church events and programmes, and engaging with young people, Pastor Smith said that 'One of the things we are looking at for next year for our youth is to change how we do church for them. We are having meetings with the young people to assess their needs and see how the church can help them, together with arranging special youth speakers and programmes, so they don't just come to church, but they are part of church, and feel that the church loves them.'



to Jesus and indicated their desire to be members of the local church. Paulina, Atoca, Leonardo, Leandro and Otniel were welcomed by the church and will be under the spiritual mentorship of those they have chosen to foster their relationship with God.

At the end of the service, three people raised their hands to request baptism at a future date. The ladies of the church not only prepared a lovely fellowship lunch, but included a surprise celebration cake to commemorate the joyous occasion.

PASTOR CLIFFORD HERMAN

Lewisham baptism

On 16 December last year the Lewisham church family welcomed four precious souls into the fold of Jesus' warm embrace through baptism.

First in the pool was Iglazmosia Dusk, well known to our members as Kevin

Second were father and daughter, Eduardo Batista-De-Matos and Wiktoria (Victoria) from Brazil.

Our final candidate was Emily Stewart, who regularly attends our services and finally decided to give her life to Christ.

There was definitely rejoicing in heaven on this special occasion as the congregation lifted their voices in praise and glorious celebration to God.

LEWISHAM COMMUNICATION TEAM





Nottingham baptisms

On 25 November last year Pastor Curtis Murphy had the special pleasure of baptising three young women who worship at West Bridgford Branch Sabbath School, also known as The Hub. The candidates are identified by their photo captions. For Gianna it was doubly special because it was also her birthday.

DENNIS TAYLOR (COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT)





On the pioneer trail

On Sabbath 25 November the Brixton Church youth hall was transformed into an outdoor Adventist pioneer heritage trail that was organised by Novelette Ellis.

Groups of people were ushered into the hall by Pathfinders representing Ellen G. White, who spoke about her visions and answered various questions. Upon arrival, the participants were given Pioneer Heritage Trail passports and were escorted by groups along the trail.

They met pioneers such as John N. Andrews, Joseph Bates, Hiram Edson, William Miller and James White. As they visited each pioneer they matched passport questions to correct answers, which permitted their passports to be stamped. At various points of the trail, the participants were served granola ingredients to remind them of the energy snack those pioneers ate.

The extraordinary event was enjoyed by all. The AY Pioneers Heritage theme was chosen to inspire members and Pathfinders to be knowledgeable and become passionate about our Church heritage.

 Vews



Adventist Students on Campus - 'ASC is the place to be!'

ASC is a network of Seventh-day Adventist student societies at university campuses across the Midlands and the North of England. Adventist Students on Campus (ASC) cater for the spiritual, social and practical needs of students from all backgrounds while at university. Each society receives financial and other support from the NEC Youth Department and the ASC Advisory.

After a successful campus ministry training retreat in September last year, ASC has begun its third active year with societies making an impact on a total of 17 campuses across the North England Conference. During the training, guest speaker, Thando Malambo, and the ASC Advisory equipped students with the ASC mission and vision statements, while their workshops covered such topics as: personal spirituality, being a successful student, how to lead Bible studies, and how to plan and execute an effective cycle of evangelism. The



Newbold students visit Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Business students from Newbold attended an exclusive open day on Wednesday 1 November 2017 at the Bracknell office of Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) as part of an ongoing contact between Newbold and the information technology company.

The nineteen Business students and three Newbold staff had the opportunity to learn about the history and products of HPE, their sales processes and procedures, and about internship and employment opportunities with the company.

The event was organised by the Newbold Business Student Society (NBSS) President, Ben Dzunic (former HPE intern and current HPE Brand Ambassador), along with current Newbold HPE interns Robert Keszeg (Sales Business Analyst – Global) and Christian Fischle (Sales Business Analyst – UK

Newbold and the Bracknell office of HPE have had a relationship since 2014, and six Newbold Business students have completed, or are currently undertaking, an internship with the company.

