

Messenger

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# Dublin – new life in Christ

The Dublin Romanian pastor, Christian Salcianu, baptises Alin Chihalau (above) and Izabela Kincses (below) in the sea near Wexford, on the south-eastern coast of Ireland

Full report on p. 5



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# Jesus

## The Master Teacher

Matthew 11:29

### What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?

During the 1950s my father, who was then aged 16, began work in the world of heavy engineering. It was a time when steam engines were in decline and diesel engines were the new and exciting way to provide power – for example, to railway engines. He began his work as an ‘apprentice’. This meant that he was only to service or repair any engine under supervision. It didn’t matter if it involved a simple unscrewing of a screw, or the complete dismantling and rebuild of an engine: there had to be someone of ‘experience’ with him to guide him in the process and ensure no mistakes were made. All through the process he would watch his supervisor at work, carefully watch how he did the job, learn, and then do.

Once he had served two years with the company, he was tested on what he knew, and on his practical ability to maintain and repair. On passing the test, he was then permitted to work without supervision. At the core of this process is trust and confidence.

Jesus said: *‘Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me . . .’* (Matthew 11:29, NKJV).

By the very call to learn, Jesus is offering to be the Teacher.

As we think about this, we need to understand that the role of the teacher goes way beyond the passing on of facts and information. The first thing to note is that students learn in a context. The ‘students’ of Jesus’ day were people whose experience of God and religion was a burden. It did not inspire them, but exhausted them! It was all rules, rules, rules! It was not joyful, but demoralising. Their teachers – the scribes and the Pharisees – distorted the true picture of God, making Him appear to be one who was forever watching with forensic eyes, as if waiting to catch them out and pounce upon them whenever the perfect standard of the



laws of Moses was not met. There’s nothing wrong with the laws of Moses, we might add, but the problem was that the application of the law was set to such a high standard that not even the Pharisees were capable of reaching it. The result was that the religion of Israel was bankrupt of any ‘life-giving’ power.

At just the appointed time – when religious belief was at its worst – God sent Jesus to take on human nature, thereby showing what the character of God is really like. Israel had often seen glimpses of God through the law, the writings, and the prophets. Prophets would speak on behalf of God, often speaking truth to power. But they were only human. It wasn’t enough, because the picture of God’s character was still only partially revealed. And so Jesus was sent to come and join humankind in our own neighbourhood (John 1:14).

Imagine being burned out on religion – when a person you’ve heard much about comes into your neighbourhood, teaching the principles of the Kingdom of God. With thousands of other people present on a mountainside near your home, you listen to His words:

*You are blessed when you mourn, when you are meek, when you seek Me, when you show mercy, when you are pure, when you make peace, and – recognise a reality – when you may even be persecuted because of Me* (Matthew 5:1-12). And Jesus begins to share how the Kingdom of

Heaven (His Kingdom) is the polar opposite of the picture your leaders portray of My Father. Mistakenly, they believe it’s about power and control. But don’t be fooled: the joy of My kingdom is in letting Me show you what God, My Father and yours, is really like – so that you can know Him too. Never in history has this happened before, and that’s why I am here. Follow Me; look and learn; let Me be your Friend, your Companion, your Mentor on life’s journey . . . but – most of all – trust Me!

I shared a little earlier that at the core of the apprenticeship process is trust and confidence. In the book *Education*, by Ellen G. White, there are a couple of chapters which focus on Jesus as the Master Teacher.

- ‘In the Teacher sent from God, heaven gave to men its best and greatest’ (p. 73).
- ‘In Him was found the perfect ideal . . . to show what every human being might become’ (p. 73).
- ‘He came to show how [humankind] are to be trained as befits the [children] of God; how on earth they are to practise the principles and to live the life of heaven’ (p. 74).
- Jesus came to ‘reveal in His own character the beauty of holiness’ (p. 76).
- ‘He showed that the law is a law of love, an expression of the Divine Goodness (p. 76).
- ‘What He taught, He *lived*’ (p. 78, my emphasis).
- ‘Only through sympathy, faith, and love can [humankind] be reached and uplifted. Here Christ stands revealed as the master teacher; of all that ever dwelt on the earth, He alone has perfect understanding of the human soul’ (p. 78).

As I conclude these thoughts, I want to invite us as Adventist leaders to specifically read two chapters from the book *Education* to gain further insight into how Jesus is the Master Teacher. They are ‘The Teacher Sent from God’ and ‘An Illustration of His Methods’.

Here’s the leadership principle that shines through today:

Whatever we do in the name of Christ, in society or in the church, if we do not have love for those we are trying to reach, train and disciple – and, I might add, employ – just forget it; don’t even bother; because leading without love is a huge adventure in missing the point, missing what I call the 1 Corinthians 13 principle.

As we teach spiritual values, we must live what we teach! Have you ever heard it said of a leader, ‘He says one thing, but does another’? To lead and teach like the Master Teacher, we must have the same understanding and sympathy for those whom we lead and teach as Jesus did. It is a trust issue.

Finally, what I also learn from the ‘Master Teacher’ is that the apprenticeship under Him never ends – it is lifelong. EDITOR

David Neal, *Editor*

# These are the days of Elijah

If ever there was a pain-in-the-neck prophet who spoke truth to power, particularly to a king of Israel, it was Elijah. While the matters are serious, the dynamic between prophet and king portrays the comical. Elijah predicted a long-term drought – and a drought there was (1 Kings 17:1). After three years of Israel experiencing pain and suffering, Ahab at last encounters Elijah and they organise a showdown at the top of Mount Carmel. Almost bursting a blood vessel, Ahab is apoplectic with rage at the tenacity of this second-rate troublemaker: ‘Who do you think you are to determine when it rains? Baal controls nature – not the god of Elijah.’

Surrounded by the false prophets of Baal and Asherah, Elijah sees the big picture behind the trouble – worship! ‘Whom do you worship, Israel – Yahweh or Baal? It’s your choice, but sitting on the fence is not an option.’ And then it is as if he’s asking an ‘I’m going to catch you out’ question, the sort that opposition MPs ask Boris Johnson at Prime Minister’s Questions.

**‘How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him’** (1 Kings 18:21, NIV, emphasis supplied). The question hangs in the air. All eyes are on Elijah: prophets, priest and king – all the great and the good in the land – a moment when you could have heard a pin

drop, because, as the end of the verse records, *‘The people did not answer him a word’* (ESV).

We know well the pantomime that followed: the shouting and dancing, and ‘the huffing and the puffing’, as I like to describe it, with Elijah taunting the Baal prophets: *‘Shout louder,’* in case your gods are deaf (1 Kings 18:27, NIV). And it went on and on, until it was Elijah’s turn. The pantomime was over. He built an altar to the Lord and drenched the bull sacrifice with water. It was time for a miracle, but not without prayer first. WOOSH! Fire came down from heaven, and the people said, *‘The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!’* (1 Kings 18:39, NKJV.)

Living in a BBC News world, as we do in the UK, we are conditioned to consider all viewpoints with mutual respect – reporting is to be honest, fair, balanced and impartial. There is incredible strength to that value, but paradoxically a strength can also be a weakness, leading to dithering! Who’s right? Who’s wrong? Should I believe this – or is it false?

In no case is the matter more critical than when it comes to the question of whom we worship. Because the ‘God or Baal’ question is existential, it is relevant to our world today: for, as strange as it may seem for the people of the UK and Ireland, ‘The LORD, He is God!’

As people who live with longing expectation of the Lord’s return, the recent UN report on climate change should **shake us up, wake us up, and sober us up** about our identity and mission: a message and mission, I need to say, that is not about us . . . but about Christ, the Lord, who is God. We need to invite our fellow citizens to follow the ‘Coming One’.

Every time someone witnesses to the fact that ‘the Lord Jesus Christ – He is God!’ is a time for celebration. It’s a time when I, figuratively, imagine angels dancing – and so should we! Furthermore, enough evidence for us that ‘these (really) are the days of Elijah’ is the work John the Baptist was called to do before the coming of the Messiah, which is also our task: *‘to make ready a people’* (Luke 1:17, NKJV; see also Matthew 24:14).

*‘And he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared’* (Luke 1:17, ESV).

Before I sign off, here’s a further reminder about the reality of our times:

‘Even though the time of Jesus’ coming cannot be calculated, nevertheless certain things must take place before He comes – the general picture (according to Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2) is of an intensifying conflict between good and evil, and between the individuals and institutions which embody them, before Christ asserts the final triumph of God and His will.’<sup>1</sup>

**‘How long will you waver between two opinions?’** I don’t like the question Elijah posed. It’s too black and white for me. Instead I’ll say (and do) nothing.

. . . Really?

<sup>1</sup> Stephen H. Travis, *I Believe in the Second Coming*, p. 86

Elijah predicted a long-term drought - and a drought there was (1 Kings 17:1).



# Croydon's online mission reaps rewards

by Paige Pellew

After fourteen months of virtual worship, on 22 May 2021, the Croydon church reopened for in-person worship. As the best sign of new life there could ever possibly be, it was fitting to mark the occasion with the baptism of sixteen people.

Given the major disruption of the past year, it is astonishing that ten of those baptised came to know Christ through viewing the weekly church service streamed on Croydon's YouTube channel<sup>1</sup> and Vimeo Livestream<sup>1</sup> platforms. Croydon's interactive Sabbath School programme has been especially popular with its engaging format, which allows people from all over the world to ask our panel questions and interact with one another live. Croydon also regularly livestreams a range of interactive round-table Bible study discussions and health and lifestyle programmes presented by health professionals, with the opportunity to ask questions.

Each one of the sixteen baptised has a story to tell . . .

- First to be baptised was a young Pathfinder, **Nathan Lewis**, born in an Adventist home – someone who loves the Lord. Nathan is extremely mature for his age, very knowledgeable, and understands the purpose of baptism. He wants to serve the Lord and share God's word with others.
- **Annaliese Smith**, the second-youngest person to be baptised, at age 9, also loves the Lord and wants to serve Him wholeheartedly. As young as she is, this decision was exclusively hers. Annaliese describes herself as an aspiring singer who wants to make people happy. This is a moment she will remember forever, being baptised by her father, Pastor Royston Smith.
- **Sharna Brown** was also among those who gave their life to Christ. Sharna is a teacher and has been inspired by her close friend and colleague, Rickalya. She is passionate about community and works

to positively make an impact on the lives of others, to invite them to be changed for the cause of God.

- The service really felt like a family affair, in which a husband-and-wife duo, **Patrick Mumbere** and **Scovia Khazila**, gave their lives to Christ together.
- Mother and daughter **Carla Alana Hassan** and **Tashica Amanda Loo** made their public declaration for Christ together.

