

# Messenger

News to the churches • 22 February 2013 • Volume 118 • 04



Hebada Dolsenhe



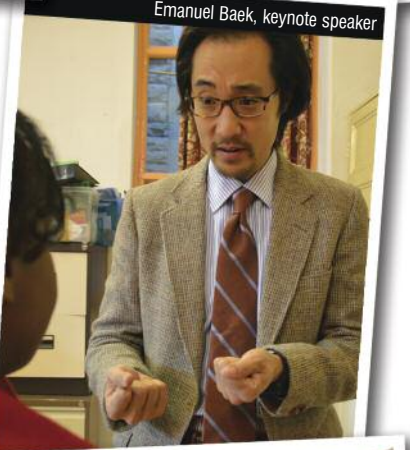
Dean Culinane

## PEACE graduates twenty

by Pastor Peter Jeynes  
NEC Communications director



Beulah Plunkett and Pastor Adam Ramdin



Emanuel Baek, keynote speaker

**P**EACE, which stands for Practical Evangelism and Adventist Christian Education, is a training organisation located in the North England Conference. On 1 December they held their third annual graduation ceremony at the Preston Seventh-day Adventist church.

The twenty graduating students, from four continents, had undertaken practical evangelistic training in connection with the Southport church. This was done under the guidance of Pastor Adam Ramdin, Beulah Plunkett and Craig Gooden – the PEACE staff team – and a number of visiting specialist educators.

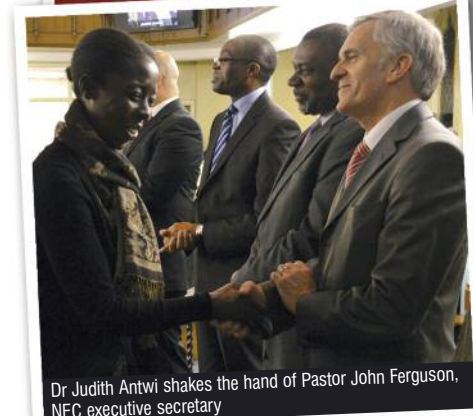
The course content and its impact on the graduands could be gathered from the respective comments of Hebada Dolsenhe, Dr Judith Antwi and Dean Culinane: 'One thing we all have in common: we want to reach others for Christ'; 'We learned . . .' and 'We promised God to be true to Him'; and, 'If you think PEACE is for you . . . I promise you will not regret it.'

Emanuel Baek, an evangelist from Amazing Facts, was the keynote speaker for the graduation and challenged the audience with the question, 'What do you want?' – then assured them that it was worth everything to sacrifice all, if what we really want is to serve God!

Pastor Adam Ramdin opened the ceremony with the assertion that public evangelism works in 2012, and Craig Gooden provided facts to support the assertion. The students had completed more than 900 surveys, dropped off more than 500 Bible study booklets, and given forty-six in-home studies. Plans have been created to make sure that each of these contacts will be followed up.

Students from the class of 2012 will be heading off in many directions. Hebada wants to teach poetry, and confirmed that the course has enabled her life and plans. She will return to America. Ekaterina said, 'Now I really know what to do . . . I have grown in personal confidence.' Brazilian-born Dorling, who starred in the first of the PEACE promotional videos, was another graduate, who has moved on from the idea of doing a hairdressing course – and now desires to serve God in better ways. Dean Culinane will go on to be a Bible worker on the Isle of Man, while bright and bubbly Florence from Wellingborough will return to the north as another Taskforce Bible worker, this time to Southport.

Beulah Plunkett spoke of how this year's PEACE graduates regarded the course as 'character building', and confessed her own enthusiasm for the course like this: 'I can't stop telling people they need to come to PEACE.'



Dr Judith Antwi shakes the hand of Pastor John Ferguson, NEC executive secretary

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## Enhancing Health

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

### Cancer: the facts – part 2

#### Cancer causes in the UK

A BBC Health News report on 7 December 2011, by author and health reporter Michelle Roberts, carried the headline: 'Over 40% of cancers due to lifestyle'. The report, based on an article by D. M. Parkin, L. Boyd and L. C. Walker published in the *British Journal of Cancer* on 6 December 2011 entitled, 'The fraction of cancer attributable to lifestyle and environmental factors in the UK in 2010', revealed compelling data on cancer causes and associated risks in the UK.

The researchers collated data for 18 different types of cancer in 2010, using UK incidence figures over 15 years from 1993 to 2007. The authors claim the study as the most comprehensive analysis to date on cancer.

Lead author, Professor Max Parkin, said: 'Looking at all the evidence, it's clear that around 40% of all cancers are caused by things we mostly have the power to change.'

The report highlighted the following facts:

#### Gender differences:

- In men, 6.1% (9,600) of cancer cases were linked to a lack of fruit

and vegetables, 4.9% (7,800) to occupation, 4.6% (7,300) to alcohol, 4.1% (6,500) to overweight and obesity, and 3.5% (5,500) to excessive sun exposure and sunbeds.

- In women, 6.9% (10,800) were linked to overweight and obesity, 3.7% (5,800) to infections such as HPV (linked to cervical cancer), 3.6% (5,600) to excessive sun exposure and sunbeds, 3.4% (5,300) to a lack of fruit and vegetables, and 3.3% (5,100) to alcohol.

- Tobacco – the biggest culprit – caused 23% of cases in men and 15.6% in women.

#### General findings:

- 'Nearly half of cancers diagnosed in the UK each year – over 130,000 cancers in total – are caused by avoidable life choices, including smoking, drinking and eating the wrong things.'
- In total, 14 lifestyle and environmental factors, including where you live and the type of job you do, combined to cause 134,000 cases of cancer in the UK annually.
- One in 25 of cancers were linked to a person's job, such as being exposed to chemicals or asbestos.
- About 100,000 (34%) of the cancers were linked to smoking, diet, alcohol and excess weight.
- Almost a tenth of cancer risk was linked to overweight or obesity.
- For oesophageal or gullet cancer, half of the risk is linked with eating too little fruit and vegetables, and a fifth of the risk is from alcohol.
- For stomach cancer, a fifth of the risk comes from having too much salt in the diet.

The report concluded that healthy habits like exercise, good diet, and correct weight reduced cancer risks.

#### Good health!

# editorial

I am sure you shared the national excitement as lead archaeologist Richard Buckley, of Leicester University, announced to the gathered media: 'Beyond reasonable doubt it's Richard.'<sup>1</sup>

During that 4 February press conference the world heard confirmation that a skeleton, carefully removed from a cramped grave under a Leicester car park, was definitely that of King Richard III: with final proof of identity being clinched by a DNA match with the son of a '17th-generation descendant of Richard's sister', Michael Ibsen of London.<sup>2</sup>

Richard III died at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, at the age of 32, while apparently trying to attack his adversary, Henry Tudor (later crowned as Henry VII). Since then it seems that history has thoroughly vilified him, and not without the help of William Shakespeare's play *Richard III*, in which he is portrayed as an ugly hunchback who is 'rudely stamp'd', 'deformed, unfinish'd'<sup>3</sup>

#### Historical revisionism

Those who 'write' history, instead of just 'recording' it, should bear in mind that the future may be their harshest critic. Historical revisionism – the ongoing re-examination of historical evidence – has acquired some potent weapons in recent years, borrowed from the world of forensic science and medicine. Besides DNA testing, there are also those modern techniques of facial reconstruction that flowed from the concept of facial sculpture that 'was developed almost 50 years ago by Soviet archaeologist Mikhail Gerasimov'.<sup>4</sup>

In the case of Richard III, Caroline Wilkinson, professor of craniofacial identification at the University of Dundee, said: 'The facial reconstruction was produced on the assumption that the remains were unknown and portraits of Richard III were not used as reference.' That is, until such details as hairstyle and colour, and the colour of eyes, skin and clothing had to be determined.<sup>5</sup>

#### Not the face of a tyrant

According to Philippa Langley, a member of the Richard III Society and originator of the search, the result of all this work 'doesn't look like the face of a tyrant.' To her the



<sup>1</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-21063882> <sup>2</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_III\\_\(play\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_III_(play)) <sup>3</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21350181> <sup>4</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-21328380> <sup>5</sup><http://suite101.com/article/meeting-the-queen-a106771>



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## Face to face with a king

rediscovered monarch is 'very handsome. It's like you could just talk to him, have a conversation with him right now.'<sup>6</sup>

So we have rediscovered one of our kings, and, to some at least, he doesn't seem to be the miscreant that many imagined him to be.

#### What if there are no bones?

This all makes me ponder the agonies of another age – another King – one who has also suffered abuse at the hands of history. A King who is still misunderstood, misrepresented and maligned by many. A Monarch about whom it was prophesied:

'He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.' (Isaiah 53:2, 3, NIV.)

He left no legacy of bones – no DNA to prove His lineage beyond reasonable doubt. The only 'skull' He left was the rocky outcrop on which they executed Him, known as Golgotha (John 19:17, 18, NIV).

#### He seemed like a 'real person'

John Ashdown-Hill, author of *The Last Days of Richard III*, said that seeing the plastic bust of Richard III was 'almost like being face to face with a real person'.<sup>7</sup> Philippa Langley was so impressed that she felt she could, as we have noted already, 'have a conversation with him right now.'

