

Messenger

News to the churches • 19 July 2013 • Volume 118 • 15



Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi ordained

The camp meeting ordination is one of the highlights of the event and a never-to-be-forgotten experience for those being ordained. Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi, currently the pastor in our Leeds Central, Leeds Beeston and Leeds West churches, was ordained at this year's NEC camp meeting, 16-22 June, Prestatyn. Tanzanian by birth, Pastor Mwasumbi lived in Pune, India and studied at Spicer Memorial College at primary, high school and undergraduate levels. He has since then also studied at Newbold College. Pastoral ministry was not the first draw on the young man's life, but the call to serve became louder and more insistent.

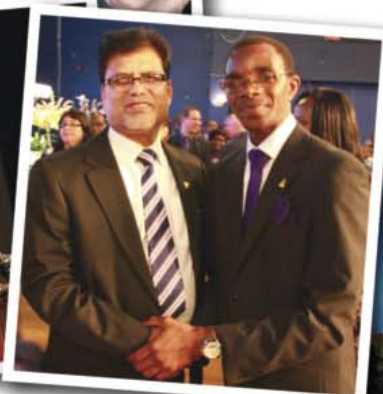
Ikwisa has been married to Sharon for thirteen years and is the father of three children: George, Helen and Lupakisyo. For both him and his family, ordination is the culmination of his recent ministerial growth.

The introduction of the candidate to the congregation was made by Pastor Fred Mapp, while the spiritual challenge and encouragement were given by Pastor Cyril Sweeney in his usual sincere but humorous style.

Ordination is more than just the laying on of hands by a band of brothers – it is also the investiture into a particular and sacred role and responsibility. In the Seventh-day Adventist understanding this is a recognition of God's presence in a life already devoted to ministry. Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi responded to the laying on of hands by detailing God's call on his life back through two generations of his family, up to his current pastorate in Yorkshire.

The North England Conference welcomes Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi to the ranks of the brother and sister pastors already serving the Lord in a conference seeking to rebuild walls of grace in the towns and cities in which they serve.

PASTOR P. JEYNES



Entrance is by ticket only; to book, follow the instructions on: www.necadventist.org.uk

NEC

Day of Fellowship

7 September 2013

All-day Event commencing 9 am

Sheffield City Hall

Rebuilding the 'Walls'
Rebuilding People
Restoring Relationships
Inspiring Excellence

Guest Speaker
Dr. Israel Leito
Inter American Division President



Megapixels of creation

Gone to seed . . . !

. . . Well I hope you haven't!
With the sun shining like it has been lately, I don't need much of an excuse to grab my camera and go for a walk . . . and you don't necessarily have to be out in the country. There is often something wonderful to photograph in the city. Just remember to send your pictures in to me for 'Megapixels of creation'.

Please send in your photography to me at: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk. Just remember to keep it 'hi-resolution'. Happy snapping!

DAVID BELL, MESSENGER DESIGNER

To see more of your images, go to: www.adventistpictures.org.uk/megapixels

*Pictures sent in to Megapixels may be used by us at our discretion on other projects. Note: The new masthead picture on the cover was taken by Andrew Daryl for Megapixels of creation.

Photo: Daniel Johnson



Enhancing Health

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

Cancer: the facts – part 3j

Examining causation and risk factors

Exercise and cancer risk

Having analysed the data from several studies on the association between physical activity and cancer risk, *Cancer Research UK* has published the following on its website:¹

- A study published in December 2011 in the *British Journal of Cancer* estimated that more than 3 percent of breast cancers, more than 5 percent of colon cancers, and around 4 percent of endometrial cancers diagnosed in 2010 were linked to people doing fewer than the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity per week.²
- Subsequently, the *Lancet* (2012) published much higher estimates of the proportion of breast cancer (around 18 percent) and colon cancer (around 19 percent) attributable to physical inactivity in the UK.³
- A meta-analysis of fifty-four studies reported a 24-percent risk reduction for colon cancer among the most active men, and a 21-percent risk reduction among the most active women when compared with the least active of each group.

- Physical activity may affect colon cancer risks by reducing faecal transit time, reducing inflammation and insulin resistance and modifying hormone metabolism.
- Around fifty studies looking at the association between physical activity and breast cancer showed a 15 to 20-percent risk reduction for the most active women. The risk reduction is suggested to relate to exercise altering hormone levels.
- The most active women have a 20 to 30-percent reduced risk of endometrial cancer compared to the least active women. This reduced risk is suggested to be due to physical activity reducing levels of serum oestrogen and circulating insulin.
- Meta-analysis evidence found that people who participate in higher levels of recreational physical activity have a lower risk of lung cancer.
- The evidence from three cohort studies demonstrates that physically active men have a reduced risk of advanced prostate cancer. Additionally, men who are more active in their jobs, or do more physical activity throughout their lifetime, have an overall reduced risk of prostate cancer.
- A very large cohort study showed a risk reduction for prostate cancer in physically active black men.
- Some studies have shown a reduced risk of pancreatic cancer for moderately active individuals.

Keep active!

¹<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerstats/causes/lifestyle/physicalactivity/physical-activity-and-risk-of-cancer> ²Parkin, D.M., 'Cancers attributable to inadequate physical exercise in the UK in 2010', *British Journal of Cancer*, 6 December 2011; 105 (S2):S38-S41 ³Min Lee, Eric J. Shiroma, Felipe Lobelo, et al: The Lancet Physical Activity Series Working Group: 'Effect of physical inactivity on major non-communicable diseases worldwide: an analysis of burden of disease and life expectancy', *Lancet*, 2012; 380 (9,838):219-29.

editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

You have to catch it yourself!

things, meet people and go places that enriched my life.

Now lest you think I am an 'adrenaline junkie', let me declare that my spirit of adventure does not include motorbike riding – especially on the pillion. I have friends, however, Adie and Ruth – good UK Adventists – who love it. They couldn't be happier than when touring this country or the continent on the back of Adie's powerful road bike. That's in *their* 'recipe' for happiness, but not in *mine*!

Some things are essential

Although your 'recipe' for happiness may require some ingredients that are unlikely to be found in mine, I believe that all true happiness requires certain essentials. These are things that we omit at our peril.

During one adventurous weekend in that African country I mentioned earlier – we stayed with friends at a camp on the shores of Africa's largest man-made lake, Kariba. Night settled quickly that Friday, and we were glad for the lights in the open-sided dining area. We were also eager for supper and delighted to see that someone had baked banana bread for the occasion . . . that is, until we discovered that the cook had mistakenly substituted salt for sugar!

Believe me, we tried to make it palatable, but nothing worked – neither jam nor honey! Happiness is like that. If you leave out the essentials, no other ingredients will make up for them.

The essentials

This is my list. I hope it makes sense to you.

Luke 10:27, NIV (UK) – '[Jesus] answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbour as yourself." ' Striving for this goal should put our minds at peace and make us nice to live with. It will also take care of our sins: those we have already done; and those we should stop doing! **John 14:15, NKJV** – 'If you love Me, keep My commandments.' If it's a commandment, then keep it *God's way*. That way there is less to worry about.

Worry and happiness don't blend well!

Micah 6:8, NIV (UK) – 'And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy. . . .' When we think and act with fairness and kindness, 'spiritual endorphins' are released and it feels good!

Ecclesiastes 9:10, NIV (UK) –

'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, . . .' It is hard to beat the satisfaction generated by a job well done.

Acts 20:35, NIV (UK) – According to Paul, Jesus said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Live generously – it's a form of praise.

These are my essential 'happiness' ingredients. They work when I use them, and things flop when I don't.

Ben got it right

As far as I'm concerned, Benjamin Franklin is correct:

'The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.'

Happiness is not a 'right', but the 'pursuit' thereof is. We have to catch it ourselves. What are we waiting for?

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence ²http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life,_liberty_and_the_pursuit_of_happiness ³<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/b/benjaminfr138284.html#QJeGCXppY463vAL2.99>

Recently, on 4 July, the United States celebrated Independence Day. Why on that date? Because on that day in 1776 its famous Declaration of Independence was published.