We offer our huge congratulations to all sixteen, who made the best decision of their lives on 22 May – in giving their lives fully to Christ. To watch the baptism service, click on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=065ZxZVfx6g>.

Looking to the future, we continue to support others in their search for Christ. We are currently sharing Scripture with 20 people who are preparing to be baptised later this year. While the past year has been uncertain, there is one thing we are certain of: and that is God's unfailing love. In a time when many have lost hope, there is clear evidence that God continues to move and change individual lives. As people have found purpose and peace in the Lord, we rejoice with them!

If you, or someone you know, would like support growing your relationship with Christ, contact us for Bible study,<sup>3</sup> baptism<sup>4</sup> or prayer.<sup>5</sup> don't delay this life-changing decision! We appeal to you – do it now!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9JJCdKK3CwhtQzoyeFuPEQ>

<sup>2</sup><https://livestream.com/croydonadventistchurch/events/876400>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.croydonadventist.org/wp2/biblestudy/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.croydonadventist.org/wp2/next-steps/>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.croydonadventist.org/wp2/prayer/>





Thora, Ajanae and Natisha

### Watford Town baptism

The pool was set, the seats reserved, the church ready, the members waiting in anticipation, and the hand of fellowship ready to be extended.

On 10 July – the second Sabbath after reopening, following the church closure due to the pandemic – **Thora Samuel** and her two daughters, **Natisha** and **Thora**, publicly declared their love for Christ, made their stand for God, were baptised and became members of the Watford Town church.

A family member, Elder James Willock, sang ‘Your Grace and Mercy’ just before the resident pastor, Valentine Roach, preached the sermon, ‘Do You Believe?’ with Scripture lessons from Hebrews 11:6 and Mark 16:16 outlining the change that occurs when you give your heart to the Lord.

Ajanae, Natisha and Thora were joined by family and friends as they accepted their baptismal vows, read by Elder Richard Henry. Elder Hilton Samuel; a cousin, Nadine Samuel; and several family members read their favourite Bible texts, and favourite songs were played as they entered and rose from the pool. Elder, Ralford McLeary offered a prayer of dedication as Ajanae, Natisha and Thora began their new life in Christ.

The Watford Town church rejoices and asks that readers continue to pray for our newly baptised members, as we know that the Christian journey can sometimes be a real test of our faith.

Thora, Natisha and Ajanae, who now belong to both a local and global church family, will continue their weekly Bible studies with Nadine. We look forward to the many contributions they will bring to our local congregation.

In the picture are Thora, Ajanae and Natisha.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, WATFORD TOWN CHURCH

### Weston-super-Mare baptism

Sabbath 22 May was a day of double blessings for the Weston-super-Mare church.

First, we were thrilled that the church was once again open after lockdown, but more significant was the baptism of **Daniella Marin**. Brought up in an Adventist home, Daniella had for some time been having Bible studies on Zoom with our pastor, Rio Espulgar, resulting in her commitment to follow Christ. Lockdown caused a delay, but she was baptised at the first opportunity.

By coincidence, it was also Daniella’s mother Olivia’s birthday, and Pastor Rio spoke of the day as a family celebration of both physical and spiritual birth. Following Jesus’ example in baptism and starting a new relationship with Him – that is spiritual birth.

With the number of members able to attend church in person still



Daniella being baptised

limited, thirty members and friends also watched on Zoom.

We ask God’s blessing on Daniella and her family as she starts a new life with Christ.

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY



Deaconesses Monica Mulaj and Aliona Rotaru lead Izabela Kincses out of the water after her immersion

### Baptism in the sea

On Sabbath 17 July, Izabela and Alin were baptised in an unforgettable seaside ceremony and welcomed into membership by the Dublin Romanian church, which they had been attending for some time.

**Izabela** discovered her freedom in Christ while living in isolation, having walked into the church just before the pandemic lockdown. Once lockdown arrived, her introduction to the Adventist faith and community was experienced via Zoom services. At the same time, she got involved in church life and participated in missionary outreach through the Dublin Adventist Community Services (ACS) and the Discover Truth literature distribution ministry, supported by Sveta, a passionate member who led her step-by-step in her journey. Following a baptismal class, her decision was clear: she would follow Jesus.

**Alin** comes from outside Ireland and has a Catholic background; he often visited the church with his Adventist girlfriend, Ramona. Like Izabela, during the pandemic he became involved with ACS Dublin, where the Romanian church serves alongside other Dublin churches. Ramona’s influence caused him to decide to marry her and adopt her Adventist way of life. During one of the ACS efforts he stepped up to the pastor and announced his desire to be baptised.

A baptismal class was organised and the two joined, and after six months a date for baptism was set. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the lack of a building, the church decided to hold an open-air baptism on a sheltered beach near Wexford (100km south of Dublin). It was such a delight to see friends and family come to support the decision of the two new members to follow Christ. The warm, sunny weather and the beautiful views made this baptism one that no one will ever forget. The Dublin Romanian church family wish Izabela and Alin all the very best as they start this new journey in Christ. May God bless them both abundantly!

CRISTINA PRIDA



Alin Chihalau just after immersion

### More commit to Christ as a result of Manchester Southern Asia baptism

Along with Heaven, parents, families, friends, members and well-wishers rejoiced at the decision of **Sanjana Sathe** (13 years old) and **Abigail Rayavarapu** (16 years old) as they were baptised by Pastor Ebenezer Daniel at the district baptism held at the Manchester South church on 12 June 2021. No lockdown could stop them from giving their lives to Christ! As many attended the service, many more witnessed their commitment on YouTube.

The Manchester Southern Asia church gives God thanks as we welcome them both into the church family. As the North England Conference president, Pastor Richard Jackson, made a call to be baptised, many more children and youth responded positively. We thank Pastor Blondell Campbell, the church's pastor, for his nurture and care, along with all the Manchester South members for their help and encouragement.

DIAMOND SATHE (CHURCH COMMUNICATION)



Sanjana Sathe



Abigail Rayavarapu



The family of both Abigail and Sanjana

### Sara Neves baptised in Central London

On 17 July a new member was baptised into the Central London church. **Sara Neves** gave her heart to Jesus and decided she needed to go all the way with Christ.

Sara is the sister of Pastor Sam Neves, who is the Associate Communication Director at the General Conference – he was in the UK and performed this special baptism. Pastor Colin, the local minister, was on hand to take Sara through the baptismal vows.

Many family members and friends witnessed this baptism, and there was a part in the service when Pastor Sam's son read a favourite scripture for Sara. Pastor Sam is a former employee of the SEC, where he pastored a number of churches during his time. The Sabbath day belonged to Sara, who on 17 July became the newest member of the growing Central London community.

We all look forward to seeing Sara grow in the Lord and using her talents in service to Him.

COMMUNICATION TEAM



Sara, second from left, with Pastor Sam Neves and Pastor Colin Stewart, along with the church's first elder, Claudia Passer

## God honours those who honour Him

The Christian faces a daily challenge in life: in fact, we face a battle against the enemy of Christ. 'Are you prepared for that battle?' This was the question that was asked as two young men committed their lives to Christ through the waters of baptism.

**Kiala dos Santos** hails from Angola and spent several years in Portugal before settling in the UK. During his earlier life he had a mixed religious upbringing, but somehow, prior to lockdown, he felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit to visit the Great Yarmouth church. During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, he stayed in touch via Zoom. In December of 2020, due to an industrial accident, he almost lost his hand and was off work with his injuries for about six months. It was during this time that Pastor Mark Borrett reached out and helped him, along with special encouragement from two other members, Olive Rogers and Isaac Ngwenya. In January 2021, the pastor reconvened baptismal studies with Kiala, leading him to take his stand for the Sabbath. With Kiala's future employment uncertain, the church family upheld his case in prayer. With the help of the pastor, he sent a letter to the HR department of the company. We praise God that our prayers were answered when he received Sabbath privileges. In the book of 1 Samuel a prophet said that God honours those who honour Him, a statement that was later endorsed by Jesus (1 Sam. 2:30; John 12:26). Kiala is a single parent with two lovely children, and we wish him well.

**Stephen Cruickshank** is also a single parent, with three children, and he comes from an Anglican background. Making an initial link with the church through Zoom meetings, he too was invited to join the virtual baptismal classes. Seeking to understand God's will in his life, he felt impressed to keep the Sabbath special, but his employment status involved weekend shift work. Again, the Lord responded to the prayers

of faith, and shortly before his baptism his employment status changed, enabling him to keep the Sabbath.

Both Kiala and Stephen were received into the fellowship of the Great Yarmouth church, with the baptismal service held at the Lowestoft church. We rejoice with the Lord for His goodness and leading in the lives of Kiala and Stephen, and continue to uplift them both, along with their children, in our prayers. Indeed, God does honour those who honour Him!

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER, COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY



Left to right: Kiala dos Santos with his two children; Pastor Mark Borrett; Stephen Cruickshank with his three children



Is this the first ever *FOCUS* magazine published to communicate with friends and neighbours the meaning of Revelation 14:6-12? A *Sunday Times* newspaper columnist peddles the idea that Seventh-day Adventists believe God to be engineering a 'you-will-burn-in-hell' plan for humankind, but we know that's fake news. Around AD 90 John received a vision 'from Jesus . . . to show his servants what must soon take place' (Revelation 1:1, NIV). Could the messages at the heart of the vision given by the three angels begin to put the matter right? How do we share with our friends and neighbours the relevance of Revelation 14:6-12 for our times?

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# Great things God has done

by Leslie King

I was born and brought up in England during the early 1960s. My parents came from a small island in the West Indies called St Vincent, and I was the oldest of three children, but found life very challenging as a child. My mum and dad were often upset with each other; my dad would stay out late drinking, smoking and gambling with his friends, and this was very unsettling for us as children. We did not have a lot in those days, and lived in a small rented room.

My dad's first cousin, whom I called 'Uncle', and his wife would come to visit us and speak about God. He was a literature evangelist (colporteur) and he would speak to us about God's law – the Ten Commandments – and the seventh-day Sabbath. I would find myself getting angry and upset with him. I felt that God was so strict and wanted to punish us. I had heard from others that He was an angry God who wanted to burn us up in hell if we did not listen to Him. At

least, this was the impression I had as a child. I found myself challenged on every side. My parents had limited education; they did not realise until I was about 7 years of age that I could not see properly because I was very short-sighted. Coming from a different culture and being a different colour to everyone else in our neighbourhood did not help. I was a slow learner; I found it difficult to understand what I was being taught about the Stone Age, Iron Age, evolution and God. It was all so confusing to me.