Their reactions illustrate a great irony. Richard looks so real – so tangible – but he is still dead. And soon they will conduct a solemn ceremony to put his royal bones back in the ground, and Philippa will never have *that* conversation with him.

But the other King, for whom we have no bones or resting place, is still alive. So alive that Philippa could have a conversation with Him right now!

It makes you think, doesn't it? Those archaeologists were meticulous about the exhumation of Richard III's lifeless remains. The scientists who handled his DNA were ultra careful with their various tests and procedures to ensure an accurate result. Professor Wilkinson's team were careful that their cranial reconstruction technique was impeccably executed. Now, finally, the historians are ecstatic over the results . . . but Richard will remain silent.

If they can become that excited and enthusiastic about Richard III, how should we feel about King Jesus, who lives and speaks, who loves and cares? Do we feel so drawn to Him that we would want to 'have a conversation with Him right now'?

#### Protocols

Conversations with royalty, especially in this country, are regulated by strict protocol. According to Martin Higgins, a former Buckingham Palace butler, 'the number-one cardinal rule' when meeting Her Majesty is, 'Don't speak unless spoken to.'<sup>8</sup> So, even if Richard came suddenly to life, John and Philippa would most likely have their conversation stifled by protocol.

Christ the King has His protocol too. It's a very simple one: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28, NIV.) It's a protocol that lets you speak first: 'No other nation, no matter how great, has a god who is so near when they need him as the LORD our God is to us. He answers us whenever we call for help.' (Deuteronomy 4:7, Good News Translation.) It even allows the simplest, direct access to Him: 'Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."' (Matthew 19:14, NIV.)

Yes, our King can talk! So, say what you wish to Him. Nothing is on the taboo list. You are never a nuisance. There is no waiting room – go straight in – meet Him face to face.



# Prayer in tough times

by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt

He is in his mid-twenties. He sits quietly contemplating life – the little there is left of it. There is a suicide note in his sweaty hand. He feels rejected, alone, distressed, depressed. How can prayer help him? How can he pray when life has been so cold, callous and cruel to him?

She is at home, alone. The years have rolled on and on. Her husband is dead. Yes, she is on her own – and very lonely. Each passing day drags her down, deeper and deeper into despair. How can she pray when her spirit is so low?

He trudges through the gathering gloom. Shoulders hunched and head down. They have just given him his redundancy notice. How will he pay the monthly accounts? How will he buy uniforms for the new term? What about food for the family table? Prayer – who cares? Nobody's listening anyway!



His child has a rare illness! The doctor told him in the corridor ten minutes ago.

His child has a rare illness! The doctor told him in the corridor ten minutes ago. He is still there. Motionless. But his thoughts are racing: there is no cure; if lucky, the child has six months; and the last ones will be painful and disfiguring. What can he do – he was never taught to pray. It's probably too late to learn anyway!

These examples are not remote or far-fetched. I've met people during my ministry who have lived with such realities, and still do. I am sure you know some too. Perhaps you're living under such circumstances right now, as you read this. All of which makes it important to answer questions like these:

How do we pray when life gets tough? How do we get through? How do we pray when we don't feel like it?

### Prayer in tough times

Simply put, this is what we should do – we take God at His word, that:

- He exists and He is God (Exodus 3:14). This text tells us that He was, and is, and always will be.
- He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). The text directs us to cast our cares on Him because He cares about us. We can pack our 'stuff' – concerns, problems, and worries – on Him.
- He hears our prayer (Psalm 34:4). God is interested in our prayers and responds to them, even if you can't at first understand what He is doing.

These attributes are core characteristics of God's character, and He doesn't change. He will always exist, always care about us and always hear our humble prayers. Therefore, in tough times we should always pray and not give up (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

### Satan plays 'mind games'

In tough times we need to recognise that Satan tries to play mind games with our internal thoughts and destroy our faith. For example, he may suggest:

- That if God cared He wouldn't allow troubles to enter your life – He would just answer all your prayers, for everything!
- That people don't actually care.
- That God has left you.
- That you are on your own, so 'sort it out yourself'.

It is within this malaise of negative thinking and spiritual mind games that Satan seeks to erode our faith and trust in God and thereby lead us to conclude that prayer is a waste of time and effort!

### Remind yourself of the past

In order for us to combat Satan's spiritual aggression we need to remind ourselves of the many times that God has worked before on our behalf. One writer whom I greatly admire, Ellen White, puts it this way: *'We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.'* (Life Sketches, p. 196.)

We should recall the blessings of God in our lives. Doing this will encourage our hearts and strengthen our mental resolve to still trust and still pray – because God still cares!

I was personally reminded of God's care in tough times during last winter, when my wife, Andrea, became critically ill. After God had intervened, by his grace and through the efforts of the medical staff, in answer to our desperate prayers, I was on my way home after visiting Andrea.

My meal routine had been disrupted and I felt faint and famished as I left the hospital. I fancied a packet of crisps, just to boost my blood sugar a bit for the journey home. Going to a vending machine I noticed that it would cost me 65 pence, but I only had 50 pence.

Disappointed, I turned and was about to drag my hungry self towards the car when I noticed 20 pence credit on the machine's display. So I hastily inserted my 50 pence, and got my packet of crisps and 5 pence change. As I walked away, I thanked God for His thoughtfulness in providing 20 pence in a vending machine for His hungry child who was going through a tough time. I concluded – certainly God cares!

### His name is Emmanuel

In the battle for our faith and our minds, we must categorically refute Satan's insinuation that God doesn't care and that He has left us. God's name is *Emmanuel* – God with us. Therefore, He will do as His name declares. He will be with us even if we can't see, touch or feel His presence.

Knowing that God is with us encourages us, settles our worrying hearts and thus helps us feel better. A study in 2004 by the University of Michigan showed that heart patients who had faith, and who prayed, had better recovery rates with fewer post-operative concerns than those without faith, who did not pray (1 November, 2004: University of Michigan Record online, by Joseph Serwach).

### Trade with God

Why not trade with God – your worries for His peace and providence. Prayer changes things, circumstances and people.

It changed things for Daniel when he faced certain death in a den of lions (Daniel 6). It changed things for Esther when her people faced genocide (Esther 4). It renewed the strength of Jesus in Gethsemane (Matthew 26). Prayer can do the same for you – try it – especially in tough times!

# inbox

### Another viewpoint

Dear Editor

Recently the church leadership has made a number of public pronouncements on the Coalition Government's consultation and proposed legislation on same-sex marriage. In addition, some leaders have publicly urged church members to lobby their MPs and make their opposition to same-sex marriage known. My first concern with church leaders' actions over this issue is that they have not consulted members as to whether they want their leaders' intervention in this area of Government policy-making.

I am in favour of the Seventh-day Adventist church outlining its social and ethical positions in the public realm. However, I feel that if church leaders want to directly oppose or support particular legislation, then they should find appropriate mechanisms to consult members for their opinions, or state explicitly that they are not speaking on behalf of all their membership when it comes to a particular issue.

There has been a great deal of primary legislation and proposed Government policy that has had a direct impact upon many church members' lives, from immigration control to tax and benefit reform. When members are being deported or losing their jobs and homes, no church leader has urged us to lobby our MPs to protect some of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters – so why this issue? Why are we being asked to interfere and deny rights to this particular group?

I don't agree with the position that the church leadership has taken on same-sex marriage. I believe that it is a necessary prerogative of the state to ensure equality and basic human rights for all. I don't believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church, given its unique identity and theology, should try to deny other minorities their rights. Rather, the Church should ensure that groups do not face discrimination or persecution as a result of their beliefs and practices (unless those groups' activities are deemed to be harmful or unlawful), and that includes discrimination or persecution on the grounds of sexual orientation. I know that this is not the popular view, but I believe that robust equality and human rights legislation ultimately protects us all, creating the environment for a safe and free society from which we as Seventh-day Adventists, among others, richly benefit.

### Give them a chance

Dear Editor

No one connects with the youth like the youth. There is nothing more touching than when a young person motivates and encourages a fellow young person to accept the Lord.

Yes, our youth sometimes behave and think differently to us, because of their age, stage of development, parental culture and home values. But do we ever give them a chance to share their thoughts about church life with us?

An article in the *MESSENGER* dated 9 November 2012 stated that 75% of the youth surveyed would like to become involved in UK and overseas mission. Should the Church then be tapping into this valuable source of mature, thinking young adults from an early stage?

While we older members plan to evangelise, we forget that they often rub shoulders with more people than we do, particularly youth of their own age. While Youth and Pathfinder leaders are working effectively to encourage the youth, maybe the Personal Ministries department could also tap into this valuable resource to aid their work.

'The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand' – *Testimonies*, volume 7, page 64. To help fulfil this mission, youth need to be responsible and the Church needs to look for the good in them, showing them they are loved, valued and needed. If possible, even give them duties within the Church. But, like a fragile plant, expect them to bend in the wind, and so be ready to support them.

