



Messenger

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# Newbold College of Higher Education



## ... looks to the future

An urgent need to renew  
focus on ministry and mission



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# We continue to publish – for the sake of the Gospel!

by Elisabeth Sangüesa, Stanborough Press manager

**'It's when times are hardest that we need the transformative power of books and their creativity the most.'**

*Cressida Cowell*

I remember that at the beginning of this year, when we had the first board meeting at the Stanborough Press in February, I said something like this:

'Political uncertainty and financial challenges are affecting society and our church, both in the UK and abroad, and it seems that this year is not going to be any different: USA elections, the Brexit transition and future negotiations, the coronavirus, unrest with Iran, etc. All of these issues indicate that we do not have all the time in the world to bring hope to people's lives. That is our commission and our mission, which we take very seriously in this publishing house.'

Little did we know that, just a few weeks after that first board, our world – the whole world, in fact – would turn upside down; that it would come to a standstill practically overnight; that over 42,000 would have lost their lives to COVID-19 (some of them our pastors and members); that seemingly booming economies would enter into recession and that we would not be able to leave our homes, visit our friends and relatives or travel; that business giants would face staggering losses; and that even the present structure of our church would be threatened.

And all because of a little particle that we cannot even see!

Times are certainly hard for many at the moment, and the restorative power of books is a welcome comfort.

With everything that is going on right now, we all could use a little encouragement – something to strengthen our faith, or even find it!

I know some people may question the relevance of literature ministry today, but I do believe – and Ellen White says it, as well – that the printed page will finish the work before Jesus returns.

All forms of evangelism are important and valid; but, even if the world says that people are not reading as much, we should not doubt what God has revealed to us and what He has instructed us to do, which is to use publications to make His message of love and salvation clear to all.

Literature is a powerful tool to reach different groups which are not being reached at the moment, and I believe we should have a

clearer and more consistent strategy on how to achieve this.

From a Bible or a study guide in a Christian bookshop, to a children's book or health magazine in the doctor's surgery, a *FOCUS* magazine through the letterbox or even a tract found in the rubbish – a single piece of literature can transform a life. It is that powerful!

The closing down of our churches has provided a whole myriad of opportunities to reach our customers and members of the community through different means.

I want to thank our team for the timely launch of the Lifesource Bookshop online store ([www.lifesourcebookshop.co.uk](http://www.lifesourcebookshop.co.uk)), which was launched just a few days before the lockdown started in March. It is proving to be an invaluable source of income, even if it is a fraction of what normal sales would have been if our churches were open. We are grateful that we have that income stream and window to the world.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our members who have obtained resources through this service, and to encourage all of you to go to the website and support it by ordering some materials for yourself (Sabbath School lessons, for example) or sharing material to bless someone else (calendars, cards, gift books, games, children's products, etc.). Show someone you care by sending them a book with words of hope, comfort or encouragement.

So far, only some of you have actually made any purchases. . . . I will not say who you are, but just know that I check the list of purchases every day!

We continue to work on making our products available and better known by putting in place some advertising and marketing strategies, such as a newsletter, newer brochures, intentional advertising of special offers, and our very first Virtual Open Day. Thank you for making it a success!

If you have not done it yet, why not subscribe to our *Lifesource Newsletter* and to *MESSENGER Extra*? You will not only have up-to-date information on the special offers and resources available, but will also be informed of what is happening throughout our Union.

I am pleased to say that you, our members, still do believe in the power of literature and



like to share it in large quantities. We continue to see that literature is still one of the best, if not THE best, method of reaching people with the Gospel: one that can involve every member of our church. This is the big picture – true Total Member Involvement and what we are all about. It is our MISSION.

The current situation with the closure of churches and the departure of some of the staff has given us the opportunity to look more carefully at staffing levels and reassignment of duties in order to ensure sustainability and viability. However, not everything is doom and gloom! There are positive things happening, and, as I mentioned before, we have seen God's hand so far.

While most shops were forced to close, we have been blessed to have food in our catalogue as it has allowed us to remain open throughout the lockdown to provide not only that essential service to our customers, but also the opportunity to obtain and distribute many titles to people in isolation and to families that needed resources to keep their children active, learning and entertained. As one of our customers put it: we have been a lifeline for many, just like other front-line workers!

People are looking for hope, and we have the privilege, and the duty, to bring that hope to those around us. This is why we have been established as a people and as a publishing house, and I believe that God will continue to sustain us until we finish that assignment.

There are exciting opportunities that we continue to explore. We are aware that we still have some serious challenges for the months ahead, and that we will need to make some serious and possibly unpleasant decisions, but I know that God has a plan for the future of this publishing house.

I would like to thank God for His mercy towards us, and you, our members, for your constant support and prayers.

More than ever before, we are very much aware that we would not be where we are at the moment without God's watchcare. With grateful hearts, we give all the praise, honour and glory to Him for equipping us to work for Him in this ministry. Continue to be blessed, and continue to bless others.



David Neal, Editor

# The church has grown wide – but not deep!

Digging deeper into Scripture, studying church history, and learning the meaning of the original text is not 'losing the faith', but the process of gaining faith - gaining a deeper faith.



Both pastors were serious students of Scripture with brilliant minds: both immersed deep into church history; both published widely; both enthusiastic about the mission and message of the church, as well as renowned evangelists in their younger years.

Prior to arriving at Newbold, my understanding of faith was of a know-it-all black-and-white variety. My understanding of biblical truth was confined to a securely sealed box with multiple padlocks on the outside. As an aspiring pastor, I

thought that defending the faith would gain kudos. It did not, and brought out some un-Christlike characteristics in me that those close up knew only too well – I am sorry.

Once at Newbold something happened, common to almost all who train for ministry. My studies raised questions I'd never considered before. I was expecting the lecturer to provide a chart explaining every symbol in Revelation, but it did not happen. Instead, he directed the class to go off to the library to discover the literary influences on John of Patmos. Studies about 'the Sabbath' were geared more to the beauty of keeping it than to 'proving' it was to be kept on Saturday.

When it came to studying the matter of salvation – that was close-up and personal for me, as I was still trying to work out if salvation really is free. As I 'wrestled' over the matter, I began to experience a 'grace-awakening', the result not just of one Bible study or one class, but of worships, assemblies, conversations, prayer times and sometimes rigorous debates with teachers and fellow students. Little did I know at the time that it was timely preparation for my early years of ministry. I was soon to serve in a climate of theological polarisation, where the beauty of the Gospel, and all it freely offers, would be challenged to the core by some members in the churches I served.

The educational process that takes place when a student enters a theological college to train for ministry is sometimes described as 'theological deconstruction', and without doubt it is necessary. At this point I can understand how some readers might be a tad suspicious. 'There you are, you see! That's what happens

to our enthusiastic youth when we send them off to Newbold. They lose the faith they were first taught!' 'Not so quick,' is my response. 'Stay with me as I explain.'

Digging deeper into Scripture, studying church history, and learning the meaning of the original text is not 'losing the faith', but the process of gaining faith – gaining a deeper faith. Learning how to read the Bible for all its worth, over and above determining a belief system through 'proof-texts', is the pathway to maintaining theological balance and integrity. Is theological balance important? Unequivocally, because a major role of the trained pastor is the godly role of helping the members in their care to keep theological balance, which is foundational to the discipleship and shepherding journey.

When it comes to the study of God (theology), raising the most serious questions in the universe, Romans 11:33-36 (ESV) reminds us:

*'Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?" . . . For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever.'*

It's that learning to 'wrestle' with Scripture that is the foundation of pastoral ministry, learning to wrestle with the big questions about life and the universe that the ancient text demands we consider. It is in asking the 'big questions' that the ministerial student begins to re-construct their faith: again, not just through one class, but through the entire Newbold experience.

The only legitimate authority any pastor has to serve is in sharing a true understanding of Scripture and continuing to serve with the attitude of a continual student, searching, digging deeper, wrestling. Don't for a minute think that I'm just thinking about the understanding of Christian doctrine here. If you want a litmus test of why the pastor needs to 'wrestle' and understand what God is like, then watch and listen as he/she seeks to console a parent during the funeral of a young child, snatched away after a few days of life. It's at such times that I'm ever thankful for the education and training Newbold provided – and, I trust, will continue to provide.

Let me end by returning to my two former pastors. Keeping theological balance between the Kingdom of God now (His kingdom of grace) and the Kingdom of God to come (His kingdom of glory) is a matter the Adventist community particularly continues to wrestle with, and will probably do so until Christ comes. Their conviction about the mission and message of the church was unshakable – with their knowledge of God leading to action for God. Their mindset was more 'movement' than 'denomination'. They held the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other, preaching an 'expectant' message, using whatever biblical means possible to awaken the members they served from their spiritual slumber. I caught it – and after 37 years I still can't shake it off.