My uncle sold my parents a copy of *Bedtime Stories* and a book called *The Best Stories from the Best Book*. It was from this book that I learnt about an angel called Lucifer who did not want to keep God's law because of his jealousy and pride. This really made me think. When I was about 11 years of age my parents separated and eventually divorced. My world was crumbling! I did not want to be like my dad – but how? I felt that

my uncle and auntie, who did not have children of their own, loved each other and cared for us as children. They would often visit us, so I asked if I could go to church with them on Sabbath. I had gone to church with them from time to time, but had found church boring when there were so many more exciting things to see and do on Saturday. It was their LOVE and kindness to me that won my heart. I found stability and belonging with them. My auntie promised to buy me a Bible if I went to church with them for 13 weeks in a row. At that time I did not know much about the stories or the books of the Bible; it was all new to me. On my eleventh birthday I received my very own King James Version of the Bible. It was a small Bible with a few pictures in it. My uncle then enrolled me in a children's Voice of Prophecy course so I could study my new Bible. My auntie also said I must always pray before studying God's word. 'Yes,' I said. I remember listening

to the bedtime stories; these stories showed me that God hears and answers our prayers, and that God would help us.

As I began to study the Bible, my mind began to open up. This world and my life were making more sense to me. After some time my uncle and auntie invited me to Friday night meetings to welcome Sabbath. The meetings were held in different family homes of some of the members of the local church. It was here that I learned to pray in public, for I was very shy and timid. My life began to change – I was making friends with some of the young people in the local church and growing in many ways. My uncle introduced me to Daniel chapter 2 – Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the metal image. I found this fascinating. One day he asked me, 'What does Daniel chapter 8 mean?' This made me curious, so I studied the chapter with my uncle. I realised this was speaking about the Persian and Grecian empires; the Bible was prophesying about actual historical events that would take place in the future. Later, my uncle then shared with me how Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, and he showed me how the life of Jesus completely fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. These studies helped me to believe that the Bible was true and could be trusted. When I was 14 years of age I joined the young people who started their own Friday night meeting to welcome the Sabbath in their family homes. This was new, and I was now developing into a leader. By the time I was 15 years of age, I had made up my mind to give my life to Jesus and follow His example, and so the local minister prepared me for baptism; and I was baptised on 3 December 1977.

After I was baptised, I realised it was God's amazing grace that had brought me through. Jesus is my Saviour, and He has worked miracles in my life and is still working miracles today. I am now a husband, father and grandfather – a missionary in my home and to this world.

This article was first published as a chapter in *Great Things God Has Done: Stories from Newbold Church*, edited by Carole Peacock and Veselinka Becejac (Euro Dream, 2019). Reprinted here with permission.

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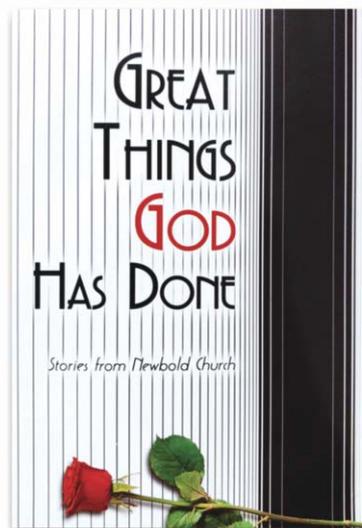
Leslie King

Leslie King's story is excerpted from the book, *Great Things God Has Done*, a collection of 50 inspiring stories and testimonies from Newbold Church.

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# Stanborough Press – the Lord continues to make a way!



It was William Ings in 1878 who started the publishing work in the United Kingdom. As a colporteur (literature evangelist), it's recorded that he'd publish 1,000 copies of denominational periodicals and tracts and circulate them among the ships in Southampton and then door-to-door in the city. As David Marshall notes, while Ings made 'use of thousands of the American *Signs of the Times* magazines . . . he grasped the importance of putting the Adventist message into an English context for English readers'.<sup>1</sup>

The history of the Stanborough Press, such as can be found in the *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, continues to be the story of a company of incredibly faithful and dedicated employees, both past and present, who recognise the leading of the Lord in their daily work at the Grantham-based site. When they and the company faced challenges that looked insurmountable, God always provided a way.

Like many other companies, Stanborough Press has found the last 18 months a tremendously challenging time. **'But, praise God, we are still here,'** says the production manager, Peter Oppong-Mensah. Recognising the many current business challenges we face – including the new 'Brexit' challenge, he notes with a wry smile – 'We have come to understand in a very new way the meaning of "red tape" as we continue to grow our European export market and serve Irish Mission members in the Republic of Ireland.

The last 18 months could be described as a roller-coaster ride: 'But,' says the Adventist Book Centre manager, Trevor Johnson, 'the very week lockdown began, in March 2020, our new online retail outlet, LifeSource Christian Bookshop (<https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk>), went live, revolutionising our sales pattern, to help us stay connected with members.'

On the front line of staying connected are Ian Clutton, Jose De Jesus, and Andrew Sewell, who take the sales line calls. 'It's certainly been a challenging year with reduced staff, leaving each of us with more work to do, but the website has become our lifeline,' says

Ian. Jose, on furlough for most of lockdown, commented, 'This work is a calling, and I for one am happy to be back.'

Over in the Accounts Department, Jacqueline Anderson and Dave Selvage continue to work in their amazingly calm manner – even with, as Dave notes, 'the extra workload'. And that has been the overriding spirit of 'Team Press' – all chipping in, and, where necessary, learning to multi-skill. What keeps Dave going is also his great sense of humour (see the cartoon on his office noticeboard)! Jacqueline likewise can be immersed in the forensics of reconciling accounts one morning, and packing orders ready to be dispatched in the afternoon.

Philip Anderson (Jacqueline's husband) works in the Export Department. Phil will tell you he has 'many tasks', but as strategic as any for the company is his responsibility for keeping the [lifesourcebookshop.co.uk](https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk) website up to date with new books and special offers. Again, he multi-tasks, along with all the team at Alma Park.

How have we done through the pandemic and lockdown? 'I think the company has done very well, all things considered,' says Paul Brewin, who works in the Export Department with Mark Walmsley. If you want to get a sense of the breadth of reach of the mission of Stanborough Press, watch Paul and Mark pack a container to the rafters with books destined for such places as Kenya, Zambia, or South Africa. These are not just any old books, but life-giving books telling of Christ!

As for the editorial department, Andrew Puckering (proof-reader) reflects, 'It has been a challenging time. Working from home had its blessings, though I did miss the walk to the office. We trust in God for the future.' Sarah Jarvis (editorial secretary) agrees, and is 'glad to see the team back', as for most of the past 18 months she has been alone in the office. 'Communicating and editing with the team via email and phone takes a significantly longer time than when we're all in the office together.'

David Bell – now the longest-serving member of staff (with 40+ years of service) – is able to see the long view as he reflects on the past 18 months. 'Over the years Stanborough Press has been through some incredibly challenging times – I've seen them all! But as those challenges have come and gone, amazingly, we are still here. I continue to believe there is still a bright future for the company.'

'Who could ever have predicted the COVID-19 experience and the resulting lockdown?' says the company's managing director, Elisabeth Sangüesa, 'But I have sensed over the past 18 months that the Lord has not just kept Stanborough Press going, but re-shaped



Philip Anderson



Left to right: Andrew Sewell, Ian Clutton and Jose De Jesus



Paul Brewin



Trevor Johnson

it for the new challenges we will face ahead.' Throughout lockdown, Elisabeth led from the front, working daily on site in the Alma Park warehouse, supporting the sales and despatch team and ensuring that orders received were despatched the same day. **'That's the level of service we offer our customers, pandemic or no pandemic!'**

Not everyone is back at work yet, due to the government furlough scheme, but we look forward to the return of Fran Brooks, Abigail Murphy, Andrea Sarlinova, Eutella Simon, and Rosangela Teixeira in October.

What would William Ings make of Stanborough Press today? Who knows . . . but we're confident that we continue in the same spirit, putting the Adventist message into an English context, not least for UK and Ireland readers.

EDITOR

<sup>1</sup><https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=9C03&highlight=The|Stanborough|Press>



## Earth and Soul 5

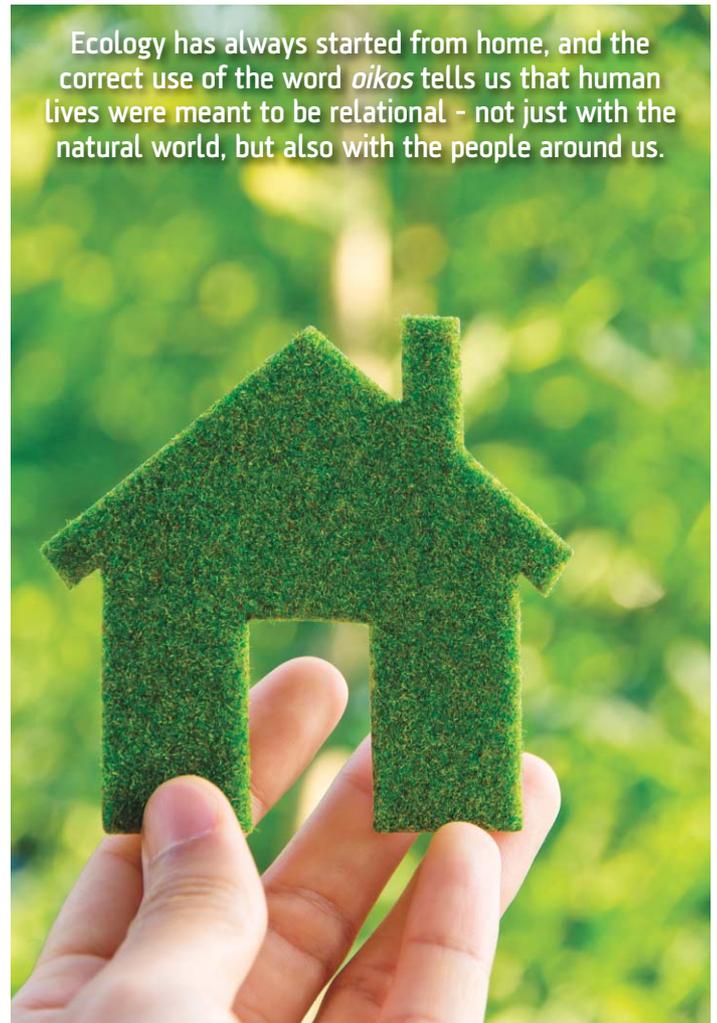
by David Wright

**'Eat as if the earth depended on it.'** –  
*Sainsburys, the principal partner for COP26*

Emerging from Carbis Bay Hotel in Cornwall, the leaders of the world's seven largest advanced economies agreed in June, among other things, to stop the international financing of coal projects, reverse biodiversity loss and halve CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030, in order to limit further global temperature rises. Meanwhile, as the latest COVID-19 variant continues to spread across Britain, the Government endeavours to balance economic concerns with pandemic dangers.

