

'A New Mindset': SEC Evangelism Expo 2018

by Judith Makaniakhondo Nyirenda

On Sunday 7 January, about 1,000 people attended a very well-organised and effective South England Conference (SEC) evangelism expo. This yearly event is an opportunity for church leadership to share their strategy with the church members and for all of us to encourage and motivate one another in the work of the Lord. This year, the event did even more: it established the confidence of the members in the leadership steps that our president, Dr Emmanuel Osei, and his team are taking us through in 2018. The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt throughout this event and attendees were awed by the thought-provoking, mindset-transforming message from the guest speaker, Dr Sam Telemaque, the Inter-America Division Adventist Missions and Personal Ministries Director.

Dr Telemaque drew his illustration of the future of the church from the experience of Peter and Cornelius in Acts 10. God transformed Peter, a Jew who had a fixed mindset, so that he was able to go and meet Cornelius, a Gentile. 'God will do the same for the church in England,' Dr Telemaque encouraged! He added, 'God will transform this conference to reach to the nation and to the world. Do not be afraid of the mission in England, because, through Cornelius, God showed that all people are important to Him.'

By the show of both hands, the audience displayed their position and willingness to receive this new mindset and further God's mission. In the words



of Dr Telemaque, 'God will do something new in the SEC, in England and in the world.'

Before delving deep into the strategy, Dr Emmanuel Osei took the audience on an affirming journey of how he and his team had sought God first in their October 2017 directors' residential meeting. 'We had one purpose in mind: we wanted God to speak to us on how we were to move forwards in 2018,' said Dr Osei. He said that the message was loud and clear: that for the church to make headway it had to move towards total member involvement. This includes every member taking part, being a disciple and using their God-given talents, but also engaging with the millennials (18-35-year-olds) and working with them to fulfil the Great Commission.

The strategy, EEE (Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere) Refresh, will focus

Continued on p. 9



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How healthy are you? Part 2 – the HEALTHY format

One of the health workshops I run for individuals wishing to have a health makeover is 'R U Healthy'? This is a health intervention series which examines your current health/lifestyle behaviour and suggests ways and resources for achieving optimal well-being. It examines seven segments of assessments to enable you to analyse your well-being in those areas.

Here is the format and what each aspect entails:

- H** – Health checks (which health checks keep you abreast of your current health status?)
- E** – Exercise (what exercise should you be doing for your gender and age?)
- A** – Attitude (how your state of mind impacts your physical well-being)
- L** – Liquids (what you are drinking and how it impacts health)
- T** – Taste buds (what you like to eat and how it helps or hinders well-being)
- H** – Home (how your home environment can enhance or hurt well-being)
- Y** – You (how your work-life balance, spiritual and social interaction affects your health)

weeks please join me in reflecting on and recording the following:

- When was your last health check and what did it reveal? Book a health check if you have not had one in the last 12 months.
- How much exercise do you do on a daily basis and how long do you engage in it?
- How do you feel most of the time, and how do you respond to challenging situations?
- Take note of the liquids you take in over a 24-hour period each day.
- What foods do you like to eat regularly, and what food cravings do you have, if any? List the 'treats' you give yourself.
- List your personal products used for bathing/cosmetics and general home cleaning agents.
- How health-enhancing is your spiritual life, work, rest and social interaction? Note time taken each day for these activities.

In the first issue of Enhancing Health for this year we looked at the benefits of health journalling. This would be a good time to use that guideline to record the seven aspects outlined above.

Over the forthcoming issues we will use the latest research to ascertain what we should or should not be doing in the areas listed above. Are you ready for the journey? Then let's go.

Good health!

In the following issues of Enhancing Health, we will examine each aspect in detail.

As a preparatory measure for the issues ahead, over the next two



Why no mention of the 'civil war'?

The older I get, the more puzzled I become over Revelation 12:17, which reads as follows (NIV-UK): *'Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring – those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.'*

Strangely enough, my confusion is not caused by **what is in the text**, but by **what appears to be missing from it**. But let me explain what I mean. This passage strongly suggests that God's 'remnant' church will be persecuted, something we should expect to intensify as we draw closer to the coming of Jesus. Clearly, those who are faithful to Him and keep His commandments will be in the firing line, and I have no problem understanding or accepting that harsh reality.

A clear and present danger

What I don't understand is why this passage makes no mention of the other 'war' that God's church is involved in: **those outbreaks of 'civil war'** that seem to flare up around us, within our churches? To my mind, the conflicts that proliferate among our members at present are a greater danger to the mission of our church than the threat of persecution from without!

By its very nature, 'civil war' can often be among the most brutal and barbaric forms of conflict. It turns brother against brother, neighbour against neighbour. Just look at Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar, South Sudan and Yemen – to mention but a few examples of such horror.

Displaced people

One of the sad consequences of unresolved civil war is the displacement of population groups. People move away from conflict, to which the world's current migrant crisis bears stark testimony. Bearing this in mind, let's look at the results of a study¹ conducted under the leadership of the *General Conference Nurture and Retention Committee*, the focus of which was to identify why we are losing members and to stop the exodus.

These are the findings – the reasons for our own 'migrant crisis': 'The top six reasons for leaving [our church] are perceived hypocrisy in other members, marital difficulties, lack of friends in the church, other family conflicts, **high level of conflict in the local church**, and **personal conflict with local church member(s)**' (emphasis supplied).

A closer look at table 12 of the study, which summarises the participants' responses to the question, *'What event triggered your decision to leave?'* indicates that the **'high level of conflict in the local church'** was actually the fourth-highest influence on their decisions to leave! Then, if you take out the two triggers which may not actually have been *directly caused* by the church ('marital difficulties' and 'other family conflicts'), the **'high level of conflict in the local church'** rises to number three!

The study singles out our persistently high level of 'civil war' as a prominent and tragic cause of member loss with this terse observation: **'Conflict is a re-occurring theme.'** (Emphasis supplied.)

The recommendations

The study makes three recommendations about the way forward for our church, the first and foremost of which is for us to ensure that *'comprehensive, widespread, practical and effective training in conflict resolution and reconciliation be implemented throughout the Seventh-day Adventist Church'* (emphasis supplied).

Fans don't pay to fight!

Football fans don't pay good money to watch a fight on the pitch, or trade punches among themselves in the stands. They come to enjoy the 'beautiful game' played with fervour and finesse. Why should it be any different in God's remnant church?

Yellow and red cards may work on the football field, but they are not much use in church. The conflict that we have to curtail in our congregations, institutions and organisations requires urgent attention. **Firstly, we must take the above recommendation to heart and implement it.**

Secondly, we need to know that unless Jesus is at the heart of our conflict resolution efforts, the best we can expect is a ceasefire!

Somehow – through word and example – we have to make sure that Jesus stays on centre stage in our church, because the formula for success in conflict resolution, reconciliation and unity-building is actually a very simple one: **'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.'** (John 12:32, NIV-UK.)

In ordinary, everyday speech, Jesus is simply urging us to preach and teach Jesus Christ – both His abundant grace and His faultless ethics – then model what we say.

Matthew and Simon prove the point!

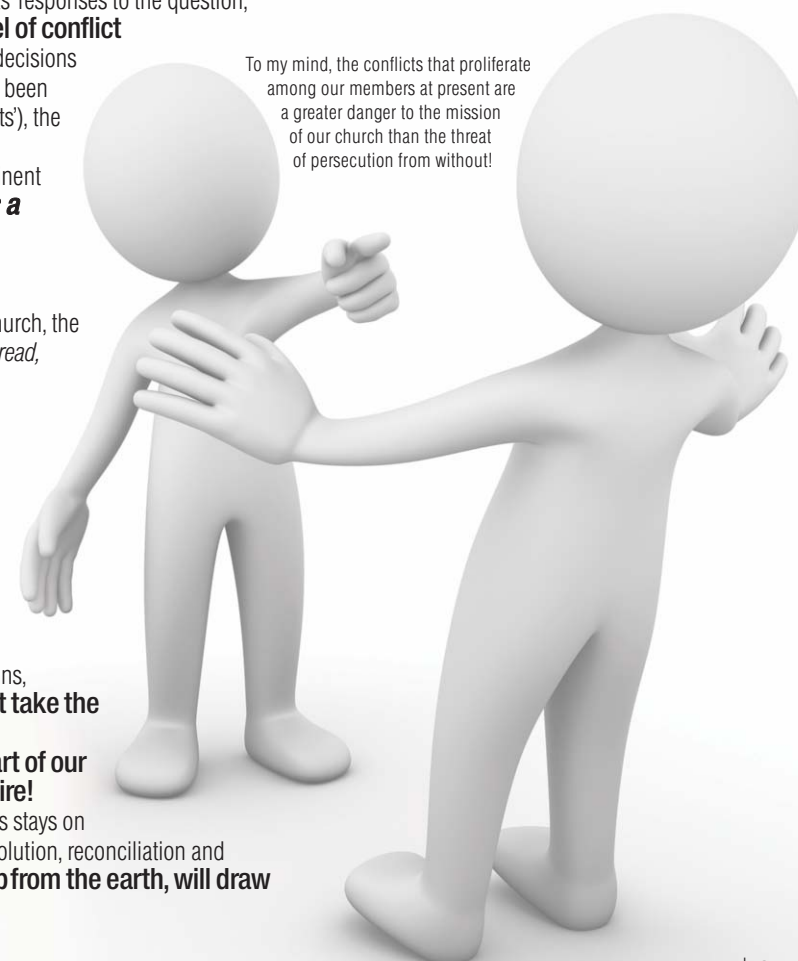
The conflict-resolving, unifying and reconciling influence of Jesus is beautifully demonstrated in His 'team' selection, especially in His choice of Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot. These men were ideologically poles apart:

'Jewish tax collectors were generally far from upright in their business dealings. In fact, they served as puppets for the hated Roman government. . . .