This document has fascinated lawmakers and directly influenced the democratic processes in numerous other countries, including Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Hungary, New Zealand and Czechoslovakia.¹

The first paragraph of the preamble, brought to prominence by Abraham Lincoln during his famous Gettysburg Address in 1863, is well known.² In fact, I am sure that you have heard it quoted before:

'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'³

'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness', three rights that every person is entitled to. Rights that no one has the authority to withhold from us. Sounds good and proper, doesn't it? But how easy is it to ensure these core human rights? Governments, courts and constabularies do a reasonable job of ensuring 'Life' and 'Liberty' for most of us, but the 'pursuit of Happiness' is quite another issue.

Some argue that the term 'pursuit of Happiness' refers to the ownership of property; however, such a narrow original meaning for the term is quite unlikely. Those who drafted the document meant it to be used in a much broader sense.⁴

Is happiness a 'right'?

Is happiness actually a right? You may find this odd, but I would argue that it isn't. If it were, then Westminster would be able to pass a bill granting it to us! All of us – with no exceptions! I must side with Benjamin Franklin – one of those who crafted the declaration – who wrote:

'The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.'⁵

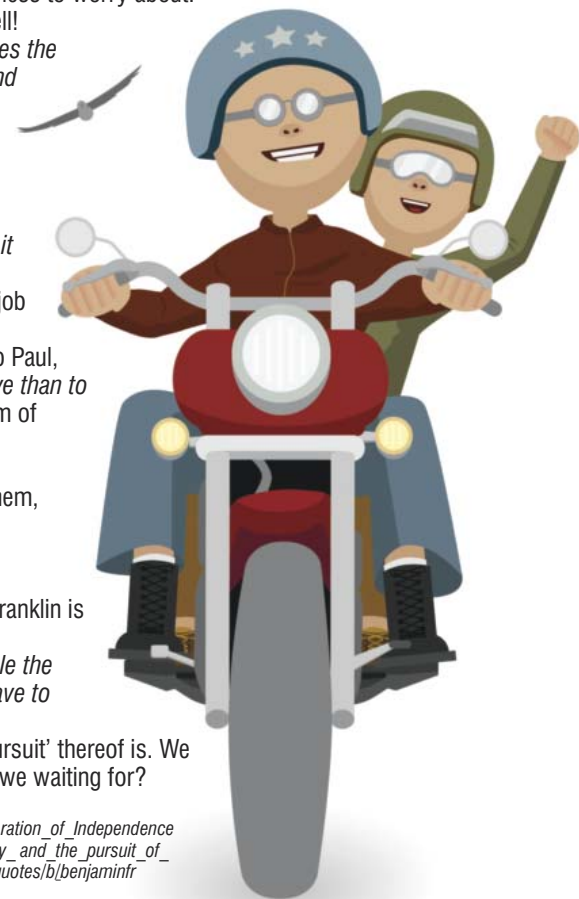
Yes, we all have the right 'to pursue' happiness, but each of us must make a personal effort to achieve it. So what is *your* game plan? Will it be the same as mine?

Does one size fit all?

We are all uniquely, wonderfully different. The 'recipe' for your happiness will require some ingredients that are not found in mine.

Let me illustrate what I mean. Some years ago, Elize and I accepted job reassignments that required our relocation to an African country that was in economic decline. Upon hearing of our plans, one of my 'flock' disapprovingly said, 'Pastor, you are taking this job because you're *ambitious!*'

To which I replied, 'No, my dear – I'm taking it because I'm *adventurous!*' And what an adventure it turned out to be. I got to do





The Heavenly Salesman

by Sarah Jarvis

Before I moved to the house I'm in now I used to have a wall surrounding the property, including the front garden. I had iron gates that I always kept closed. I lived en route from the town to a council estate of somewhat dubious renown, and once my mother had observed someone enter our premises during the early hours. After that, we decided we would keep the gate locked, and so I did until I left.

I liked the feeling of locking that gate. Apart from the sense of security it gave me, I knew that no one could get in to disturb me – I value my 'me-time'. Of course, it was a pain for anyone who came on an impromptu visit as they could never get in. So people stopped making impromptu visits and had to book an appointment over the phone. Privileged people had a key to the lock.

Apart from keeping out visitors, the lock meant that hawkers couldn't come and disturb my peace. Occasionally I would get caught out when I had just nipped home for a short while and was going out again and I didn't always lock the gate. My heart would always sink (and probably my face did as well) when I opened the door to a salesman with his bag of articles for sale. On offer would be the ultimate ironing board cover, the last word in

dusters, stylish aprons, super-efficient oven gloves, and so on. You know, the kind of things you just can't live without.

Perhaps because I'm sometimes not very good at saying no, perhaps because I feel sorry for anyone having to do that awful job, I would invariably part with cash for the cheapest of those articles (of which I had several already). After the door was closed I would berate myself for being so foolish as to open it and part with my hard-earned cash for something that I didn't need and which was useless to boot.

Where I live now I have no boundary wall or fence round the front, so there's nothing to lock and I've been caught out even more times here. But if I'm in the sitting room I can creep through to the front window and peer through the voile curtain to see who's lurking outside the front door, and if I don't know them I usually leave them there.

I certainly don't believe in purchasing things at the front door. I know I've been caught out with small items on occasion, but I certainly wouldn't be persuaded to agree to tree lopping, garden landscaping, roof repair, drive relaying or things of such great moment from someone who cold calls. The fact that they're doing that, I argue, means that they're

short of work, and the fact that they're short of work might and probably does mean that their work is substandard.

If I did inadvertently open the door to a salesman of that kind, nothing would induce me to agree. I can be firm sometimes. Fixed as the North Star. In certain things, nothing and no one will persuade me to do something I don't want to do.

While at the former house I decided I needed a new kitchen – it was some twenty-plus years old. So I called in a firm to give me a price. The man spent some time measuring and drawing and so on and then announced his quote for the job. I thanked him and told him I would be in touch. But he wasn't going to leave it there. 'If you just sign here . . . no obligation. . . .' I refused. Then he asked me to give him a cheque for a deposit and post-date it. If I changed my mind in the interim I could cancel the cheque. I still refused, and he started to get annoyed and continued to insist that I sign on the dotted line and give him the cheque. Neither the signature nor the cheque, he insisted, would mean I had committed myself to anything. In that case, I responded, what's the point of my signature? It's meaningless. He persisted, however, and his persistence got my hackles up. If someone is trying to coerce me, I'll dig my heels in even more. He eventually went away empty-handed, and I didn't call him to book the job.

When I decided it was time to leave that house I called in a couple of estate agents to give me valuations. One of them was a young man with a very aggressive sales style. He also asked me to sign up on the spot, but I told him I'd be in touch as I had other valuations booked. When I didn't ring, he contacted me – several times, in fact. Here was another one whose persistence and aggressive approach didn't pay off – I suppose it does with some, but not with me. I had to tell him firmly to leave me alone and I took my business elsewhere. His coercive tactics, like the kitchen salesman's, had had the reverse of the desired effect.

No, coercion definitely doesn't work with me. Don't know about you, but I like to be allowed time to make my own mind up. I want it to be *my* decision, a decision based on weighing all the relevant factors, not something that has been forced out of me on the spur of the moment.

God doesn't like coercion either. Some of His followers do, but it's definitely not His *modus operandi*. Quite the reverse.

In one sense, He's like a door-to-door salesman. Isn't there a text that mentions knocking on doors? 'Look!' He says. 'I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.' (Revelation 3:20, NLT.)

And what He's selling doesn't make spurious claims like the aforementioned high-priced, low-quality household items sold at the door. It isn't redundant or of inferior quality. It's precious and priceless. And we won't be out of pocket. We'll be better off after the deal than before – infinitely better off, in fact. And when I say 'selling' that's not strictly true, is it? The precious commodity this

'door-to-door' Salesman is offering is free. Whatever you think money can buy you here, He's offering something much better – 'wine and milk without money and without cost' (Isaiah 55:1, NIV), and His 'gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich.' (Revelation 3:18, NLT.)

And His selling style has no aggressiveness about it. His technique is gentle persuasion. He invites us to come to Him to soothe away life's problems and find calm and rest in His presence. 'Come to me, all of you,' He says, 'you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' Matthew 11:28, NLT.

And He's not selective about whom He visits. He doesn't avoid difficult neighbourhoods or recalcitrant and obstreperous customers like me. He knocks on every door at some time or other. And not just once. If He's left standing at the door, like my unwanted callers are if I catch a glimpse of them through the net curtain, then He'll call again later. And the invitation proffered when the door is opened is extended to all, no catches, no tricks.