Perhaps the link between ecology and economics should not be surprising to those who study Scripture. The Greek word *oikos*, providing the prefix 'eco,' occurs more than 120 times in the Bible. While the word 'ecology' refers primarily to the interrelationships of animals and plants in their environment, the word *oikos* originally related to the family and household, including friends and people encountered. So, while both ecology and economics essentially deal with good housekeeping, budgeting, and planning, *oikos* was the primary way the Gospel spread in the New Testament. In Acts 10, for example, when Peter responds to Cornelius's invitation, he finds that Cornelius has called together his *oikos* (all his relatives and friends); and in Luke 8 Jesus tells the man out of whom He has just driven a legion of devils to return to his *oikos* (home) to tell them how much God has done for him. Ecology has always started from home, and the correct use of the word *oikos* tells us that human lives were meant to be relational – not just with the natural world, but also with the people around us.

*Oikopleura* is a tiny marine filter-feeding plankton that belongs to the sea-squirt family. It lives inside its own mucus-mesh house that it builds around itself for protection and food gathering. When threatened, it can escape through a rear trapdoor and discard its home. I remember using this illustration when speaking at the first international students' conference on the environment, held in Sweden in 1972, pointing out that, unlike *Oikopleura*, human beings did not have the luxury of being able to escape their forthcoming ecological crisis by exiting a convenient backdoor to leave their planet behind. Yes, we each have a God-given responsibility for looking after our current planet home: but, unlike space programme dreams to resettle other planets though our



own means, world leaders have yet to realise that hope for a fully restored environment lies in our Creator's promise to redesign the earth when His Son returns.

If you are looking to share what the Bible says about the environment, have a look at the NRSV Green Bible, first published in 2008. Highlighting more than a thousand passages in green ink about the earth and creation care, it is subtitled: 'A priceless message that doesn't cost the earth'.

World leaders have yet to realise that hope for a fully restored environment lies in our Creator's promise to redesign the earth when His Son returns.



## The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report:

# 'Code red for humanity'

On 9 August the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its landmark study about the effects humankind is continuing to have on the global climate. The report has been accepted unanimously by every nation represented at the UN.

- Human activity is changing the climate in unprecedented and sometimes irreversible ways.
- Global warming is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.
- Expect increasingly extreme heatwaves, droughts and flooding.
- Global surface temperature was 1.09C higher in the decade between 2011 and 2020 than between 1850 and 1900.
- The oceans will continue to warm and become more acidic. Mountain and polar glaciers will continue to shrink for decades or centuries.
- Scientists are hopeful that if we can cut global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in half by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by the middle of this century, we can halt and possibly reverse the rise in sea temperatures.

**'It is a statement of fact; we cannot be any more certain: it is unequivocal and indisputable**

**that humans are warming the planet. . . . The consequences will get worse for every bit of warming.'**

*Professor Ed Hawkins, University of Reading, IPCC report author*

**'The report clearly shows that we are already living in the consequences of climate change everywhere. But we will experience further and concurrent changes that increase with every additional bit of warming.'**

*Professor Carolina Vera, vice-chair, IPCC working group*

**'We will see even more intense and more frequent heatwaves. . . . And we will also**

**see an increase in heavy rainfall events on a global scale, and also increases in some types of droughts in some regions of the world. . . . Lowering global warming really minimises the likelihood of hitting these tipping points. We are not doomed.'**

*Dr Friederike Otto, Oxford University, IPCC report author*

## The day the sky will collapse

*'Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure of lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.*

*'But when the Day of God's Judgment does come, it will be unannounced, like a thief. The sky will collapse with a thunderous bang, everything disintegrating in a huge conflagration, earth and all its works exposed to the scrutiny of Judgment.*

*'Since everything here today might well be gone tomorrow, do you see how essential it is to live a holy life? Daily expect the Day of God, eager for its arrival. The galaxies will burn up and the elements melt down that day – but we'll hardly notice. We'll be looking the other way, ready for the promised new heavens and the promised new earth, all landscaped with righteousness.'*

*2 Peter 3:8-13 (The Message)*

Sources:  
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>  
[https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_Headline\\_Statements.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Headline_Statements.pdf)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58130705>





by Sharon Platt-McDonald

## Play well-being benefits

In the UK, 4 August this year was designated as Play Day. It takes place each year on the first Wednesday in August as a campaign to raise awareness and celebrate the importance of play in children's lives. Annually, this campaign encourages thousands of children (as well as parents) across the UK to get involved in community events, whether at their local park or community centre, or to set up events around play to get the community involved.<sup>1</sup>



Explaining the importance of play, the campaign organisers highlight the fact that 'play is an essential part of every child's life. It is vital for the enjoyment of childhood as well as for social, emotional, intellectual and physical development. When children are asked about what they think is important in their lives, playing and friends are usually at the top of the list.'<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, [playday.org.uk](https://www.playday.org.uk) lists the following health benefits:<sup>3</sup>

- **Playing** is essential for children's mental health and well-being.
- **Playing** helps children cope with stress and anxiety and fosters resilience, enabling children to better deal with challenges.
- **Playing** gives children the opportunity to have fun, laugh, take time out, relax, and build friendships.
- **Playing** outside allows children to appreciate nature and the environment, and to feel part of their community.
- **Playing** is fundamental to children's happiness, and happy children lead to happier communities.

Reporting on this year's focus, event organisers chose the theme, **Summer of Play**. This was in recognition of the challenges children and young people have faced during the pandemic, with the varying lockdowns over the past year. They wanted to highlight the need to focus on fun, and to enjoy playtime with friends, free of restrictions. Additionally, families and carers were encouraged to celebrate children's right to play in their local areas. See <https://www.playday.org.uk> for more details.

Play for adults is also beneficial. A well-being and happiness article from [HelpGuide.org](https://www.helpguide.org)<sup>5</sup> lists these health benefits for mature individuals:

- **Stress relief** – play relieves stress by

triggering a release of endorphins.

- **Improved brain function** – fun activities that challenge the brain can help prevent memory problems and ward off stress and depression.
- **Stimulation of the mind** – a relaxed and playful mood enhances the learning of new tasks.
- **A boost to creativity** – play increases imagination and aids problem solving.
- **Improved relationships and connectivity to others** – sharing laughter and fun can foster empathy, compassion, trust, and intimacy with others.
- **Maintenance of youth and energy levels** – play boosts energy and vitality, improves resistance to disease, and helps you function at your best.
- **Improved social skills** – playful communication enhances connections.
- **Cooperation with others** – play teaches us how to cooperate and increases positive socialisation.
- **Healing of emotional wounds** – play helps replace negative beliefs and behaviours with positive assumptions and actions.

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/playday-2021/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.playday.org.uk/about-playday/whats-play/>

<sup>3</sup>[playday.org.uk](https://www.playday.org.uk)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/benefits-of-play-for-adults.htm>

**Go For It!**  
You only have a few days left!

Walk a mile, maybe 2,  
walk any distance you can do  
join the challenge today!

**WALK for ADRA**

Walk the globe twice with us.  
Collectively we can walk **50 000 miles**  
to raise **£50 000** for ADRA.

**1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE – 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2021**

[www.adra.org.uk/walkforadra](https://www.adra.org.uk/walkforadra)

or please join our dedicated FB group  
[www.facebook.com/groups/walkforadra](https://www.facebook.com/groups/walkforadra)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

## ‘Surviving lockdown’ badges received at Newbold Church investiture

Newbold Church Pathfinders and Adventurers, together with their counsellors, joyfully received their ‘surviving lockdown’ badges during their investiture on Sabbath 10 July. This is a special badge, given on top of other badges, in honour and recognition of the hard work put in during lockdown when club meetings were held via Zoom. Newbold Pathfinder and Adventurer Club leader Cedric Lux said, ‘The dedication of the counsellors, Pathfinders and Adventurers alike during lockdown was remarkable.’ Cedric added, ‘We navigated through the challenges together; and, week in, week out, we saw very eager-to-participate club members.’ The club’s Zoom meetings started in March of 2020 and ended in May 2021, when the club began to hold face-to-face meetings again. Cedric thanked parents for their support, which saw 86 club members being invested, of which 37 were Adventurers and 49 were Pathfinders.

To maintain government guidelines on COVID-19 safety measures, only club members were allowed to attend the investiture ceremony physically, while parents and other well-wishers joined online.

With the great work of Newbold Church’s media team, which also includes many Pathfinders, the programme was well covered virtually, enabling all the viewers at home to follow through the whole programme and join in the celebratory spirit.

The programme began with the Adventurers and Pathfinders reciting their aim, motto, pledge and law; followed by the colour party carrying the British, Pathfinders, and Adventurers flags; and then a prayer by South England Conference Pathfinder Director Pastor Clifford Herman.

A devotion was then shared by the SEC’s Area 5 Adventurers and Pathfinders coordinator, Vimbai Martins, who congratulated the Adventurers and Pathfinders. However, Vimbai reminded them that the real test of what they had learnt will be when they face challenges in life. Vimbai shared the story of the prodigal son and his brother, found in Luke 15:11-32. Vimbai said, ‘The prodigal son decided to go home because he remembered that at home he had access to his kind father; he also remembered that at home he had authority, comfort and security.’ Vimbai therefore urged them all, ‘Do not leave home – by

home I mean the presence of God.’ However, Vimbai also told them not to be like the older brother, who was jealous and envious; but instead, at every opportunity, to exercise the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

There were many great memories shared on the day, including pictures and videos of the summer camps, Adventurers’ involvement in the Adventurers World Camporee, and other great news from the club’s news desk.

One of the highlights of the day was the special performance by the drum corps, which had also been practising via Zoom throughout the lockdown. ‘One remarkable thing is that the group is taught by a Guide’s class Pathfinder, Jesse Opoku. Jesse’s dedication to the drum corps is admirable,’ said Newbold Church’s pastor, Marcel Ghioalda.

It was amazing to see the smiles and the joy of each member as they were called forward to receive their certificates and badges. There was also special recognition of some club members: a retired SEC Area 5 Pathfinders and Adventurers coordinator, Pat Dyckhoff, and her husband Terry for stepping in to take charge of Adventurers’ Zoom meetings; Cedric and Racheal Lux for their leadership of the club; Crystal K as Adventurer of the Year; Caleb O as Pathfinder of the Year; and the Adventurers who will now be joining Pathfinders were also celebrated.

Pastor Clifford gave the charge and blessing to the Adventurers and Pathfinders, and left them with these words: ‘Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set the example of all the good things that God can do for you.’