HPE staff expressed their hope that the current interns will accept job offers with the company, following their internships. KIRSTY WATKINS



students were left feeling 'uplifted', with 'great memories' and a 'new family' as they departed from Aberdaron Advent Campsite.

The positive impact of such training is seen in the steady growth in the number of students who are currently registered at the campuses in the NEC territory - over 200 of them.

It is during the annual 'Freshers' Fairs' that most of this recruitment takes place, and it includes new Adventist students, students from previous year groups, non-members who are seeking Truth and some who even deny the

Through her experience Beverly Ncube, the ASC President at Sheffield Hallam University, makes it clear that ASC is for all students, showing love to all, whether they know Jesus or not. 'The most memorable interactions were with students who were not Christian at all! It was a pleasant surprise and a blessing to see how many people are looking for God and how they were just as excited as we were about ASC and what it has to offer to students. A lot of people enquired about who we are and what we do. They had so many questions, and, even though some didn't sign up, they were positively impacted by what God is

For more information about current ASC societies in the NEC or to learn how you can make a difference for the students, both in your church and on your local university campus, please visit necyouth.org.uk or contact the ASC Advisory at ascadvisoryteam@gmail.com.

KALLIF WHFFLFR







Marriage honoured in Polegate

The Marriage Mentors programme (22 September – 17 November, 2017), the brainchild of teacher and pastor, Dr Denias Chihwai (PhD in Marriage and Christian Counselling), and his wife, Beauty, was conducted at just the right time in a society where the marriage rate has been consistently falling and most people no longer see marriage as a holy, permanent, sacred covenant, instituted by God Himself.

The graduation ceremony on Sabbath, 25 November last year, at the Polegate church in East Sussex, was presided over by Dr Chihwai and his wife, Beauty, and attended by guest of honour, Mr Stephen Lloyd, the MP for Eastbourne. The successful 18 graduands entered the church marching to the tune of 'Onward Christian Soldiers', performed by Polegate musical

director Katerina, and took their seats for the welcome address given by Dr Denias.

The Marriage Mentors course covered the essentials for a successful marriage and 18 people successfully completed it, and seemed to have enjoyed the experience.

The certificates were awarded by Mr Lloyd, after which Dr Denias charged them to fulfil their roles with honour and be role models of what Christian marriage looks like.

At the end of the evening the guests and graduates enjoyed food and fellowship in the church hall.

STEPHEN RAYTON

A vacancy at the South England Conference (SEC)

Communication and Media Personal Assistant

The successful candidate will be based at the SEC Watford head office, and will report to the Communication and Media Director and be required to provide comprehensive support to the department.

Applicants must have the necessary skills and ability to carry out the following tasks with a high level of proficiency:

- Website development being responsible for both written content and visual
- Being proactive in gathering and writing news stories for print and online media, including regular weekly on-location reporting
- Undertaking research for productions and script writing

Essential criteria:

- Fluency in English and the ability to speak at least one other language
- Proven journalism skills
- Proficiency in WordPress
- Proven photography skills
- Proven ability in website management
- Proven track record in social media and marketing

Qualification requirements:

An NCTJ diploma in Journalism or a BA in Journalism/Media Studies would be desirable

The post requires 37.5 hours of work per week, and, depending on the applicant's level of experience and qualifications, the annual salary will range from £22,509.72 to £28,676.76, which includes London weighting.

Applicants are required to have the right to work within the UK and will be required to undergo all necessary checks.

For an Application Form, Job Description and Person Specification, please telephone Mrs Jacqui Crawford on 01923232728 or email jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk.

The South England Conference is an equal opportunities employer.

Deadline for applications: 28 February 2018.



10 | Messenger 1-2018 Messenger 1-2018 | 11



Bristol's international homecoming

'We Are One' was the theme of Bristol Central's Homecoming Day on Sabbath 25 November last year, and it took on an international flavour as, besides inviting former members and friends, the church also chose to celebrate the culture and diversity of the 26 nationalities that worship together there. The aim of the day was to make everyone feel loved and valued, and to celebrate that we are all 'one in Christ' . . . all brothers and sisters in God's family.