When He comes calling on you, is He finding not just the door but the iron gates bolted and barred? Don't be like me, refusing to open them. No, invite Him in and invite Him to stay.

I'll close with the words of a well-known hymn that invite us to throw back the bolts of selfishness, fear and indecision and open wide the door to allow Jesus to come into our lives.

O Jesus, Thou art standing,
outside the fast closed door,
In lowly patience waiting to pass
the threshold o'er:
Shame on us, Christian brothers,
His Name and sign who bear,
O shame, thrice shame upon us,
to keep Him standing there!

O Jesus, Thou art knocking;
and lo, that hand is scarred,
And thorns Thy brow encircle,
and tears Thy face have marred:
O love that passeth knowledge,
so patiently to wait!
O sin that hath no equal,
so fast to bar the gate!

O Jesus, Thou art pleading in
accents meek and low,
'I died for you, My children, and
will you treat Me so?'
O Lord, with shame and sorrow
we open now the door;
Dear Saviour, enter, enter, and
leave us nevermore.

Dear Editor

On weekdays we get our children to school on time and ourselves to work, but on Sabbath mornings we arrive at any time, sometimes not getting to church until the second service, just before the sermon – or even just before the final hymn. For sure everyone is welcome, whatever time they arrive – and it's better to come late than not at all. However, Sabbath School is often neglected. Why? Ought it not to be the highlight of the week and of Sabbath mornings? Why do we treat God with disrespect by not keeping our appointment with Him? MIRIAM WOOD

Dear Editor

I've accessed the websites of several BUC churches to find out about their forthcoming events and preaching plans – but most of them haven't got any event information or preaching plan listed! Something really needs to be done about these out-of-date websites! After all, up-to-date communication is the key today.

My other concern is that the gardens of some churches are in such a state – overgrown and full of weeds. What does that say about the church? Perhaps a competition in the *MESSENGER* for the best church garden or plot would encourage them to clean up their act. If the Queen were visiting I doubt members would leave the church gardens in such a mess.

MELANIE STEWART

Dear Editor

I was interested to read about the visit of the International Development Secretary, Justine Greening, to the ADRA-UK office in Watford (*MESSENGER*, 7 June). On 2 May 2008 Cyclone Nargis, a category 4 tropical storm, struck Myanmar (Burma), killing more than 22,000 people, leaving at least 41,000 unaccounted for, and displacing more than 1 million people.

As Programmes director for ADRA-UK, my son Mark was part of the international emergency response team that supplied food, water, shelter, sanitation and other essential items needed by the survivors. While in Myanmar he met the then Secretary of State for International Development, Douglas Alexander, who was very impressed with ADRA's response.

Undoubtedly, ADRA-UK is highly respected and valued by the DFID. Long may this relationship continue.

FRANK CASTELLINO

Editor's note: Mark Castellino now works as Business Development director for ADRA-International.



Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? Each week I'll be hosting Q&A in an effort to answer them.

Andrew Puckering

'What advantages does "organised religion" present over solely private belief and worship?'

A The question of whether or not believers should be organised into a church structure might nearly have precluded the very existence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In *Tell It to the World*, C. Mervyn Maxwell writes that many early Adventists 'had been excommunicated because their Adventist beliefs were deemed contrary to the creeds of their denominations', and they were 'sincerely afraid that if they set up another religious establishment they too might in time reject new Bible truth and persecute God's true children'. For this reason, 'Many early Sabbath-keeping Adventists opposed denominational organisation.'¹

Nevertheless, as Ellen White recognised, 'Satan is seeking to destroy the people of God, and one man's mind, one man's judgement, is not sufficient to be trusted. Christ would have His followers brought together in church capacity, observing order, having rules and discipline, and all subject one to another, esteeming others better than themselves.'² Here she quotes directly from Philippians 2, and expresses similar sentiments to Solomon in the book of Proverbs: 'in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.'³

Scriptural support for church organisation is not hard to find: 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Timothy 3; and Titus 1 all describe the necessity of various roles and levels of leadership in the Church, the qualifications and spiritual gifts for each, and their divine mandate from God. The Scriptures also recognise the importance of church discipline in shepherding the flock (Matthew 18:15-19; Titus 2; 1 Timothy 4; 5).

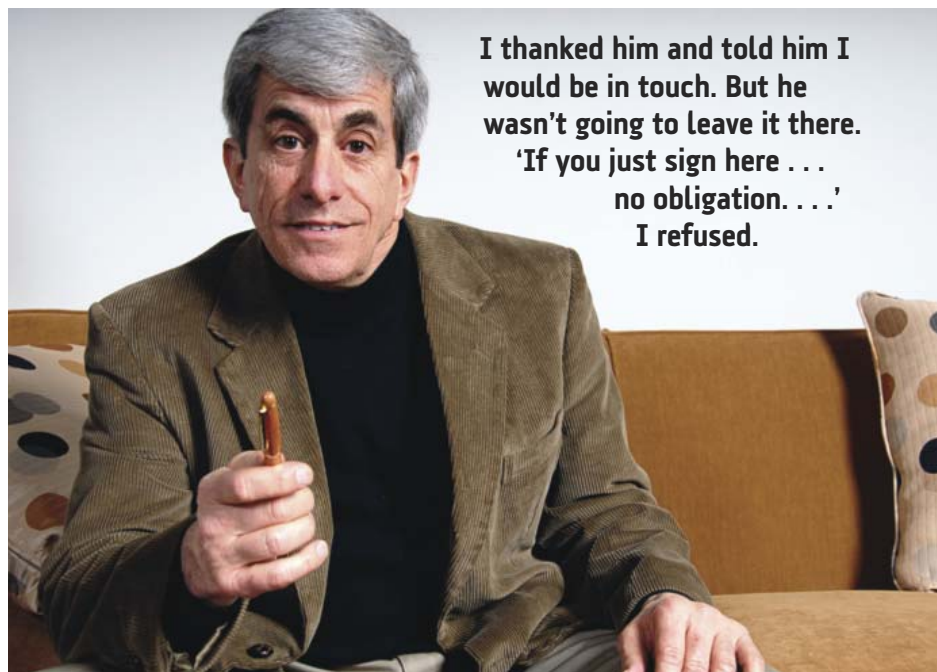
True, Christ advocated private prayer, to discourage hypocrites from showing off by praying on street corners (Matthew 6:5, 6).⁴ However, worshipping only as 'lone wolves' all the time is not the Christian way: as the author of Hebrews says, 'not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching'.⁵

One of the biggest advantages an organised, unified church has over individual efforts can be seen in Acts 15, at the Jerusalem Council. All the great names of the nascent Christian community were there – Paul and Barnabas, James and Peter – to share testimonies of their evangelistic endeavours, discuss what they'd learned, and make sure they were, almost literally, all 'singing from the same hymnsheet': all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This is where the greatest blessing comes, just as He did in the upper room on the day of Pentecost: when they were all together with one accord, God Himself joined them in the Person of the Holy Spirit.⁶ As Christ Himself promised in Matthew 18:20, 'where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them' (NKJV). What blessing could be greater than that?

¹C. Mervyn Maxwell, 'In Need of "Gospel Order"' – *Tell It to the World: The Story of Seventh-day Adventists*, Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1976, pp. 125-127 ²*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 445 ³Proverbs 11:14, KJV; see also Proverbs 15:22; 24:6 ⁴For an example of commendable public prayer, see Daniel 6 ⁵Hebrews 10:25, NKJV ⁶Acts 2:1-4

Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don't despair – we will deal with it in due course.



I thanked him and told him I would be in touch. But he wasn't going to leave it there. 'If you just sign here . . . no obligation. . . .' I refused.



Balanced but passionate Adventism

by Pastor David Neal, Irish Mission president

Being off-balance and lacking passion is nothing new to the Christian Church. Ever since the time of the Risen Christ, the story of salvation has been challenged, distorted, manipulated and misunderstood. It took the collective focus of the New Testament writers to keep the record straight and the Church 'on-message', a challenge that remains with us to this day, even within our own faith community.

Like Christians through the centuries we have vigorous discussions about doctrine and its application. Not that such conversations need be negative, for they often signal a healthy and thinking climate, particularly for a faith community in search of truth. In such conversations, when Christians see things differently, Augustine's simple formula can help to keep the Church together: *'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.'*¹

It's one matter, however, to search together for a greater understanding of truth, but quite another to become fossilised in traditions that are grounded on fears and threats. In this regard, some on the 'misguided fringes of this movement' have the tendency to encourage habits resembling the behaviour of a cult.