The event ended with the drum corps playing so beautifully and gracefully as pictures were being taken and parents were arriving to pick their children up.

APRIL AND JUDITH  
(MAKANIANKHONDO) NYIRENDA



Newbold investiture



Newbold drum corps



Newbold Pathfinders and Adventurers



# After fifteen months, the British Union weekly e-Club ends

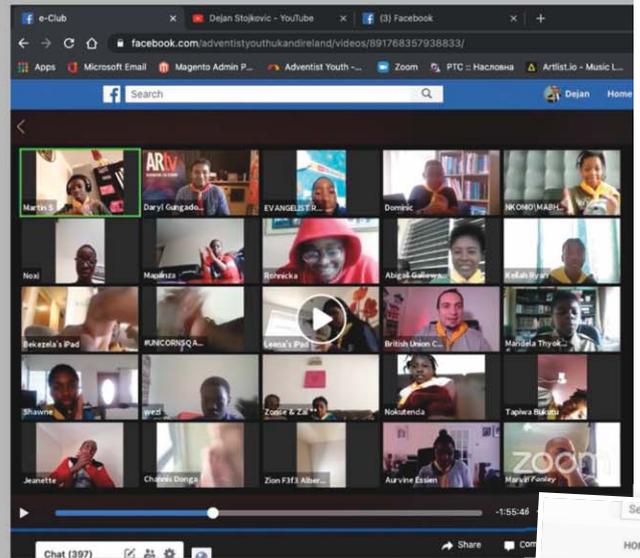
by Pastor Dejan Stojkovic & Natalie Davison, British Union Youth Ministries Department



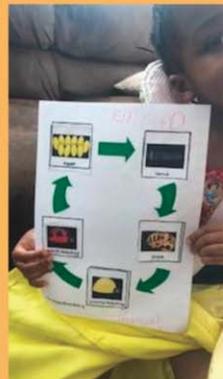
## OUR MISSION AND VISION

### WHAT WE ARE AIMING FOR

During lockdown, the Adventurers and Pathfinder clubs are not running in person, although many are running online. The vision was to provide an online means of obtaining awards and honours while still retaining a sense of community.



## VIEWER PHOTOS AND ENGAGEMENT



On 23 March 2020 the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced that England would begin a period of lockdown, during which people were not to leave their

houses for anything except essential trips. Offices, schools, churches, and other establishments all closed their doors to await the passing of the COVID-19 virus.

Since Adventurer and Pathfinder club meetings were not deemed 'essential', children in the clubs were no longer allowed to meet in person. This presented a very real

problem for club staff, who had to ensure that the contents of the yearly curriculum were studied; otherwise, the children could not progress to the next class at the end of the year, and would effectively be running months behind in their work.

**Enter the e-Club**

Enter the e-Club, a weekly online Pathfinder club open to all children across the British Union, presented live on Zoom and streamed to Facebook each Sunday morning, moving shortly afterwards to the afternoon. The vision of the BUC Youth Ministries Director, Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, the e-Club began its first broadcast within six days of the lockdown announcement. It was swiftly followed by the recognition that the Adventurers would also benefit from an online club, and therefore Sabbath afternoons became their regular slot.

Each weekend for the next few months, two Adventurer awards and three Pathfinder honours were presented to an online audience of the maximum 100 on Zoom and hundreds more on Facebook. Both platforms were moderated, with Pastor Dejan and the Youth Ministries secretary, Natalie Davison, actively supporting and encouraging the children via the online chats as they participated in the classes. Pastor Dejan spent long hours each weekend hosting, recording, editing and uploading each session to publish on YouTube. Viewings during the weeks that

you are doing,' said Janet White, echoing the feeling of many club directors across the Union, who appreciated the role played by the e-Club when so many churches remained closed. And, as word spread, so did the reach, and the audience grew beyond the BUC to countries from as far away as Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, North America, and many Atlantic and Caribbean islands. The e-Club was able to reach beyond borders during the pandemic, combating the feelings of isolation experienced by many of our members, and with the added bonus of creating a global Adventurer and Pathfinder community.

**Lockdown continued – the e-Club expanded its reach**

As the lockdown continued in various guises throughout the world, the e-Club also continued its commitment to club ministries by consolidating its output into a Sabbath afternoon programme, and by partnering with other unions, including Belize and the Gulf Field. The North American Division Club Ministries team came on board in the second half of 2020, and the chair of the NAD Pathfinder Taskforce, Pastor Mark O'Ffill, became a regular presenter and facilitator of the e-Club programme. His experience and contacts meant that the range of awards and honours being taught could be expanded to include many of the newer subjects developed by the NAD, and we were privileged to have

had not only our own Union creators present the awards and honours they had written, but many from the NAD and beyond joined us too. One of those, the Ants award, created by Dionne Weekes, has remained the highest-viewed award on the YouTube channel, followed by Ladybugs and Amphibians. Christian Grooming and the Viruses are the two most viewed honours.

**Adapting to online learning**

The presenters were all volunteers who gave of their time to create a PowerPoint presentation to teach from online. All were a mix of denominational employees and lay people who had a specialist knowledge or a keen interest in the

subject they were presenting. Each presentation was scrutinised to make sure that it included all the elements needed for the Adventurer or Pathfinder to complete their award or honour, and was complemented by a bespoke worksheet. Learning online was a new concept for everyone; and, after a week-long period of online schooling, we were cognisant that an element of screen fatigue would set in, so each presentation also had to be as interesting and engaging as could be, with colourful crafts and fun facts. This was Natalie Davison's weekly contribution to the programme, as well as the website content

creation and the weekly information emails to the growing e-Club database.

Pastor Dejan encouraged all the participants to share their crafts each week, and created an ongoing online gallery of their work. So many children were inspired by the classes, and the works of God's creation were beautifully reflected in their handiwork. The programme also expanded to create an international online choir singing the Adventurer song and the Pathfinder song, enlisting the help of musician Ken Burton to create the backing tracks for us, and of Lucas Melo from Stanborough Park Church to edit both projects. Many of the e-Club Adventurers and Pathfinders were able to participate in the World Pathfinder Day celebrations, which took place online over several time zones on Sabbath 19 September 2020.

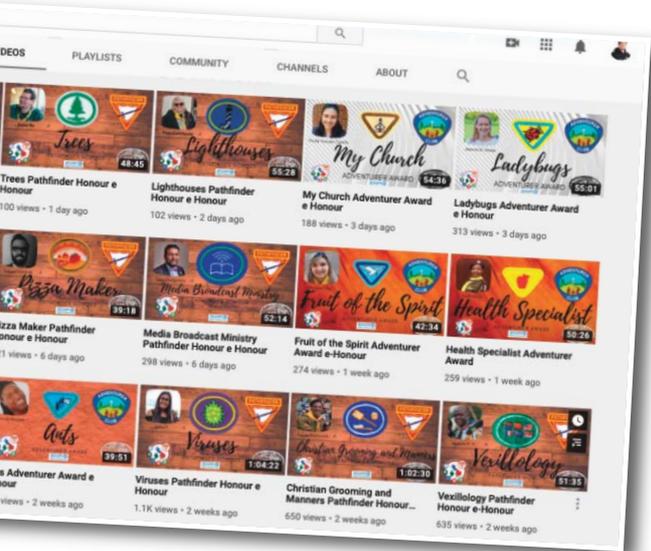
The regional entities in the Union were involved in the second half of 2020 as the search for knowledgeable and willing presenters continued. Each of the Conference directors and Mission sponsors assisted with finding presenters and hosting during those months, which provided more variety and grew the online community further.

**'Thank you, Pastor Dejan'**

After fifteen months of almost weekly presentations, the British Union Youth Ministries team of Pastor Dejan Stojkovic and Natalie Davison, in collaboration with the NAD's Pastor Mark O'Ffill, decided to bring the programme to an end in light of lockdowns easing worldwide, particularly for clubs within the British Union. The final programme aired on 26 June 2021 to a larger-than-average audience, including those families and club members who had participated since the very first e-Club programme! The e-Club concluded, having taught 98% of the Adventurer awards available and a very large percentage of the Pathfinder honours. It was also a fitting opportunity to wish Pastor Dejan well for the autumn as he takes up his new role of Youth Ministries Director at the Trans-European Division. A special tribute video to mark the occasion premiered during that broadcast.

All through the long months, we have seen evidence of God's leading and guiding in our lives and in those of the club members with whom we interacted. Although incredibly relentless and tiring, with hours spent away from our families each day of the weekend, we thank God for the privilege of conducting this programme during this challenging time, and for keeping this programme free of any technical issues and online hacking that may have caused problems. We were encouraged by Pastor Mark O'Ffill with the words of Mordecai to Esther in Esther 4:14: *'For such a time as this . . .'* (KJV).

May all those associated with the e-Club, in whatever capacity, know how appreciated they are; and may they be assured that their hard work has blessed and will continue to teach and bless many children in the years to come.



followed reached into the thousands as families were able to access the materials in their own time.

The online classes were supported by worksheets for the children to complete and hand in to their club directors as evidence of their participation and follow-up work. The presentations and links to the online recordings were all held on a central database on the [www.adventistyouth.org.uk](http://www.adventistyouth.org.uk) website for anyone to access.

'Thank you all for your consideration and thoughtfulness in ensuring that we are adequately supported as clubs. It is not easy and is no mean feat. We really appreciate what



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

## At a glance . . .

- **Blackpool Council has paid the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association over £100,000 in damages** following a landmark ruling by Manchester County Court, according to *Premier Christian News*. The council had banned the evangelistic association's advert on Blackpool buses for a Lancashire Festival of Hope event with evangelist Franklin Graham because of fears that Graham would repeat earlier comments made about homosexuality and Islam. However, Judge Claire Evans ruled that the evangelistic association had a fundamental right to freedom of expression, and the adverts themselves were not offensive. Blackpool Council has since offered a full apology, accepting that it had discriminated against the Lancashire Festival of Hope and interfered with freedom of speech.