It has been said that Youth and Pathfinder days are noisy, long, drawn-out and irreverent, often resulting in some members choosing to stay home. As a result they are sometimes relegated to the afternoon, but our experience is that young visiting families mainly attend in the morning. Many young souls have been won to Christ through these programmes, particularly Pathfinder investiture days, which only occur once a year. If the youth can win one child to attend such a programme, right behind them are parents and extended families who can be won permanently to the Church. Indeed, this is a ministry in itself.

COLLETTE HARVEY (WEST MIDLANDS PATHFINDER AREA CO-ORDINATOR)

DR WILLIAM ACKAH

with Andrew Puckering



## Life-saving tears

King Ahab of Israel was not a good man. In fact, he was more evil, and did more horrendous things to provoke the LORD, than all who reigned before him (1 Kings 16:29-34). When his offer to buy Naboth's vineyard was rejected outright, he started acting like a sulky child, and allowed his wicked wife to procure it for him through more nefarious means: perjury and murder (1 Kings 21:1-16). For this and all his other sins – behaving 'abominably', and selling himself to do 'wickedness' – the LORD sent Elijah to find him and pronounce judgement upon him (1 Kings 21:17-26, NKJV).

When he heard this judgement, however, Ahab did not imprison Elijah. He didn't laugh it off. He didn't fly into a rage. Rather, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, fasted and mourned – and the LORD commended him for it, saying that he wouldn't punish Ahab for the rest of his life (1 Kings 21:27-29). Ahab's repentance of his sins – evil though they had been – saved him from the calamity that God's judgement would have brought on him during his lifetime.

Surprisingly, when kings do right we find exactly the same scenario. King Josiah of Judah was a good king, doing 'what was right in the sight of the LORD' (2 Kings 22:1, 2, NKJV). He destroyed idols, restored the temple, and re-instituted the Passover (2 Chronicles 34:1-13, 29-33; 35:1-19). He was so respected and loved that his people not only mourned his death, but made it a custom to remember him and lament his passing – even years later (2 Chronicles 35:24-27). Nevertheless, even this exemplary king felt absolutely rotten when confronted with the high standards of the Law of God (2 Kings 22:11-13). That humbleness before the God of Israel saved him and his people while he still lived (2 Chronicles 34:26-28).

This scenario also crops up during the reigns of three more of the kings of Judah: Rehoboam (2 Chronicles 12:5-12); Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 32:24-26); and Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:10-16). Throughout the complete spectrum of kingly virtue, from wise kings to foolish kings and good kings to bad kings – time and time again, it's the same story. The kings who repent and humble themselves before the LORD are saved. Their tears saved their lives.

Could this be why the children of Israel were told to afflict their souls in humility and repentance on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:31)? Both Israelites and strangers living among them were told to afflict their souls (Leviticus 16:29). Those who failed to afflict their souls were to be 'cut off' from their people (Leviticus 23:26-32). This was something that God kept on mentioning to His people again and again (Numbers 29:7) – that they needed to feel a sense of guilt for their sins that would lead them to repentance.

As Christ tells us, it's beneficial for us to humble ourselves, because whoever is proud will be brought low, but whoever humbles himself will be raised up (Matthew 23:12). This is true both in everyday life and in private devotions (Luke 14:7-11; 18:9-14) – and either humbling ourselves or failing to do so has eternal ramifications. Speaking of Himself as the 'Stone the builders rejected', Christ said that whoever falls on Him in humbleness would be broken – but whichever people, in pride and self-sufficiency, do nothing until He falls on them will be ground into dust (Matthew 21:42-44). It makes sense. Those who fail to afflict their souls before God, those who do not wish to be 'broken' before Him, those who allow pride to harden their hearts, are going to miss out on everlasting life.

- Which verses in 1 Peter 5 mention Christian humility?
- Did Manasseh's son Amon humble himself? (2 Chronicles 33)
- How many proverbs can you find in the Bible expressing the superiority of humility over pride?
- What was King Solomon's prayer regarding the need for his people to humble themselves? (2 Chronicles 7)
- Which other Bible characters prayed humble prayers?

# 'I guess you're going to condemn us'

by Grenville Kent

It's not every day an atheist and an agnostic ask a Christian pastor to pray at their wedding. When my friend Marcus asked me, I told him I would love to. He must have heard too much enthusiasm in my voice, because he added, 'Don't think I've become a believer. This is just in case you're right.'

And so, at their happy occasion, I prayed for a crowd of secular people in one of the richest and least religious postal codes of Sydney. I gave God the credit for inventing love and sex, thanked Him for showing us love and ultimate giving on the cross, and asked him to bring joy to Marcus and Elle. A few people probably remembered from school that they were meant to say 'Amen.' I looked forward to some interesting conversations.

At the reception my wife, Carla, and I found our assigned table and were saying hello to others already there. Most were gay couples, plus a transgendered person (a fascinating conversation-alist, as it turned out, and a brilliant academic). We were the odd people out, the happy little 'hetero' Christians.

We had not even sat down when one woman spoke her mind: 'I guess you're going to condemn us, then?'

Um . . . lovely weather. The entire table stopped and listened.

'Hadn't planned on it,' I said. 'We just hoped to

enjoy getting to know friends of our friends.'

'Oh, good,' she fired back. 'Because most of the Christians I know condemn us.'

'Do they?' I asked.

'Yup. And that's ironic, seeing as it was a priest who abused me and probably turned me off men in the first place.'

As I thought of all the human suffering behind those few words, I must admit that tears rolled quietly down my cheeks. Carla's eyes were shining too. After a long moment of silence, I managed to say, 'I'm so sorry. That may not mean anything at all to you, but I just feel like saying sorry.'

She said, 'Thanks,' very quietly, with her face softened.

Everyone breathed again, and someone said, 'So, how do you know the bride?' Normal conversation flowed, but half an hour later she said, out of the blue, 'You know, I miss Jesus.'

'Do you?' I said. 'What do you miss?' 'Well, out of all the characters of fiction or history, I think He's the . . . nicest. Not "nicest" in a weak way – just the best.'

I nodded. 'What do you like best?' 'The way that He could understand and be friends with screwed-up people.' Then she laughed. 'Like us.'

Her partner wasn't having that. 'But don't you find Him pretty condemning?' And she fired the question at me. 'Come on, Rev, doesn't the Bible condemn the gay lifestyle?' And she started quoting the King James Version in a voice like a Southern TV preacher: 'God gave them up unto vile affections: for

'I just find God treats screwed-up people with understanding and grace. He likes us.'

even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature".<sup>1</sup>

Her performance made me smile, but her question left me the options of potentially offending an entire table of people – now listening intently – or denying clear biblical texts. She wasn't a lawyer for nothing.

I said, 'Yes, just as it condemns spiritual arrogance, judging, malicious gossip, ignoring poor people, selfishness, not caring for the environment. . . . I find most people know deep down that we're all screwed up. Some religious people deny it and cover up, but Jesus aims His armour-piercing words at them: "Whoever offends one of these children who believe in Me, it would be better for him to have a millstone hanged around his neck and be drowned in the deepest sea."<sup>2</sup>

People were listening respectfully, so I added, 'I just find God treats screwed-up people with understanding and grace. He likes us.'

Some faces had half-smiles, some had puzzled looks, some showed boredom. The lawyer stood up and said, 'Aw, God – it's all too hard for me. I just drink.' She left for the bar and did just that.

But our new friend was on a roll. 'Didn't they call Him the "friend of . . . sinners"?'<sup>3</sup>

'Yeah,' I replied, and we just swapped Jesus stories for about 15 minutes: 'Don't you love the one where He . . . ' 'What did He mean when He said . . . ' Some people listened for a while, or drifted off into other conversations.

I asked, 'Do you still read about Him?'

'Occasionally. I still have a Bible in my bedside table. But it's hard. I feel guilty.'

'Junk guilt that forgiveness can handle, or guilt that is showing you something better?'

'Hmmm – bit of both.'

'Do you talk to Him?'

'Sometimes. Not enough.'

'Me neither. Does anyone support you?'

'Not really.'

Eventually the conversation changed topics, but not until we had talked about the most important thing in the world: *the love of Jesus for sinners like us*. That simple and profound idea, working quietly and patiently for years, still transforms lives.

<sup>1</sup>Romans 1:26, KJV

<sup>2</sup>Matthew 18:6, paraphrased

<sup>3</sup>Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34, KJV

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The first of a new series of mini-video guides is now available to help you get your church on the map. 'Successful picture publishing' compresses the best of a full photography workshop into just 17 minutes.

The aim is to give you simple tips on how to take a good photograph and get it published, either in *MESSENGER*, *BUC News*, or your local church website – or, even better, in your local newspaper.

It's actually quite straightforward to take a decent photo that people will want to look at,' states BUC Communication director, Pastor Victor Hulbert. 'I've been running these workshops across the country for over six years now, and without fail people tell me that it has given them confidence and new ideas.'

One result of these workshops is increasingly better photos in the *MESSENGER*. However, even with a team of trainers it is impossible to cover the whole country, so these simple tips are now online and available to every church member.

'Successful picture publishing' is the first of a series of training videos to roll out this spring. Other titles will cover areas of news writing, how to use social media, how to get your story published in your local newspaper, and how to increase the visibility of your church in the local community.