The sermon one particular Sabbath struck home. It was about the end times, and that the return of Christ was imminent – *really* imminent, if you get my gist. Following the hymn, 'O Jesus, I Have Promised to Serve Thee to the End', I felt stirred, enthused and yet totally conflicted. Shaking the pastor's hand, I remember my voice quivering as I said to him, 'If Christ is to return so soon, why am I soon off to Newbold to train to be a pastor for five years?' All I remember of his response was a sympathetic look, with some encouraging words, as he needed to move quickly on to shake the hand of the next person.

Looking through some of my old files recently, I came across a letter, again from my church pastor (another one – the fore-mentioned had moved on). The date on the letter reads 2 September, 1983, which would have been the commencement of my second year at Newbold. Encouraging me to stay faithful to 'our church's marvellous message', he enclosed some supporting material. With considerable discussion at the time about one of the church's fundamental beliefs, the intent of the letter was to help keep an aspiring pastor on the straight and narrow. Discovering his letter now, 37 years later, his concluding lines jump off the page, reproduced here with his emphasis:

*'I do hope you'll preserve the enclosed material. It will be helpful to you in your future ministry (which I don't think you'll enjoy much of, in view of the nearness of the END).*

*God bless you David,  
Warm personal regards,  
Your friend . . .'*



# Newbold College of Higher Education looks to the future –

## An urgent need to renew focus on ministry and mission

David Neal, for *TED News*



For almost 120 years Newbold College of Higher Education (NCHE) has faithfully served the Trans-European Division (TED), preparing ministers and other workers to serve the region and far beyond. Ever sensitive to the needs of both society and the church it serves, Newbold has never lost sight of its mission and identity. While regeneration of the college has been high on the agenda of the Board of Governors and management for many years, as the principal, Dr John Baildam, notes, 'Now more than ever, in these challenging and fast-changing times, we are considering how best to remain relevant to the needs of the 14 TED constituency units we serve.' With this lead, the Newbold Board of Governors met for an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 30 September to best determine how the college can urgently adapt and restructure.

Prior to this meeting there were many hours of deliberations between the TED leadership and stakeholders, including a 15 September group conversation of field presidents, with the Division president and board chair Pastor Raafat Kamal affirming the continuing importance of Newbold to the Division's members. 'Most

notable in our conversation,' says Kamal, 'was the consensus that Newbold exists first and foremost to train pastors and other church leaders to serve TED members – and now is the time to urgently renew this focus.'

### A new centre for ministry and mission

The Newbold Board of Governors voted a new ten-point 'Framework for Operation' at its 30 September meeting. At its core, the 'Framework for Operation' commits to a new Centre for Ministry and Mission, giving sole focus and strategic direction to the education and preparation of ministers, evangelists, front-line church planters, leaders and theologians. This is to be in place by September 2021, in time for the commencement of the 2021-2022 academic year.

'The significance of this action cannot be overstated,' says Pastor Ian Sweeney, the board's vice chair and president of the British Union Conference. He continues, 'The decision to have Newbold concentrate its focus on its original purpose of ministerial education and equipping is an exciting one. The intent is that students who pass through Newbold's doors will leave better able to fulfil the mission of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church, with well-rounded, mission-focused, well-educated pastors and workers.'

'This is Newbold's core business,' agrees Pastor Victor Marley, President of the Norwegian Union Conference. 'Sometimes we need to take care of the basics in order to build again for the future.'

Pastor Dragan Grujić, President of the South-East European Union Conference, concurs with hope. 'With Newbold becoming more mission-centred, it is making a decisive step for the church in the TED to grow.'

How will Newbold adapt to meet this new paradigm shift? The 'Framework for Operation' is based on an initial enrolment of 80-100 students, with a mixture of on-campus intensives and online classes as the new standard model of delivery. The former regional pastoral training programmes held in such centres as Belgrade, Budapest, Riga and Warsaw will be restarted and expanded to other areas throughout the TED. 'With the UK so far away from our field,' says Pastor Ivo Kask, president of the Baltic Union Conference, 'the plan to concentrate on offering online and intensive classes changes everything for us. It brings ministerial education closer to home, it is less expensive, and, best of all, the educational focus is towards front-line mission. I know our youth will be energised by this action.'

How the academic and curricular changes pan out has yet to be seen; but, under this plan, Newbold is making a commitment not only to maintain its reputation for delivering theological education of excellence, but also to deliver pastoral and evangelistic

education to an equally high standard.

The use of campus land and buildings will be reconfigured, including the development of an investment master plan. Included in this core commitment is an ongoing promise to review the 'Newbold culture', ensuring a safe and welcoming experience for every student.

For the Newbold senior leadership team and staff, this is a time of major transition. 'With this in mind,' says Pastor Kamal, 'I want to thank Dr John Baildam for his outstanding and ongoing leadership and ministry, and to thank each staff member for their sacrificial commitment and contribution to the college. I am praying for every member of the Newbold family.'

### Day of Prayer for Newbold, 10 October

With the urgent need for this once-in-a-generation change, we also wish to pray for God's guidance and counsel. As Newbold renews its focus on ministry and mission, Pastor Kamal and the Trans-European Division leadership team designated Sabbath 10 October as a Day of Prayer for Newbold. 'We are inviting all TED members,' says Kamal, 'and the wider world-church family to lift up Newbold in prayer . . . , because we believe the leading of the Holy Spirit on this action is critical.'

'It is critical,' Kamal went on to explain, 'because on the TED front line of mission are almost 1,400 communities of disciples, each Christ-centred and modelled after its maker: Jesus. Disciples live faith, grow faith, and share their faith. Critical to their success are their leaders – pastors, teachers, and evangelists, joining them on their spiritual journey. Critical to the growth of the Trans-European Division (both spiritually and numerically) is the role of the Spirit-filled pastor who leads each community of disciples in the local church. That's why Adventist higher education is essential for the lifeblood of the church. I believe that Newbold's renewed focus on ministry and mission will produce a new generation of leaders with theological depth and conviction, which constantly stirs their call to serve Christ and to grow disciples for Him in these expectant times.'

# Statement from Newbold Principal

by Dr John Baidam

Despite the generous financial support provided by the Trans-European Division and its various fields over so many years, Newbold's financial situation has become increasingly demanding. The challenges of COVID-19, resulting in low student numbers and a subsequent fall in income over the past seven months, have served as a key catalyst for the decision made on 30 September by our governors, who, on the recommendation of the presidents of the Unions throughout the Trans-European Division, voted for significant changes to the college's offerings and organisational structure. These changes will be made over the course of the next few months, and will be in place for September 2021.

While we do not yet know exactly what shape these changes will take, every decision will be made with the well-being of our students at heart. Nevertheless, this is a challenging period for our students and for our staff. Members of the Newbold community are experiencing a mixture of emotions, including concern, disappointment and worry, as we go through a time of change together and as colleagues contemplate possible changes to their employment status at the college.

Various panels and committees will be working hard as together we all seek to respect and honour the mandate of the Board of Governors, and to provide a clear picture of exactly how Newbold will start the 2021-2022 academic year. Meanwhile, we have assured our students and staff that teaching and learning will continue as planned for the rest of the current academic year, right through to May 2021.



## Newbold prayer matters

*As TED News reports, a Day of Prayer for Newbold College was designated for Sabbath 10 October, which took place prior to the publication of this edition of MESSENGER. As the members of the Newbold family face this news with a mixture of emotions, please pray for the Lord to be their continual support, guide and hope. Please pray for the college's leadership, staff and students – as well as for the Newbold School and Newbold Church family.*





# On a mission to educate!

by Gina Abbequaye, Education Director

It seems like a lifetime ago when Boris Johnson announced that all schools in England would close on Friday 20 March 2020, because it was no longer safe for children and staff to be on school premises due to COVID-19, and schools would be closed for an unspecified period of time.

Teachers were concerned, parents were alarmed and children were confused.

Parents were generally panicked and horrified at the thought of having their children at home, all day, every day, and being responsible for 'teaching' them.

Generally, children were excited: 'No more school!' they cheered. But, as the days away from school turned into weeks and then into months, our children became anxious about missing their friends.

Teachers were worried about completing the National Curriculum, ensuring that each child in their class maintained their level of progress and didn't fall behind.

And if I may borrow the phrase from the well-known film series and apply it to our schools:

***'Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to educate these pupils during the COVID-19 pandemic, during national lockdown ...'***

I can confirm that our Adventist schools grasped this challenge with both hands and have driven this mission with full commitment to this very day!