Personal invitations were sent out to some 30 people who had formerly worshipped at Bristol Central, or had links to it. In all about 20 visitors came on the day, including former members.

The day started with a very interesting Sabbath School presentation by the Filipinos. Family Worship followed, with a parade of nations, with the flags of all the countries, special items from a Ghanaian group and Romanians, and a thought-provoking sermon presented by Pastor Steve McKenzie, on the topic, 'Lean on Me'.



The whole church was then invited to stay for a very generous and international fellowship lunch, with dishes from many nations, and where everyone mingled and got to know each other more.

In the afternoon the country representatives came up and said a bit about where they came from, their culture and their identity. There were participants from Ghana, Zambia, Jamaica, Barbados, Romania, Hungary, St Lucia, Guyana, and England, and several wore their national dress.

The church also rang out with the sound of singing, with special items from the children, youth choir, and church choir, and various groups sang in their own languages, including a dramatic entrance and rendition of 'God Bless Africa' by the African nations.

The day ended with everyone singing 'In the Sweet By and By', with everyone joining hands and singing in their own language. There was a lovely spirit all day, and it was truly felt that 'We Are One'.

IAN SABADIN (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER)



Ameliorate

During Black History Month last October Edmonton Drama Group used their production, *Ameliorate*, as a means of contextualising what being black is like in modern, racially diverse Britain.

One may wonder why the title 'Ameliorate'? It is simply because not only have black people sought to make things better for themselves, but they have also sought to improve their relationships with other races. And that is where the genius of the husband-and-wife team of Terrence and Fifi McKenzie-Cook lies. Their ability to expertly articulate such a message to an audience in such a short space of time is definitely a gift that is seldom seen. From the tribute to black mothers, which included the unforgettable 'Phenomenal Woman' scene, through to Martin Luther King Junior's era, and then into the Diversity Britain scenes – all scenes interspersed with glorious musical items, and even a fantastic Indian dance – the audience was taken on an educational and emotional journey through history, then placed straight back into contemporary Britain

Among the distinguished guests was Dr Brighton Kavaloh, and this is how he summed things up:

'Just thought to thank God for such an excellent play at the Intimate Theatre

'It was skilfully crafted and performed – only wish the wider SEC church leadership and its members knew what Edmonton Church was offering – it was very profound.'

Considering the fact that all the monies collected for *Ameliorate* are put towards Curative Music Foundation Ltd (CMFL) — a charity that aims to build a music school for poor, orphaned children in Kenya — the drum really ought to be beaten for the good work being done through this charity and this production.

CMFL want to thank the SEC for sponsoring the play *Ameliorate*. For more information about other events held by CMFL, visit: www.curativemusicfoundation.co.uk.

Community fun day in Sheffield

On 13 August last year, the Adventist churches in Sheffield held a community fun day in Concord Park with the full support of their members, who were involved with the preparation, support, selling and witnessing activities. Many people from the community attended the event in the glorious sunshine and some had the opportunity to take home clothes and food, donated by the Sheffield

Community Services departments.

In the Health Expo tent, Valerie Grossett and her team shared the NEWSTART principles and refreshing bottles of water with those who came to have their blood pressure checked and undertake respiratory and other tests. The tent proved popular with the community, members and non-members alike.

Two passers-by commented on the day. They found the day and the health expo 'brilliant, most informative and relaxing, nice people to talk to and I will definitely come again' (Keith, Sheffield).

'It was a very good day.... I was just going for a walk in the park and we came across these lovely people that gave us more information and helped us greatly' (Margaret, Sheffield).

Carlone from the Burngreave church said that the vegan cakes were liked by all and sold out.