The idea of converting the live training workshops into a video setting is the brainchild of BUC new media producer, Kofi Osei-Owusu. Why not view it yourself at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPOVWldqPKM>.

BUC NEWS



This picture demonstrates the use of 'White Balance', just one of the many tips discussed in the video.



## Thank you for praying for my 'boys'

by Maggie Robertson

Like many Christians with non-believing spouses, I have been praying for my husband's conversion for many years. Peter and I have known each other almost twenty-five years, and I have been an Adventist for twelve of them. At first he disagreed with me at any mention of Creation, and would bring home food to eat that I considered unclean.

Then I started holidaying in Port Ban with others from the Scottish Mission, and he felt he was missing something, so he came along. It took a while, but, after a class with Moyra Rodd, our son Stephen asked his dad if he wanted to be 'one of Jesus' lambs', and with a slight hesitation Peter replied, 'I think I do.'

But he wasn't ready for classes then: it took another few years till our eldest son, Thomas, asked Pastor Marcel Ghioalda at camp to arrange some Bible studies. So all three of my 'boys' have been taking lessons with Pastors Hatch, Herman and Bajic.

Gradually Peter stopped eating unclean foods; he agreed with me when the TV criticised Creation; and he stopped opening his shop on Sabbath.

Then, on Sabbath 10 November last year, I watched very proudly as my husband Peter and younger son Stephen were baptised by Pastor Clifford Herman. Pastors David Hatch and Bob Rodd also officiated at the service. Family and friends enjoyed the lunch and service; some had never been to a baptism before. Friends came from all over, including almost every Adventist church in Scotland. Thank you to all who have been praying with me for my boys.

Maggie, Peter and Stephen are members of the East Kilbride church in Scotland.

**Corrigendum:** The 'ABC Book Sales' section in the last issue of *MESSENGER* (8 February, p. 2) should have advertised a book sale on 10 March at Coventry Central, rather than Coventry Henley Green. We apologise for any confusion.

# MAKING GOD KNOWN

SEC CAMP MEETING 2013



LAWRENCE  
DORSEY SNR



ERROL  
NEMBARD



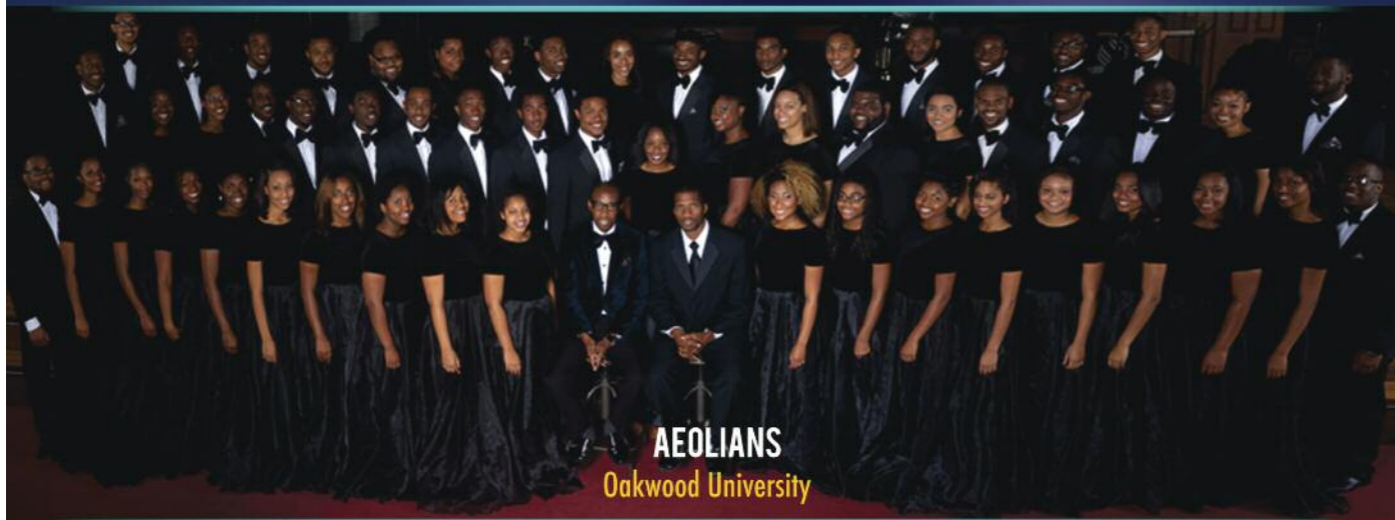
DR CHARLES  
WESLEY KNIGHT



GARY  
KRAUSE



DR CHIDI  
NGWABA



AEOLIANS  
Oakwood University

## 24 - 30 JUNE 2013

PONTINS PRESTATYN SANDS HOLIDAY PARK, PRESTATYN, DENBIGSHIRE, NORTH WALES, LL19 7LA

Daily Commitment Messages, Health Plenary Sessions, Power Hour Sessions and Workshops  
For more information please call 01923 232 728 or email: [campmeeting@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:campmeeting@secadventist.org.uk)



SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST CHURCH



### 2013 SEC BOOKING FORM

Please complete this Booking Form and send it **directly** to:  
Pontin's Ainsdale House, Shore Road, Ainsdale, Southport. PR8 2PZ  
TEL: 08714 742765

Accommodation:											
Booking ref _____					Holiday location <u>Prestatyn Sands</u>					Number of apartments	
Arrival date <u>24 June 2013</u>					Departure date <u>30 June 2013</u>					Club: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
No. of nights <input type="checkbox"/>					Total persons <input type="checkbox"/>					Total no. apartments/rooms <input type="checkbox"/>	
Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday)					Self Catering:					Popular: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Total					60+ 45-59 26-44 18-25 12-17 8-11 5-7 2-4 Under 2					(P) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm	
										X	
										K) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm	
										Beats: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
										Single Double Twin	

Prices	C1 Club	C2 Club	K1 Classic	K2 Classic	B1 Popular	B2 Popular
	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)
Discount to 28/2/13	£500.00	£635.00	£415.00	£535.00	£320.00	£415.00
From 1/3/13	£525.00	£665.00	£435.00	£560.00	£335.00	£435.00

Party Details:									
Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*	Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*

\* Please note – first named person must be over age 18. Special requests not guaranteed. Maximum persons in 2 bedr'm Apartment is 6.

Address of First-Named on Booking Form:			
Name:			Home Tel:
Street:			Business Tel:
Town:			Email Address:
County:			Post Code:

Special Needs/Requirements Section:	
Wheelchair Accessible apartment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground Floor apartment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please note all requests will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.	

**\*\* OFFER CODE: SDA1 \*\***

Nb. 1½% admin charge applies to all card transactions.

#### Declaration:

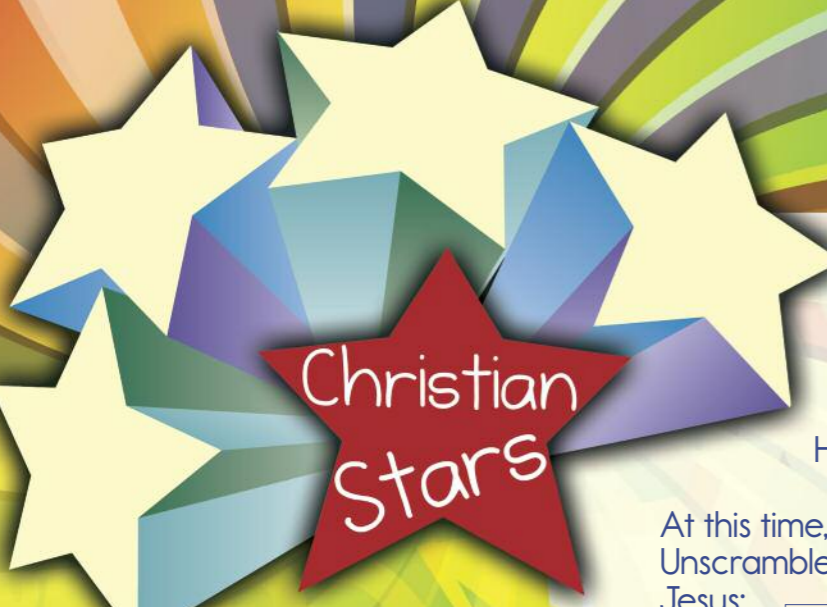
I agree on behalf of all persons named above to abide by Pontins' conditions. I accept the charges for accommodation and agree to pay the balance 58 days before the holiday date. By entering into a contract with you I understand that the details I provide will be used in booking and providing my chosen holiday. **(PLEASE sign here)**

Local Minister's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Ministers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Christian Stars

### Hello Stars!

In 2013 we will discover more about Jesus – who He was and what He did. Also, why He is so special today to everyone.