For the teachers in our Adventist schools, teaching is not merely a profession, but a way of life, a passion, and an enthusiasm. With this principle, our teachers were determined to find a way to educate each and every pupil; to meet each individual child's needs; to continue the quality work of education – in its broadest sense – which is provided on our school premises, but now also in the bedroom, at the kitchen table, on the sitting room floor, in the garden – effectively, in the homes of our pupils.

And therein blossomed the ingenuity of our dedicated teachers!

This mission involved our teaching staff training themselves on the technological complexities of online learning and having the confidence to teach the National Curriculum subjects in an exciting and engaging way. Our teachers imparted knowledge from their homes into the homes of their pupils. And I assure you that it was by no means an easy task.

All of our eight schools provided quality distance learning for our pupils – online as well as educational work packs for those who preferred it.

Some of our schools provided electronic devices for children who did not have any, so that they could access the lessons.

Our teachers not only set work, but marked the work, gave quality feedback and then set more challenging learning according to each individual child's needs.

Initially, both parents and staff were quite apprehensive about distance learning during lockdown, but the feedback from parents has been phenomenally encouraging. They have commented positively on the quality and quantity of learning provided by our dedicated teachers.

Our schools also provided online forums where parents could share tried and tested ideas of coping with this new phenomenon called 'distance learning'. Parents shared how they valued knowing that they were not alone in their fears, and that others shared their anxieties during lockdown.

Our teachers were not only meeting the educational needs of their pupils, but were meeting the day-to-day support needs of the parents too.

The book *Education*, written by Ellen White, on page 13 reads:

*'True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.'*

With this in mind, our schools were determined to continue to provide our pupils with the knowledge of Jesus' love for us during lockdown. If ever there was a time to seek comforting promises from the Bible, to share stories of Bible heroes overcoming disasters, and to have a personal relationship with Jesus, it was now, during this COVID-19 pandemic!

Our schools were also concerned about the health and well-being of our pupils and their parents. This has continued to be our priority during this rapidly evolving situation. Some of our pupils have struggled without face-to-face contact with their classmates and teachers, but our daily 'Zoom assemblies', our 'Google Teach' daily devotionals and our 'Microsoft Teams' worship times, all provided by our ingenious teachers, have proved to be a real beacon of inspiration and encouragement for both our pupils and their families.

I can attest that our schools have provided quality learning and spiritual well-being during these difficult and unprecedented times; and, as we have started to open our schools in September 2020, that quality and dedication has continued.

When our pupils and their parents look back to the spring and summer terms of 2020, our prayer is that they will have positive, quality memories of the 'true education' provided by our Adventist schools and their dedicated teachers.



# Harper Bell greets you all

by Nigel Oram, head teacher

Greetings from Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist School in the wonderful city of Birmingham. Many *MESSENGER* readers will know of Harper Bell and its illustrious history, which spans over three decades. Situated in the heart of the city, Harper Bell's inclusive values of love, learning and laughter have made it a popular choice for the diverse community it serves. Its Christian ethos, embodied in its vision 'For all pupils to fulfil their God-given talents and to aspire to achieve a university education', ensures that both staff and parents in partnership strive for excellence in their children's education, moral and spiritual development.

Harper Bell reopened fully at the beginning of September, after the summer holidays and the national lockdown due to COVID-19. Like all sectors, schools have had to make substantial changes in order to make them COVID-19 safe. The school now has staggered arrival and dismissal times for different year groups. It has also installed automated hand sanitisers, placed outside each classroom, as well as employing an additional cleaner to ensure that communal contact points are sanitised regularly. Currently the school has not had any



confirmed cases, resulting in all our children continuing to receive a full-time education. We pray that this continues to be the case for us, as we also pray for all schools nationally, in order that they can continue to educate all of our children in these challenging times.

Most recently, Harper Bell had the distinction of presenting its culturally reflective curriculum model to Birmingham University and Birmingham Educational Partnership. The school's curriculum is underpinned by three

core drivers: our Christian beliefs, academic aspirations, and the cultural heritage of our pupils. The presentations were well received, and the school has been asked to support other schools in developing their curriculum towards the goal of making them both truly aspirational and inclusive.

*Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist School – A School of Love, Learning & Laughter*  
[www.harperbellsdaschool.co.uk](http://www.harperbellsdaschool.co.uk)



What a year it has been! The Christian education so widely embraced by parents and children in Grantham was disrupted when the coronavirus impacted the lives of the British people. Nothing – not even the Blitz – has halted the children's education like the pandemic that was sweeping across the nation.

The staff of Dudley House School quickly adapted to 'home schooling'. Each week

the children and their parents collected their learning pack, which was carefully matched to the child's needs, together with their timetable for lessons and Zoom meetings with their teachers and classmates. The new learning mode worked a treat – the children thrived, and their efforts went on the school's Facebook page and website for all to admire.

## Dudley House School

by Esme Sutton

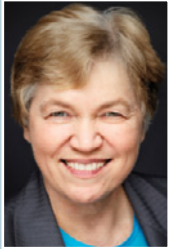
When the school opened for all pupils in June, the head teacher and her staff prepared the school for opening, taking into account the Government's advice. Having seen some schools on TV decked out in their COVID-19 attire, the head teacher declared, 'I don't want my children to be frightened by masks, barriers, tape and notices. This school is not a crime scene! The children will soon learn!' They did learn, and adapted very quickly to 'the new normal'; so did the staff and the parents. Unlike Local Authority schools, all the pupils were back, socially distanced, but happy in their 'bubble'. How glad they were to see each other, interact and learn together. There were only a few weeks to the end of the term. As well as all the usual end-of-term assessments, the staff adapted the special end-of-term events – Sports Day and Seaside Day were very different, but such fun!

Summer holidays came and went, and the new school year is underway. All the children are settled and are thriving, with learning personalised to their needs. Morning worship takes place in the spacious school hall – a larger bubble has been created. A favourite activity, singing choruses and hymns, is still a problem, but prayer times and storytelling are still the best way to start the day! The children have been listening to the story of Creation, the Fall and God's Rescue Plan over the past few weeks. Where else would you find God's love and His grace taught by word and example by Christians who believe in Christian education – teachers who show by example that they serve 'the Lord – the Master of our School'?

Dudley House School needs more children to fill up some of the empty seats in the school, for the head teacher and her staff are eager to give each Adventist child a Christian education that they will always recall with happiness and gratitude. Why not come and see us?



# Adventist higher education and why it is critical to the future of the Adventist Church



**Dr Andrea Luxton is a former Newbold student (1977), was Newbold's principal from 1997 to 2001, and is now the president of Andrews University in the United States. She reflects on the path her career has taken, the impact that Newbold has had on the direction it took, and consequently the importance of Adventist higher education to the future of the Adventist Church.**

These thoughts were first shared in the latest edition of *The Newboldian*.

As I am sure you have discovered, when you spend so much time in your own home, as the COVID-19 pandemic has required us to do, you re-discover old interests. For me, that has included looking through old photos and slide transparencies! These took me back to my childhood and teenage haunts. One of those was the South England Conference summer camps in South Wales, where I spent several summers as a counsellor.

At one such camp, when I was just eighteen, the then-principal of Newbold College talked to me. I was heading off to university in the UK, as were my friends, so when he asked me whether I had considered studying at Newbold, it was very easy to answer 'no'. After all, my plans had been made, and why would I go to Newbold if I could go to a British university? End of conversation.

Roll on six months: I was at university and doing fine academically; I was engaged in the local church . . . but I knew something was missing. I had studied at an Adventist secondary school (Stanborough) and had two Adventist teachers in my family, so maybe that made me more attuned to the difference, because what my study of literature was lacking was a quality and context I had taken for granted before. At the time I couldn't define the missing piece, but my dissatisfaction led me to make the decision that had been unthinkable in South Wales just months before: I left university at the end of that academic year and transferred to Newbold to study Theology and English.

As I look back at it now, more than 45 years later, I have to say this was the most life-changing decision I have made. In short, if I had not made that choice, I am sure that the story of my life would have been written very differently and I would not be doing what I am doing now. In writing this, I am not saying that this is the choice everyone can or should make: but I am saying that Adventist higher education, especially in very secular environments, is absolutely critical to the life



and future of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

First of all, please do not believe anyone who tells you that education is taught in a vacuum. There is always an underlying value system that drives what is taught and how it is taught. These values may not always be visible, but they are there; and, whether we like it or not, they do impact the way students learn to think and the worldviews they develop. This is particularly true in higher education when the underlying philosophies and theories in any particular discipline become an increasing frame of the education process. You only have to pick up a critical theory book of a particular discipline to grasp the breadth of philosophical thinking that underlies that discipline. The challenge is that it may not be until well into an individual's study programme that they are able to discern what frame a teacher is using, and even longer before they are able to critically evaluate that. We need employees and lay persons in the church who know what it means to look at their professions and the key issues of society through a mature mindset of faith. That is what Adventist education does.