'The Zealots stood against Rome as terrorists in an effort to overthrow Israel's hated rulers. It was a good day for a Zealot when he could step into a crowd and leave his dagger in a Roman or a Roman collaborator, such as Matthew.'²

Yes, they started off poles apart, but Jesus drew them tightly together in His service – something He longs to do for all of us.

¹<https://www.adventistarchives.org/why-did-they-leave.pdf> ²*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*, by George R. Knight, page 58



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SEC Contact:
Pauline Peck
Email: ppeck@secadventist.org.uk
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NEC Contact:
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Telephone: 01159 606 312

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

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The safety of dark places!

by Pastor Richard Daly,
BUC Communication and
Media Director

This Christmas I had the wonderful privilege of visiting the beautiful Caribbean island of Martinique: a relatively small island with just over 386,000 inhabitants, but a place that boasts magnificent views, mostly due to its mountainous terrain. One of those mountains is actually a volcano. Known as Mount Pelée, it reaches an elevation of 1,397 metres.

I was intrigued about this volcano, not only because it was the first time I had seen one, but more so because of the remarkable story surrounding its major eruption in 1902. It is the story of Ludger Sylbaris, who was claimed to be the only survivor of this eruption, which killed an estimated 30,000-40,000 people and flattened the city of Saint-Pierre (then known as the 'Little Paris of the West Indies').

In reality, his claim of being the only survivor isn't entirely true. Still, his story is astonishing despite this detail.

Ludger was not a nice guy. Born in 1875 on Martinique, Ludger (his actual name was Louis-Auguste) was a convicted felon who liked to drink and fight: so it was no surprise when he was arrested for getting in yet another fight on 7 May 1902. Irritated by his antics, the police threw him into solitary confinement: a tiny, half-underground cell with no windows except for a very narrow slit at the top of the door, facing out to sea. The police didn't realise it, but their actions were about to save Ludger's life.

The next morning, destruction came to Martinique.

Mount Pelée exploded and superheated volcanic gas and dust rolled out of the volcano at hundreds of miles per hour, destroying everything in an eight-mile radius. Within a single minute the 1,075-degree pressure wave had flattened every building in the city of Saint-Pierre. Anyone unlucky enough to be in its way instantly caught fire and burned to death. Nearly all 30,000 residents were killed instantly, and the city burned for days afterwards.

Ludger couldn't have been luckier. He was found four days after the eruption by a rescue team who heard his cries. Although he was in a prison cell in isolation, it proved to be the safest place on the island. Ludger described the experience of seeing the light coming through the slit grow dark, and then superheated ash flying in. He urinated on his clothes and stuffed them in the slit, but it didn't stop the heat.

Ludger wasn't the only one to survive the eruption, however. Another was a little girl named Havira Da Ifrile. She is said to have seen the volcano beginning to erupt, and escaped by climbing into a boat and rowing to a cave where she and her friends used to play pirates. In her words: 'Before I got there I looked back – and the whole side of the mountain which was near the town seemed to open and boil down on the screaming people, but I got to the cave.' She was later found floating unconscious in a burned and broken boat two miles out at sea.



It's interesting to note that both survivors were saved by the very surroundings they would probably describe as being an unpleasant place to be. Your present circumstances may seem like that too. You may have encountered dark and dismal days, and even now, at the beginning of 2018, your present circumstances may not have changed too much. You may feel trapped in a situation that may be like a darkened cell. You may feel isolated, with no one who really understands what you're going through... and yet, while your circumstances may appear beyond your control and it seems that the heat of life is too much to bear, the truth is that you still made it through to 2018!

Have you ever thought that the unpleasant situation you may be in right now may, unknown to you, be the very challenge that God is using to save you? It's during times of difficulty that we more readily recognise our need for God, and, while God does not always purposely cause us to go through trials, He does permit them to happen for the purpose of refining us and purging un-Christlike traits from our characters.

There were countless people in the Bible who were saved by their seemingly unpleasant surroundings: Noah and his family in the gloomy ark, Elijah in a dark cave, Jonah in the fish's belly. You can be assured, as you enter 2018, that if you find yourself in a 'darkened place', like Ludger in his prison, you are still being protected against the forces of evil that may not be visible to you. Be assured also, as the psalmist said, 'For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.' Psalm 27:5 (NIV).

Ludger's luck, on the other hand, couldn't have been better. After surviving the volcano, he was pardoned for his crimes and hired to tell the story of the horrific events he had experienced and survived.

Today, the prison cell which saved Ludger's life can be visited in Saint-Pierre, just as I did. The town never recovered from the devastation. Mount Pelée is still one of the most active volcanoes in the Caribbean, and it will likely erupt again. What lessons will be learnt from the past? 2018 is a new year of new opportunities for spiritual growth and to learn from past mistakes; go forward in the full assurance that He that is in you will help you get through.



Finding God through a health expo

by Jennifer Distin



Andrew had no intention of visiting The New Bingley Hall in Birmingham on 2 October 2016, but somehow he found himself there. He'd been worshipping with another denomination for about eleven months, and, being fit and healthy, saw no point in attending a 'Handsworth SDA Health Expo'. Andrew loved to exercise and filled his time with kick-boxing, judo and mixed martial arts; he'd also been an amateur boxer for about five years, with ambitions of making it onto the England team. For him there really seemed no likely benefit in him attending a health expo!

However, as fit as he was, he had nothing to lose, and so he made his way round each station getting results which confirmed his healthy status. The volunteers seemed friendly enough. He talked with James on the *exercise* station, Mark on the *breathing assessment* station and then Patrick on the *trust* station. He thought they seemed 'good guys'.

He then visited the Personal Ministries stand, which offered a variety of books, leaflets and Bible studies. He gladly took the bag he

was given, having no idea how his life was about to change.

Once home he began reading the book *Ministry of Healing*. It was gripping and full of so much information that made sense, especially as he was a vegan. He was fascinated by it and decided he wanted copies for the members of his Baptist church!

Someone had tried to introduce him to the writings of Ellen G. White some time before, but he hadn't been interested. He'd researched the Sabbath on the internet and had begun keeping it about three or four months before attending the health expo, and was doing his own personal Bible studies. Ironically he passed Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church regularly, but had no idea they were Sabbath keepers!

That Christmas he left boxing depressed, drinking and unhappy. He was in a bad place, completely disillusioned. He felt he was no good at anything, had no real friendships and that people were using him for his name only. He fell on his knees and prayed, and immediately felt there was a hand that took him back. He got up feeling happier and more

composed, and spent a good Christmas day! That was the point when he knew there was really a God. He went through a rapid change spiritually – for reasons he didn't understand, the smoking and drinking stopped. He went to church and was given a Bible and he was on fire! He needed guidance and fellowship.

He found the address of Handsworth Seventh-day Adventist Church on the sticker on the back of the *Ministry of Healing* book and attended one Sabbath. And from that day he never looked back. He attended Camp Meeting in June and had an amazing

experience: 'The worship, the two services every day, it was heaven on earth being with like-minded people.' Several weeks later, Andrew confirmed his commitment to God by being baptised on Sabbath, 12 August 2017.

And guess what: coincidentally, a year after his visit to the health expo, almost to the day, Andrew found himself back at the same New Bingley Hall, this time as a health expo volunteer measuring visitors' pulse rates and encouraging them towards a change in lifestyle. Coincidence? Nah!



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Gangrenation . . .

How an obsolete word aptly describes an all-pervasive personal and social problem.

by Elize Hibbert

I don't know where it comes from, but I sometimes twist certain words. I do it for the pure enjoyment of it. No, that's not a confession to twisting the truth. I do try to avoid that at all times. I mean, literally, tweaking words a bit. 'Excellent' becomes 'excellowento'! The word 'abandoned' becomes 'abandonated'; and, by extension, 'abandonation'. 'Yes' sometimes becomes 'yep-a-doodle-do'. I do avoid doing it in 'company' though. My husband says I will be embarrassed by it one day!