At this time, come and meet Jesus the n g i k. Unscramble the letters to find this week's title for Jesus:



The composer, Handel, wrote a musical called 'Messiah'. In it he used words from the prophet Isaiah to describe what sort of King Jesus would become. Read Isaiah 9:6, 7. Write here the four other titles for Jesus:

1  2   
3  4

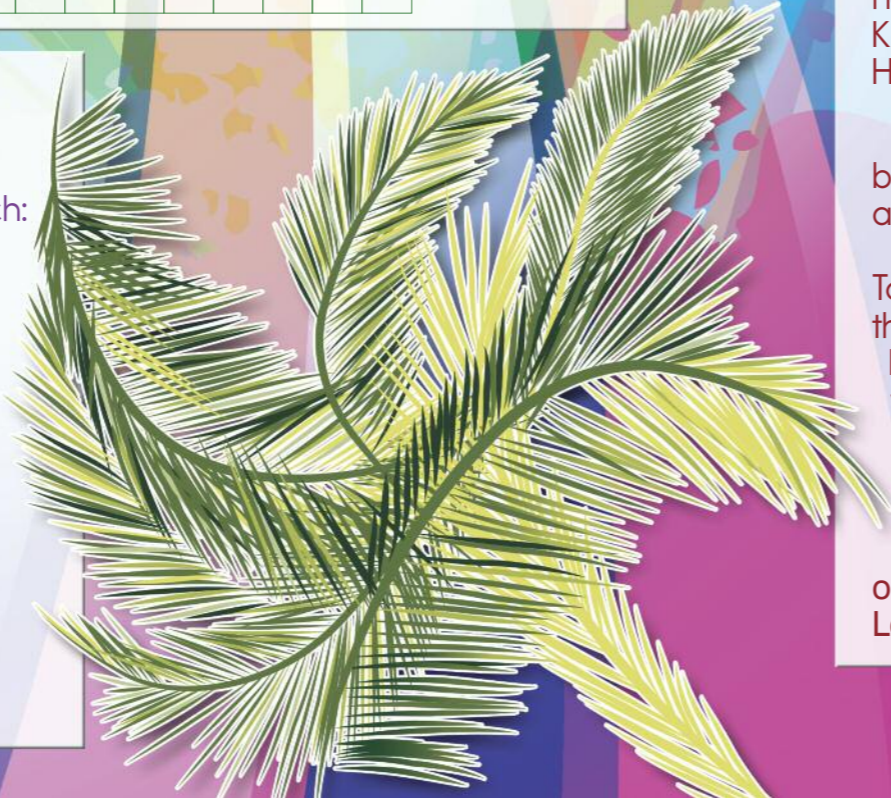
When the wise men came looking for Jesus they were looking for a King. Did they find Him in a palace?

Yes  No (Tick the box.)

Where did they find Him? Read Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was grown up, people began to realise He was the King the prophets had foretold. Come and meet Jesus the King by reading Luke 19:28-44 and doing this wordsearch:

D I S C I P L E S V R	BRANCHES
K W J Q H R M P N N K	CHILDREN
S S M E D T A Y E J N	COLT
E E A K R L U R N L X	DISCIPLES
H N S L M U D O Q D G	INSTRUCTION
C O T S X L S P H T D	JERUSALEM
N T E Q I F T A L S C	MASTER
A S R H G J M O L L F	PALMS
R M C L L J C T T E T	SHOUT
B N H M P Y T B L N M	STONES
N O I T C U R T S N I	



Who were those who did not recognise Jesus was the King God had sent? Read Luke 19:47.

1  2  3

If these people had prayed for God to help them understand the Bible prophecies, they would have known Jesus was the special King. Work out this prophecy from Zechariah 9:9.

### Clue boxes

B	L	T	Y	U	K
O	R	I	N	M	C
G	A	F	E	S	D

The Bible prophecies said Jesus would come from the family of King David. The children knew this but others did not. They told Jesus to tell the children to be quiet. Work out what Jesus answered them.



- very
- I
- were
- the
- if
- would
- cry
- you,
- these
- tell
- out
- silent,
- stones

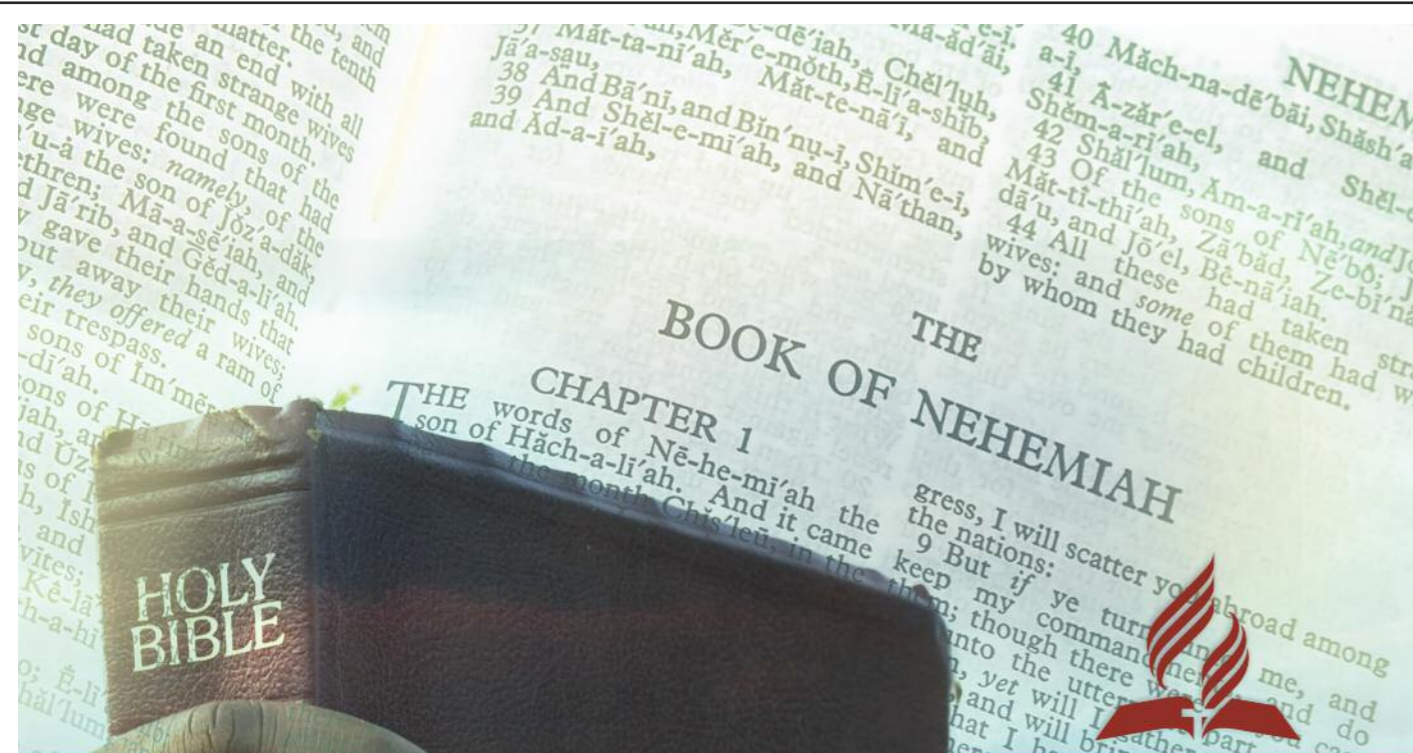
Although the rulers of the temple, the Romans and King Herod had Jesus killed, that did not stop Him from being a King. A Bible prophecy in Revelation 19:6, 16 says: all in Heaven shout

because Jesus will return to Earth as 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords'.

To be ready for Jesus to return to Earth, take the time to read the Bible and pray every day. Learn the Bible prophecies and share them with your friends and family. Then they too can shout hallelujah when King Jesus arrives to make this a happy world again.

To enjoy learning more about the prophecies about Jesus, go to our Children's Ministries Department website: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk). Look for the heading, Prophecies About Jesus.



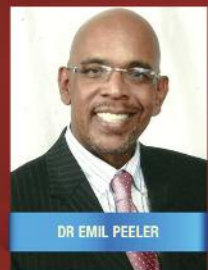


NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE 2013 CAMP MEETING

# REBUILDING THE "WALLS"

## 17 - 23 JUNE 2013

PONTINS PRESTATYN SANDS HOLIDAY PARK - NORTH WALES



DR EMIL PEELER



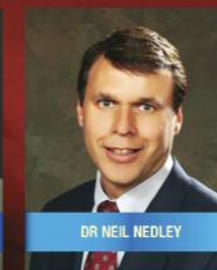
PR DOUGLAS NA'A



PR SETH YELORDA



DR RANKO STEFANOVIC



DR NEIL NEDLEY

### BOOKING:

MEMBERS CAN BOOK VIA THE APPLICATION FORM OR ALTERNATIVELY CALL 08714 7427765 QUOTING "SDAN" TO GET THE DISCOUNT. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH OR ALTERNATIVELY PLEASE VISIT [WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK) - BOOKING COMMENCING 12PM ON SUNDAY, 20 JANUARY 2013. PONTINS PRESTATYN SANDS HOLIDAY PARK, CENTRAL BEACH, BARKBY AVENUE, PRESTATYN, DENBIGHSHIRE, NORTH WALES, LL19 7LA.