Secondly, a community of scholars is a

safe place to wrestle with difficult challenges; and, if you add faith to that mix, a community of Christian or Adventist scholars is a safe place to struggle with difficult challenges of the intersection between faith and our intellect. The result: stronger, more resilient Christians who are able to live faithfully in the secular community around them. How do I know that? Because I have had the opportunity to speak to countless students who testify to that experience: and, even as recently as last year, that includes students at Newbold.

Lastly (and only lastly because of the limitations of length in this article), Adventist higher education helps create a network that provides unparalleled lifetime support. Especially in countries or areas where Seventh-day Adventist churches are small, it is easy for young people to become isolated from others in their faith community. Adventist

higher education provides great opportunities to extend the reach of the local Adventist community and ensure that students meet friends, even potential life partners, from around the globe. This not only broadens each student's perspective on the Adventist Church, but it also allows connections that open opportunities for greater service as well as greater community. As I travel, I still meet Newboldians from multiple generations. They retain a common bond from their time at Newbold, and they speak of the ways the connections from that time have enriched their lives and faith experiences.

I unapologetically want to let you know that Newbold changed my life. As a teacher and then principal, I saw how it also changed the lives of many others. Recently, I have observed again, first-hand, what a critical role the college plays in the Adventist Church in the Trans-European Division. Times change, and the ways we do education change, but the core nature of Seventh-day Adventist education remains the same.

*Used with permission of the author and The Newboldian magazine. To read the current and previous copies for an enjoyable read, click here:*  
<https://www.newbold.ac.uk/the-newboldian-magazine/>





# Sabbath Bible Study Guides – Education

*'You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.'*

(Deuteronomy 6:7, NKJV)

*'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.'*

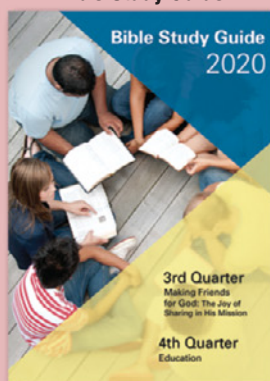
(Proverbs 22:6, NKJV)

This quarter's Sabbath School Bible study guides are all about Christian and Seventh-day Adventist education – how to educate, the importance of educating for developing character, the biblical foundation for sound education, and what you as parents and mentors can and are encouraged to do to help.

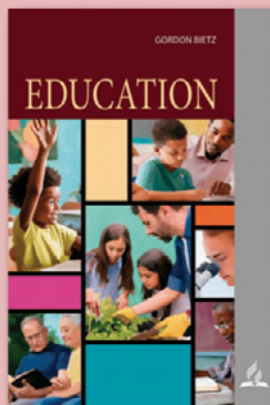
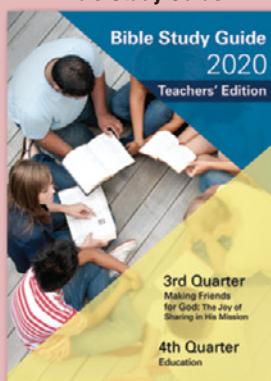
Educating the next generation is not just the task of parents and teachers: it's the task of all of us, for all our future, and for the work of the Gospel and the salvation of souls.

Find out more by buying and studying these Sabbath School Bible study guides in preparation for group discussion with your class, and for your own personal benefit and spiritual growth.

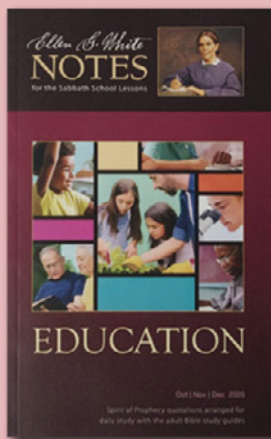
## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Adult Bible Study Guide



## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Teachers' Bible Study Guide



## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Companion Book



## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter EGW Notes

Telephone our dedicated sales line:

**01476 591700**

Purchase online by visiting the LifeSource website:

[www.lifesourcebookshop.co.uk](http://www.lifesourcebookshop.co.uk)

# ADC launches three additional courses

Dear all,

We have all been experiencing the challenges of working from home, spending time on furlough and working reduced hours. Targets set at the beginning of 2020 have been paused, cancelled or reviewed. Yet the call to minister to God's people, both inside and outside of the church, has been as pressing as ever.

The Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) has continued to function, albeit with reduced staffing and hours. We have also experienced new students enrolling for online courses on a daily basis. Our focus predominantly was on increasing the menu of online courses offered on our website. Now we have an added portal: <https://bibleschools.com/1510>. This portal is available by direct access or via our main website: [www.discoveronline.org.uk](http://www.discoveronline.org.uk).

In the midst of these challenges, the ADC team is excited to inform you of the launch, last Wednesday, of three additional online courses which can be accessed via our websites. The courses are:

- **Ten Questions for God** – aimed at teens and young adults.
- **KidZone** – a fun and informative way to teach children about God.
- **Troubleshooters** – a series of six booklets covering some of the life challenges children experience.

We invite you to share these new resources with your family, friends, churches and local Bible School coordinators.

The ADC team also extends heartfelt thanks to Paula Carillo, IT Director at the BUC, for her professionalism, patience, dedication and support given to the ADC in preparing for this launch. We could not have done it without you.

Kind regards,  
**Pastor Maureen Rock,**  
Director of the Adventist  
Discovery Centre, UK & Ireland

## Ten Questions for God



### Introduction

- What are your biggest questions?
- What would you like to ask the Almighty?
- We ran surveys asking people just that.
- Here are their top ten questions for God.
- See what you think of the answers.

**STUDY ONLINE**

## KIDZONE

Have you ever wanted to know the truth about something? Like...

- > what will it be like when Jesus comes again?
- > what will heaven be like?
- > does God really want to spend time with me?

These Bible guides will help you find answers to your questions.

**STUDY ONLINE NOW**



## TROUBLESHOOTERS

Hey Kids! Having trouble...

- > at school?
- > making friends & fitting in?
- > with your parents' divorce?

Get answers here! These eBooks are written just for you!

**STUDY ONLINE NOW**





# Activate October

## SOCIAL JUSTICE MONTH

INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF  
OLDER PEOPLE

01

INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF  
NON-VIOLENCE

02

WORLD  
TEACHERS  
DAY

05

WORLD HABITAT DAY

07

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

10

INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF THE GIRL CHILD

11

WORLD  
FOOD DAY

16

INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF  
DISASTER  
REDUCTION

13

UNITED NATIONS  
DAY

24



WORLD  
CITIES DAY

31







## From small acorns . . .

by Bert Smit  
CEO, ADRA-UK



In the autumn of 2018 I provided support for the ADRA offices in Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda. Along with Frank Teeuwen, the Director of ADRA's United Nations Liaison Office, I visited as many UN and other governmental donors as time allowed.

Many of these agencies are hard to reach by local offices, but our presence helped them understand the global reach of ADRA's work. Together with the local country directors, we were able to establish relationships and provide vital networking opportunities.

Our visit showed that Zambia faced enormous challenges, including extensive drought due to climate change and an influx of refugees. Yet, with the growing humanitarian challenges, ADRA Zambia had only a handful of small projects.

While in Zambia, we met with the representatives of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and UNICEF (the UN agency responsible for children), and discussed the difficult situation with the increasing numbers of Congolese refugees in the country.

The Meheba community in Kalumbila District in the North-Western Province has been home to refugees' camps and settlements since the 1960s. Over the years the number of refugees among local host communities has increased to over 23,000, and they face food insecurity and dire poverty due to population growth, unemployment, the effects of climate change, diminishing natural resources and general under-development of the area.

During my visit, I committed ADRA-UK to help ADRA Zambia to set up a sub-office at the Meheba refugee camp to coordinate the work of ADRA in this camp. We provided £10,000 to set up the sub-office and have one staff member attending coordination meetings and positioning ADRA to work with UNHCR and UNICEF in the camp for one year. (Through a JustGiving campaign you helped us raise £3,182.28 to help cover this cost.)

Then, as the work in Meheba progressed, in 2019 we committed £75,000 of our 2019 ADRA Appeal/Ingathering to a food security project in the Meheba area: the 'Food Security through Agro-based and Resilience Market Solutions for Smallholder Farmers' (FARMS) project, which would contribute to food security and peaceful co-existence of settled refugees and host communities.

The World Food Programme (which was recently awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize) noticed the work and experience demonstrated by ADRA Zambia in Meheba. As a result of this, on 2 October 2020, two years after my visit, Kennedy Habasimbi, ADRA Country Director for Zambia, signed a two-year contract with the World Food Programme worth \$438,000 per year to work in the drought-affected districts of Gwembe, Alomo, Monze, Sloma and Shangombo. The new project will help 104,540 smallholder farmers to recover from the negative impact of the drought, as well as helping to prepare for the next cropping season. The project will also link farmers to schools and alternative reliable markets for pulses and vegetables, and will help to promote climate-smart agriculture, crop diversification and post-harvest management.