Recently, I came across a rather unusual word. Here it is, in its context: 'Once fanaticism has gangrenated the brain, the sickness is almost incurable.' That was, apparently, said by Voltaire.

'Gangrenated'? Is that really a word? I asked myself. Of course, I turned to Google (where else?) and found 'gangrenate' described as an obsolete word, with the meaning: 'to become gangrenous'. A pity it is obsolete, I thought – what an excellent word! Especially when used, as Voltaire used it, in a figurative sense: describing the effects of something, figuratively, on the brain. In a literal sense, gangrene has awful connotations of rotting flesh, with the associated disgusting smells and sights. It is something that should be avoided at all costs because of its potentially fatal consequences. And when it is

applied in a figurative sense, it brings all those powerful connotations with it.

I agree with Voltaire. A fanatic has a one-track mind. He loses all balance, focusing on one narrow area of life. It's almost as if he doesn't have peripheral vision. His vision is like that of a sharpshooter or a hunter. Everything, all his attention, is focused on what he sees in the sights, as he takes aim. To shoot to kill, to hit the target, not to tremble or shift in the slightest. And it is probably very apt to use the metaphor of the hunter, too, since fanatics tend to be on the attack; they tend to focus on opposing those who don't agree with them, because everyone 'should think the way I do'.

Do we sometimes detect a whiff of that around us, in society? ('Whiff' is a good word here because, remember, gangrene can smell really,

really bad! After all, it involves rotting flesh.) Do we know, or know about, people

or groups fixated on one aspect of reality? Or on one theory? Those going down a 'tunnel' with no time or inclination to look around and consider what others say or how reasonable discussion might enlighten them?

Worse still, do we detect a whiff of this gangrenation in faith communities sometimes? In our very own faith communities, perhaps? It is easy to point the finger at those outside our faith, but have a good look inside our own 'body'. Inside your own body: that is where gangrene is most dangerous. Keep the infection outside, and you're OK. You'll be healthy.

Let's go to the metaphor of the hunter again. The hunter's focus is a very narrow one: to shoot to kill. For the fanatic there seems to be a double focus: besides focusing on perceived opponents, there is also a particularly narrow spiritual focus: perhaps a rather obscure text in the Bible, with a cherished application for that text? Perhaps on some aspect of health reform or on a health issue? Perhaps on some self-chosen interpretation of something a prophet or spiritual leader said? In the process, forgetting about the central, most important spiritual principles and focusing on peripheral issues? Loss of balance is key to this kind of gangrenation.

The irony is that, while the fanatic thinks he's serving the highest good, he's really the one with the disease.

In real life, 'gangrene' is most harmful to the one in whom it festers – while, sadly, fanaticism often causes much harm to society, or the church, in general.

Yes, fanaticism 'gangrenating' the brain causes an almost incurable disease, to quote Voltaire again. However, there is another cause of infection which leads to an even worse strain of the disease (in my opinion): namely, greed, or the 'love of money' to use a biblical term. I believe this version of the disease is even more prevalent and at least as dangerous, if not more so. Let's adapt Voltaire's saying to: 'Once greed has gangrenated the brain, the sickness is almost incurable.'

How would you describe the action of a person who (1) bought options on Borussia Dortmund's (a German football club) stock in advance; (2) then attacked the club's bus while the team was on its way to a match; (3) using explosives which he placed on the bus route ahead of time, and detonated by remote control from his hotel room; (4) which he had booked ahead of time, knowing it provided him with a view of the bus as it passed his planted explosives, so he could know when to detonate it; (5) planning to make a profit as the share price fell in the wake of injuries to key players?

What *on earth* is wrong with him? Surely greed has gangrenated his brain. He then traded in Dortmund shares from his hotel room even as detectives combed through the wreckage outside. Gangrenated indeed!

Sadly, this person is not alone. Greed-gangrenation was responsible for the near-collapse of the worldwide financial markets in 2008: think 'Lehman Brothers'. Fraud has many faces. If you want to read something fascinating, check out the name 'Madoff' on Google: biggest individual fraudster, with a giant Ponzi scheme, which involved \$65 billion.

Greed-gangrenation is rife in many businesses: it is, for example, behind many attempted or successful business takeovers. Shareholders get a good payout; the buyers thereby neutralise their competition, strip the assets, close whatever they deem redundant, and leave many employees jobless. You can catch a 'whiff' in reports of staged accidents (whiplash injury compensation); manufacture and selling of 'legal' highs as well as the illegal drugs trade; 'refugee' trafficking; medical drug price rises



of epic proportions; and spurious insurance claims – to name just some practices.

Greed-gangrenation is lurking behind 'fake news' stories – because where people click is where the adverts earn the money! The victims are not only those lied about, but truth itself.

You can go on and on and on about specific examples of greed-gangrenation. You'll read and talk until you drop exhausted. The whiff of it is everywhere! Ransomware! Sports! Fifa! Construction! Tax dodging! Politics! Contracts! Unnecessary, life-changing operations! Banking practices! Secret Swiss accounts! Obscure shadow holding companies!

But it's not something that is confined to the rich and powerful. We like to think of 'the disgusting, greedy rich' of this world. But the poor are equally vulnerable. We somehow excuse it when it is found in them (us?), and tend to excuse them as victims of their poverty. But greed-gangrenation produces a very, very bad whiff wherever it is found.

Actual gangrene can cause disgusting smells: it decays the flesh; it's not easy to ignore! But it won't do us any harm unless it takes root within *our* body.

And that's where the challenge is, for me: to identify the symptoms of the disease *inside* us (through the whispers of the Holy Spirit). The virus of greed *in ourselves* is something we need to take very seriously indeed.

Jesus said that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom (Matthew 19:24). I would include a 'wannabe' rich man there – like me? Let's think about that very seriously.

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands;
Yes I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hands

Refrain:
Than to be the king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin's dread sway!
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

SEC Disability and Diversity Ministry announcement

The SEC Disability and Diversity Ministry Department are excited to present the Regional Hubs for Ministry in Disability, Diversity and Belonging (RHMDDDB).

The aim of the SEC Disability and Diversity Ministry is to empower local church members to create places where everyone belongs and feels able to be part of the body of Christ in ministry and mission. The department strategy is based on 'the Great Commission' (Matthew 28:16-20).

The RHMDDDB are area-wide **resource hubs** championing the vision of the SEC and the mission and strategy of the SEC Disability and Diversity Department. The hub development is part of the sustainability strategy of the SEC Disability and Diversity Ministry – 2015-2019.

The RHMDDDB will consist of **churches/centres** within the SEC's regional structures that are actively involved in disability ministry in a variety of ways. They will receive resources, advice and training from the SEC and be supported through the church disability champions and disability co-ordinators.

The centres will:

- Run a regular course of disability-specific training, including disability awareness,
- Be involved in active ministry in the local community by forming effective and lasting partnerships with organisations involved in disability, and
- Be involved in empowering the members of the church and community with disabilities to be involved in mission and ministry in effective and creative ways.

Training opportunities at the SEC RHMDDDB in **communication and disability awareness**, in association with the **SEC School of Evangelism** for 2018, include BSL Levels 1 and 2 accredited courses, taking place in the following centres:

- Area 6A – Holloway Church – BSL Level 1
- Area 6D – Willesden Church – BSL Levels 1 & 2
- Area 6C – Ilford Church – BSL Level 1
- Area 7 – Stanborough Church – BSL Level 1
- Area 5 – Reading Church – BSL Level 1
- Area 6A – New Life Church – autism awareness

Local ongoing projects supporting the community

Area 5: Reading Central Church hosted a programme through the *Hand-in-hand Ministry*. Over the December period, they were able to meet and organise a programme for the church and local community, supporting families with disabilities and special needs. This involved the use of music and a fellowship meal.

Access to Sound is a local project in the South Oxfordshire area that supports adults with learning disabilities and special needs. Gospel music is used to encourage interaction and self-expression. Thirty people from the local community with disabilities and their carers attended the weekly meetings.

Area 1: St Austell host a regular support group for carers living with mental illness. The SEC Disability Ministry Department will be running a mental illness awareness and support day on 21 July 2018 at St Austell Church.

For more information or to register for the BSL Level 1 or 2 courses, contact:

Sophia Nicholls, Director of SEC Disability and Diversity Ministry
snicholls@secadventist.org.uk
Telephone: 01923 232 728 or 07768 298 297

Ligia Buzac, Disability & Diversity Secretary
LBuzac@secadventist.org.uk
Telephone: 01923 232 728

I recently received this submission from one of our older members. It was sent by 'snailmail' and written in a shaky hand, but it expresses the precious faith of one of God's saints – someone who has learnt much along the road of life.