- **ADRA has mobilised to assist those affected by the devastating floods in Belgium and Germany** following heavy rainfall earlier this year. At least 31 people died and 163 were reported missing in Belgium alone, and tens of thousands were left without electricity. The communications and fundraising officer for ADRA Belgium, Sevil Yigit, quoted in *TED News*, says the situation on the ground was 'dramatic', adding: 'In addition to clearing debris and evacuating homes that are about to collapse, our volunteers also provided comfort and emotional support to the victims.' In Germany, where nearly 150 died, thousands were left without electricity and water. Matthias Munz, ADRA's public relations officer in Germany, says that many people 'lost everything'. ADRA also deployed a team to assist the relief efforts there, coordinating operations and donations such as kitchen facilities to allow families to recover.
- **A statement condemning the House of Commons vote to reduce the international aid budget** has been released by the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church. In the statement, the church leaders call the 'decision to renege on the UK's international development commitment . . . unfair, unwise and immoral', noting that the decision 'will undoubtedly cost many lives'. They close by calling the vote 'heartless and self-defeating'. *MESSENGER* staff are inclined to agree.
- **Amid the pandemic, hearts are opening to God through literature evangelism**, says Pastor Nildo Mamac, Publishing Director of the South Philippine Union Conference. Writing for the Adventist News Network, Mamac states: 'The Publishing Ministries Department of SPUC has deployed LEs in every city in its territory to meet the needs of thirsting souls. Each LE has been trained to comply with the health protocols imposed and strictly monitored. . . . As they go about bringing hope and light through the printed pages, they experience God's guidance and sustaining grace.' Some had feared that the sale and distribution of our books would be negatively affected, but the opposite turned out to be true: sales increased by 1.5 million pesos on the year before. Local leaders give glory to God, saying that doors are closed, but hearts are open.

*'At a glance . . .'* provides a roundup of news in a regular column for *MESSENGER*, keeping our readers informed of events in other Christian denominations in the UK and Ireland, as well as the wider Adventist Church across the globe.

ANDREW PUCKERING

## La Soufrière volcano eruption response

Leicester Central Church has served as the City of Leicester hub for collection of items to support the call from St Vincent and the Grenadines following the La Soufrière volcano eruption.

Since 9 April, the volcano has erupted daily, sending masses of ash raining down on the inhabitants. This has created problems with the water supply and food, and has destroyed properties and homes. The clean-up operation seems endless at this time, and more help is needed.

Leicester Central, Leicester City Council, Leicester African Heritage Alliance and the St Vincent & Grenadines Embassy are working to receive donations and send them in response to the highlighted needs.

Every Wednesday, between 9am and 2.30pm, the church has been open to receive, sort and pack items. Volunteers from several organisations, as well as the church membership, have helped in this endeavour. Vans arrive to collect the packed boxes, and they are taken to the St Vincent Embassy, where staff ensure that the relief packages get to their destination.

'It's been simply an amazing experience of the entire Leicester community coming together to assist those in need both near and far,' said Annette Cunningham, also noting the coming together of 'beautiful and generous people from a huge range of backgrounds, ages and faiths'.

A Leicester Central elder, Vince Halliday, shared how 'overwhelmed' he felt 'with the generosity and response from the community at large'. 'All this has been achieved through the coming together and the commitment of many organisations, such as the Seventh-day Adventist Church, CFWH Foodbank (Leicester), AHA Garments Limited, United Students and Kainé Leicester, and not forgetting individual members of the community,' explained Vince. 'The work involved, not only packing boxes, but labelling and itemising the contents of every single box – I want to say a huge thank-you to every person who has helped.'

Leicester Central is once again grateful for the opportunity to serve its local and wider community by offering practical, spiritual and emotional support to those in need. Grounded in a biblical mandate, Leicester Central members accept the call:

'Let us continue to shine our light to the world until Jesus comes. Let us work locally to let others know that Jesus is there for you now, and is coming soon to take us home to the heavenly kingdom He prepares while we wait.'

MAXINE CHAMBERS



Pastor Michael Baker and volunteers



Kainé Youth Collective bringing their donations, with Pastor Baker



Elders Vincent Halliday and Max Williams



Helen Wilkinson

## Sweet singers in Israel

The pandemic has been responsible for changing many things that we have all been used to doing in our daily routines. One significant change has been the way we have worshipped in church. Throughout our lifetimes we have joined in congregational singing – and then, suddenly, it was no longer permitted due to the safeguarding restrictions to help avoid spreading the virus. We have been permitted to have a small singing group or even a virtual choir, but a live group had to maintain social distancing during the performance.

During those periods when we were allowed to meet in church, albeit under very tight restrictions and regulations, the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft district agreed to worship in the larger of the two buildings; so our church building in Lowestoft with its utilitarian facility was chosen, because it has a larger area to allow for social distancing. After rearranging the seating, both churches were able to meet each Sabbath with the congregation located in their respective families or bubbles and others joining the service online.

An important and integral part of the service is singing praise to God. Everyone could take part; but how was this achieved? We have been indebted to the dedicated voice of Helen Wilkinson, who is blessed with a melodic soprano voice and has faithfully served to sing the hymns at each of our services over the last sixteen months. While Helen sang, the hymns were projected onto the screen, or at funerals they were printed in the service programme, so that everyone could read the words and meditate upon their meaning while singing, so to speak, in their hearts. Sometimes Helen's daughter, Janna, would also be the soloist. We would like to pay tribute to their contribution in our worship services. Thank you, Helen and Janna, for sharing your gift in the Lord's service. It has proved a tremendous blessing to everyone. Like the description given of the psalmist David, we consider you both to be our *sweet singers in Israel* (2 Samuel 23:1).

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER



Janna Wilkinson

# Thoughts on lifestyle and doctrine

part 2

by Dr George Knight



*'Walk as children of light'* (Ephesians 5:8, NASB).

When it comes right down to it, there are only two ways to walk – in the light or in darkness. The Bible is clear on that point.

But what is light?

Many of us act as if correct doctrine or even biblical lifestyle were the light. Wrong! Christ is the light, and religion centres on our relationship to Him. Encompassed in that centre is the problem of sin and God's solution to it in the cross of Christ.

Both doctrine and lifestyle are secondary issues. After all, you can believe all the right doctrines and live the right lifestyle and still be lost. Salvation has to do with your relationship to God through Jesus. Doctrine is not an end in itself, but is rather a means to understanding God better so that we can love Him more effectively. Lifestyle is a means even further from the centre of the faith. Health reform, for example, enables us to have clearer minds so that we can understand

doctrine and thus God better, and have sweeter personalities in order that we might be able to love our neighbours and God more fully.

At any rate, in the minds of Adventism's founders the realms of lifestyle and doctrine were not equal. Thus they put forth a great deal of effort to state their doctrines precisely, while basically neglecting most lifestyle issues until necessity and crisis forced them to take a position.

Adventists filled the resulting lifestyle void in various ways. Sometimes they formed a position through Bible study and conferences as a crisis arose, but at other times Ellen White took the lead in raising the issue, pointing to the solution, and indicating how that solution fit into the larger picture of the three angels' messages. That latter course was evident in such areas as health reform, while the former, as we have seen, predominated in such aspects

as military service and tithing.

Because Ellen White often applied biblical principles to the everyday life of the church and its individual members, through the years her counsel has come increasingly to the centre of discussions of Adventist lifestyle.

As we view the development of early Adventism we need to recognise that Ellen White had a dual role, with less activity in the realm of doctrinal formation and more in lifestyle development.

*Guide us, Father, in helping us understand how the various parts of our religious faith package relate to each other and our lives.*

This article is an excerpt from *Lest We Forget* by George R. Knight (published by Review and Herald), reprinted here with permission from the author and the publisher. You can purchase the devotional from the LifeSource website: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk>.

## NATHAN'S PONDERINGS



# Jumpin' the lights

by Pastor Nathan Stickland

I'm reminded of a Chas and Dave song, 'Jumpin' the lights'. The verses have a rhythm of 'Just 'cos . . . you thought . . .', with the chorus line finishing with, 'Now you're jumpin' to conclusions like you're jumpin' the lights! I think you're mad, mad, mad.' Does that make you mad, when people

jump to conclusions? It does me – but isn't this the theme of films and stories? A situation arises; someone draws a conclusion (maybe the tension is based on this conclusion); but then comes the big reveal, and this works out differently.

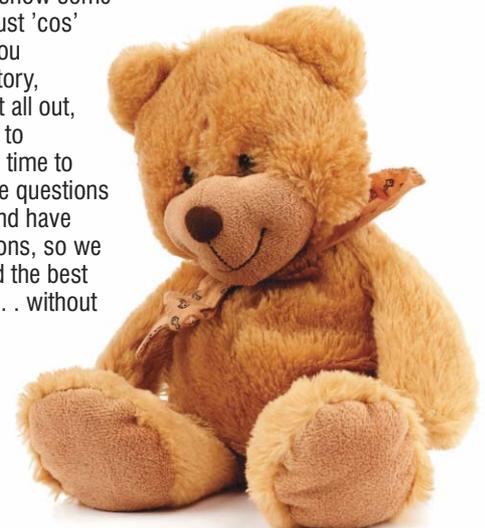
An old TV show had a dad who needed to buy his daughter a birthday gift, but no time to deal with it. He tasked it to his secretary, who told him she'd bought a teddy for his daughter. He was pleased, until the daughter unwrapped the gift in front of him to reveal a camiknicker 'teddy', when the father was assuming a 'teddy' bear.

In the books *Crucial Conversations*<sup>1</sup> and *Crucial Accountability* the authors review this process, and point out how we often jump a step that's crucial to finding out the reality of a situation. **Basically, the four steps are: 1. we see or hear something; 2. we get the full story; 3. we feel an emotional reaction; and 4. we act on that emotion.** Which situations are coming back to mind from your life when you have heard one story, one perspective, and immediately thought you knew the full story, and then reacted (overreacted) to the situation? OK,

let's turn the heat off – this is what you have seen others do!

Now, what would life be like if more people took more time on step two: get the full story? But it's easy to fast-track our assumptions, presuppositions, and biases so we can vent our reaction to

the situation, without having taken the time to get the full story. Getting the full story might mean simply hearing both sides, though it might take more curiosity than just a jurisdictional hearing. At this point of the enquiry we each have the chance to show interest in the situation and persons involved. Just imagine if someone were to do that for you? To pause – long enough to show some professional curiosity. 'Just 'cos' something happened, 'you thought' you knew the story, without actually finding it all out, and now you're 'jumpin' to conclusions'. Maybe it's time to buck the trend; to ask the questions that need to be asked, and have those crucial conversations, so we get the full story and find the best way to move forwards . . . without jumpin' the lights.



<sup>1</sup>Patterson, K., Grenny, J., McMillan, R., & Switzler, A. (2011), *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High*, second edition, McGraw-Hill Education

# Reflections on a long walk

by Karen Holford



Panorama from the highest point – near Kidsty Pike – Lake District National Park

This summer my husband, Bernie, and I walked from St Bees on the Cumbrian coast to Robin Hood's Bay on the east coast: 192 miles in 13 days. Alfred Wainwright, a keen walker, developed the Coast-to-Coast walk. It passes through three national parks and some of the most beautiful landscapes in England. It is one of the most popular long-distance walks in the UK.