### 2013 NEC BOOKING FORM

Please complete this Booking Form and send it **directly** to:  
**Pontin's Ainsdale House, Shore Road, Ainsdale, Southport. PR8 2PZ**  
**TEL: 08714 7427765**

Accommodation:										
Booking ref _____	Holiday location <u>Prestatyn Sands</u>				Number of apartments					
Arrival date <u>17 June 2013</u>	Departure date <u>23 June 2013</u>				Club: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
No. of nights <input type="checkbox"/>	Total persons <input type="checkbox"/>		Total no. apartments/rooms <input type="checkbox"/>		(C) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm					
Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday)								Self Catering:		
Total	60+	45-59	26-44	18-25	12-17	8-11	5-7	2-4	Under 2	Popular: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
(P) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm										
X										
Beeds: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>										
Single Double Twin										

Prices	C1 Club	C2 Club	K1 Classic	K2 Classic	B1 Popular	B2 Popular
	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)
Discount to 28/2/13	£500.00	£635.00	£415.00	£535.00	£320.00	£415.00
From 1/3/13	£525.00	£665.00	£435.00	£560.00	£335.00	£435.00

Party Details:									
Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*	Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*

\* Please note – first named person must be over age 18. Special requests not guaranteed. Maximum persons in 2 bedr'm Apartment is 6.

Address of First-Named on Booking Form:	
Name:	Home Tel:
Street:	Business Tel:
Town:	Email Address:
County:	Post Code:

Special Needs/Requirements Section:

Wheelchair Accessible apartment

Ground Floor apartment

Please note all requests will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

**\*\* OFFER CODE: SDAN \*\***

Nb. 1½% admin charge applies to all card transactions.

**Declaration:**

I agree on behalf of all persons named above to abide by Pontins' conditions. I accept the charges for accommodation and agree to pay the balance 58 days before the holiday date. By entering into a contract with you I understand that the details I provide will be used in booking and providing my chosen holiday. **(PLEASE sign here)**

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Advent Shelter – a beacon of refuge in the community

### During the chilly winter weather of December 2012, London Adventists did something unique for the city's homeless.

by Sandra Golding and Elsie Staple

Photos: Sandra Golding

'We must do this again.' 'I am happy to know that the church is offering such a service.' 'An excellent event!' These were comments from volunteers at the Advent Shelter, which was run from 24 to 31 December 2012. Over this period the Advent Centre was turned into a place of safety and shelter – a haven for its guests, the rough sleepers and homeless people of London.

The 'Advent Shelter' concept was sparked by a request from James Driscoll, who attended the feeding programme at the Advent Centre during the Olympic Games. Elsie Staple (SEC Health and Community Ministries director) and Malika Bediako (SEC Children's & Women's Ministries director) oversaw the management of the week-long project in conjunction with Westminster Council.

The project attracted more than sixty-three male and female guests, who enjoyed the Advent Shelter's services: a movie room, a games room, access to computers, and a barber service and hairdressing salon, provided by volunteers from area 6D. They also had access to shower facilities and a change of clothing and shoes, alongside breakfast, lunch and dinner. There were two health checks, which involved a prostate-specific antigen test, blood sugar and blood lipids, and one visit by a dentist. As a result, Dr Nelda will be commencing a monthly drop-in centre for the guests.

On Christmas Day the users were treated to a special three-course Christmas dinner provided by Merrison Gittens, a qualified chef, with twenty-one other volunteers from Luton,

Ipswich and London. One of the volunteers was the Barbados Deputy High Commissioner, Donville Johnson. The team served more than sixty people. Special thanks go to all individuals and organisations who made the project a success.

The SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, attended on Christmas Day, and one of his comments was: 'I was very impressed to see so many young people giving up Christmas Day to help make a difference to someone else.'

Photos can be seen on the BUC website at: [www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2012/Advent\\_Shelter/index.php](http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2012/Advent_Shelter/index.php).



## Stanborough Primary impresses business community

At the end of last year, Leavesden Business Park was filled with the sounds of Christmas as the Stanborough Primary School Choir performed in the atrium of their smart new office area.

The choir, under the leadership of Kathleen Hanson, gave a thirty-minute performance of traditional and lesser-known carols, all of which were enthusiastically received. The items featured soloists, three-part harmonies and some choreography. At the end of the performance, there were treats for the children and the opportunity to mingle.

The office staff told the children how impressed they were with the excellent singing and the outstanding behaviour. They had thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and some were even moved to tears.

The school felt privileged to have been asked to perform at the business park for the purpose of raising funds towards the Alzheimer's Society. The links forged with these businesses promise to extend beyond Christmas, as office staff offered to take assemblies and give career talks at the school.

Connecting with the community proves to be a gift that keeps on giving, and is a blessing to all. *KATHLEEN HANSON, HEAD TEACHER*

**Stanborough School**  
Stanborough Park, Garston, Watford, WD25 9JT  
Tel: 01923 673268

**Head Teacher**  
Required for September 2013. Secondary School, International School and Boarding School – age range 12-16. Salary, plus an annual allowance of £3,400, will be up to £39,356, depending on experience and qualifications.

The British Union Conference wishes to appoint a permanent head teacher, who is an inspirational, committed, practising Seventh-day Adventist, to successfully lead the school, beginning in September 2013. Our aim is to provide a values-based Christian education that provides spiritual nurture and prepares young people to make a positive contribution to the society in which they live.

The BUC and the governors of the school are looking for someone who has:

- A clear vision and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist ethos and the school's learners;
- A strong personal faith;
- Proven leadership skills and the ability to encourage innovation;
- Experience in raising standards through staff development;
- The ability to manage the school's budget and other financial operating issues;
- Skills to foster the growing international demand for the school;
- The vision and drive to successfully market the school among the local churches;
- Effective communication and good inter-personal skills, so as to support and inspire pupils and staff, and work collaboratively with the British Union Executive, the governors and parents/carers;
- The ability to build links with the community and manage the use of the school's facilities;
- Experience in the UK school system or evidence of the ability to adapt quickly to a new educational system;
- The right to work in the UK.

Our school community offers:

- A rich and diverse intake of students from the UK and abroad;
- A friendly, dedicated staff, committed to the school and its community;
- Support from the governing body, local churches, and British Union Conference;
- An exciting opportunity to shape the future of the school and raise the profile of Adventist education in the British Union.

Visits to the school are encouraged. For an appointment please contact Mrs Lorraine Dixon at Stanborough School on tel: 01923 673268.  
For an application form, job description and person specification please email: [apilmoor@adventist.org.uk](mailto:apilmoor@adventist.org.uk).

**Closing date: Monday, 11 March, 2013 at 12 noon**

The British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful applicants will be required to undertake an enhanced Criminal Record Check via the CRB before they can be appointed.

WWW.MASTERGUIDECAMP.EU  
APPLY AT YOUR LOCAL UNION OR CONFERENCE



## THE FUTURE TOGETHER IV



7 -10 June 13  
Woodland Camp, Essex, England

A camp, only for leaders and Master Guides, where you can share your Master Guide experience with others, discuss relevant issues to pathfinding in Europe and learn new leadership skills.



Price:  
£65  
€75

The SEC Family Ministry Marriage Retreat

## Strength to Love

### Spiritual Foundations for Marital Unity

An exploration of practical solutions for the inevitable challenges that threaten spiritual and emotional harmony

**Presenters:**  
Les & Irma Ackie

**Date:** 22nd - 24th March 2013  
**Venue:** Hellidon Lakes, Hellidon, Daventry, Northamptonshire NN11 6GG  
**Cost:** £230 per couple (subsidies available for early booking)  
Register at [www.secnews.org.uk](http://www.secnews.org.uk) or call Anna McLarty on 01923 232 728





### Skype studies lead to baptism

The Seventh-day Adventist church at Legnano, Milan, was packed for the baptism of Celeste, teenage daughter of Stefano and Cathy Bertolini, on 27 October, 2012. Friends and family from the UK were present to witness her being baptised by her grandfather, part-time minister Anthony King, from Bristol.

Celeste had studied with her grandparents over the internet via Skype, and her brother Corrado is now doing the same. Celeste's non-Seventh-day Adventist Italian grandparents also attended the service. Margarita Castilla, who was baptised with her, had studied with friends in the US, also via the internet.



ANTHONY AND CHRISTINE KING

### Tottenham Gospel Choir

'You guys were amazing!' 'Your hard work has paid off!' These were just a few of the positive comments received following the Tottenham Gospel Choir's second annual Gospel music concert, held on Saturday 22 December at John Loughborough School in Tottenham, London.

The choir, supported by artists such as Testify and Janine Thorpe, seized the opportunity to remind the crowd of almost 200 people (including non-Christians) that Christmas is really about Jesus.

A collection was taken to support the choir's work, and a portion of those proceeds was shared with ADRA. The choir also said a fond farewell to its assistant leader, Karlana Bucknor, who has now left London for a job in Warsaw, Poland.

One man who was not an Adventist explained that he had only heard about the concert on that very day, but was glad he came. He also expressed his desire to hear more from the choir by attending future events.

To see footage of the concert, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TGCworship>.