THE EDITOR

'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find' (Luke 11:9, KJV).

A thought for today on faith

What is faith? According to the dictionary it means assurance, trust, belief and conviction. For a Christian it is a faith in God. According to the evidence presented to us in the Bible, and as Christians, we follow God's laws and commandments.

Our faith gives us a richness and depth to all our experiences of life (however mundane). A belief in God gives us a pattern to our lives so that ordinary pleasures become delights; even suffering ceases to be pointless as we know God has a reason and we are reminded of the suffering Christ endured on the cross.

Through faith our minds open up to a spiritual awareness that we are blessed through the ground we walk on, the air we breathe and the sky above us – all are God's many blessings.

We don't know what new challenges may lie ahead for us, yet we know that angels walk beside us and watch over us with care.

Keep faith, the Bible tells us: 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find' (Luke 11:9, KJV).

Some truth has been revealed to us, but there is nothing that we may not know and understand if we seek wisdom in the right way and keep our vision on our goal, never forgetting God has us in His tender care!

MAUREEN GAINES

The power of ten

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau,
ADRA-UK Development Education Officer

In the Gospel of Luke we are told the story of the ten lepers who went to Jesus for healing (Luke 17:11-19). They lived in isolation as a result of the terrible condition that literally ate away at their hands and feet. So, when Jesus offered them healing, they hurried away to show themselves to the priests, grateful that their suffering was now at an end.

We hear little about these men after their encounter with Jesus. We don't know if they returned to their families, started new lives or careers, or even stayed in the vicinity of Samaria and Galilee. All we know is that Jesus told them to 'Go and show yourselves to the priests' (vs. 14, ESV) and we never hear from them again, but for one. There was one who returned to say, 'Thank You.' He came back to 'give back.' He remembered his former condition – the sores, the pain, the rejection – and chose to 'give glory to God' with his thanks.

This man represents one tenth of those healed. But his act of gratitude was such that it was recorded in the gospel as a reminder to us of our need to be grateful for the blessings of Almighty God.

The scriptural concept of tithing, which has become part of one of the fundamental beliefs of our faith tradition, has its roots in Abrahamic history. In Genesis 28:22, Abraham makes a promise to God (NKJV): 'And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.' This meant that he would return 10% of all that he earned to God. This trust, loyalty and faithfulness demonstrated his faith in God, and according to Romans 4:22 (NKJV) that 'was accounted to him for righteousness'.

Similarly, the commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai are ten guidelines that represent testimony, law, responsibility and completeness of order. Biblically, the number ten is a very significant one.

Bearing this in mind, in 2017, the trustees of ADRA-UK agreed to return 10% of all monies received from its door-to-door collection back to our churches in the UK for community projects through a partnership with Adventist Community Services (ACS). An application process was put into place and churches were asked to submit funding bids for their outreach initiatives. Direct funding from ADRA-UK was awarded to the Advent Shelter, Barnsley, Bilston, Bolton, Bradford Central, Chelmsford, Edinburgh East, Emmanuel (London), Harlestone, Ipswich, Leeds Central, Leicester Central, Leicester West, Liverpool North, Smethwick, Southend, Stoke Newington and West Bletchley. Edmonton, London Ghana and Ladywood received additional funding directly from ACS, and Nottingham Central Church was given special funding from the Health Ministries Department to become the second centre of health, hope and healing in the BUC.

One of the projects directly benefiting from this funding from ADRA-UK was the Advent Shelter in London that opens over the Christmas period. Pastor Ian Sweeney, Chair of the Board of Trustees for ADRA-UK, spent Christmas Day, with his family, volunteering at the shelter. 'I was initially assigned to be a baggage handler and look after the belongings of the clients attending the shelter. When you realise that the bags that you are looking after contain the entire world for these



vulnerable individuals, you treat possessions with absolute care. However, when I realised that the toilets and showers needed cleaning, after having been in constant use all day, I volunteered for sanitation duties.

'As the Chair of the Board of Trustees it has been my privilege to see the work that ADRA-UK conducts overseas. Early in 2017, I was able to visit the project that we run in Nepal, where ADRA is increasing the income of 30,000 farmers and empowering them to work their way out of poverty in the Central Terai region. At the end of the year, I was able to volunteer and give back my time at the Advent Shelter, a project that greatly benefited from the 10% reversion from the ADRA Appeal. ADRA-UK's remit is to assist those living in poverty overseas. However, with the new partnership with ACS, they are able to provide funding for community outreach projects run by local churches in the UK.'

So, what's happening in 2018?
ADRA-UK will be returning **10% of all the monies raised during the Appeal to the local churches to assist with their**

outreach initiatives. There will be no application process for this: all that is required is that the ADRA agent tick the relevant box, have the form signed by the local pastor and ensure that **all the necessary paperwork is returned to the ADRA-UK office by 31 May 2018.** So, if your church raises £7,000 for the ADRA Appeal, £700 will be returned directly to your church to assist you with your soup kitchen, food or clothing bank, homeless shelter, and so on.

'ADRA-UK are really excited at this new partnership with Adventist Community Services (ACS) and the local churches. It is fantastic to see the community work that is done by thousands of volunteers in our churches to help those in need here in the UK,' said Pastor Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK; 'however, let us remember that there are also millions of people overseas who live in desperate situations that we cannot even imagine, and your willingness to volunteer during the ADRA Appeal and to donate really makes a difference to their lives. Because of your selflessness and generosity, we are able to improve the lives of so many people – thank you!'

The 2018 ADRA Appeal runs from 31 March until 15 April across the UK, extending to 22 April in Greater London.

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23-25 Staverton Park De Vere

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4 Staverton Park De Vere
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Continued from p. 1



The ending of the event was marked by Dr Telemaque's empowering presentation on the progress of training Global Mission Pioneers and a prayer session, after which Dr Osei pronounced a blessing to all as he sent us out to be disciples.



this year on reclamation. In doing this we will mimic the parable of the lost sheep: the shepherd counted his sheep, and when he realised that one was missing he went looking for it until it was found. The church ought to do the same. The current 40% loss of members shows that there is more work to be done. Godwin Benjamin, in his reclamation presentation, showed how the church can move towards seeking the lost. 'Each church will have a reclamation team, which will train members on various ways of retention, including how sensitive they should be with those members being reclaimed.'

With over twenty-five workshops presented with so much enthusiasm, members felt truly equipped to fully participate in the changed thinking of the church as it endeavours to reach out: especially to the millennials, who until now have felt sidelined. Seventeen-year-old Gisela Simbana, who attended the teens workshop with her parents, said, 'I liked how Pastor Juan Patrick put the point across of how the church can engage and capture the minds of teens,' adding, 'I therefore look forward to using my talents in the church.'

This was also a thanksgiving and celebratory event. One attendee said, 'I am so thankful for this expo. I attended the education workshop, and, as a mother of three young children, I have been equipped on how to support my children as they attend mainstream education.'

Dr Osei gave thanks to the Lord for His provision for the radio licence, and recognised the work that Pastor Michael Hamilton (Adventist Radio Director) has already begun. This radio broadcast launched at the end of January. 'The vision of the radio is that it will reach out and broadcast real issues, and also be relevant to the millennials,' said Pastor Hamilton.

British Union Conference (BUC) Health, Women's Ministries and Community Services Director Sharon Platt-McDonald presented nine churches with cheques as part of the ADRA/Adventist Community Services (BUC) Award, which she has been leading. The churches were recognised for their impact and influence in outreach. The majority of funding came from ADRA, with the BUC Community Services also funding churches that are making a positive impact in their communities with their outreach ministries. ADRA CEO, Bert Smit, shared the good news of how ADRA will now be supporting local church initiatives to impact their communities.

There was also an opportunity for questions to be put to the leadership. 'I was pleased with the transparency of the leaders and their willingness to listen to the pastors and members. I am very hopeful for evangelism this year,' said Reading West Community Ministries leader, David Aboagye.



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BOOK EARLY
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Joint baptismal service

A heart-stirring joint baptismal service involving the Dudley and West Bromwich churches was held in West Bromwich Church on the evening of Saturday, 16 December last year. At this time five precious souls were baptised by host pastor, Dan Majaducon. They were Esme McKellar, Jotham and Sakhile Ncube, and Thulani and Peace Nkomo. Just prior to the immersion, guest preacher, Pastor Rainford McIntosh, who pastors Dudley Church, where the two couples attend, delivered a stirring message entitled, 'Baptism: The Gateway to Heaven', which was well received by those who attended. This was a most impressive service, and at the close the newly baptised were received into their respective churches' fellowship. We hope that the baptistry



Left to right: Dudley elders, Errol Tomlinson and Matthias Siyapi; West Bromwich elder, Elvis Tumba; baptismal candidates – Sakhile and Jotham Ncube, and Thulani (and son) and Peace Nkomo, and Esme McKellar; Dudley pastor, Rainford McIntosh; and West Bromwich pastor, Dan Majaducon.

in Dudley will soon be used for the next baptismal service.