When we bought our hiking trainers the fitter said, 'Your shoes should feel as comfortable, kind and forgiving as your slippers.' For three days out of 13 we walked more than 26 miles, and the average daily distance was about 20 miles. We saw what happened to people with ungracious boots. They sat by the road and cried with pain. They focused on their suffering and missed out on the wonder. As Solomon wrote: *'Desire without knowledge is not good – how much more will hasty feet miss the way!'* (Prov. 19:2, NIV.)

As Christians it's important to get our basic theology right. If our image of God is tight and restrictive, like the wrong-sized shoes . . . we will suffer badly. We may be so preoccupied with our pain that we don't notice the wonders and joys around us. We may spend so much time caring for our feet that we forget to care for others.

Some sections of the walk have two parallel paths because walkers usually travel in pairs. As Solomon says: *'Two are better than one. . . . If either of them falls down, one can help the other up'* (Eccl. 4:9, 10, NIV).

We saw most of our fellow walkers daily. We encouraged each other, helped each other, and shared snacks, wisdom and plasters. Kindness is essential, because you can walk several days without seeing shops. Some people leave a cool box outside their house filled with chocolate, snack bars, crisps, fruit, paracetamol, plasters, and water, trusting hikers to use the honesty box. A local parishioner encouraged her church to create a tuck shop for the hikers. 'We need to bless them. . . . It's the kindest thing to do.' Eventually the tuck-shop profits covered half the cost of the church's roof repairs. *'And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart'* (Gal. 6:9, NKJV).

We enjoyed Wainwright's picturesque

route. We experienced magnificent views of our country: serene lakes, spectacular waterfalls, peaceful forests, and meadows of wild orchids, all



Ivelet Bridge – Yorkshire Dales



Haweswater



Robin Hood's Bay

exquisitely created by God. We appreciated the ancient walkers who had carved these paths over the hills. Their diligence had made our journey so much easier, safer and more comfortable. They reminded us of the great patriarchs, and the wonderful pioneers of our faith.

But some of the old paths were badly eroded. Old pathways, like old theological ideas, need to be constantly reviewed, reconsidered, and rerouted as better paths are



identified and laid. Alongside the paths are bags of airlifted rocks that will make the route safer and more suitable for today's needs. *'Be alert, be present. I'm about to do*

*something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert'* (Isaiah 43:18, 19, The Message).

Once we walked through low-lying cloud. We could see just enough to know that our next step was safe. *'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see'* (Heb. 11:1, NIV). Finally, the cross of a waymark emerged through the mist, a reminder that Jesus is with us through the clouds and confusion of life. *'I am the way and the truth and the life'* (John 14:6, NIV).

Eventually we spotted the North Sea sparkling in the distance, and we arrived at the pretty seaside village of Robin Hood's Bay. We had crossed the country from coast to coast, on foot: thirteen days of serenity, beauty and wonder. It was a tough and wild walk; but every day we woke stronger from the effort of the day before.

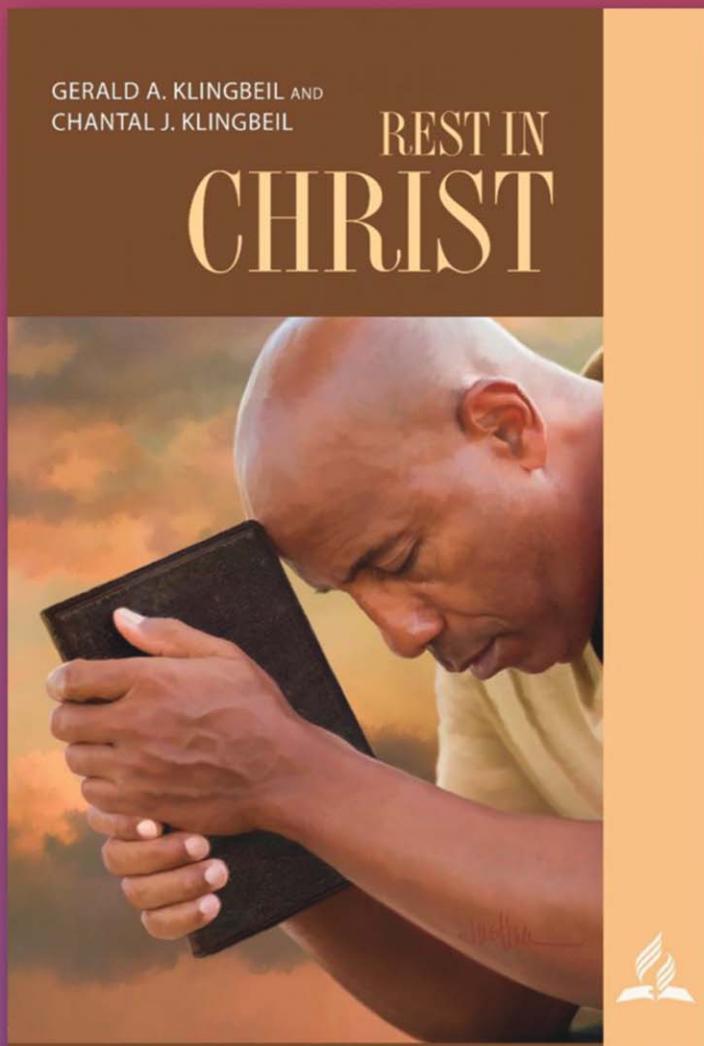
*'We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us'* (Romans 5:3, 4, CEV).

So, today, wear the generous shoes of God's love. Find someone to walk with. Encourage others. Scatter kindness. Pause and notice the wonders around you. If the path is unclear – keep trusting God for the next step. Even when things are tough, know that you are getting stronger; your character is being built; and, like us, you will do all kinds of unexpected things with God who strengthens you.



Sign by a caring church

# Rest in Christ



## Guiding principles for Sabbath observance

Gerald and Chantal Klingbeil, in chapter 10 of their book to complement this quarter's Sabbath School studies, ask the question: 'How do we keep the Sabbath holy without making a list of rules that can turn our focus to dos and don'ts, and without, like the Pharisees of Jesus' time, ending up missing the "Lord of the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:8, NASB)? . . . Can we see beyond the rules to universal, timeless principles that can be applied to all cultures and in all circumstances?'

The following are based on God's character and provide a foundation for Sabbath practices:

- **Preparing** for this day to enjoy its benefits.
- **Resting** from work, life's burdens, and secular concerns and distractions.
- **Renewing**: observing the day in a manner that renews us physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, and socially.
- **Healing**: observing the day in such a way as to foster healing, relief, release, liberation, and refreshment. Any action that hurts oneself or others is Sabbath-breaking.
- **Celebrating** the creation, or birthday, of the world, and of our redemption. Its atmosphere should be one of celebration, joy and delight.
- **Sanctifying**: keeping the Sabbath day holy; setting it apart for a special focus on God, His Word, and His agenda, to seek intimacy with Him, embrace Him wholly, and nurture a love relationship with Him that makes us holy.
- **Remembering**, reflecting, and rejoicing about creation, redemption, and Christ's second coming and the creation of the new earth.
- **Worshipping**: participating in corporate, focused worship of God with our church family.
- **Basking**: enjoying, studying, experiencing, and basking in the world God made, rather than working at maintaining it.
- **Responding**: a joyful human response to God's grace in obedience to His loving command to remember Him and His Sabbath gift.
- **Trusting** God to take care of what we leave undone during the hours of Sabbath; learning to depend on God, rather than ourselves.
- **Fellowshipping**: nurturing our relationships with family and friends.
- **Affirming**: rightly representing the atmosphere of the Sabbath by a spirit of acceptance, love and affirmation, rather than a spirit of judgement and criticism.
- **Serving** other people in love, and witnessing lovingly for God.
- **Caring** for necessary physical needs on Sabbath; no creature – animal or human – should be allowed to suffer on this day.

From *Rest in Christ* by Gerald and Chantal Klingbeil, pp. 96 & 97

Available at:  
<https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/sabbath-school-lesson-companion-book-single-quarter/>



# Rest and renewal

by Karen Shelbourn

In our current, Westernised world, much of what we want is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The internet enables us to see and speak with family or friends almost anywhere in the world at a time of our choosing. If we want to do some shopping, go online; if we want to consult an encyclopaedia, go online; if we want to see the latest news from home or abroad, go online. If we want to place a bet or send or read a text or email, our smartphone or laptop will enable us to do it anytime, almost anywhere. The working week is generally shorter now than generations before enjoyed, and yet rest often seems to elude us. Life seems busier than ever; the many machines which were designed to allow more leisure into our lives do not seem to have



had the desired effect. Is this how life should be?

Maybe we have to recognise that time seems short because we are so good at being distracted! Distracted by the various and many social media platforms, or by the various and many film or catch-up channels available on a device near you. . . . The list goes on.

Many generations ago, God created a day of rest, a period of 24 hours, occurring every seven days whether we humans notice it or not. It was especially designed to be holy: that is, set apart for a special purpose (Genesis 2:2, 3). That purpose includes rest from the working week, whether that work is paid or unpaid. However, it doesn't mean doing nothing! But it does mean a day when we can

rest from the burdens of the week, be they physical, mental, emotional or spiritual. Resting can mean ceasing from physical work, but it also means refreshment, or freedom from disquiet; practising a mental or emotional tranquillity; slowing down; and receiving respite from our troubles.

We can become so engrossed with our lives that we forget how to rest. Embedded in the Ten Commandments is one which starts with 'remember' (Exodus 20:8). We are told to consider our family and friends, and those who work for us. It's a truly societal and spiritual approach to God and the people around us. He wants us to be able to intentionally plan to receive rest and renewing from Him as a gift . . . a gift which comes around every week.

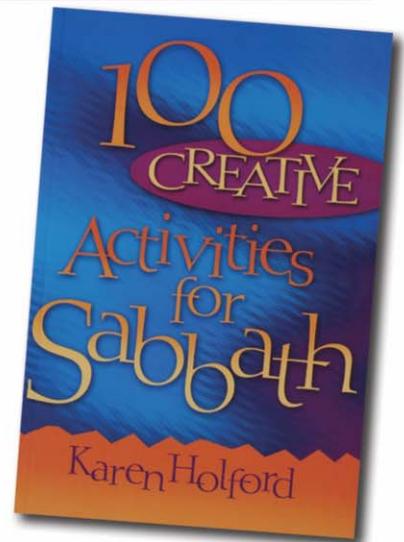
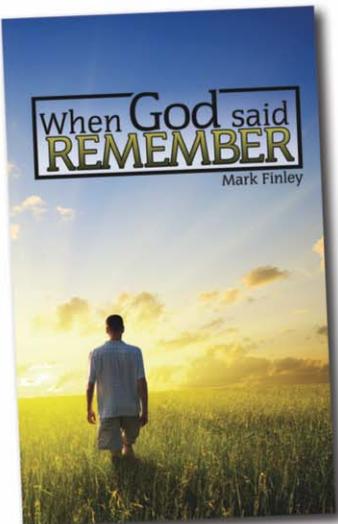


## The Sabbath

### When God Said Remember

As you read this book, be prepared for some shocking surprises and straightforward answers. From Mark Finley on the Sabbath, this small book asks and answers questions about the Bible Sabbath: its origins, its history, and its relevance today.