TOTTENHAM GOSPEL CHOIR

NEC PATHFINDER'S DEPARTMENT PRESENTS  
**APLA TRAINING**  
17 FEBRUARY | 14 APRIL | 12 MAY

ADVANCED PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE PATHFINDER WEBPAGE AT [WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK)



### It took a miracle

God is still in the business of performing miracles.

On 26 January 2013 He held back the heavy snowfall forecast for that evening, long enough for the 'Little Lambs Clinic' charity concert to go ahead. Performing artists such as God's Project, First Call and Miranda Roberts, Collette Woodburn and Josiah 4 were present. Saxophonist Mark Bunney was a roaring success, as well as the youngest performer, 8-year-old Neelson Clifford, who won the hearts of the audience with powerful singing. Other artists included 15-year-old violinist Okantan Ayeh and a live youth band.

The charity, founded by student nurse Lovelle Edmead of Bournville Church, aims to provide free basic healthcare to children in developing countries. Held at the Christian Life Centre in Birmingham, the concert raised over £700 to help set up mobile clinics in countries where the families of sick children cannot afford basic medication. In the long term,

the charity aims to help promote good oral hygiene and to help provide clean, safe water. It also aims to set up vacation Bible schools to run alongside the clinics as a way of introducing Christ into the lives of the children.

TRACY EDINBOROUGH

### GBK hold family day

On 26 and 27 May last year the Great Brickkiln church held a family weekend packed with spiritual and temporal food, including special separate lectures for men and women, which were well received. The programme ended with a good family breakfast.

DELVA CAMPBELL

**Editor's note:** This report was submitted to our office on 22 January – eight months after the event. From now on reports submitted this late will not be published.



### Colchester welcomes new pastor

Colchester Church welcomed Andrew Davis as their new pastor on 5 January this year. Joining him in ministry are his wife, Natasha, and their 'bubbly' baby girl Leila Ann Sky Davis.

Andrew is the son of Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, and he 'has a strong passion for ministry'.

TREVOR HARRIS



### White wilderness camp

On the last weekend of January ten brave souls ventured out into the white wilderness of the Peak District in search of adventure, ambition, and the Pathfinder winter camping honour.

The 'expedition' was led by Steve Bull from Grantham, assisted by Ron Lawrence. Pastor Hush, NEC Pathfinder director, had prayed for a minimum of six inches of snow, and you can imagine his delight when ten inches of the cold white stuff settled on Friday night.

After morning devotions the group climbed Win Hill, returning later that afternoon with all 'expedition' members present and correct – if a little cold. Reports from the expedition confirmed that two tents were damaged by the weight of the snow, while the gas stoves for cooking were running a little below par as their fuel had nearly frozen.

According to Pastor Hush, these little hardship experiences go a long way in developing personal growth and leadership abilities for those who serve in Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs across the Conference.

Everyone enjoyed the weekend, which will become a regular feature in the yearly calendar of the NEC. The group is planning to meet again in February and March in order to complete the six-night winter camp-out requirements for the Pathfinder honour.

NEC PATHFINDER DIRECTOR



### Manor Pathfinders go camping

A wonderful weekend was had by the Pathfinders of Manor Church in Sheffield. Sixteen Pathfinders camped in the beautiful campsite at Birchover, Derbyshire, for a weekend of fun and fellowship under the leadership of Mrs Marlene Lee and her team.

ANDREW YESUDIAN



Photo: David Bell

### Marriage of Pastor Douglas Sinclair and Sheila Bell

Having earlier exchanged vows in a legal ceremony, Doug and Sheila then chose to repeat them before God, witnessed by the congregation of family and friends assembled at the Grantham Seventh-day Adventist church, on 4 January 2013. The happy couple will be making their home in Crieff, Perthshire.

ELISABETH CARNELL

SEC Pathfinder & Youth Ministries Present  
**iLead**  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
29th March - 10th April 2013  
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY  
@ THE BRADFORD CLEVELAND BROOKS BUILDING

LESLE Pollard, CARLTON Byrd, PRUDENCE Pollard  
and many more speakers

Package prices: 4 people sharing - £891.00pp | 3 people sharing - £968.00pp

For more info visit: [www.youngadventists.com/ilead](http://www.youngadventists.com/ilead)

NEC PATHFINDER'S DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# MASTER GUIDE & PLA TRAINING



MASTER GUIDE & PLA 1:  
MARCH 8-10 SHUGBOROUGH HALL

MASTER GUIDE AND PLA 2:  
APRIL 26-28 BEAUDESERT

MASTER GUIDE AND PLA 3:  
JULY 5-7 WALESBY

MASTER GUIDE AND PLA 4:  
SEPTEMBER 20-22 WALESBY

MASTER GUIDE AND PLA TRAINING FOR  
MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE  
PATHFINDER WEBPAGE AT  
WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK

NEC PATHFINDER'S DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# DRILLING & DRUMMING BOOT CAMP

7-8 APRIL 2013

SO SIGN UP FOR THIS SPECIAL BOOT CAMP  
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE  
PATHFINDER WEBPAGE AT  
WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK




# obituaries

**William Brown (1928-2012) d. 8 December.**

William Brown, or 'Bill' as he was known to his family and friends, was born in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire on 7 June 1928. He earned a scholarship to attend the prestigious Brunts Grammar School, and it was here that he discovered his love for all things connected with science. An initial year at Sheffield University was not particularly successful, so Bill returned to his family roots and took up coal mining, though this career was cut short due to a severe coal-dust allergy. No longer employed as a miner, Bill found himself eligible for national service and was automatically assigned to a two-year period in the army, based in Wrexham.

During this time Bill had been walking out with a young lady called Doreen Surrudge, and, with the prospect of two years of separation, they decided to marry before Bill left for service. So at the age of 23 Bill found himself to be a husband and a soldier, and the recipient of a married man's pay.

Upon leaving the army Bill completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry (London University) and went on to work as a research chemist for Boots – a company he remained with for the rest of his working life.



Bill and Doreen stayed in the Mansfield area for the next twenty years; although sadly, after being diagnosed with cancer, Doreen died at just 45 years of age.

In 1975, at the age of 47, Bill married Libby Jones, a laboratory technician he had met through his work at Boots. Bill and Libby lived in Gunthorpe, Nottinghamshire, for ten happy years, but in 1985 Libby died suddenly at their home due to complications with pneumonia. It took the support of Bill's close friends and a change in his work role to help him through this difficult time.

Bill took the opportunity for early retirement and used his new recreation time to explore some of the things he loved. He was an excellent organist and played regularly at church functions all around the Nottingham area. He was also a lay preacher and occasional lecturer at Nottingham University on chemistry-related matters.

Bill enjoyed bird-watching, painting and travelling, and these activities often combined as he went on trips – sometimes with a group of fellow enthusiasts – to Norfolk, Scotland and Devon.

One very special holiday break took him to Paignton, where he met up with an extended family member who had recently returned from Australia. Ann was the cousin of Bill's first wife Doreen, and had actually been a

bridesmaid at their wedding. The one-week holiday became an eleven-year seaside adventure as Bill and Ann found happiness together. Bill was 73 when they married, and for the next five years they travelled annually to Australia to see Ann's children (Shelli, Jacqui and Dion) and grandchildren. When travel became too difficult, Bill kept up his connection with these much-loved family members through phone, email and Skype.

Bill died in the early hours of Sunday 8 December 2012, some two years after being diagnosed with cancer. He is greatly missed by his dear wife Ann and her family, as well as his brother-in-law Ron Surrudge, his wife Rachel and their son John.

SHELLY TAYLOR

**Josephine Selma Wade (1925-2012) d. 27 December.**

Selma was born into a Christian home in Garston, Watford. Her parents became Seventh-day Adventists after attending evangelistic meetings at the Stanborough Park church. Her father was a local builder who erected houses in the Sheepcote Lane area.

She attended Stanborough School, which was followed by work experience in the office of Granose Foods. Before too long Selma Herrington chose to go to Newbold College, where she graduated as a Bible worker and was assigned to assist evangelists, including George Vandeman, at the New Gallery Centre in London's Regent Street.

Selma's was a life of service to others, the nature of which changed when she qualified as a nurse and was promoted to 'Sister' at Hammersmith Hospital. She later moved to the Bournemouth area, where she worked as a district nurse.

In retirement, Selma lived in Worthing, caring for her elderly parents and faithfully supporting the local church. It was here that she married again and had the sadness of becoming a widow for the second time.

As her health deteriorated, Selma was blessed by the loving attention of her cousin Ralph Simms and his wife Mary, and the kindness of her friends and neighbours.

Her most recent years were spent in residential care, and she died peacefully in her sleep in the Beeches Nursing Home in Worthing.

Unfailingly gracious,

hospitable, kind and generous of spirit, Selma fell asleep with a strong faith and a live hope in her Saviour's promises. Her funeral service was conducted by the writer at Worthing Crematorium on Monday 14 January, 2013.