DUDLEY COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

New life at the year's end!

On 30 December last year, Tottenham and Edmonton Churches saw out the year with a baptism of six people.

Mother (Tessa Daniels) and son (Diego Reid) have been attending Tottenham Church from when Diego was a toddler. Another long-term visitor to Tottenham, Margaret Williams, was also baptised. Her son Ricardo was baptised a few years ago. The fourth person from Tottenham to be baptised was Leisha Russell. She had been having Bible studies with one of the elders, N. F. Riley, for some time.

Edmonton Central had two young starlets for Christ baptised. Eight-year-old Levi Jude Rose was the youngest to enter the pool, alongside Keon R. E. Lee-Henry.

Many family, friends and church members came to support them as they



Flanked by elders from Edmonton Central Church, on the back row, left to right: Dr Jude Jeanville, Tessa Daniels, Leisha Russell, Margaret Williams and Elder Sonia Munroe; front row from left: Diego Reid, Levi Jude Rose (8) and Keon R. E. Lee-Henry

took this step in their walk with God. Dr Jude Jeanville conducted the baptism service, with elders from both churches in attendance.

TOTTENHAM COMMUNICATION TEAM

Baptism at Bilston

Great was the joy of the Bilston congregation on 13 January as they celebrated the baptism of Tyreece Malcolm and Sunit Thomandru.

During the service Sunit's sister sang 'God will make a way' and the visiting speaker, Pastor Mohan, preached a short sermon.

The baptism began with Tyreece confidently taking to the pool to be baptised by Pastor Appiah. Sunit followed, and was baptised by his great-uncle, Pastor Mohan, who spoke of how this was a very special moment for him and his family.

This wonderful ceremony ended with closing remarks from the loving parents of these new members.

E. VICKERS (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER)



Baptisms at Stanborough Park

On the last Sabbath of 2017 worshippers at Stanborough Park Church witnessed a baptism with a difference: for, with the SEC's Pathfinder Director, Pastor Kevin Johns, on the platform facing a line-up of Pathfinders in full uniform, it could easily have been confused with a Pathfinder event!

Altogether, there were nine Pathfinders alongside Kartina Clifton, a mother of three children who has been actively involved in church life for some time; and another Pathfinder, Mateo Turturica, who subsequently joined them to be accepted into membership by profession of faith.

Originally from Indonesia, Mrs Clifton arrived in Watford two years ago and wanted to send her twins to Stanborough School. Subsequently she was introduced to Pat Walton, who runs the church's Welfare Department, and became involved in helping her with the welfare and catering when she was able to do so, as well as with the accounts for the Stanborough Centre – on a voluntary basis, which has been a great financial benefit for the church funds.

However, to return to the Pathfinders, just what had precipitated such a large number of our youth deciding on baptism at this particular time? The Pathfinder leader, Paula Carrillo, provided this as part of her answer:

'The team pray for every child in the club that we have been entrusted to mentor. We are there to listen to the children and young people, to point them to Jesus, and to have fun in the outdoors while they discover their God.' She is



very pleased that the church's Adventurer and Pathfinder club is growing in numbers and includes her own children, who she feels benefit greatly from its influence.

First into the baptismal pool were Thonto and Joshua Ntata, a brother and sister who were baptised by their grandfather, Pastor Roy Chisholm. Senior minister, Pastor Jacques Venter baptised the rest of the group: Akintunde Ayo-Ipaye, Michael Auyeh, Kelechi Wuso, Chisom Wuso, Andrew Moyo, T. J. Moyo and Kartina Clifton.

As one of the parents of two of the candidates summed things up: 'It was a glorious day.' One in which the role that the Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs play in bringing people to Christ was well demonstrated.

JUNE COOMBS



A sixty-fifth wedding anniversary

On Monday, 25 September 2017, Neville (94) and Muriel (84) Bussue celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary, much to the joy of their loving family – especially their surviving children: Bernell, Eunette, Joan, David and Angela.

Neville and Muriel have been loyal members of the Carterknowle church and served in a variety of roles over the years until well into their retirement – for example, Neville as head elder and BUC committee member; and Muriel as church clerk, Pathfinder leader, Sabbath School superintendent, and a number of other positions.

Their card from the Queen was one of their anniversary highlights – and well deserved too!

JOAN BUSSUE

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SNAP Family Retreat

The first weekend of November last year was an exciting time for the families who had registered to attend the Support Network for Adventist Parents (SNAP) retreat at Hill House Christian Centre, Otterhampton. Upon arrival on Friday evening 3 November, each family was welcomed by Mike and Vicky Beamish, the organisers of SNAP and our hosts for the weekend.

It was a pleasant surprise for us to have the Family Ministries Director for the BUC, Pastor Leslie Ackie, as our presenter for the weekend. His topic of discussion was 'Emotionally Intelligent Parenting'. On Sabbath morning we had worship together as a big church family on the theme of 'Unity in the Family'. The session began with the praise team leading us in song, after which Vicky spoke on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, and there were simple activities with the children. Families were also asked to come up with a skit, drawing or poem to show their understanding of this Bible passage. This simply demonstrated that every member of the family, young or old, is important, and that for the family unit to be successful we all need to work together.

Following a short break, there were age-appropriate activities. The children, led by Anette and Clyde Moore, who were ably assisted by Alva Gallaher, engaged in some creative craft activities related to Christian family life. Albert Gardiner and Suku Nkomo led the teens in their own worship time, based around the theme of the family. The parents engaged in a workshop led by Pastor Les Ackie and centred on this idea: 'The greatest predictor of how our children will turn out is not intellectual ability, but how well they get on with other children' (John Gottman). We realised that schools are not doing enough in maintaining the emotional well-being of our children, but also accepted that to practise emotionally intelligent parenting we must be aware of our own emotions as parents. Points were shared on how to become an emotionally intelligent parent.

The adults were eager to learn more from their workshop but the children were hungry. We all gathered for a sumptuous lunch. Thereafter there was a nature walk, followed by uplifting singing around the bonfire. After the evening meal we continued with our workshop before going to bed.

On Sunday morning the adults continued with Pastor Ackie's workshop while the teens and children went on with their activities. Then it was time to tidy up our rooms, followed by lunch. For most, this was the best meal of the



weekend: pizza, sausage rolls, juice and vegan ice cream. The weekend was a great learning experience and enjoyed by all.

RUTH KENGERE-OTIENO

This is how Sian and Paula Santineer (aged 13 and 12) experienced the weekend in their own words:

We really enjoyed it when we first came a few years ago and we were very excited to return. It is very easy to make friends and there is a large outdoor playground and a big lounge in the building you stay in.

We all enjoyed a great interactive service on Sabbath: children got to do activities and challenges to help with the sermon and families joined to make a short play or sketch, which was then shown to the rest of the congregation.

On Saturday evening there was a bonfire and everyone enjoyed singing songs around the fire, after which we relaxed in the lounge telling stories and jokes while enjoying hot chocolate, biscuits and chocolate bars.

Sunday afternoon was time to go home, but none of us wanted to leave because we had such a nice time. Please do it again soon! It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends!



Bradford Central's Pathfinder induction

On Sabbath 16 December last year Bradford Central Church's Pathfinder club held their induction ceremony. That evening the children that were in the Eager Beaver class were welcomed to the Busy Bee class by receiving the Adventurer scarf (Daniel, Andile, Theophan, Usher). The children from the Helping Hand class were welcomed to the Pathfinder Friend class (Tich, Tanya, Panashe, Zion, Lupakiso). The Pathfinder Counsellors for 2018 were introduced to the parents, after which the pledges were said and four new children were welcomed into the club. Pastor George Hamilton then offered a prayer of blessing on the club and its 2018 ministry.

BENJAMIN NHANDARA (CLUB DIRECTOR)

Paisley's health partnership

Disappointment at Paisley's recent failed bid for City of Culture status was quickly followed by another bid that has put Paisley Church at the centre of the local community. Over the past two years the church has pursued successive opportunities to convert two of the town's historic buildings into a Healthy Living Centre of Influence. Although widespread publicity, and a successful major grant application, made influential key decision-makers aware of the Adventist Church – some for the first time – it appears that God had another plan.

Roar: Connections For Life, an older adults charity, operates twelve county-wide clubs offering healthy meals, mental and physical exercise and a befriending service. Last year, while still wishing to rent the planned centre for its weekday daily activities, it decided to give up its lease of the Paisley West End Community Centre and move its head office from there to larger premises.