From small beginnings (knocking on doors) and small financial commitments (supported by our donors in the UK), ADRA Zambia has grown, working hard to create lasting change for thousands of people.

The English proverb states, 'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.' Your contributions through knocking on doors, monthly direct debits, fund-raising initiatives and one-off donations all make a difference to people in desperate need.

We thank you for the contributions that so many of you make to ADRA-UK, including smaller donations. We also want to thank the thousands of volunteers who help us fund-raise throughout the year.

When I needed a neighbour,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter:  
Were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty;  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty; were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter:  
Were you there?*

I was cold, I was naked;  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked; were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter:  
Were you there?*

When I needed a shelter,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter, were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter:  
Were you there?*

When I needed a healer,  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a healer, were you there?  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter:  
Were you there?*

Wherever you travel,  
I'll be there, I'll be there.  
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.  
*And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter:  
I'll be there.*

To hear this song sung by the music group Tessera, click below:  
[https://vimeo.com/460894308/0153db1903?fbclid=IwAR2Nwegc7p5iHLJkyPLAxvDRPZfjh69v9\\_bcs4k1fJ6surYxReiVdFRagCE](https://vimeo.com/460894308/0153db1903?fbclid=IwAR2Nwegc7p5iHLJkyPLAxvDRPZfjh69v9_bcs4k1fJ6surYxReiVdFRagCE)



# Sophia Nicholls receives Outstanding Leadership Award

In a recent video interview Sophia Nicholls tells her story and the reason she and her husband, Nigel, formed the Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA). The video interview was in response to receiving an award for outstanding leadership from the South England Conference. She was interviewed by Janice Lendor on behalf of the South England Conference Women's Ministries team. Adapted for *MESSENGER*, we are delighted to share Sophia's story and response to receiving the award here.



The Nicholls family: Nigel, Matthew, Sophia and CJ

**M**y journey started on 21 May 1996. I was about to have my first child, Matthew – it was a water birth. I remember lifting him out of the water and looking down at him and thinking that there was something unusual about his face. I noticed that one of his eyelids opened, but the other one didn't. I prodded around as a mother does, and looked up at the midwife and said, 'What's wrong with his eyes?' She reassured me that everything was OK, but within a couple of days we were taken to Great Ormond Street Hospital, where a consultant informed us that our son was born with a condition called 'Peter's anomaly'.

Along with PA, he had a scarring of the cornea of his eye. He was registered blind, but he would experience some light perception. As he got older, we also became aware that he was experiencing learning difficulties and autism. It would be difficult for us to communicate with him, and he had some very unusual sleep patterns.

Matthew's birth took Nigel and me on a journey that has been a challenging one, which catapulted us into a totally different world: one of isolation, exclusion, and exhaustion.

But the challenge of the early days drew us closer together. We spent much time learning about visual impairment, joined a number of societies, and met up with other parents, but began to wonder, *Surely there must be Adventist families who also have children with disabilities*. For a while we felt as though we were the only Adventist family to have a child with a disability!

In particular, when we went to our church community, there was very little understanding of what it is like to parent a child with additional needs – in particular, autism. Matthew found enclosed spaces difficult to cope with, and wouldn't sit quietly. Sounds and noises would often disturb him, and so in response he would scream. It ended up with my husband and I taking turns to attend church. I would often stay at home, or stay in the car with Matthew, while Nigel would join the congregation for worship. In the end I stopped going to church, because the situation became impossible. I would sit at the back with

Matthew; he would make a noise; others would look around to see what was going on and 'tut' – and their expression of annoyance made me feel that there was something I had done in my past that resulted in having a child with a disability. It made me feel as though I did not belong.

In 2000 our family attended the General Conference Session held in Toronto, Canada, a gathering of approximately 65,000 people, with an expectation that at least in this context there would be understanding and the ability to make some provision for people with special needs. We took Matthew to Children's Sabbath School, but were met at the door with a notice: 'We do not cater for children with special needs.' Shocked, we decided that we needed to do something about this within our own church.

On our return to the UK, we placed an article in the *MESSENGER*, sharing our story, really as much as anything to find out if we were alone. If there were other parents with similar children, would they like to meet up? Within a couple of weeks a number of families contacted us, saying, 'Wow, great to hear your story – thank

you for sharing it! We are experiencing what you are, and it's great to know that we are not alone!'

That was the birth of the Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA), which became a charity in 2003. ASNA has two main functions:

- To provide a place where families, and anyone with additional needs, can feel supported – including direct support
- To provide training and awareness

On one of our annual ASNA breaks, a lady came who had been invited by a member of the church she attended, although she was not an Adventist: not only that, but she really didn't want anything to do with Christianity. Her son had severe autism. She came along to one of our breaks, called 'a carer's break'. Our aim at this type of retreat is to give carers an oasis of calm, an oasis of support. Participants experience health workshops, along with having fun together, and this lady was impressed and inspired that the Adventist Church had this ministry. On her return home, she practised some of the new lifestyle principles she'd learnt, and wanted to start attending her local Adventist church. To cut a long story short, this lady is now a member of the church and serves on the ASNA board of trustees.

The heart of ASNA's ministry is to ensure that there is a place for anyone with special needs, any parents with a child who has special needs, which you can call home and to which you can belong. I've also wanted to help people understand that if you are living with disability, it's not your personal sin that's resulted in you having a child with disability. I remember some well-meaning members suggesting that if we prayed hard enough, or confessed our sins, the Lord would heal our son and he would be able to see. That was told not only to us, but also to other families.

I feel very encouraged by what I read in John 9. When the disciples asked Jesus the very question, 'Why was this man born blind?' Jesus said it was nothing to do with the sins of the parents. *'It was not that*



*this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him'* (John 9:3, ESV).

I feel both humbled and very blessed to be receiving this award. I believe that God has placed our family in this situation, and feel blessed when I think about the number of people we have helped, supported and encouraged with our story. I hope that our ministry has demonstrated outstanding leadership, in that sense, to lead people ultimately to Christ. I see that as my purpose in life, using the gift of having Matthew to help others. If we hadn't had Matthew, we wouldn't have started ASNA, and wouldn't have met many thousands of people and heard the many thousands of stories they have shared. Neither would we have experienced individuals and families praising the Lord for ASNA's help and support in helping them feel that they are not alone. God loves us as we are. We are made in His image, and without question He loves us. My prayer is that the ministry has changed people's lives and led them to Christ in some way.

To watch the full interview, see the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7r90Z5B6ovc>

To discover more about the work of the Adventist Special Needs Association, click on this link: <https://www.asna.info/>

Thanks to the SEC Women's Ministries Department for permission to adapt this interview for MESSENGER.

Sophia Nicholls, who is one of the directors of a choir and features in a BBC programme with her son, Matthew, said: 'Music is the key that unlocks doors for everyone, especially those with profound and complex learning disabilities. Using this key at a time of lockdown releases potential, maintains connections and lifts our spirits.'

## Interviewed for BBC News and Songs of Praise

For more than eleven years Sophia has also been involved in her local community, running music workshops, fund-raising gospel concerts and music-based fun days for people living with disabilities and special needs. Founder of multiple voluntary community music projects, including 'Access to Sound' and 'Foresight Music', she also directs 'Inclusive Choir' (which recently went online due to the COVID-19 lockdown) with another music-based charity, Soundabout.

During her time with the Soundabout Inclusive Choir, Sophia was interviewed along with her husband Nigel, and children Matthew and Christopher, about their experiences as a family living in the lockdown. In particular they showed how the choir helped maintain their connection with other families and people living with disabilities at risk of isolation and exclusion. The interview, by BBC special correspondent Fergal Keane, was featured on the national BBC 6pm and 10pm news, and also on BBC World. Following on from the news items, Sophia was interviewed by the BBC *Songs of Praise* team, to whom she shares her story from a Christian perspective. Each interview can be seen at the following links:

BBC news interview:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klEJp2FwWTM&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klEJp2FwWTM&feature=emb_logo)

*Songs of Praise* interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eni4FWAAsk>



## Launch of Adventist Doctors' Support Network UK

**'The True Physician – an educator?'**

*A report based on the ADSN newsletter, published here with permission*

It has long been important for Seventh-day Adventist doctors in the United Kingdom and Ireland to have a network where they can come together and support one another while continuing their work for the Lord. For this reason, an exciting new ministry for medical professionals in the UK was inaugurated earlier this year when the Adventist Doctors' Support Network (ADSN) held its first virtual meeting. The goal of the meeting was to connect with fellow

faith-based colleagues, and agree to the ADSN's plans and aims. Introduced by the meeting's host, Dr Elsa Charles, a consensus was agreed about how to proceed.