Specifically they . . .

- Subtly distort the truth and beauty of Scripture, making it a complete and utter burden for others.
- Demand a restrictive 'thinking climate' by

keeping a 24/7 heresy watch.

- Gossip about conspiracy theories, creating a climate of fear and mistrust, both inside and outside the Church.
- Lead others on false 'guilt trips', over particular 'health issues'.

Anathema

All of the above are nothing short of anathema to the Gospel of Christ. Such behaviour has been around for a long time, but recently it seems to be on the increase again. Some even peddle such things in the name of 'Revival and Reformation'. How can we ever expect to reach the majority population in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the wider UK for Christ, if we act in a way that Christ knows not? What is it in our faith community's DNA that at times so easily hides the beauty of the Gospel we preach? Who but the devil himself receives the most enjoyment in tipping Christians off balance, and who has more to gain than he in destroying hope? Let's be clear about this:

- It is not a message of hope when we burden down people with false guilt.
- It is not a message of hope when we create unnecessary fear and mistrust towards others.
- It is not a message of hope when we restrict how people should think and act.
- It is not a message of hope to offer a wishy-washy, pick-and-mix Adventism.

Surely this is not how things should be? We can and must do better. 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways. Re-clothe us in our rightful mind. . . .' This is a very necessary and soul-searching prayer for these times, particularly as we try to connect with people through the Cities of Hope project.

'Grey' to 'Gold'

The burden on my heart is that what we share with them will be a confident, joyful, Christ-centred hope with absolute confidence and integrity, thereby turning the 'grey' of their lives into 'gold'. Is it possible that we may experience greater success in reaching people if we share more of the 'who' – what we know about Jesus – rather than just the 'what' of our beliefs? Wouldn't it be a true reaffirmation of Pentecost if our lives were able to contagiously attract people to the message of Jesus?

That's the change I long to see in myself – in all of us. I long for my Church to mature and grow. I long to see both a balance and passion for Christ that is second to none. We're not there yet – we have challenges – the same ones you'll easily find among Adventists in Auckland, São Paulo, Johannesburg or Oslo. You may suggest that we ignore these problems: 'Just focus on the positive and everything will be OK.' I'm not so sure it's as simple as that, though, particularly when you listen to the stories of those 'inside' our Church who often express how 'oppressive' the church climate can be at times. Like the author of each article below suggests, on four current matters in particular, we've got some serious re-balancing to do.

Non-Adventist authors – should they really be out, out, out?

'The tortured shape of this editorial is a grim illustration of the fact that a tiny minority of Adventists is now wielding unwarranted influence on the Church's educational, pastoral, and publishing ministries by stoutly insisting that no reputable thought leader should read, own, or cite from a book by a non-Adventist author. They have invaded pastors' offices, disrupted worship services, and left a trail of litter across a smattering of websites . . .' (Bill Knott, Editorial, *Adventist Review* – 14 March, 2013).

Knott went on in his editorial on to remind the reader that Ellen White was surrounded in her study by an extensive library of books and frequently used them as reference sources. Oh, and by the way, eliminate all the non-Adventist authors of hymns in the Seventh-day Adventist hymnal, and we are left with only 121 hymns to sing!

Adventists and conspiracy theories

'I have never yet seen an Adventist conspiracy theory presentation that didn't dramatically move the focus away from Jesus Christ and onto the wildest speculation. Jesus becomes a minor supporting act. Front and centre are always the phantom conspirators and of course the heroic conspiracy theorist himself. Conspiracy theory parasitically lives off its improper attachment to Christianity. And,

inevitably, the parasite always ends up killing its host . . .' (Anthony MacPherson, *South Pacific Record* – 15 June, 2013).

Is this not a habit copied from fearful secular people who have no hope? A conspiracy theory results in nothing less than the production of fear and mistrust in people. If it is a practice of people who do not have hope, why would people who are of hope ever want to embrace it? Spirit-filled people do not embrace conspiracy theories – even in times like these! The chief mark of the fullness of the Spirit is the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control (Galatians 5:22, 23). If evangelism has been described as 'holy gossip', then it's more than clear that conspiracy theories fall into the opposite category.

The health message – a disabled right arm?

'Jesus never intended for healthful living to be a false guilt trip or for His people to be troubled over every little nuance of information. Instead, He wants our journey of healthful living to be happy and satisfying. His desire is for us to glow with healthy attitudes and bodies. A difference exists between the conviction of the Holy Spirit and cajoling or inappropriate social pressure. . . . So enjoy life by following the principles of healthful living. Feel guilty only if you have not surrendered to the vital principle of taking care of your health. But do not feel guilty if your application doesn't land perfectly every time. Happily try again. . . . Let us avoid extreme statements and rigid positions. May people always feel our love, our acceptance, our grace, and our commitment to freedom and to the principles of healthful living . . .' (Jay Gallimore, *Adventist Review* – 18 June 2009).

It wasn't difficult to include the 'health story' while raising the balance flag. But what really stirred me to include it as one of our four challenges was a detailed feature article with the title 'The Fitness-Driven Church' published in the June 2013 edition of *Christianity Today*. The author describes how United States evangelical churches are increasingly taking health and fitness seriously. Not least is the flagging up of Rick Warren's high-profile 'The Daniel Plan', due to be launched in 2014 as a major health programme. I looked forward to a paragraph, a sentence, a passing mention even, that Seventh-day Adventists practise faith-based wellness, but it was not to be. Disappointed that the author suffers from amnesia about the 'holistic message' Adventists have consistently taught and lived, I decided that it would be appropriate to help the author and others recover from this regrettable memory loss. But as I went to make a comment at the end of the article, I seized up upon reading the very first comment in the *Christianity Today* chat room. . . .

'Having grown up in the Seventh-day Adventist tradition I can tell you that doing certain things or abstaining from certain foods in the name of God quickly turns into legalism and judgementalism. There is absolutely nothing wrong with being healthy

and fit but to attach in any way that it is a requirement of God or church is wrong and possibly idolatrous. Yes, God wants us to be fit, for our sakes, not the Gospel's. And the sad fact that much of the obesity and illness we see is disease-related will possibly drive these people away from God if we send the message that to be in God's goodwill you must be fit and healthy. After all, Jesus said He came to call the sick, not the well!' (Bernie Kopfer.)

Bernie Kopfer, the first to react – a Seventh-day Adventist who experienced fear rather than hope from our faith community. I felt almost haunted by his statement. 'No, no, no,' I wanted to shout, 'you're from a different tradition; that's not us!' But right now I could draw your attention to at least ten articles in the mainstream Adventist media, written within the last twelve months, with the very clear message that the 'right arm of the gospel' requires more than a flavouring of grace in the way it is presented and practised. Don't miss the point Jay Gallimore makes. This is not about whether we hold a liberal or conservative worldview, but rather about how we understand the grace, the compassion of Christ and the freedom His hope offers.

Talk with an Adventist health educator, and he or she will tell you of the challenge to be taken seriously within the Church. Sadly, many of us 'having grown up in the Seventh-day Adventist tradition', because of historic and legalistic judgementalism, have closed our eyes and ears to the health story. Forgive the pun, but this is not a healthy position and requires re-balance.

Balance without passion – nonsense!