This council-owned building is close to the town centre, in an area recorded as among the lowest 5% in Scotland's Deprivation Index, and surrounded by a housing estate scheduled for a five-year regeneration programme and a 150-house development. The community centre includes a reception area, an 80-seater hall, a large meeting room, an office and a commercial-grade kitchen.

Spurred on by the continued formal support of Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership, three housing associations, and the Community Council, the church applied for a lease on a repair-and-maintenance basis with a peppercorn rent – effectively rent-free. After a nervous wait while the lease was publicly advertised, last month the keys were

handed over by Roar's managing director, Nicola Hanssen, to Paisley's pastor, Claudiu Popescu.

Referring to Roar's continued use of the centre, Ms Hanssen said, 'We are committed to working in partnership with those who share similar aims, ideals and values. Together we can make a big impact on the health and well-being of the whole of our community.' Pastor Popescu shared these sentiments, saying, 'The Adventist Church has a long history of health reform, and we look forward to getting to know our neighbours and working with partners to meet local needs.'

This is the culmination of a project launched in 2011 by Glasgow and Clyde's director of public health and led by Paisley West and Central Community Council. Titled WISH – West End Is Safer and Healthier – and funded by Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, subsequent public consultation produced several recommendations – including a wish to see empty premises brought into use for community activities and the provision of an alcohol-free venue. John Wilby, Paisley West and Central Community Council Chair, and the centre's new manager, said, 'This is an exciting opportunity that sees those early wishes brought to fruition. Partner activities will play a very important role in the West End's future regeneration.'

JOHN WILBY



North Wembley takes Christmas to the streets

North Wembley Community Church (NWCSDAC) took to the surrounding streets on a bitterly cold Saturday evening (23 December last year) to bless the local neighbourhood with its inaugural Christmas Carol street service.

The outreach was led by the Personal Ministries team, who had previously led similar monthly outreach programmes known as 'Rock the Block', and supported by many members and church friends.

As they progressed along Sudbury Avenue where the church is located, the carol singers stopped at different points to sing a selection of well-known hymns. Signed Christmas cards were posted to our neighbours and given to those we met along the way.

The evening culminated with further hymns being sung outside the church doors, where mince pies and chocolates were served to the community. NWCSDAC hope to continue this carol service for many years to come.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



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.



Christmas to the beat of drums

What can Seventh-day Adventists do at Christmas to help the staggering 1.7 million in this country who are designated disabled, many of whom are in residential care? The facts reveal that only a marginal percentage of this group are in contact with their families or relatives. Only a few spend Christmas at home with their families. Most spend Christmas where they spend the rest of the year – in their units.

In 2017 Reading Central's twenty-strong Hand-in-hand Disability Ministries team decided to lift the spirit in the community by blending a quintessentially British community Christmas carol service with African rhythmic drums. The blend won the approval of all the disabled attendees, and



many had the opportunity to take part in a mass drum orchestra.

Led by June and Carla Thompson, the Reading team advertised this Christmas event widely across Berkshire's special needs schools, as well as to establishments such as Mencap.

Tomson, a drum expert who has years of experience teaching special needs drumming, demonstrated the subtle Christmas message that we all can praise God in our own way. The group enjoyed over an hour of call-and-response drumming as well as designing their own 'uplifting drum message'. The message to the community was that, despite challenges in 2017, there is still room in everyone's heart to praise God and spread love and encouragement to each other.

The event ended with light refreshments and an opportunity to meet many of the parents and carers who were present. Margaret, a parent from the Wokingham community who was attending for the second year, said, 'This is a great programme; my son thoroughly enjoyed this, and I really feel at home here. Thank you, Hand-in-hand, for a lovely time. See you in 2018, life permitting.'

PAUL THOMPSON

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Bristol's 'market singers'

On Thursday 7 December, six members of Bristol Central Church braved the winter weather to spread some joy in the Bristol fruit market, and four of them made it there by 4.45am. David Rogers, who manages the French Gardens, enjoyed hearing Mary Philip singing 'Hallelujah' over three years ago when she went to purchase fruit for an event. Since then, not just David but all the workers at the French Gardens have got to know Mary well, and every time she goes there she is referred to as 'the church'. As a result, special preference is given to anyone connected with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 2015, thirteen members from the church went to the first sing-along a few days before Christmas. This past year the invitation went out again, and it was encouraging to see how warmly David and his team received those who turned up.

The group sang a cappella from 5.30am until way past 8.30am! Vendors stopped and even joined in some of the carols, beaming with delight, cheering and taking photos as they went along.

The audience were regularly informed that the singers were from Bristol Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, where they meet and when. In addition, 28 copies of *The Great Controversy* were handed out.

David gave generously to the group, including several boxes of fruit and vegetables. The sentiments expressed by those who came along were so positive, with many wanting to do it again this year.

IAN SABADIN



Stanborough Toy Service

Needy children in the Watford area woke up on Christmas morning to find that 'Father Christmas' had called after all last year, thanks to the continuing generosity of the members of Stanborough Park Church, who have maintained a tradition of donating toys every Christmas for more than half a century.

Stanborough Park Church's Annual Toy Service, which was held on 16 December last year, was begun in the early 1960s by the late Alf Kelly, who was awarded the MBE for his services to the people of Watford. Big-hearted Alf became concerned about the number of children who were going without toys at Christmas, and he appealed to the members for help. Thus the Annual Toy Service was established, a tradition maintained by his daughter, Pat

Walton, after his death. For his efforts Alf was dubbed 'Watford's Father Christmas' by the local paper.

This year's event was attended, as usual, by Baroness Thornhill, for the last time as the elected mayor of Watford, who reminded her audience that for her the Christmas season always began with attending this service.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Pastor Wayne Erasmus, who delivered a timely Christmas message in the form of an unusual perspective on the nativity story – as seen by the shepherds – which surely touched the hearts of all who heard it.

Following the service and the traditional photo of the children of the church with the Mayor, the display was quickly dismantled by the attending social workers and



charity representatives, who were delighted with the variety and quality of toys on offer for their clients.

Summing up the occasion, the organiser, Pat Walton, said, 'It was a real pleasure to see the extraordinary flood of toys for children of all ages. Toys were everywhere; some were already on the platform, some were carried

onto it by the young children of the church. The toys came from church members and the surrounding community; some were specially prepared by the youth group for teenagers. I do feel that there were more toys than usual. It was also heart-warmingly special to see the "pampering packages" for the overstretched mothers.'

JUNE COOMBS

Aberdaron Advent Campsite 2018 Summer Staff



Volunteers required for the summer of 2018.

Ten maintenance team staff required for nine weeks. Food and board provided along with a monetary allowance.

Please post your CV to:

Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT or email it to: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com.

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All-London Education Day Symposium

On Sabbath 25 November 2017, Dr Jude Jeanville, pastor of Tottenham Church, extended a warm welcome to the SEC's Education Director and Head of Hyland House School, Mrs Gina Abbequaye, and the guest speaker Dr Clinton Valley (former headmaster of John Loughborough School and a recent president of the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad). Dr Valley presented copies of his book, *Help! I'm Being Followed: What to Do When You've Been Called to Lead*, to the conference and the local education director, Jacqueline Nicholls Bingham, who with her team facilitated the programme from Sabbath School through to the afternoon symposium. In attendance were education secretaries, teachers and former staff members of the John Loughborough School. Also in attendance was Dr Keith Davidson, a former headmaster of John Loughborough School and a previous BUC education director.

Mrs Gina Abbequaye is very proud of Hyland House's new location in the facilities once occupied by John Loughborough School. She extended an invitation for all to attend the school's Open Day events in order to take ownership of this asset. The school has technical/design rooms and a training kitchen with ten workstations, and there are two science laboratories, one equipped for early learners and the other for those more experienced. Mrs Abbequaye also spoke of the challenges of managing a faith-based school in this day and age.

Dr Valley's sermon, 'Jewels for the Kingdom', reminded the congregation to live by and teach our children the following five values:

- Value God (He created and sustains us).



Sutton-in-Service!

Along with many churches around the country, and indeed the world, our church at Sutton-in-Ashfield held its Christmas Toy Service on 8 December, 2017.

Although we are a relatively small church, our members and guests proved to be more than generous with their offerings, thereby ensuring a little happiness for some of the less fortunate children in our community.

Once again we were happy to hand over the toys to our local branch of Sure Start. Jayne Gorewoda, head of community development, came to church not only to receive the toys, but also to share a little about the work of Sure Start. As she spoke to us it became increasingly clear that – although toys and gifts were really appreciated and welcomed – for many of the families Sure Start works with, food, clothing and other essentials were more urgently needed.

However, this did not detract from the pleasure she showed when her car was later filled with toys and teddy bears.

Our story doesn't stop there, though. After hearing of the terrible plight of some families, a decision was made – almost immediately – to send the church's box of provisions, which are collected through the year, to Sure Start to be distributed where needed. This box was topped up by members and friends with more basics and lots of festive treats.