The aims agreed at the online meeting include *unity and support* (doctors will be able to discuss their work dilemmas and ethical cases with each other); *education*, which will be provided during presentations and through Continuing Professional Development (CPD); *mentoring* of junior doctors and medical students by the more experienced doctors; *witnessing*, considering that the health message is the right arm of the Gospel; and *mission* – providing members with the opportunity to work together on outreach projects in their own neighbourhoods. 'The true physician is an educator,' says Ellen White in *The Ministry of Healing* (p. 125). There is a responsibility 'not only to the sick who are under his [or her] direct care, but also to the community in which he [or she] lives.'

Many Adventist doctors and medical students living in the UK and Ireland follow Christ's example of healing ministry. Currently the Adventist Doctors' Support Network leaders are focusing on promoting the organisation and further structuring it and developing it. In the near future, there is a plan to form an official board, along with a search to find members' specific talents and skills to strengthen the aims of the organisation.

At present, the ADSN comprises doctors and medical students, but the hope is to include other Adventist health professionals in the future. There is also interest in working with chaplains, professional counsellors, coaches, and other institutions and organisations.

Until further notice, all monthly meetings are being held online. If you are an Adventist doctor or medical student, you can join ADSN and share your questions and expertise by emailing [info.adsn20@gmail.com](mailto:info.adsn20@gmail.com).





ASNA Connecting  
Carers Network (CCN)  
presents

# 'CHOOSE JOY'

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A virtual interactive carers break

**23RD - 25TH OCT. 2020**

Visit our website to book. Places are limited  
so book early. Follow this link and scroll to  
October - [www.asna.info/events](http://www.asna.info/events)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted





**British Union Conference Presents :**  
**THREE COSMIC MESSAGES**

**13 Week Series**  
**Starts Friday 16 October**  
**Every Friday 8pm**  
**YouTube - BUC News TV**

**EARTH'S FINAL CONFLICT**  
**MARK FINLEY**

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

New British Union Conference teaching series  
**Three Cosmic Messages with Mark Finley**

**starting Friday evening 16 October at 8pm**  
**and each Friday on YouTube – BUC News TV**

It continues to be the strangest of years! The word 'uncertainty' has taken on new meaning, not just in terms of global events, international and national politics, but in the everyday life of us all. Not least, we face continuing uncertainty simply because the current global health pandemic does not permit us to make plans. For most *MESSENGER* readers, most distressing of all is the restriction on gathering together for worship and fellowship.

With the autumn season upon us, the British Union Conference presents a new and dynamic teaching series exploring the biblical truths found in the prophetic book of Revelation. Internationally renowned evangelist Mark Finley looks at current world conditions within the political, economic, and social realms to align the current world conditions to the teachings of prophecy.

This 13-part series goes into the heart of the biblical book of Revelation, providing a clear and deep understanding of the events surrounding the end times in light of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14.

Broadcast each week on the BUC News YouTube Channel, this will be a wonderful opportunity to create a 'study bubble' with friends and/or family to watch each presentation together, followed by a time of discussion.

The schedule for each evening's presentation, and links to download the accompanying free lesson guides, can be found at: <https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2020-10-05/buc-presents-three-cosmic-messages-with-mark-finley/>.

The first presentation will be shown on Friday 16 October at 8pm, and then weekly at the same day and time for 13 weeks. In preparation for the series, Mark Finley says, 'Revelation speaks to this generation: it speaks certainty, assurance and hope. I look forward to sharing these wonderful messages with you.'



# Thankful people

When the Stanborough Park Church family end their annual harvest festival, their closing act of worship is usually to sing the rousing hymn, 'Come, Ye Thankful People, Come', reflecting gratitude to God for His continual provision in their lives. As they sing, their eyes focus on the magnificent and colourful display of fruits and vegetables, some even homegrown.

It was different this year. Thankful people could not come together in the traditional way.

But Spirit-filled people adapted by extending their own harvest festival to become a 'Watford Community Harvest', with an invitation: 'Come – drive through and donate your food gifts.' Strategically located within the borough, the church campus is blessed with a huge car park, ideally positioned to be the food donation point.

Organised jointly by Adventist Community Services and the One Vision project (the services delivery arm of the Stanborough Park church), on Sunday 4 October a steady stream of cars drove into the car park to deliver gifts in a COVID-19-safe manner. Once sorted, the gifts will be distributed to local Watford charities to support families in need.

As leaders and volunteers gathered together in the open space around the church, with only umbrellas for protection from the relentless rain, spirits were of good cheer due to the response from the community of all faiths and none. Stanborough Park Church Associate Pastor Geert Tap used one of his favourite themes to describe the experience: 'It was as if the church had left the building.' Pastor Emmanuel Osei, President of the South England Conference, reflected on how harvest is 'a reminder that the God who provides is the God who binds us together to do what He wants us to do'.

For the previous five months, Stanborough Park Church has hosted the One Vision food hub and has provided 13,230 hot meals and just over 3,000 parcels during the COVID-19 lockdown, staffed by a mix of volunteers of many different backgrounds working for a common cause.

One such volunteer is Liz Burns, who has been a friend of the church family from as far back as 1977. For the past six months, Liz has been volunteering to help manage the daily meal programme. 'In volunteering for One Vision, I feel that God has again been telling me that this is where I belong. This was proved to me one morning after learning of the sudden death of a member of this church. For some reason, I got in my car and it brought me to Stanborough at 7.30am, and it felt as if I had "come home".' Liz is due to be baptised on Sabbath, 24 October.

The volunteering spirit is ingrained in the Stanborough Park DNA, as it has been for many decades. It was through support for the 'welfare' team that Liz first connected with the church. Sometimes seen as unfashionable in these times, the 'welfare room' door, located on the right-hand side of the building, serves a growing clientele of people in need. Back in service for four weeks after the COVID-19 lockdown, each Friday night, a minibus of food and supplies leaves for the London West End, providing hot soup, sandwiches and drinks for the homeless, staffed by youth and adults volunteering together.

Pastor Terry Messenger, senior pastor, testifies that the way he is able to still give thanks in these difficult and hard times 'is to live with the attitude of gratitude'. He finds it 'marvellous that the One Vision partnership builds and widens Stanborough Park's commitment to serving the community'.

Coming up soon is the annual 'Toy Service', usually the second Sabbath in December, a worship service to 'provide presents' for



Pastors Geert Tapp and Terry Messenger and community partner



Community partners gather together in the BUC Peace Garden



Volunteers from diverse backgrounds working together for a common cause

Photos: Arto Keshishian

families in the community experiencing hardship in the run-up to Christmas. As the congregation sing their carols, they usually see a magnificent display of colourful toys donated by the children of the church.

It will be different this year – but the Spirit will still move.

DAVID NEAL

THIS STORY WAS FIRST POSTED ON THE TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION NEWS SITE.



## I felt as if I had come home

I have lived in Watford since my late husband was posted here to Northwood NATO headquarters in 1977. We used to have a church at this base until all the troubles started across the world and the padres were forced to accompany the troops into action, so I struggled to find a place to worship. I have attended events at Stanborough, including the wonderful flower festivals, musical events and Pat's sales, and helped and supported the welfare for all these years. I have tried several churches and reverted back to attending St Lawrence in Abbots Langley for several years, although something was missing, even though I became a member of the PCC and a sidesperson there.

Then I met Enoch Kanagaraj in my role as a parish councillor for Abbots Langley several years ago, and I learnt that his father was in the British Army. Our friendship grew, and three years ago Enoch started the One Vision community group. I joined this, as I had recently founded my veterans' support group and was looking to network with other small groups in the area. This community group was exactly what I needed for the support and advice available to all who join. It is all-encompassing, with all faiths and all walks of life represented by community groups who meet every month to network together – this makes it very special and unique. This is down to the chairman, Enoch Kanagaraj, and all his enthusiasm and drive to help every group to the best of his ability.

I was awarded a One Vision award for my work with veterans at Stanborough Park Church during a Sabbath School service. It was presented to me by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Robert Voss, and the High Sheriff of the year, Sara Beasley. This was very humbling for me – to have my volunteering recognised by the One Vision community group. This was when I started to feel that this was where God was telling me I belonged.

Then, this year, our One Vision monthly meetings were curtailed because of COVID-19, and our One Vision community project to alleviate the effects of COVID-19 was started in March of this year. I have been an active member of this, and it has grown so much that Enoch asked me if I would head up the operations taking place here at Stanborough. This has grown beyond all our expectations, and I have been here for the past six months daily; through this volunteer work for One Vision, I feel that God has again been telling me that this is where I belong. This was proved to me one morning after learning of the sudden death of a member of this church, and for some reason I got in my car and came to Stanborough at 7.30am (luckily I have the keys to head up the hub), and I felt as if I had 'come home'.