Without doubt we need 'Revival and Reformation', outwards from the heart, based on a new and fresh understanding of the Gospel, grounded in Scripture. Andy Nash reminds us of a fourth challenge we face, of a trend John warns about in his letters to the

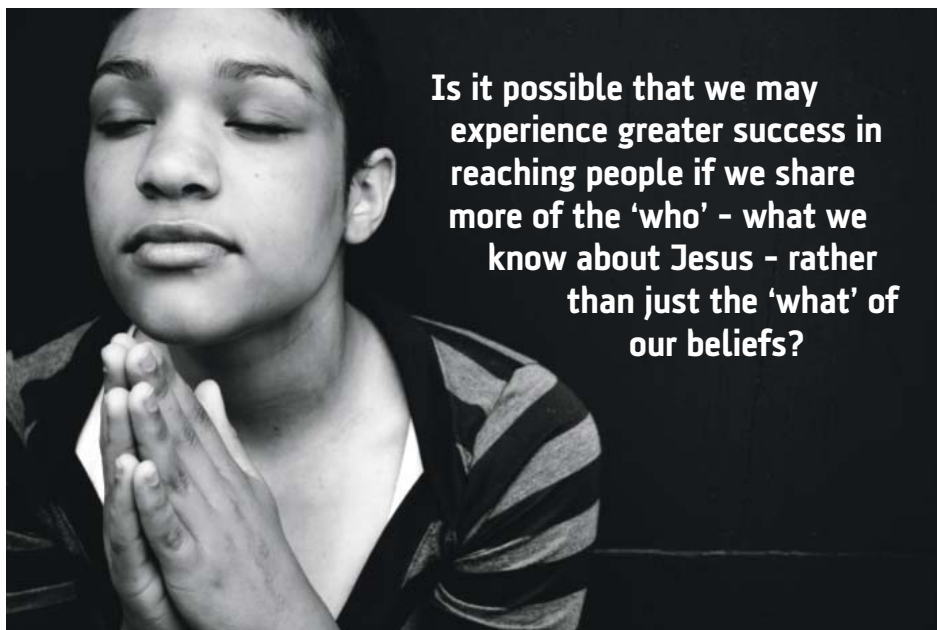
seven churches of Revelation, in particular the church of Laodicea.

'But if the dry winds of legalism have now mostly blown through, what has replaced them? A healthy life of faith that combines true joy in Christ with careful choices about what we allow into our minds and homes? Or something else? In my view our Church's biggest threat is no longer legalism (though it still exists). It's secularism, materialism, the world. This is the thief that now comes to "steal and kill and destroy" the abundant life in Christ. . . . We should be careful not to replace a culture that majored in minors with one that minors in majors: the transforming grace of Christ, our distinctive Adventist message, the abundant life. Our standards should be higher than those of any legalists because we understand that our behaviour doesn't determine our salvation anyway.' (Andy Nash, *Adventist News Network* – 19 February, 2013).

Paul in his letter to Timothy says that we should . . . *'Run away from infantile indulgence. Run after mature righteousness – faith, love, peace – joining those who are in honest and serious prayer before God. Refuse to get involved in inane discussions; they always end up in fights. God's servant must not be argumentative, but a gentle listener and a teacher who keeps cool, working firmly but patiently with those who refuse to obey. You never know how or when God might sober them up with a change of heart and a turning to the truth, enabling them to escape the Devil's trap, where they are caught and held captive, forced to run his errands.'* (2 Timothy 2:22-26, *The Message*).

We have much work to do.

¹Translated from the Latin, 'In necessariis unitas, in non necessariis libertas, in omnibus caritas'; Augustine's credit for this is disputed, with some saying it arose with Archbishop Marco Antonio de Dominis (1560-1624) in *De Republica Ecclesiastica Libri*.



Is it possible that we may experience greater success in reaching people if we share more of the 'who' – what we know about Jesus – rather than just the 'what' of our beliefs?

Telford community health day

– an outreach of the Welsh Mission

When: Sabbath, 3 August 2013, 9.15am to 6pm.

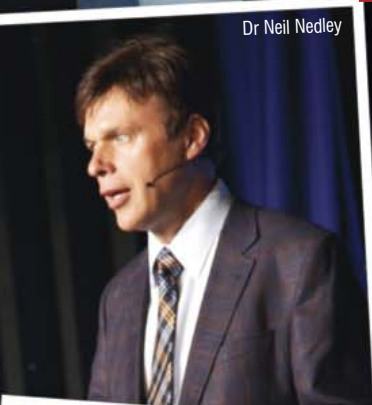
Main speaker: Sharon Platt-McDonald.

Exhibitions: Counselling Service, Heart Start (in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation), Diabetes UK, Weight Management, Food and Nutrition, Medical Scenarios, the Terrence Higgins Trust, and Stress Management.

Venue: Telford Whitehouse Hotel, Watling Street, Telford, TF1 2NJ.

Contact: Hezron Ottey on 01952471168 for more details.

The Mayor and Mayoress will be arriving at 2.45pm to open the workshops. Please plan to visit us for the event, especially if you are in Wales, Birmingham, Wolverhampton or Shrewsbury.



Dr Neil Nedley



Emil Peeler



Pastor Elsworth Baxen



Ranko Stefanovic



'Rebuilding the Walls'

The North England Conference camp meeting at Pontins, Prestatyn, 16 to 22 June, was a great success. Running under the unified theme of 'Rebuilding the Walls', each department or ministry shaped their programme around the story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem's ruined walls. The theme was chosen in support of the current vision of the NEC as cast by the president, Pastor Lorraine Johnson.

A special song was written for the event by Georgina Morrison, daughter of Diana Sinclair, and the audience soon came to appreciate that each line reflects some aspect of Nehemiah's work. The audience was particularly moved when Charlotte Bramble of Wellingborough sang, 'Rebuild the walls of my life' during the closing concert in the packed young adult venue.

The adults were not alone in having a theme song. The older children sang theirs too – 'Kids under construction' – which expressed their desire to have God work in their lives too!

Among the highlights of the children's programme was Delicia Parnell's summary of the week's lessons, presented before the massed audience, and clearly showing that she had fully grasped the need for the children to experience the 'rebuilding' process in their own special way.

This age group also saw the implications of the 'rebuilding' theme for their relationships with others. Kai Ham-Ying from Middlesbrough

articulated it beautifully in these words: 'We should help others who are broken and help to rebuild their walls.'

The teens also bought into the camp theme and, when called on to experience the rebuilding of their own lives, thirty-five stepped forward in response to the appeal.

The senior youth group had a very vigorous programme of their own, much of it centred around the theme of discipleship. A lot of their activity took place in small groups, through role-play games and intense discussions.

The youth shared Pastor Elsworth Baxen, from South Africa, and Dr Neil Nedley, a health expert from the United States, with the adult group.

Pastor Emil Peeler, main adult speaker, spoke many times during the week, to the sincere appreciation of the audience. He was supported by others, including Dr Ranko Stefanovic, who is known to many through his television appearances. He led the congregation in a Bible study of the book of Revelation that was appreciated for its depth.

One of the most touching moments of the week came when Pastor Egerton Francis, a former NEC president, addressed the audience via a recording. He spoke of his continued healing and of his gratitude to God for the recovery taking place in his life.

This 2013 camp meeting was a wonderful experience: relaxed, spiritual, pleasantly exciting and sincerely appreciated.

BASED ON INFORMATION GLEANED FROM REPORTS BY PASTORS PETER JEYNES AND VICTOR HULBERT



Prestatyn health check

Adventist members come to Pontins Prestatyn year after year for their own good. This year they came to town to put something back into the community. The first group to arrive chose to provide health care.

A 'health expo', held at the Scala cinema in Prestatyn, attracted crowds on a sunny Wednesday afternoon, 19 June.

Sixty local residents took the opportunity to get their blood pressure checked, their lung function assessed, and their body mass index measured. Afterwards they each had a short health review with a senior health professional and received a health age assessment.

John, for instance, was happy to hear that his health age was six years less than his natural age. Janet, another local resident, was pleasantly reassured by the results of her check, while Jose, a holiday-maker, really appreciated the massage he received.

Church associate pastor and local resident, Malcolm Turner, was thoroughly impressed with the turnout, while Irving Saunders, Welsh Union Health Ministries leader, also applauded those who made the sensible choice to have their health checked.

People are interested in their health. The Seventh-day Adventist Church can claim to have some of the answers to a longer, happier life.

Recent research has shown that the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle is attractive and leads to a healthy life. So why not share the benefits!

PASTOR P. JEYNES



Let the little ones come

It was Tuesday morning, the first day of the North England Conference Children's Ministries' programme. The sun was beaming as the children, big and small, boys, girls, and cradled babies made their way in great numbers, expectantly, to Captain Crocs and the Queen Vic.

They were not to be disappointed in what proved to be a most amazing week packed with fun, laughter and lots of age-appropriate spiritual material. The praise team, led by Eunice Kiragu and Samantha Chiduzo, taught them the theme song: 'It's gonna be worth it, it's gonna be worth it, all the things that happen now are gonna be worth it . . .' in preparation for the Nehemiah story, an example of God's love and faithfulness.

Some highlights of the week were . . .