Another attraction was the juicing and smoothie bar, which provided tasty drinks, while evangelistic literature was given out throughout the day. The ABC bookshop supported the event too, and the children were treated to turns on a bouncy castle and a 'Jesus Loves You' balloon.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELVINA LEE (CARTERKNOWLE COMMUNICATIONS LEADER)



Children lead the worship

The children of Crieff Church are a vital part of our church life and are always keen to be involved in the worship services. On Sabbath 2 September 2017, they took the entire worship service even though their ages ranged from 3 to 13. The worship leaders were Finlay Logan (11), Olivia Wiech (8) and Sammy Logan (5), and they ensured that the programme ran seamlessly and reverently, while Zuzia Ostowska (11) told the children's story. The sermon was split into five sermonettes, written entirely by the five speakers, on the topic of 'My Favourite Bible Character'. Zofia Weclawek (13) spoke about Esther; Finlay Logan spoke about David; Gabriela Januskevicute (11) told us about the life of Moses; Konrad Weclawek (10) spoke about King Josiah; and Joshua Ghioalda (10) spoke about his Old Testament namesake, Joshua. We were all truly blessed by the service and the children enjoyed being involved in bringing their worship before the God they love to serve.

ANGELA LOGAN (CRIEFF CHURCH)



Luv Gospel Festival

On Sabbath 18 November last year, the Mayor of Brent, Councillor Bhagwanji Chohan, along with Tokyngton Labour Leader of the Council, Mohammed Butt, and Tokyngton Labour Councillor, Orleen Hylton, attended North Wembley Community Church to mark the culmination of the week-long Luv Gospel Festival hosted at the church.

The mayor and councillors attended so that they could get to know the members and support the church's Luv Gospel Festival.

During his address the mayor spoke of the need to promote similar events in the future and how he wanted to encourage residents and faith groups to get involved in community projects across the borough.

Councillors Chohan and Hylton discussed the needs of the community, especially the right of children to have access to a good education, and that there should be opportunities for all to have employment and affordable housing.

North Wembley Community Church's pastor, Kwesi Moore, proposed a summer fun day event in a local park in an effort to bring the community together and celebrate diversity, which drew strong support from the three visitors.





New Life Church turns thirty

On 28 October 2017, the New Life Church Centre celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. The church, with its 157 charter members, arose out of the Harvest London crusade held at Holloway Church in April 1987.

The anniversary weekend was filled with historical and pictorial overviews, along with greetings from the BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, and the SEC President, Dr Emmanuel Osei, who were both in attendance at the start of the celebrations on the Friday evening.

The records show that Pastor Shaw, the senior pastor at Holloway Church in 1987, along with his assistants, Pastors Holder and Leighvard, organised the crusade that led to the establishment of New Life Church. In fact, we are grateful that Pastor McCormac, SEC Secretary, was able to find the Charter Programme and the initial membership list in the Conference archives.

The Church Clerk team that helped with the church's organisation was led by Doreen Fray, who — after all these years — was able to retell the details of its genesis in *The Story* on Friday evening, giving the congregation a glimpse of the joy and excitement that people must have felt in 1987.

The church's sixth pastor, Dr Augustus Lawrence, provided words of encouragement, while music evangelist, Kendol Bacchus, was responsible for the heavenly instrumental music that was enjoyed by all.

Sabbath saw the influx of many of the charter members, along with those who have been affiliated with the church since its beginning.

Dahlia Wilson (elder) and others shared their reflections of the exuberance in worship and the warm fellowship of the members. Former pastors and members who have migrated elsewhere sent letters and video greetings. Among them were Pastors Scoon and Leighvard, and Gloria Buffong, the church's first Bible worker.

There was also a surprise video greeting from Evangelist J. J. Rodiguez and his family, which was warmly received.

The highlight of the Sabbath celebrations, however, was the uplifting sermon preached by New Life's first pastor, Felix McPherson, who, despite the death of his wife on Tuesday 24 October, used his sorrow and grief to challenge the church in his sermon: 'Are you running to win or lose?' This provided an opportunity for many to reconsecrate themselves to Jesus.

The current pastor, Pastor Mohan Abadassari, also had the chance to share his vision for the church's future.