I feel I have become a part of this special family here during my time in this operation, and would like to become a member of Stanborough Park Church.

I also want to say a huge thank-you to Enoch & Nistha and his family for supporting me as a widow and allowing me to join their family at Christmas and other times of the year; and I also thank all of you who have made me feel so welcome here during our COVID-19 project: Pastor Patrick, Pastor Geert, Pastor Terry, Pastor Raafat and Heidi, Michael, Steven, Massimo & Annalisa, Arto & Mirian, Judy & Carlton, Pat, Audrey, Vio & Judith, Petro and Kevin, Jackie, Sharon Platt-Macdonald – to name just a few of my special new family.

Blessings to you all!



Liz Burns, volunteer, One Vision Project

Photo: Arto Keshishian



## God's Wonderful World Calendar

### God's Wonderful World Devotional Calendar 2021

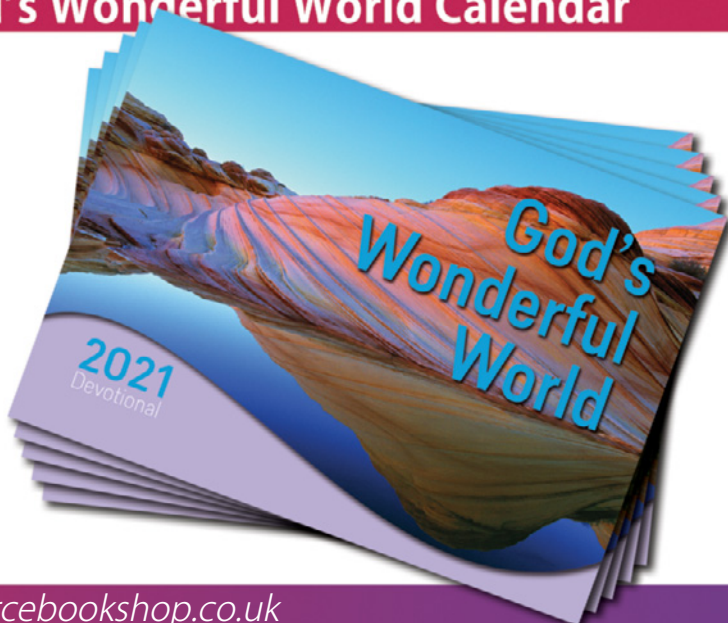
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## Site General Manager –

Hay's Wood Training and  
Retreat Centre

**Location: King's Lynn, Norfolk,  
United Kingdom**

**T**he South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is currently seeking to appoint a competent and experienced general manager. As General Manager, you will be responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of our training and retreat centre in North Runcton, King's Lynn. The Hay's Wood Training and Retreat Centre is a new establishment which, along with its training facilities, offers beautiful log cabins and alternative holiday accommodation on 48 acres of Norfolk countryside.

### The role

Reporting to the trustees of the site, we are looking for a general manager who is a practising Seventh-day Adventist member to take full accountability for the day-to-day operations of our unique training and retreat facility. It is essential that the successful applicant has proven experience in the areas of events management, business management and customer relations and is looking for additional responsibilities; as, within this role, the successful applicant will be managing 20 units of accommodation as well as the day-to-day operations of the centre.

Other important aspects are to be hard-working and motivated and to have a real passion for the customer experience, while ensuring that financial targets and budgets are met. Management of a small on-site staff team and overseeing casual contractors will also form a key part of this role.

Proven experience of working in the property management, tourism, hotel, or leisure industries in a similar role would be necessary.

Being a training and retreat centre, the role will require working flexibly according to the needs of the centre over 37.5 hours per week. In return for working for us, we offer a great salary package, with on-site accommodation of a four-bedroom house at a discounted rent of £850 per calendar month.

This job opportunity should be read in conjunction with the assistant site manager's role, as the position may be best suited to a couple. Details of the assistant site manager's role can be made available upon request.

### Job type:

- Full-time, permanent
- Working flexibly 37.5 hours per week, salary is up to £33,960/year

### Benefits:

- Non-contributory pension scheme
- Sick pay after qualifying period
- 20 days of holiday/year (based on a five-day working week)

### Licence:

- Full, clean driving licence required

To request an application form, job description and person specification, please email Mrs Jacqui Crawford: [jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk), or request the same by telephone: 01923 232 728.

**Application deadline: 31 October 2020.**

The South England Conference is an  
equal opportunities employer.



## Adventist Risk Management Career Opportunity

### Customer Service Representative

**A**s the official insurance and risk-management company for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Risk Management,® Inc. (ARM) is devoted to finding professionals who are committed to the success of our clients and our organisation.

Working at ARM means you are joining a diverse global team of professionals who are focused on providing timely, real-world insurance products and innovative risk-management solutions for minimising risk within Adventist ministries. Beginning in 1936, our team has grown with the church and now serves over 21 million adult members, 86,000 churches, 8,515 schools, and 527 hospitals/clinics, as well as many other ministries. We also provide underwriting, claims, financial, and risk-management services for two captive insurance companies that collectively write over \$100 million in premium annually.

Joining ARM allows you to be part of a team of professionals committed to extraordinary customer service, a culture of diversity and inclusion, while working in a Seventh-day Adventist Christian environment. You are encouraged to visit our website – [www.adventistrisk.org](http://www.adventistrisk.org) – to learn more about ARM. We don't view what we do as just a business: our ministry is to protect the ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We currently have a full-time **Customer Service Representative** position open on our Client Care team. This position supports and assists the account executives in serving clients, including gathering and maintaining policy renewal data, preparation of schedules of insurance, processing certificates of coverage, and performing general administrative duties, working from our office in St Albans, England. This position is inclusive of our company benefits package, which offers The Seventh-day Adventist Group Personal Pension Plan, paid vacation, professional training, and other benefits.

**Full details about the role, and embarking on a career with Adventist Risk Management, can be found at the following link:**

<https://adventist.uk/who-we-are/jobs/job/go/-/customer-service-representative-3/>

The successful candidate will need to have permission to work in the UK. Interested applicants please email your curriculum vitae to [rfiddis@adventistrisk.org](mailto:rfiddis@adventistrisk.org).

**Closing date for applications: 6 November 2020.**

Adventist Risk Management, Inc (ARM) is a 5013(c) religious nonprofit corporation based in Maryland. ARM is an equal opportunities employer.

**Maureen Margaret Doggett (1932-2020)**  
**d. 30 June.**

We were happy to receive Maureen Doggett into our church fellowship at Great Yarmouth last December upon profession of her faith in Jesus as her personal Saviour. It had been arranged for her to be baptised, but, because of her physical condition, it was decided at the last minute that it would be unsafe to do so. She was introduced to our church by her carer, Sharnie-Anne, who, along with three others, was baptised on the same day. She loved to come to our church each Sabbath, and also to our Bible studies/prayer meetings on a Monday evening when it was possible.

Maureen was born in London on 10 July 1932. She was one of nine children: two brothers, four sisters, and two who died before she was born. Her father was a coal man who suffered severe chest problems as a result of the coal dust, and her mum also went out to work in a crisp factory. This meant that Maureen, being the eldest child, had to carry extra responsibilities at home. When she left school, she took employment at a catering supplier for the first two years before joining her mum and sister in the crisp factory. Then, later, she helped in the local school that was situated just behind their home.

She eventually took a job in a Marks & Spencer shop, where she met John Doggett, whom she married. They had three children. Sadly, their first son, Paul, died about ten years ago. William and Raymond are her remaining sons.

The family decided to move away from London into a rural community, and so they came to settle in Norfolk. After her husband passed away in the year 2000, Maureen made the choice to move into Great Yarmouth. She had not had an easy life, and felt it would be better to be in a town once again. As a Christian, she had belonged to the Anglican community and attended St Nicholas Minster in the heart of Great Yarmouth. It was in 2017 when Maureen was diagnosed with the early stages of dementia that Sharnie-Anne Bright was assigned to be her part-time carer. However, it must be said that Sharnie went beyond her role of duty and ended up giving Maureen full-time care. When Sharnie was searching for truth in her Bible, she was directed by the Holy Spirit to visit our church, and became convinced we were following the Scriptures; and she then introduced Maureen to our church.