PASTOR LESLIE H. HILL

**Jean West (1929-2012) d. 29 December.**

Jean was a much-loved member of the church family in Cheltenham. She was active until the last, and we will really miss Jean's participation in church life. She had an infectious love for young and old that was expressed in word and action on every occasion: whether leading the church in prayer; teaching the young people; working her way through a mountain of dirty church crockery; or just through the small touch of those flowers from her own garden that she placed at the front of the church each Sabbath morning. Jean was one of those people who exuded peace and tranquillity, while at the same time remaining strong in faith and action. She knew her Bible inside out, and could always find a scriptural answer to support the things she believed. At Ingathering time Jean was out there with a smile on her face and a spring in her step.

Jean was born and raised in Croydon. She survived typhoid and the drama of the Second World War, and was educated at the Croydon School of Art. As a young person she attended evangelistic meetings, led by Pastor L. D. Vince, where she was convicted by the Holy Spirit to become an Adventist. Not long afterwards she met Pastor Horace West at a similar meeting – they fell in love and were subsequently married.

Jean assisted Horace in his ministry, caring for churches, first in Kent and Essex, then in the Gloucester/Cheltenham district (where daughters Heather and Linda were born), and later in Exeter, Halifax, Manchester and Liverpool. The family settled for a number of years in Watford, where Horace worked at Granose and Jean supported the family using her dress design and millinery skills.

Jean and Horace retired to Cheltenham from Watford in the early '80s, and re-joined our church family. After the untimely loss of Horace, Jean became committed to voluntary work for many years. She was energetic in her support of church life, and continued with her talent



for painting and drawing.

Jean's funeral, led by Pastors Mick Smart and Paul Lockham, was attended by her two daughters, their partners, seven grandchildren, family, friends and many church members. Following her burial alongside Horace, we had the privilege to meet with the family to share some aspects of Jean's life and view some of the beautiful work that she had produced. She was a truly remarkable and talented lady.

Jean was such a special member of our Cheltenham church family. It was a real privilege to have shared so much with her, and we will miss her greatly. We mourn her passing, but also celebrate her life and all that she did. We look forward – when all is done – to meeting again with Jean one day.

JUSTINE HARVEY/IAN WHITING

**Maureen Young (1924-2013) d. 8 January.**

Those of us who have never known the horrors and tragedies of war cannot easily comprehend the heartache and pain it inflicts upon the innocent.

Maureen's family, who lived on Sandringham Road, Watford, were devastated when, during the Second World War, a Doodlebug\* fell on their house, killing her parents. The recollection of the awful tragedy was never erased from Maureen's memory.

The man who was first on the scene was Denis Young, who later became Maureen's husband. He was instrumental in rescuing one of her brothers.

It was through the influence of one of her school friends, Joy Meredith, that Maureen and her husband Denis joined Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. Both of them became active members of the church, joining the choir, MV Society and youth club.

Maureen worked for some time at Granose Foods, and is remembered as a highly efficient and effective worker in the accounts department.

Together with Denis she was involved in the activities of various Adventist churches over a period of more than sixty years. Denis predeceased Maureen in 2011. Her funeral service took place at Stanborough Park Church, and the interment in Vicarage Road Cemetery, Watford.

Maureen is mourned by her daughter, Gill Sexton, her brother, her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren and her large circle of friends.

The services were conducted by the writer, assisted by Pastor Jacques Venter, the senior pastor

of the church, and Ivana Mendez, a pastoral intern.

PATRICK J. BOYLE

\*Doodlebug: the nickname given to the German V-1 flying bomb.

**Anne Elizabeth Beattie (1912-2013) d. 16 January.**

Anne Elizabeth McCormick, one of a family of five children, was born in Dromore, County Tyrone. Her parents' decision to delay going to farm in Illinois until she was older very possibly spared them the Atlantic crossing on the ill-fated RMS *Titanic*.

She loved her childhood in America, and particularly enjoyed riding her horse to school. In fact, it was hard for her, at 13 years of age, to return with her parents to Ulster in 1925. Here she was to marry Robert Price Beattie. It was the 1930s, and as a farmer's wife Anne helped to grow flax, oats and potatoes. They had three children: Victor, Kenneth and Norman. Her two older sons moved to England to work; in 1972 the then-widowed Anne and her youngest son Norman followed them.

While in Ireland Norman had begun a VOP correspondence course, during which he and his mother visited the Londonderry Seventh-day Adventist church. They settled in Essex, where mother and son began to attend church regularly. Anne studied with Pastor Bukojemski and was baptised in the Ipswich church. In 1987 a move to Crawley saw both Anne and Norman make the Brighton & Hove fellowship their spiritual home.

In 2003 Anne moved to sheltered accommodation in Eastbourne, where she maintained a remarkable degree of independence. She enjoyed travelling abroad with her sons into her ninetieth year, and well into her hundredth year she still appreciated being taken to local shops and restaurants by Victor and Norman.

Anne was ever grateful for family and friends. She was a gracious lady of faith; part of a generation who knew the sweat of toil and the God who gave them strength. After a brief illness Anne died peacefully in hospital, just fifteen days prior to her 101st birthday. Her funeral was conducted at Eastbourne Crematorium on 31 January, the anniversary of her birth. The writer, her fellow countryman and friend, was privileged to take the service.

PASTOR LESLIE HILL

## Stratford celebrates

During 2012 Stratford Church, London, celebrated two weddings and two wedding anniversaries as seen in these accompanying photographs.

SOPHIE CHISHAKA



Linda Nxumalo and Simeon Williams



Mr and Mrs Pryce at their 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary event



Silvius and Nathalie Brasville



Pastor Michael and Mrs Chelcie Anim celebrate twenty-five years of marriage.

# back page



## Healing the pain

On Friday 31 August 2012, seventy women of all ages met at the Wyboston Lakes Training Centre for the Heal the Pain Ministry's first women's weekend retreat.

The five-member hosting team were beaming with excitement as the delegates streamed into the centre. The event they had dreamt of, laboured tirelessly for, prayed fervently about, and almost cancelled, was finally a reality.

The event was opened by the SEC's Women's Ministry leader, Malika Bediako, on the theme, 'Weeping may endure . . . but joy does come'.

The delegates were taken through sessions of deep self-searching, identifying unhealed emotional hurts and understanding and accepting their God-given value. They were helped to begin the journey of healing, assured that joy was possible as Jesus restored their broken lives.

Guest speakers Mable Dunbar (USA) and Shelly Haangala (Zambia) employed their own unique style to convey messages of hope in spite of the severity of each person's emotional damage. One approached things from a professional standpoint; the other, from the experiential. Many tears were shed – first from pain, brokenness, regret, anger and disappointments, but later from gratitude to God for His great love and the prospect of a joy-filled future.

The Heal the Pain Ministry team felt that God had done His work. They are looking to the future with renewed zeal and the hope that you will join them for one of their upcoming events. STEPHANIE GARRICK-HARDY

# healing

Perceptions, expectations and facts;  
An exploration through science, faith  
and culture.

LIMITED SEATS

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# NEWBOLD COLLEGE

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## Newbold rebranded

Newbold College has launched a refreshing new visual brand identity, complete with a new official name – *Newbold College of Higher Education* – embraced within a new logo and supported by a new strapline: 'Life changing – faith affirming'. Newbold has also launched a new, more flexible website to complement this new identity.

According to Dr Philip Brown, principal: 'Our revitalised identity will be rolled out across all of our communication tools and channels over the coming weeks. . . . We are passionate about energising the identity of Newbold with our church stakeholders and communities throughout Europe and beyond. "Newbold College of Higher Education" is the right name for us to embrace as a private higher-education provider in this country. Our new strapline articulates what our alumni and students repeatedly say captures the essence of their Newbold experience.'

Welcoming the identity revitalisation, Dr Bertil Wiklander, Newbold Board of Governors chairman and Trans-European Division president, said: 'We continue to need young people who have had the life-changing, faith-affirming experiences that Newbold affords to help make God known throughout Europe. We need Newbold College of Higher Education to help us in achieving the strategic plans of the SDA Church in Europe.'

During his opening assembly address, Dr Brown thanked students and staff for the 10% increase in total enrolments and the 45% increase in students living on campus achieved in 2012-13: 'Our occupancy rates within the halls of residence are the highest for some years, and we are excited about the renewed interest that young people across Europe, and further afield, have in studying at Newbold this year.'

Newbold College of Higher Education attracts students from more than sixty countries. It is located in Binfield, Berkshire, United Kingdom. It offers programmes of study in Theology, Religion, Media Studies, English Literature, Business Studies, History, Music, Psychology, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

For more information, visit:  
[www.newbold.ac.uk](http://www.newbold.ac.uk).

## Messenger

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## Farewell and welcome at Hemel Hempstead

Sabbath, 22 December, was the Venters' last Sabbath at Hemel Hempstead. Mervin Leicester presented them with a cheque from the members during an emotional farewell speech. Jacques will now pastor Stanborough Park Church.

In January, the congregation welcomed Pastor Robin Lewis and his wife Corlina, and grown-up children Michael and Desire, to the church family.

JOHN BUTTERS



## Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Feb 22	5.29	5.41	5.30	5.32	5.46
Mar 1	5.41	5.53	5.43	5.47	6.00
8	5.53	6.06	5.56	6.02	6.14
15	6.05	6.18	6.09	6.17	6.28

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