Eunice Mason (elder) and Janet Stewart (Community Services) were duly dispatched with a hamper in plenty of time for Christmas.

Small we may be, but our love for the Lord and our community is in no way



- Value the Bible (God's word – where He reveals Himself).
- Value your family (God gave Adam to one woman).
- Value the Government (they are placed there by God), except when they speak contrary to God's laws.
- Value the remnant church (live as holy people).

The programme concluded in the evening with a vibrant question-and-answer session.

J. MORRIS

diminished by that fact. If anything, our size makes us reach higher and dig deeper in order to share and show God's love and compassion to others. We are blessed to be a blessing.

DIANE MORTON (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



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A serpent-like dove

Christ told us to be as 'wise as serpents, and harmless as doves' (Matt. 10:16, KJV). In a world where, as Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we might increasingly feel besieged by rulings that seem to erode our religious freedoms, we might find it very difficult to exercise that balance of being serpent-like doves, so to speak. It was therefore reassuring to witness a live response to Christ's commission, during a one-day conference at the Centre for Conflict, Rights and Justice at the Nottingham University Law School – a conference where Pastor Brighton Kavaloh, one of the invited presenters, tactfully displayed just how to be wise, but harmless. The conference was held on Monday, 11 December 2017, and was entitled 'Law, Human Rights and Religion – Flashpoints'.

Presenting to about 30 academics with expertise in various areas of law, some of whom were from within the UK and others from abroad, Pastor Kavaloh was one of four presenters who were tasked with speaking during the 'hot potato' section of the day – Religion, Sexuality and Gender Identity. With each speaker given only 15 minutes to present their thoughts, then a question-and-answer section at the end, Pastor Kavaloh was the second speaker with the highly anticipated presentation entitled, 'Ceasefire – A Call to End Hostilities – Religious Rights vs Sexual Minorities'.

Through an analysis of the Judaeo-Christian foundations of English common law, meticulous scrutiny of specific case law, analysis of the UK Human Rights Act (1998), and evidence of concerns from distinguished experts of the law regarding the dangers of considering one aspect of equality as more important than another (for example, sexual orientation rights versus freedom of religion), Pastor Kavaloh was able to prove that within the current



Stanborough Park hosts Christmas Picture Competition Award Ceremony

The partnership between the Co-op movement and Stanborough Park Church's Community Chaplaincy Services continued for the fifth year running, with the award ceremony for the Annual Christmas Picture Competition for local schools held there on 7 December last year.

The criteria for competition entries were that they should be a Christmas scene in any medium chosen by the children – paint/crayon/poster/collage – but were not to include any computer work or enhancement. Although fewer schools submitted entries this year, the standard of work was the highest so far.

Children aged from 4 to 11 years from four primary schools submitted entries which were displayed around the walls of the Sycamore Room in The Stanborough Centre for the parents to view while waiting for the well-attended ceremony to begin.

There were six winning prizes – 1st, 2nd and 3rd – for the competition, which was divided into two age groups: 4-7 and 8-11 years. In addition to these, 14 minor prizes were presented in the 'Commended' and 'Highly Commended' categories to encourage more children to enter the competition. The schools attended by the main prize winners also received a cheque for £100 from senior minister, Pastor Jacques Venter.

The competition was organised and sponsored by the Co-op and Enoch Kanagaraj, a Co-op employee and the Chairman of the church's Community Chaplaincy Service, who has been the driving force behind the annual event.

It is planned to hold the competition again this year, when it is hoped that more local schools will take up the challenge and submit entries.

JUNE COOMBS



climate religious freedom is a right that is regarded as less valuable than sexual orientation rights. Pastor Kavaloh concluded by proposing the need to adopt the principle of reasonable accommodation for religious beliefs in UK law. This would be the most effective way to ensure that different groups' rights and freedoms are balanced fairly, rather than the recent trend where courts have tended to be pernicious when interpreting equality legislation in relation to the manifestation of religious freedom.

Despite some of the audience and presenters having differing views to those of Pastor Kavaloh, the cordial response from various presenters and members of the audience was evidence enough that there was mutual respect between all parties.

Furthermore, Pastor Kavaloh's presentation was a powerful witness in an environment where some might have thought that views like those presented by Pastor Kavaloh might be ridiculed. Instead, the act of stepping out in faith not only showed that there are indeed others who have espoused the very same views that we hold, but that after hearing his arguments they were keen to state how inspired they were.

Yes! It is still possible to be as wise as a serpent, and harmless as a dove – even in this day and age.

ALEX NSIMBI



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Leslie Arthur Channer (1938-2017) d. 29 June.



The funeral service of Leslie Arthur Channer was held on 21 July 2017 at Lewisham Church. The officiating ministers were Pastors Otis Lewis, Bernard Akakpo, Terry Messenger, Humphrey Walters and Kevin Johns. Leslie was born 20 October 1938, in Watchwell, Newcombe Valley, St Elizabeth, Jamaica, the third child of Stephen and Louisa Channer. He had seven siblings, Mendes (deceased), Cecil, Isolene, Leebert, Phyllis, Savlie and Jenkin. The family attended Williamsfield Church in St Elizabeth.

After attending Newcombe Valley School, Leslie joined his dad and elder brother as an apprentice carpenter. In 1957 he migrated to England and settled with his brothers Mendes and Cecil in Forest Hill, London. He found work as a paint sprayer at 'K Metal' in Walworth Road, where he later became a supervisor.

In the late '50s he met and married Amelia Alberta Perkins, and they were blessed with four children:

Debbie, Wayne (deceased), Richard and Yvonne.

The family moved from Forest Hill to Morella Road, Lewisham, where they were neighbours to the Addison family, who attended Lewisham Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was the start of a lifelong friendship between the two families. Mrs Addison started to take Debbie to church with her children and it wasn't long before the entire Channer family were attending church. Leslie and Amelia were baptised at Lewisham Church, where he served as a deacon for a number of years.

In 1984 the family moved to the newly formed Eltham Green company, which gained church status in 1986, where Leslie served as a deacon, head deacon and Ingathering agent. After a few years the Channers moved to Middle Park Avenue, Eltham, and their home became an extension of the church for everything from church boards to prayer breakfasts.

Leslie loved the annual ADRA fund-raising event and he knew the best areas to go to. Blackfen was one of his favourite places because the people were generous in their giving. His enthusiasm was also catching,

and soon he would have a team ready to collect funds with him.

Leslie's sense of humour was well known to all his family and friends, as were his hospitality and his willingness to assist church members with lifts to the airport.

In 2013, due to ill health, Leslie moved to Croydon to live with his daughter Yvonne and her family. With the assistance of his best friend, Neville Walker, Leslie attended church and the Golden Age club on a regular basis. After a while Leslie's health deteriorated and he was moved to Parkview Nursing Home, Croydon.

Sadly, on 29 June Leslie passed away at Croydon Hospital. He was laid to rest at Grove Park Cemetery, Grove Park, London. We look forward to the day when Jesus returns to take His loved ones home.

The family of Leslie Channer wish to express their gratitude and thanks to all those who visited and cared for him during his illness, especially to Sylvia Faucher, Neville Walker and Novelette Samuels.

BETHENE WITTER WHITE

Brian Combridge (1931-2017) d. 26 November.



Brian was born in Putney in London, in an age when money still had value. One penny could buy a young lad his lunch. In 1927 Brian's father, Stanley, moved to Bristol, and the family moved with him. When the Second World War broke out the Government sponsored the evacuation of children from the major cities, and Brian's parents arranged, through the church network, for him to stay with the Hardy family in Croscombe. He enjoyed his time there, passing his school exams and obtaining a place at Cotham Grammar School in Bristol after the war.

The family moved to Edgware in 1949. Brian was planning to enrol as a student at King's College, London. Unfortunately, the Government restructured the admission qualifications, giving preference to troops returning from the war. Instead, Brian began work at the Lister Institute of Preventative Medicine in London, where he remained until his retirement. This

institution stayed at the same location but often changed both in name and role. Brian had an interest in science from an early age, and found that it was satisfied by his work in medical research. Haemophilia and hepatitis were fields of special interest to him, and he authored and co-authored papers on these subjects and was instrumental in devising the test for hepatitis that is still used today.

His role in this field led him into extensive correspondence with people from all around the world, many of whom were requesting reprints of his research.

The family moved to Watford, where Brian's talent as a musician was expressed in his church involvement in the piano, orchestra and choir. His passion for music led to a friendship with Romola Bird, which in turn led to a long and happy marriage. They enjoyed fifty-seven years together and were blessed with two children: a son, Nicholas, and a daughter, Melinda.