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# Letter to the Earth

This is George, on behalf of God;  
Permission was given with a nod.  
I write this letter to Planet Earth,  
Who's suffered long; there's little mirth.  
God will do a remake just for you;  
You're in a bad way, with sin's flu.  
He will make it all new again,  
Without suffering, sin and pain –  
Therefore put your trust in God.  
So saith this poet with a nod.

All the efforts that you may do  
Together will not make this planet new,  
So put your trust in God above,  
For He is sovereign, and He is love.

Please LOVE this planet 'til He come;  
Do act wisely, for 'tis your home.  
Use carefully its few last resources;  
Renewables are your very best choices.  
The rest are clearly running out,

But when God comes He will sort it out.  
When Christ comes 'twill be the end,  
So trust in God and eternity spend.  
He is God, the Sovereign Lord;  
Informed we are by His certain Word.

John 14:1-6; Matthew 24:1-4, 35-39;  
Revelation 21:1-7 –  
All these scriptures clearly say,  
Christ is Lord and on His way.  
He is the Way, the Truth, the Life,  
And when He comes He'll end all strife.  
All these promises will be fulfilled:  
God has said so; it is His will.

GEORGE YOUNGMAN, AGED 88  
AUGUST 2021, HATFIELD



**Enid Marian Fleming (née Brundle) (1930-2021) d. 4 June.**



Enid was born in Lowestoft on 21 October 1930, and had five brothers and a sister. Married at the age of 20, she had three children: namely, Linda, Terry and David. After almost 40 years of marriage, her husband, Ritson, passed away; but she was a resilient person who was determined to soldier on.

Without any hesitation, we can say that Enid was a loyal, thoughtful, responsible, reliable, caring and genuine person. Whatever her circumstances, she seemed happy and content. Surrounded by her caring family of three children, many grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, she considered herself to be blessed.

It was in the late 1980s that she received a Voice of Prophecy card through her letterbox, which led Enid to attend the Adventist church in Gorleston, Great Yarmouth: but before making her final decision, like the Bereans of the New Testament, Enid wanted to make sure that what we believed was what the Bible taught. She was later received into fellowship on profession of faith on 20 October 1990. Three years later, Enid decided she wanted to be rebaptised to testify to her new-found faith in Christ – a baptism which took place in the sea at Lowestoft by Pastor David Neal.

For over thirty years, Enid remained a true and faithful member of the church. During the course of those years she supported the church. The writer recalls how, when he was first assigned to this district, Enid would walk a considerable distance from her home to the church. After a while, he discovered that she was in constant pain – but, because she never complained, not everyone knew. During those years she served in almost every church ministry as a treasurer, Sabbath School superintendent, head deaconess, child safety administrator and local agent for Ingathering. Surely, the epitaph for Enid is: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant' (Matt. 25:21, KJV).



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I read with great interest your latest editorial on leadership.

With the turmoil you allude to facing the UK church at the moment, I thought your question was a great challenge and most pertinent for every leader to ask: 'Where is the Gospel in all this?'

I am sure that each leader can justify his or her own actions in the belief that God is right in the middle of it. That being said, is it too difficult for leadership to say, 'We are sorry'? Even if we believe our actions to be right, or that we have taken the correct course of action, where there is consequently much hurt and fragmentation within our conferences and local churches, is there not still the need to say sorry? This is how I see it – a faithful member with a view from the pew, so to speak.

In relation to the North England Conference (NEC) employment tribunal findings, alluded to by Pastor John Surridge in his article, 'BUC Constitutional Reflections', the only response I have heard from the NEC leadership and Executive Committee in regard to the actions they took is 'regrettable' or 'regret'.

Surely it is incumbent on any leader or administration to be able to offer an apology to

anybody who has been hurt by a particular action taken at administrative level. If our leaders cannot practise what they preach, then maybe they should give up preaching the forgiveness and reconciliation story. Is not the example of Jesus clear enough for us to follow?

I believe 'sorry' needs to be said:

- To the pastor concerned, and to his spouse and family, for the stress and personal difficulty they have had to endure.
- To the members of the local church from which the pastor was abruptly removed, left without their spiritual shepherd.
- To the wider NEC local pastors, conflicted between loyalty to the administration and their hurting members.
- To the wider NEC membership, many of whom continue to be confused and hurt by these actions, causing some to lose faith in the church.

Surely, if we are to rebuild trust and seek reconciliation, the place to start is with an apology.

'Where is the Gospel in all this?' Which makes me wonder further: do we as members need to take some responsibility, because is it not we who vote our leaders into administrative positions?

Yes, I do believe overall that God is in control, who perhaps invites us through this situation to learn to follow His example of humility and put matters right!

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Enid was loved by us all, and we know that she also loved us. One of her closest friends, Elma Hayes, took her on what became her last holiday to Scotland at the age of 81. In fact, Elma paid special tribute to Enid after the eulogy during the funeral service; her closing comments were on her last visit before the COVID-19 shutdown: 'Enid, if we don't meet again here, we shall see each other again when . . .'

The funeral service took place on 2 July in the Great Yarmouth church, and was also livestreamed via Zoom and Facetime. Pastor Mark Borrett conducted a beautiful service. Although the congregation was unable to sing, the hymns 'The Lord's My Shepherd' and 'Asleep in Jesus' were beautifully rendered by Helen Wilkinson. The committal followed at Great Yarmouth Crematorium. Our heartfelt prayers reach out on behalf of her children and their spouses collectively – we extend our condolences to Linda and John; Terry and Debbie; and David and Linda, as well as her extended family, as mentioned above.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER

**Kathleen Mary Cooper (née Cartwright) (1933-2021) d. 21 June.**

Kathleen Mary Cartwright was born on 26 August 1933 in Stretton-under-Fosse, Rugby, Co. Warwickshire. She had two sisters, Sheila (living in Rugby) and Dorothy (now deceased). They grew up in turbulent times – the great slump (depression), war and the aftermath of the war. The young Kathleen met Raymond Cooper, from the nearby town of Coventry. Their romance blossomed into marriage, and they were happily married. Sadly, Raymond passed away in 2006. Their union was blessed with three children: Paul (who died as a baby), Ivor and Heather. In 1995 Kathleen and Raymond moved to Northern Ireland, living first in Banbridge and finally settling in the Coleraine area. Kathleen passed away on Monday evening, 21 June 2021 at 11.30pm.

Kathleen was an energetic person. She was always active, and loved gardening and swimming. She was a very caring person, always willing to lend a



helping hand. Before moving to Northern Ireland, she volunteered at a baby clinic in Lutterworth, and for several years fostered babies awaiting adoption. Over the years Kathleen has always been an active church member, using her talents to bless those around her. She was a natural leader, and, with her loving, caring spirit, organised events to bless those around her. She would visit the elderly in the community and arrange social activities for them – boat trips, garden parties and the like. She also helped her community by conducting health and wellness talks combined with vegetarian cooking classes. She had a very close and vibrant personal relationship with God. Jesus was her Best Friend. Her relationship with Jesus engaged her in a labour of love in all she did.

Kathleen Mary Cooper leaves to mourn her daughter, Heather, and Heather's husband, Jim Colvin; her son, Ivor, with his daughter, Lucy; her sister, Sheila, and her family; and her nieces and nephews.

GIDEON PETERSEN

**Cyril John Vesey (1928-2021) d. 10 July.**

This July saw the passing of the Isle of Wight church's oldest member, Cyril John Vesey. As tributes and comments came in, it is clear that he was regarded as a God-fearing, faithful, kind and principled man who impacted many people over his 92 years.

Cyril was born into an Adventist family in December 1928 in Edmonton, North London, and was the first of four children. Evacuated to Essex in 1939 because of the war, this period was not without incident, as he once had to dodge a German fighter plane that was firing at him by hiding under a bush! It was during this time that he passed his eleven-plus, the first step on an academic journey that would eventually lead to him gaining the last of three degrees, a PhD, in 1991.

As a conscientious objector, Cyril worked in the pharmaceutical industry when called up for National Service, and this helped nurture his interest in the sciences. He subsequently spent twelve years



(primarily teaching science) at Stanborough Secondary School, before moving into research roles at institutions such as St Bartholomew's Hospital. Cyril would be too modest to mention that during his career he co-authored thirty-five peer-reviewed papers that were published in some of the most prestigious medical journals. Lying behind this work was a thirst for knowledge that would never be quenched.

There were two things about Cyril that spoke to who he was as a person: firstly, his love of nature, evidenced in his being a keen gardener and walker; secondly, his commitment to his faith. Cyril was no more at home or contented than in his garden or allotment, acting in partnership with his beloved Creator. His passion for gardening was infectious and impacted many, not least because he willingly shared the fruits of his labour, handing out produce to all in need.

Until things suddenly deteriorated in recent months, Cyril was an extremely healthy person. He adored being out in the countryside, walking the byways and highways of everywhere from Yorkshire to Berkshire and beyond. Tellingly, his son David remembers not being able to keep up with Cyril when ascending and descending a mountain, despite his 70-year-old father giving him 30 years!

His love of nature and gardening was profoundly related to Cyril's faith in God as our Creator. His faith meant that he was never a passive attendee. As a member of Holloway, Stanborough Park, Reading, Newbold and the Isle of Wight churches he was always active: be it as a deacon, elder, Sabbath School teacher or walk leader. He busied himself at various times with helping with Pathfinders, soup kitchens and prison visits. He willingly joined his wife of sixty-six years, Monica, in reaching out to those most in need – from alcoholics to those going through a hard time, whether they wanted food, lodging or simply a listening ear.

As we look forward to the reunions that will come at Christ's return, we remember those who miss him most: his beloved wife Monica, sons John and David, and daughter Sarah.

PASTOR ADRIAN PECK

**Corrigendum**

We would like to apologise for incorrectly reporting in the previous issue that Richard Trenear's brother 'introduced him to the late Pastor Bob Rodd' (issue 7, p. 23). Pastor Rodd is very much alive, and it was his father, Arthur, to whom Richard Trenear was introduced by his brother.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Messenger

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Beif
Aug 27	7.58	8.10	8.05	8.20	8.27
Sept 3	7.42	7.54	7.48	8.02	8.10
10	7.26	7.38	7.32	7.43	7.52
17	7.10	7.22	7.15	7.25	7.35