When Njabulo Ndlovu, the 0-4 years co-ordinator, began reading the Nehemiah story from a small Bible story book – too small for the children to see the pictures. Complaints were shouted from all directions as children and parents expressed their disappointment. Then suddenly, a huge Nehemiah story book, larger and taller than many of the children, emerged on stage. Their smiles immediately returned, and once the excitement had settled Njabulo was able to proceed with the story.

When the president, Lorraine Johnson, and his wife, Joan, visited the children. A member of staff dressed up as Nehemiah appeared, as did two children dressed up as the king and queen. The children then listened attentively as Joan told the story, which ended with Pastor Johnson praying for the children, parents and staff.

When later in the week the president visited again, this time with the executive secretary, Pastor John Ferguson, both of whom prayed for the children, their families and the staff. The visit ended with a little boy telling them to 'work hard and keep the faith', while a little girl sent them on their way with a 'God bless you'!

When the week culminated with the Sabbath afternoon 'Children's Showcase', during which a small army of children, confident and uninhibited, exuberantly shared what they had learnt and their experience of the love of God with the audience.

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me . . . for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these' (Luke 18:16, NIV). He continues to make the same appeal today!

This is how they saw it . . .

Five children and a parent were asked what they had learnt and enjoyed about the children's programme this year.

Anya Stewart (3): 'I enjoyed dressing as the queen in the Nehemiah

story. Nehemiah was feeling sad because the walls fell down and he was happy when they built up the walls and they clapped.' Her mum said: 'I loved the theme song and it was great to hear my daughter sing it as we got ready each morning.'

Helen Mwasumbe (7): 'I liked the fact that he was really obedient to God, and when he finished building they had a celebration.'

Tarmari Stewart (6): 'I enjoyed colouring the booklet. I liked the play on the stage and I said to myself, 'When God comes He will rebuild the walls.'

Lukas Hush (6): 'I like the part when they rebuilt the walls. I thought the acting was funny because the bad men were laughing at Nehemiah, saying that he would never rebuild the walls again. But I learned that God will always help us when He asks us to do something.'

Faith Sibanda (9): 'I enjoyed making the puppets. I learnt that Nehemiah had faith in God and that I should always have faith in Him – and that in anything you go through, Jesus will always be there for you.'

PATRICIA DOUGLAS, NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR



camp meeting

The NEC 'ashes'

Thursday afternoon was sports day, with the emphasis being on the cricket match held at Prestatyn Cricket Club.

This traditional event pits the members against the pastors and is played in a good spirit of rivalry – as one member put it: 'I want to see the pastors creamed!' But not even the rain came to the members' rescue this time. The pastors won, and deservedly so. The actual result? To spare the embarrassment of the members: the pastors won by a substantial number of runs. A very substantial number of runs.

Pastor Royston Smith was top scorer of the day with thirty-six runs, but Captain Jackson – thirty-five runs and a good catch – was voted man of the match.

The event, sponsored by Newbold College, annually draws together college, members and pastors in a way that is appreciated by all involved – including the vocal supporters!

PASTOR P. JEYNES

The Taskforce Four

The North England Conference has four hardy, committed and vibrant Taskforce volunteers who operate under the overall supervision of Pastor Michael Simpson. They have been put to work in areas that have been traditionally hard to evangelise, and for this they need our continual prayer support. Let's meet them . . .

Jessica Formanquevski, from Curitiba in sunny Brazil, is working in Southport. Her English is not perfect but she is coping well – especially among the many Portuguese speakers in the town. At the heart of her work is making friends. She helps people in the street and talks to them, providing encouragement where she can.

Florence Manji is a graduate from PEACE, the Conference's evangelism training institute. She is one of those sunny characters people just love to meet. Once determined to work with animals as a veterinary nurse in her adopted Wellingborough, she now works with Jessica in Southport.

Samantha Laurence, their companion, is originally from Wolverhampton, but was baptised in Leeds as the result of the missionary work of her brother. She has a catering background and has been running her own businesses. She is also a PEACE graduate and the baby of the team, having been baptised only eighteen months ago.

Wyndel Bacurnay is the man in the team, and he works in South Cumbria with Pastor Roman Smejkal. Wyndel could be described as a veteran volunteer with ten years of service on two continents. The Lake District is rather unlike Moslem Djakarta or his home country, the Philippines. He trained as an accountant, but wished for a more spiritual vocation. He first became a literature evangelist, then joined the one thousand missionary movement in the Philippines. Wyndel is hard at work following up recent contacts in the Barrow-in-Furness area and creating his own new interests using friendship evangelism – he is already an active member of his local badminton club.

These taskforce members receive only a small stipend from the NEC and are really grateful for any additional support that our members or churches can give. Some members are supporting this work on a regular basis with the knowledge that their donations are opening up new areas to our message. (Please contact Pastor Simpson directly if you would like to help, by emailing: msimpson@necadventist.org.uk.)

PASTOR P. JEYNES



Ruth Irish



Left to right: Samantha Laurence, Jessica Formanquevski, Florence Manji and Wyndel Bacurnay with prophecy book for Bible Studies



Adventist Book Center.com

Stanborough Press Open Day

Sunday 1 September

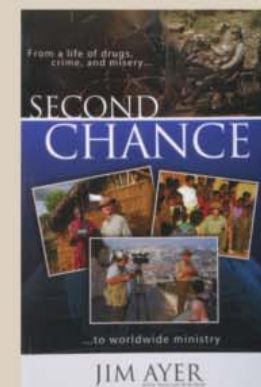
GUEST SPEAKER:

Jim Ayer

Vice President for Advancement, Adventist World Radio



Jim is a renowned international speaker whose greatest passion is introducing people to a lifesaving friendship with Jesus. Jim is also the author of several inspiring books that encourage the readers in their daily walk with God!



Second Chance – Jim describes how his wild life on drugs led him to a dramatic encounter with God.



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Stanborough Press Open Day

Sunday 1 September

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Vauxhall Male Voice Choir

The Stanborough Press gives a very warm welcome to the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir, who

will be providing Open Day with their unique collection of choral music.

Formed during the difficult wartime days of 1943, the choir has gained quite a reputation for its excellent music, especially in the Luton area. The VMVC has also performed several concerts in aid of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, particularly the *Help for Heroes* charity.

We are privileged to have this fine group of artists share part of their 70th Anniversary celebrations with us here in Grantham on Open Day!



GUEST SPEAKER:

Dwain N. Esmond

Vice President for Editorial Services, Review and Herald Publishing Association

Dwain Esmond is both an author and a popular youth speaker. He is particularly well-known for his youth devotionals as well as his wise spiritual leadership of the *Insight Magazine*.

As I Follow Christ – Some of the most notable leaders in the Seventh-day Adventist Church share what they have learned about effective leadership.

Edited by Dwain N. Esmond.



SPECIAL MUSIC:

Mark Bunney

We welcome Mark back to Open Day to bless us with his very own special brand of Gospel music. A talented saxophonist and flautist, Mark will bring that sense of God's presence to our special day!

CHEF

Michael Graham

Michael Graham is a well-known chef in the North England Conference and has catered for many weddings, banquets, baby blessings and countless NEC events, including Camp Meeting 2013, ARME Bible Camp, Pathfinder Camporees and Aberdaron Earliteen Camp.



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Located in the beautiful county of Lincolnshire approximately 150 miles north of London and 75 miles east of Birmingham.

Open Day transport

Brother Hubert Smiley is now organising the usual coach transport to the Stanborough Press Open Day in Grantham on 1 September. Members from Brixton, Battersea, Fulham and other London areas; the West Midlands (including Wolverhampton and Birmingham); and this year, for the first time, Preston, Manchester, Leeds, Huddersfield and Sheffield are invited to contact him on 07868288310, 01384213803, 07736509625 or 07831958114, or email hubert.smiley18@gmail.com for details.

Plan to enjoy this very special day with us; we look forward to seeing you all!

Sunday 1 September

01476 591700



community church



Community focus motivation for Weston Church extension

Weston-super-Mare is a church of only forty members with a tasteful sanctuary and a large youth hall. So why the need for an extension? Simply one word: community.

According to Pastor Wayne Erasmus: 'Our existing facility is used so much by the community. There is a preschool, a computer club and Guides – and that is in addition to the church's own vegetarian cooking club. So, as the church's own needs grew, we decided to expand the building to encompass both the community and the church's growing outreach programmes.'

The extension also makes it easier to find the church, as its entrance is now visible from the road.