Brian was a person of distinction, which was evidenced by the large group of colleagues from his workplace who attended his funeral service. Among the many tributes was the repeated comment, 'He was a quiet, gentle, caring man.' If it is true to say a 'loving and loveable Christian' is a powerful witness to the Christian faith, then Brian Combridge qualifies. Any time he was asked, 'How are you?' the answer was always the same: 'I'm fine.'

It is perhaps true that some people become part of our life so much that we expect them to be there for ever. After sixty years of playing the organ and being a vital part of Stanborough Park Church life, Brian Combridge will be missed. He will be missed by his dear wife, Romola, Nicholas (son), Melinda (daughter), his four grandchildren (Alex, Oliver, Kirsten and James) and the wider circle of family, friends and church members in Stanborough Park Church.

The service was conducted by Pastor Jim Huzzey, assisted by Jacques Venter (the senior pastor) and the writer. Interment took place at the North Watford Cemetery. Brian sleeps awaiting the return of the Lord and Saviour whom he loved. Then it will be as he so often said: 'I'm fine.' Lord haste that day.

PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE (RETIRED)

Pastor George Sidney Crutchfield (1927-2017) d. 26 October.

George was born of humble roots in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire to Agnes and Fred Crutchfield. He grew up there with his siblings Ronald, Arthur, Winifred and June (whom he lost to polio at a tender age), an Englishman through and through – peculiarly funny, emotionally reserved, occasionally stubborn, but from a young age drawn to a greater purpose outside of himself, and devoted to others in honour of his Saviour.

His life-path led him to Newbold College during World War II. A true pacifist in Christ, he awoke early each day at college to milk the cows in support of the war effort. While there, he met Huguette, a student from Switzerland. They married soon after he graduated from Newbold and headed off to lead Adventist youth in troubled Northern Ireland. A church post in Scotland followed, where they adopted a son, Stuart; then they were called back to England, where they adopted a daughter, Cheryl. Thus the Crutchfield nucleus was formed, and a family journey began from church to church around England as the church called George to new fields of ministry.

A born evangelist, George shared Christ wherever he was sent. He delighted in sharing the archaeology of Egypt and the prophetic hope given through Daniel and John. He campaigned for Christ where angels cautiously trod, from Belfast to Cairo to Beirut, but we never saw him doubt or fear. His love for evangelism eventually brought him and Huguette to a new home in the USA, where, after church leadership in Pennsylvania and New England, he retired in Florida to pursue his passions for gardening, vacuuming and singing to the cat. His ageing mind rejoiced each night as he remembered friends and family in prayer for the church's continuing mission rather than for his own health.

George Crutchfield died on 26 October last year and his funeral service was held in Palm Coast Seventh-day Adventist Church, Florida.

He rests now, his task done: deeply missed but not forgotten by his wife of 66 years (Huguette), son (Stuart), daughter (Cheryl), three

grandchildren (Emma, Georgina and Alec) and two great-grandchildren (Brody and Cooper).

STUART CRUTCHFIELD

Robert Victor McCormac (1943-2018) d. 13 January.



Born on 8 May 1943 to Bob and Ethel McCormac in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Victor was the eldest of the living siblings in what was a relatively large family.

Victor was raised in a Church of Ireland home but his future wife, Ethel Moore, 'dragged' him along to a Michael Perret campaign in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, where he gave his life to Christ.

Victor was introduced to the Adventist message by his Aunt May, with whom he was living at the time. His aunt was attending meetings in Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church held by Pastor Paddy Boyle. She would share what she heard each evening with Victor after he came off the late shift as a bus driver for the Belfast City Corporation. Later he began attending church in uniform and then going off to work. But the church members loved him into the church, and when he made the decision to be baptised he also handed in his notice because he could not get Sabbath off. Victor shared his new-found Adventist faith with his new wife, Ethel, his parents and siblings, most of whom made a decision for baptism.

Despite leaving the buses in 1970, he spoke about his love of having been a bus driver and often shared many of his experiences with his family and friends.

He had been a keen Boy Scout and had achieved his Queen's Scout Award, which proved valuable when he became involved in Pathfinders and achieved his Master Guide qualification.

Under the watchful eye of Pastor Dalbert Elias, Victor became an elder, a post he held for over 30 years. He also served as the church clerk and a lay preacher, and was a member of the Irish Mission Executive Committee for a number of terms. Victor committed himself not only to God, but also to seeing the Gospel commission fulfilled. He

was never afraid to share his faith with colleagues, friends and family, and his love for Christ was reflected in his unwavering support for the work of the church at home and across Ireland.

Victor spent much of his working life with Calvert Electric and Hotpoint Creda, but had also worked in construction, with undertakers and with a wholesaler chemist.

Victor was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer two years ago, but, despite the poor prognosis, he miraculously responded to his treatment, which gave him many more months than were expected. He embraced the prognosis, knowing that God was with him, and lived out his last days in the same hope that he had shared so passionately with everyone he encountered.

He expressed his thanks for all the letters, emails, phone calls, visits and prayers over the last few months, and was greatly encouraged by them. Many of these contributions were recorded by him in five journals, which he began when first diagnosed.

Victor passed away peacefully on 13 January, and he now sleeps in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life in Jesus Christ.

PASTOR DOUGLAS MCCORMAC

Jean Wynne (1942-2017) d. October.

Jean Wynne was born in Machynlleth during 1942, in the middle of the Second World War. Little is known of her early life, but as an adult she entered the Civil Service.

It seems that from an early age Jean had a strong love for the Lord Jesus Christ, but for many years she was perplexed about how He should be worshipped. She was on a spiritual journey and had a deep desire to discover the real Jesus. She connected with the Messianic Jews but eventually discovered a group of Adventist believers in Aberystwyth.

Attracted by the biblical teaching of the Sabbath, and other Adventist beliefs, Jean found a spiritual home, which helped to strengthen her trust and faith in Christ. It was a faith which shone brightly to her friends in the town, in both word and deed. Her work with the Samaritans and

her love for animals were clear expressions of Christ's compassion.

Jean died in October last year, having spent her final weeks in hospital, being cared for and ministered to by the local church leader, Libby Goodman. Her funeral was conducted at Aberystwyth by the writer, who shared the hope of Christ's soon return with her gathered friends and colleagues.

It is our sure and certain hope that we will soon meet Jean again on the resurrection morning.

PASTOR ROGER NEAL, WELSH MISSION (RETIRED)

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Land	Card	North	Edin	Belf
Feb 9	5.05	5.17	5.05	5.03	5.19
16	5.17	5.30	5.18	5.19	5.33
23	5.30	5.42	5.32	5.34	5.48
Mar 2	5.43	5.55	5.45	5.49	5.62

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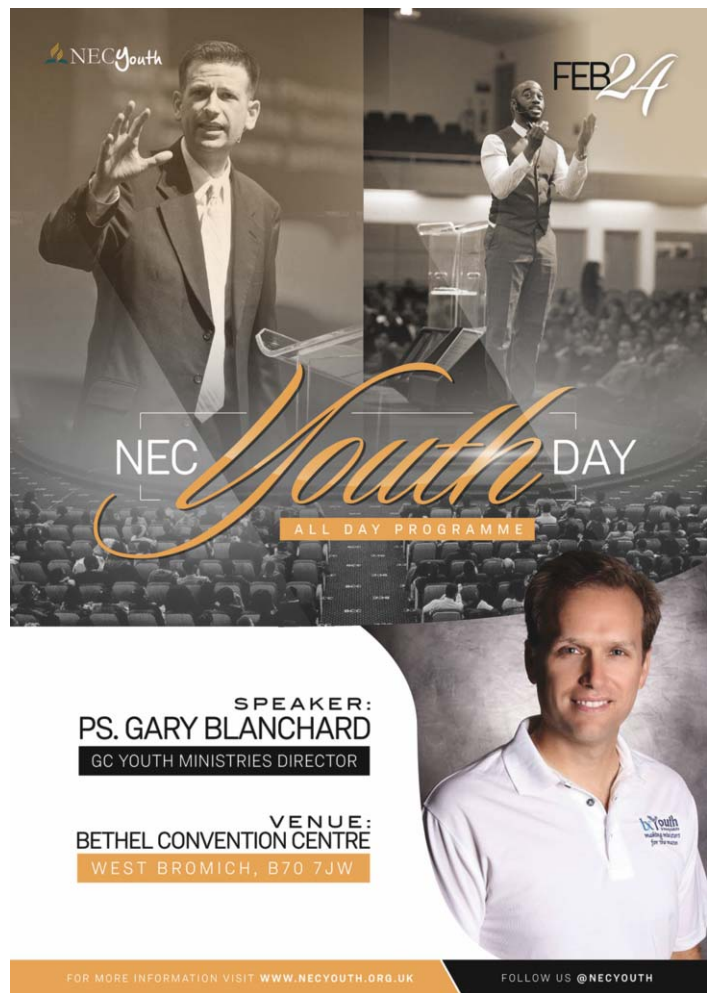
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