The Sabbath afternoon was spent in praise and thanksgiving, involving former praise leaders and a host of voices from both past and present, younger and 'older'.

On Sunday there were more memories and words of encouragement from

the church's fifth pastor, Steve McKenzie, who talked about the warmth and fellowship of New Life Church. He emphasised how much the church and its members meant to him and his family, while former New Life elder, now pastor, Vaughn Thorpe, blessed the congregation with songs of hope. The current pastor then charged everyone to look at new, inspired ways of moving the New Life church forward.

New Life COMMUNICATION DEPT



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 Stanborough Park Church development fund. Please contact Caroline Swain for further information: caroline49a@gmail.com.

Corrigendum: Our apologies that the Messenger of 15 December 2017 (p. 12) mistakenly stated that sales proceeds will go to the Crieff Church development fund. All proceeds will in fact go to the Stanborough Park Church development fund.

To keep you informed . . .

During the latter half of 2017, Balham Church's Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department leader, Joseph Dominique Clem, raised the congregation's concerns about the proposed Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill, the Casey Review and the Out-of-School Education Settings: Call for Evidence with their local MP, Dr Rosena Allin-Khan. (See the *Messenger* of 23 November 2017, page 16.)

Dr Allin-Khan registered these concerns with the responsible minister, who referred them to Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, from whom this reply was forthcoming. It is published here, with the permission of Dr Allin-Khan, in an effort to keep you informed of developments.



Department for Communities and Local Government

Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth

Department for Communities and Local Government Fry Building 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3672 Fax: 020 7035 0018 Email: Lord.Bourne@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

Our Ref: 3456674 Your ref: RA3029

6 Softember 201)

Dear Gena

Thank you for your letter of 8 August to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP on behalf of your constituent, Mr Joseph Dominique Clem, and the Balham Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 83 Elmfield Road, London, SW17 8AD, about religious liberties. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

British values, such as regard for the rule of law, participation in and acceptance of democracy, equality, free speech and respect for minorities, are supported by the overwhelming majority of British people. They are sustained by our most important local and national institutions. Furthermore, they are the means by which we have made our multiethnic, multi-cultural and multi-faith society succeed.

The Equality Act 2010 protects all individuals from discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity. The Government supports people's right to conduct their lives in accordance with their religious beliefs. However, this is limited by the legal obligation to protect the rights and freedoms of others.

Dame Louise Casey was commissioned to carry out a review into how to boost opportunity and integration in isolated communities by the then Prime Minister in July 2015. The Review was published on 5 December 2016, and covers a wide range of important issues. The Government has studied Dame Louise Casey's review closely, and will bring forward plans for tackling these issues in the coming months through a new integration strategy.

The Government's Counter-Extremism Strategy defines extremism as "the vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs". This includes calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH



Senior citizens' banquet

On 6 December the North Wembley Community church held a special banquet for senior citizens. Thirtyfive senior members and visitors enjoyed a delicious meal, along with drinks and various assortments of

Prior to the dinner being served, church pastor Kwesi Moore delivered a beautiful sermonette on God's love for all

The much-valued work of the Community Ministries team, and that of local church and community friends, made the event a successful one. Visitors even requested that it be an annual event!

RITA SKINNER (COMMUNITY MINISTRIES LEADER)

Messenger

Volume 123 • 02 – 26 January 2018

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

COPY FOR No. 04 – 1 February 2018

Copy should be sent to the Editor, Messewger, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144. Fmail: Fditor@stanboroughpress.org.uk

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

Sunset

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

Lond Card Nott Edin Belf Jan 26 4.39 4.52 4.38 4.33 4.50

 Jon
 26
 4.39
 4.52
 4.38
 4.33
 4.50

 Feb
 2
 4.52
 5.04
 4.51
 4.48
 5.04

 9
 5.05
 5.17
 5.05
 5.03
 5.19
 5.33

 16
 5.17
 5.30
 5.18
 5.19
 5.33

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.*
ostage will only be charged for single copy
subscriptions and overseas airmail.

14 | Messenger 1-2018 | **15**