Over the weekend of 22-23 June, both church and community members celebrated the official opening of 'their' church extension with South England Conference president, Pastor Sam Davis, and the deputy mayor of Weston-Super-Mare, Councillor Mrs Roz Willis.

In his sermon to the church Pastor Davis commended the church for its community connections and challenged the members to continue serving them in this way. A Christian herself, Councillor Willis gave a brief testimony of her personal faith, and, in her address, affirmed the value and importance of churches and faith groups to their communities.

Having seen the project from planning to completion, she expressed pleasure at being part of the committee which had approved the plans, and that she could be at the opening of the completed project. As she concluded her remarks, she raised her hands and encouraged the assembly to praise the Lord for the great things He had done.

On Sunday the church opened its doors for a family celebration day. Tea and cake were served, followed later by a barbeque. The building was buzzing with activities such as games, balloon modelling and face painting. The Newbold teens mime group, 'Connected', also added to the festivities with their inspirational performance.

The day attracted local residents, friends of members and people who attend the popular cooking club. The importance of the building was demonstrated by the support local residents gave, many going out of their way to make the day a success. Even the builder's bill came with a donation in the form of reduced costs. What a wonderful way to witness!

BASED ON A REPORT BY KIRSTEN ØSTER-LUNDOVIST AND WAYNE ERASMUS



A church of 'signs' and wonders

While health fairs are regularly held by many churches in the South England Conference, the one on Sunday 23 June 2013 at Hounslow Cornerstone Church was a first. It was conducted in British Sign Language (BSL) as an outreach specifically for those with hearing difficulties.

Anna Prozitowska, one of the organisers, was the 'speaker' for the health talks. Her enthusiastic signing was interpreted for hearing members who had come along to support and to help out with the blood pressure readings.

Anna wanted to do something for the deaf community who, she feels, need more information about healthy living. She says that often the information is not as readily available, so many deaf people struggle when they interact with the health services.

In between the demonstrations there were opportunities to taste healthy smoothies and other dishes, and to look at the array of printed material. The success of the day was evident from the animated signed discussions among the attendees.

Hounslow is one of the few Adventist churches in the SEC that includes BSL in its worship services.

'It has been a challenge for us to learn to communicate in a different way and slow down in our speaking,' explains Pastor Maureen Rock, 'but we are so grateful for their presence.'

The church had some members who took it upon themselves to learn BSL so they could interact with, and interpret for, a group of deaf Latvian Adventists who started attending. When the deaf group approached Pastor Rock with the desire to hold a health outreach she responded, 'we were so excited that they wanted to reach out to other deaf people that the church cleared its calendar to accommodate their wish.'

KIRSTEN ØSTER-LUNDOVIST





The use of WIN! Wellness as a ready-to-use tool for small groups, health and family seminars and evangelistic meetings was demonstrated by Drs John and Millie Youngberg to the Manchester and Salford members on the weekend of 24-26 June. The initiative helps laypeople, health care professionals and pastors to integrate spiritual growth with wellness topics and prepare churches as centres for health and wholeness in their communities. The goal is to teach people to *live* – live longer, healthier, happier, and holier. WIN! Wellness is being used in China, Taiwan, India, and North and Latin America, and has been adopted as the evangelistic thrust of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division for the next five years.

This programme is based on the *Ministry of Healing* model and is a total curriculum, with PowerPoint slides and books emphasising family and health evangelism. 'Homes of Hope & Health' gives ready-to-go content using the small-group method, family groups, solo learning, or large meetings. It integrates the Seventh-day Adventist doctrines with health and family topics.

Using WIN! Wellness Homes of Hope & Health for urban ministries is a *win-win* solution for reaching out to our communities because it follows Jesus' method. It is 'Love in Action Evangelism', which changes lives in a way that has powerful rewards for now and eternity. To organise a Homes of Hope & Health ministry team in your church and start making plans for expanding the small group ministry in your area, contact the North England Conference Health Ministries department for more information.

GRACE WALSH
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISABILITY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that a Triennial Session of the Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on 2 and 3 November 2013, at Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church, Belfast, County Down.

Delegates should note that registration will commence at 6pm on Saturday evening. The opening of the Session is scheduled for 7pm.

Delegates are required to have registered prior to the commencement in order to participate in choosing members of the Recommendation Committee.

D. R. Neal, President
P. Lockham, Executive Secretary



CHIP's new recipe

Exciting times are ahead for the CHIP programme in the UK. The global rights for the CHIP programme have been acquired by the South Pacific Union and will be administered by Sanitarium Health Food Company, Australia's premier health food company, and producers of the So Good brand in the UK. Personnel from Sanitarium have had ongoing discussions with the Adventist CHIP Association UK & Ireland (ACA), and directors from the Trans-European Division and the British Union Conference, regarding the future of the UK programme.

During a meeting at the BUC offices on Friday 12 April, representatives from the BUC and TED were given an overview of the totally revised programme, now called Complete Health Improvement Programme (CHIP), along with its new online video sessions and literature. Electronic and social media can now be used to promote the programme, and the registration and purchasing of participants' materials can now be done via the internet.

The next stage is the training of facilitators, scheduled for September 2013. Pilot programmes will then be run through to spring 2014, prior to rolling out the programme across the UK.

You don't have to wait until then to catch a glimpse of the new CHIP: check out the website, packed full of testimonials from people whose lives have been turned around, and behind-the-scenes film clips of the 'making of CHIP!' Go to www.chiphealth.com to view and download the videos or send the link to share with your friends.

IRVIN SAUNDERS, HEALTH SPONSOR, WELSH MISSION, AND ROSE GOMEZ, DIRECTOR, ACA-UK



Addiction support group

During March, Ray Patrick (speaker at the Wolverhampton Central church's 2013 youth evangelistic outreach), trained fifteen local members in the '12 steps of addiction' programme.

This faith-based approach uses counselling principles to help those struggling with addictions realise that they need God's help to be successful. The Wolverhampton group are trailblazers for this initiative within the British Union and it is hoped that other churches will also become involved, establishing their own support groups once their members have been trained. The Wolverhampton group began their support group on 13 May and they already have six community members in attendance.

DONNA PALMER, WOLVERHAMPTON CENTRAL CHURCH



ABC visits Northampton

Bookworms and bargain hunters flowed through the doors of Northampton Highlands Avenue Church on Sunday 19 May. All were surprised at the array of literature and vegetarian food that was brought for sale by the Adventist Book Centre team. Not only was it an opportunity to enhance our spiritual knowledge through the written word, but it was also a great opportunity for fellowship.

AUBREY DAVIS, COMMUNICATIONS LEADER



Three baptised at Colchester

The Colchester church conducted a two-day revival event on the weekend of 7 and 8 June. Pastor Micah Cambell was the speaker and his theme was 'Revitalise and Energise'. On the Sabbath three precious souls were baptised by Pastor Andrew Davis and blessed by Pastor Campbell: Lois Wanjira Wambugu (27), Tanaka Mutanga (16) and Adre Castello (12).

GERTRUDE ASANTE

A Sabbath surprise

Having entered the Pathfinder Bible Challenge (2013), the Plumstead Pathfinder team were a little disappointed when they didn't win. However, all their hard work was not in vain. Two members of the Plumstead Community church noticed how dedicated they were while studying and the hard work that they had put into the competition. On the Sabbath morning that the Pathfinders were presented with their certificates, they had a surprise. Brother and Sister Buckley presented all sixteen children with a KJV Bible each, and encouraged them to attend the Bible classes and to prepare for next year's challenge.

VALDA TAYLOR



News from Malta

Even though Jenny Moore and her fellow Adventists on the Isle of Malta are somewhat isolated from the mainstream of our Church, they are still active. Under the guidance of their pastor's wife, Fiorella Carelli, they run a charity called EducA International, which assists Adventist schools in India and Burundi.

Their main project is the sponsorship of little children who would otherwise not receive a proper education.

Jenny and Fiorella also use their project as a way of making a positive impression among the predominantly Roman Catholic island community. In fact, they even have some of them on their project team.

To find out more about their projects, visit www.educainternational.org or write to Jenny Moore, EducA secretary/children's co-ordinator, 124 Triq Tal Borg, Paola, Malta, PLA06.

EDITOR



Spring concert

A family concert featuring a 'flutet' and Adventist music student, Victoria Balan, took place at Stanborough Park Church during the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, raising almost £1,000 for the church's Development Fund.