It was in the morning of 30 June, as Sharnie was attending to Maureen's needs, when she asked Sharnie to pray with her. By the time Sharnie had finished her prayer, Maureen had quietly passed away into the sleep of the saints. Her sons arranged for the funeral service to take place at the Minster on 17 July, and for Rev. Jemma Sander-Heys to conduct the funeral. Although attendance was limited due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our church was represented by our pastor and six other members. The committal was a private family affair held at Gorleston Crematorium. We look



forward to the soon return of Jesus when Maureen will awake from her sleep, to be in health and strength and raised along with all His saints; and what a glorious reunion that will be.

*PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER, COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY*

**Pastor Clyde Moore (1957-2020)**  
**d. 9 September.**

My dear Clyde started his journey on 26 July 1957, in Nottingham. His parents were from Jamaica. Clyde thought he was their first child, followed by some little sisters. One day he came home from school to be met by three strangers: his two older brothers and an older sister! What a shock!

As the family grew, he always hoped for a little brother, but to no avail. He leaves behind two brothers and six sisters.

School days were often traumatic, especially after he passed his 11+ and went to High Pavement Grammar School: young, gifted and black, in the days when black lives didn't matter.

In 1974 we met at church; he was part of the choir, and I'm sure he spent the whole time staring at me. Our whole friendship and courtship revolved around church meetings.

On my first visit to his family home, he was sat at the piano holding his youngest sister, Dahlia. He looked so comfortable with a baby on his lap.

One of his great loves was music: he played the piano, guitar, electric bass, double bass and saxophone, and sang beautifully. After singing in the church choir he formed his own choir, which performed at the Albert Hall, Nottingham.

Later he joined the gospel singing group, Exodus, as a double bass player. Exodus performed in the UK and abroad, even appearing on TV. A few years ago he joined a barbershop choir, The Major Oak Chorus.

Yes, music was a huge part of who Clyde was, but there's much more to this big man with the big heart. We were soulmates, and despite the stresses of marriage we remained married and best friends until he died. Clyde wasn't perfect, but we had many adventures together. Our children and grandchildren were his delight: he loved them all, including our daughter Jeanelle, whom we lost 5 years ago.

The other love of his life was the Lord Jesus. Having been brought up in the church, he was baptised as a teen. He often took prayer meetings and youth programmes, and got involved with Pathfinders and campaigns. In his late teens he felt drawn to the ministry; however, that didn't happen until he was 38.

After leaving college he eventually became a postman, and then, after a few other jobs, joined the Nottinghamshire Constabulary in 1982. His collar number was PC 1974 — a special number for him! He enjoyed the job, and his many police friends knew him as CR. I would like to thank the many officers who have shared their memories of him with me.

After 12 years he left the police force and planned to become a teacher, but transferred his studies to Newbold College, where he trained for the ministry. Jesus had caught up with him! This



was God's plan. He graduated in 2000 with a Master's in Religion.

We moved to Peterborough to await a posting, but he became involved in a head-on car crash which broke his hip, a femur, and several teeth and toes. A DVT developed which caused his big heart to get a little bigger: not in a good way. That crash had a major impact on his life.

Still on crutches, he was interviewed and became a church pastor in Cardiff. I want to thank the members for their support. In Cardiff we developed our passion for family and children's ministries. Those were fun but challenging years. Clyde was ordained and moved to the Shrewsbury, Telford, and Wrexham district, where his health deteriorated. He left church employment in 2015 and trained as a civil celebrant, in which role he conducted funerals.

He volunteered with the Citizens Advice Bureau and became a valued member of their staff.

Early last year Clyde fainted and split his lip. It was stitched, got infected, and needed restitching, and the trauma caused his big heart to weaken.

In January this year he was told he had months to live. We continued to put our faith in God, and I praise His name that He let him see both our birthdays.

On Wednesday 9 September he fell asleep, holding my hand and trusting our Saviour.

The funeral service, held on Friday 2 October, can be viewed here:  
<https://youtu.be/WYpJMer7HWc>

Clyde leaves a big hole in our lives, including our remaining daughters, Heidi and Vienna, and our son Dijon; daughter-in-law Michelle and son-in-law David; and eight beautiful grandchildren: Jakeda, Jahfari, Jasmine, Milan, Dijon Junior, Belle, Miami and Grayson.

He was a gentle giant: loving, generous, kind, always ready to help. His amazing warm smile made anyone feel at ease. He was strong, stern at times, wise beyond his years, and a ready listener. He has touched many lives and shared his faith in our loving God.

*ANETTE MOORE*

## Knocking

He knocks upon our door  
That we might hear  
His voice so clear  
And lift the latch  
To let Him in.

Our ears, which hear so clear  
The siren calls of varied sin  
Are deaf to that clear call  
Of Him who longs to enter in  
And save us from our sins.

He knocks and knocks upon our door:  
Insistent voice, loving, living, clear,  
To lift the latch and open wide  
That closed door. Could any  
Say we did not hear?

*PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE*



# Readjusting, rethinking and reinventing

## South England Conference teen ministries

by Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick

### Knock, knock: who's there?

In October 2019 our calendar of activities was finished. By this time venues and activity centres were booked, survey results were tabulated and speaking engagements were confirmed. Little did we know that ahead of us lay a crisis whose impact would force us to readjust, rethink and reinvent the activities we had prepared for the teens. Furthermore, we never thought that that crisis would affect us, our loved ones and the world in such a devastating manner. The virus would come into our lives without knocking on the doors.

During the Evangelism Expo celebrated in January, the Teens' Department listened to a kind audience who were willing not only to share their insightful ideas and concerns, but also to become committed support members of the staff. These ideas, along with the survey results, gave us the content for our activities, seminars, events and afternoon training sessions. None of us, however, thought that, a few days later, gatherings would be hazardous for the health of our teens.

Consequently, COVID-19 forced the Teens' Department to unbook the venues and activity centres we had previously booked. This was done one activity at a time, as we thought

that the virus would soon be gone – but it wasn't. So, to avoid incurring penalties or cancellation fees, we paid attention to the behaviour of the virus and the datelines for cancellations. Needless to say, we ended up cancelling all gatherings. In addition, some of our own staff members and some of their families were affected by the pandemic in one way or another. I myself have lost several friends to this virus.

### Readjusting, rethinking and reinventing

In light of the crisis, the Teens' Department has had no other option but to readjust, rethink and reinvent its approach. After praying and asking the Lord for guidance, the first thing that came to my mind was: *Keep on preaching in the morning and training in the afternoon, as we have been doing, but this time virtually.* Although it looks like the obvious choice right now, it did not look so to us in March, as we thought the crisis would be over in a month. Right before being furloughed, we contacted at least two teen leaders from every single area (from area one through area eight) and formed a WhatsApp group of people willing to prepare programmes for the teens and keep them informed. Their main task was to share with

one another what they were doing for their teens. In this way the teens would have several options and the diversity of Zoom and online programmes.

### What type of programmes and posters?

In a text, by phone and by email we explained our situation and the type of programmes we were looking for. They had to be:

1. Spiritually inclusive and respectful – programmes that promote unity and harmony among the teens and that are not hostile against the Seventh-day Adventist Church and do not mock the religious beliefs of other teens. Of course, other beliefs can be considered and discussed, but respectfully.
2. Socially inclusive (Joel 2:28) – programmes whose content and posters include teens from all of the races, ethnicities and socio-cultural backgrounds. When the teen sees the poster and reads its promo, he or she should be able to say: 'Hey! That's for me!' regardless of nationality, race, colour of skin or social background.

Everyone agreed, and we praised the Lord. Now I could go on furlough in peace.

Currently, we continue

preaching by Zoom, celebrating virtual teens' days and giving seminars (or webinars) wherever we are invited in the SEC. It would be an honour to visit your church and celebrate a teens' day with your teens and all the saints. Please pray for us, now more than ever. We need volunteers who will join forces with the SEC teens' ministries and bless our teens. I'm more than sure that together we will be able to support them, their parents and their guardians in miraculous ways.

*This report first appeared in the October edition of the South England Conference Communicator magazine. Used with permission.*

## Messenger

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Design: David Bell

COPY FOR No. 21 – 22 October 2020

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### Sunset

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Oct 16	6.04	6.17	6.06	6.09	6.22
23	5.50	6.02	5.51	5.52	6.06
30	4.37	4.49	4.37	4.36	4.51
Nov 6	4.24	4.36	4.24	4.21	4.37

SEC TEENS MINISTRIES PRESENT

**VIRTUAL**

*Prayer and Faith*

CONFERENCE

**26-30 OCTOBER 2020**

**10-11AM | 7-8PM**

**Mon. 26 Oct - Pr Dejan Stojkovic**

**Tue. 27 Oct - Pr Isaac Liburd**

**Wed. 28 Oct - Pr Rosemary Lethbridge**

**Thur. 29 Oct - Ebenezer & Hanna Commodore**

**Fri. 30 Oct - Pr James Shepley**

**EVENING SPEAKER**

**Pr Wilmoth James**

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