The 'flutet' consists of four friends studying the flute at the Guildhall School of Music who like to play together as an ensemble at concerts. As one of them, Jessica Kabirat, teaches the flute at the Stanborough Park College of Music, the group enthusiastically accepted the invitation to perform at the Spring Concert. They played five pieces together and individually, on flutes and piccolo, ranging from classical to the very modern 'Zoom Tube', a fun piece for the flute by Ian Clarke. After the concert they were very enthusiastic about the reception they had received from their appreciative audience, making comments such as: 'Lovely church'; 'People so nice'; and 'So friendly'.

Making a welcome return to the venue was soprano Elizabeth Holmes, a postgraduate student at the Royal College of Music, who also regards it a pleasure to sing at the church.

Violinist Victoria Balan, a final-year student at the Royal College of Music, is an Adventist – unlike the other performers – and a member of the church's orchestra. She performed two pieces and was accompanied by fellow student Borislav Pavlov on the guitar. JUNE COOMBS



Montserratians celebrate

The Montserratians held their thirteenth annual Montserratians and Friends day of fellowship on 25 May in the High Town Methodist church, Luton. Those attending came from all over the UK to enjoy a programme packed full of special music, testimonies and inspired preaching by Pastor Kirk Thomas, SEC Personal Ministries director.

The day's theme was 'Led by God's hand', and during the afternoon's special music programme the audience learnt the historical perspectives behind several of the great Christian hymns, and listened to the singing of the London Adventist Male Voice Choir and Charlotte and Alana Bramble.

MARCELLE RILEY



ADC day in Erdington

Erdington Church hosted Adventist Discovery Centre director, Pastor Des Rafferty, on 11 May, where he spoke to both members and visitors of the need to experience confession, repentance, forgiveness and restoration – just as Zacchaeus did. He was supported by the music ministry of Frederica Reid, who played songs on her guitar throughout the service.

During the afternoon session, Pastor Rafferty spelt out his work as the director of the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) and promoted the free Health and Bible Study correspondence courses the centre offers. He also appealed to all members to encourage people to sign up for the courses so that lives could be saved for Jesus in these last days. If you would like to learn more about the work of the ADC or help sponsor their good work, go to www.discoveronline.org.uk or ring 01923672606.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



Camp speaker visits Camp Hill

On 15 June Camp Hill Church got a 'sneak' preview of Dr E. Peeler, NEC camp meeting speaker, in action. The congregation was blessed by his ministry, both during the worship hour and again during the Adventist youth meeting in the afternoon. Pictured above are Pastor and Mrs Peeler and Camp Hill senior pastor, Dr Patrick Herbert.

DAWN THOMPSON



Hymn festival

On 18 May the Long Eaton church held a hymn festival under the direction of Pastor Paul Haworth, the district minister.

His Sabbath School presentation on the musical instruments of the Bible was both interesting and informative. This was followed by a sermon by Pastor Julian Hibbert on God's musical 'fingerprints' – the impressions He makes on us individually through specific hymns and gospel songs.

After a hearty lunch the day was rounded off by some great hymn singing under the 'baton' of Pastor Haworth – admirably supported by David Elliott. What a great way to spend a Sabbath!

EDITOR



Stanborough's 'shuttle-thon'

On 6 and 7 April the Stanborough Park Pathfinder club raised club funds in a unique way – they held a twenty-four-hour-long 'shuttle-thon' – badminton around the clock, literally!

The star of the event was Daniel Davis, a Pathfinder who spent the entire twenty-four hours on court. The most outstanding Adventurer was 8-year-old Carlos Moreno, who first learnt to play, then outplayed many of the older participants.

The event was held in the Stanborough School gymnasium, thanks to the efforts of Kish Poddar. Those responsible for catering did a great job of keeping the participants 'energised' and the end result was a massive £1,585.31 boost to the club's funds!

BASED ON A REPORT BY FLORENCE ALLEN, PATHFINDER DIRECTOR
PHOTO BY JOHNSON WONG

obituaries

Albert Montague-Sutton (1935-2013) d. 25 May.

Albert was born in London to parents who owned a shop in Kilburn. He had a sister, Joan, who was fourteen years older. While visiting family in Watford during the War, their shop was demolished by a direct hit from a bomb. They then moved to Northwester Avenue, Garston, where they owned and ran the bungalow store by the dome roundabout. It was also a café, and many people from Stanborough Park would have stopped or eaten there.

Joan started her nursing training at the San and she paid for Albert to attend Stanborough School, which, at the time, was at Sheepcote Villa, with Dr White as the headmaster.

Albert was baptised at the age of 17 along with other classmates. The family then moved up to Oxeley to run a grocery shop there, which meant that Albert had to cycle to school every day.

His father died suddenly of a stroke when Albert was only 19, and he was left to look after the shop and his suicidal mother. Eventually he sold the shop and bought a house in Garston Crescent, where he looked after his mother and Joan's two children. At that time it was hard to get a job with Sabbath off, but Albert was a very talented person with many 'strings to his bow'.

He eventually worked at Granose Foods, where he started in the cannery, became a foreman, then went into food

research and development and quality control. He spent six months at our Sanitarium Foods in Australia learning quality control, and was good at fixing machinery and many other things.

In 1986 Pamela Montague came to work at Granose after the death of her husband. Her four children, Dale, Gary, Russell and Melody, worked there too. Pam worked closely with Albert in quality control and helped him out at food exhibitions and in doing the books at the end of each sale. They grew close to each other, and when Granose moved to Newport Pagnell in 1988-89, Albert bought a house there and a year later they were married. They enjoyed twenty-three very happy years together, travelling to about thirty-six different countries, including Australia, New Zealand, America, Canada and many in Europe. Albert took redundancy from Granose and became a civil servant, working for the Prison Service until his retirement.

He loved his gardening and his Yorkshire Terriers – and his four stepchildren, of whom he thought the world.

Sadly the last few years of his life were not good – he had an operation for cancer on his face and neck, followed by radiotherapy. He was beginning to get back on his feet again when he developed pneumonia and was rushed into hospital. Apparently the cancer had returned and he went downhill very quickly. We all miss him, and, as with others, wait for the Resurrection Day when we will meet our loved ones, never to part again.

PAMELA MONTAGUE-SUTTON

Soldier shaves off hair

One brave soul from the Willesden church shaved off her luscious locks on 31 May to raise money for a breast cancer charity called Cancerkin.

Corporal Collet Prince, 35, decided to do this as a fitting tribute to some of her loved ones who have lost their hair during cancer treatment.

'I chose to sacrifice my hair to beat cancer, and I wanted to stand up not only with my sister and my cousin, but with all the women that I know who have been attacked by this vile disease called cancer,' said Collet.

Her shaved locks have so far raised £1,600 for this needy cause. To find out more, visit: www.justgiving.com/Collet-Prince.

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For further information contact Giles Barham: gbarham@secadventist.org.uk or 01923232728

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NEC outlines its strategy

One of the largest gatherings of elders in the history of the North England Conference took place on the first weekend of June 2013 at the Eastwood Hall Hotel, just outside Nottingham. The reason for the gathering: to familiarise the elders with the Conference's new strategy.

There were more than ninety of them present and they were eager to hear why each church had been asked to send two delegates. Pastor Lorance Johnson, the NEC president, soon answered this question as he unpacked the scriptural basis for the strategy. Drawn from the story of Nehemiah, the strategy calls on the NEC members and ministers to 'rebuild the walls' of today's Church – to be faithful to God's will in every respect.

At its heart, the strategy calls for the elders to work with their pastors, who were described as '100% on board', in helping local church members come closer to God through 'an earnest, sincere and continuous prayer life . . . life-transforming Bible study and the reading of Ellen White's writings': the aim being to effectively proclaim 'the everlasting Gospel in the context of the three angel's messages'.

Although the process sounds very formal and very traditional, the attending elders were very happy to hear where the Conference, elders and local churches should be going. They were happy to hear, from the president's own mouth, that 'this Conference is going somewhere', and were happy to get on board.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

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 4 John Loughborough
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 10am-2pm
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Stanborough Secondary School serves as a conveyer of information only in this matter; therefore please make every effort to ensure the service is suitable for your purposes.

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Tel: 01923 673268, email: spoddar@spsch.org or jdavis@spsch.org



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