

Messenger

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

News to the churches • 13 December 2013 • Volume 118 • 25/26

Unto us a Child is born

by Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president



It was the world's most heralded birth, announced using 27 words in a bulletin which had received a police escort and was signed by the Queen's gynaecologist. It read:

'Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge was safely delivered of a son at 4.24 pm today. Her Royal Highness and her child are both doing well.'

Unless you were temporarily absent from planet Earth, you could not have failed to note the birth of baby George Alexander Louis, who will be known as His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge. The birth of Prince George was something that the world could not escape, because throughout the month of July hundreds of reporters and photographers from the world's media were encamped around St Mary's hospital in London in preparation for the birth of the future heir to the British throne.

The British media provided saturation and blanket coverage of the royal birth in all newspapers and radio and TV channels. The round-the-clock coverage was both exhaustive and exhausting. Reflecting how significant a birth this was, Prime Minister David Cameron stated that the birth was 'an important moment in the

life of our nation', and the royals should 'know that a proud nation is celebrating with a very proud and happy couple tonight'.

Another reason the birth of the royal baby could not be missed was the attention of the world's media. Al Jazeera, the BBC, CNN, Sky and all the rest ensured that it was reported to the waiting world.

Some 2,000 years ago, the news that a royal Baby had been born was conveyed via simple 'broadcasters' with no experience. The Gospel of Luke records the incident as follows (Luke 2:8-18, NIV-UK):

'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." . . . When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.'

This is a most interesting facet of the Christmas narrative, and one which led me to wonder why God didn't choose the BBC or Al Jazeera to announce that royal birth. Yes, I know they were not in existence, but surely God could have found a more sophisticated broadcaster, even among the limited media of that era! The world has never witnessed a birth as significant and important as that of Jesus, and yet His arrival was not announced by the religious hierarchy, the monarch or the civil government, but by shepherds! God chose shepherds, who knew about caring for sheep and goats but were not skilled or trained in mass media communication, to

be the media agency that would announce the royal birth of His Son to the world.

Clearly God chose the shepherds for a reason, and Ellen White suggests it in *The Desire of Ages* (page 47): during 'the silent hours they talked together of the promised Saviour, and prayed for the coming of the King. . . .' It appears that God used these shepherds because they were focused – not on the latest football or cricket results – but upon the promise of the Messiah's return.

So what does this have to do with us as a Christian community of Seventh-day Adventists in the British Union? I believe this story has a lot to do with us in this Christmas season and beyond.

While I understand that there are those who would prefer to have nothing to do with the celebration or recognition of the Christmas season, it seems to me that this is an ideal time to exhibit our mission by sharing the message of the advent! The shepherds, having followed up the information from the angel, began to announce the royal birth to the world, and so powerful was their media coverage that all who heard it were amazed.

It is my conviction that we should be announcing to the world the reality of the royal birth during this Christmas season. It is with this in mind that Ellen White posed this insightful question: 'How can we more appropriately celebrate the coming Christmas, how better express our gratitude to God for the gift of His dear Son, than by offerings to send to all the world the tidings of His soon coming?' *The Review and Herald*, 6 December, 1887.

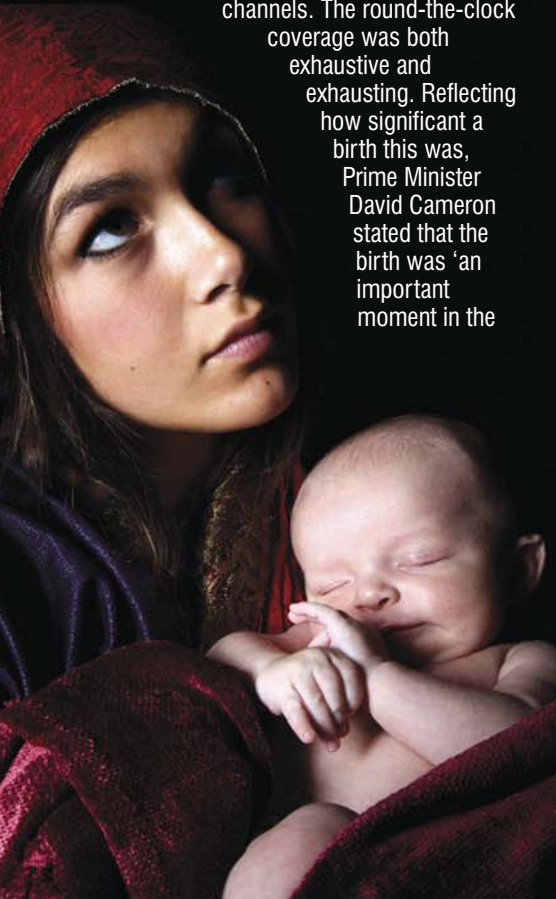
I would encourage us to go to our city centres, shopping malls and public areas to proclaim in song and word that a royal Baby has been born, and that He is coming again to the earth as King of kings!

The Christmas season is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach our community with practical demonstrations of the love of that royal Child. I commend those congregations and families who are planning to feed the homeless and hungry over Christmas, and in doing so become friends to the lonely.

We are the shepherds of 2013, so let us announce to the world:

'For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His
shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

Isaiah 9:6, NKJV.



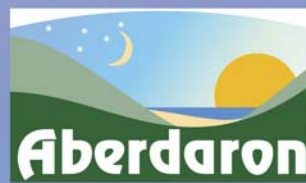
Stories

Aberdaron Advent Campsite would like to hear from anyone who has a **recent or old** story, or a fond or special memory of their time spent at Aberdaron for use in the campsite's 50th anniversary celebrations. Please send your story to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, LL53 8BT or email it to enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com.

Competition

As part of the Aberdaron Advent Campsite 50th anniversary celebrations we would like to start the next 50 years at Aberdaron with a new logo. We would like you all to get involved, so we have opened the design up to you.

Categories:	Under-8s	Prize: A selection of children's books from the ABC
	Ages 8-12	Prize: Week at NEC Junior Camp
	Ages 13-16	Prize: Week at NEC Teen Camp
	Ages 17-25	Prize: Week at NEC Senior Camp
	Over-25s	Prize: Week's stay in a chalet at Aberdaron – (date to be mutually agreed)



Aberdaron Advent Campsite
Glan-yr-Afon, Aberdaron,
Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT
 T: 01758 760281 • F: 01758 760557
www.aberdaroncamp.com
enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com



The overall winner will have their logo used and will receive an extra prize of two days of outdoor activities with Aberdaron's Outdoor Activity Advisor (date to be mutually agreed).

Please send your completed entries to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, LL53 8BT.

Closing date for entries: **30 March 2014.**

Winners will be notified by post and announced at the 50th Anniversary Weekend (16-19 May 2014).

50th anniversary chalet prices

As part of the Aberdaron Advent Campsite 50th anniversary celebrations we have special rates for chalet bookings during 2014.

Dates	Rate per night	Rate per week	Mid-week break 4 nights (Monday-Friday)
1 March – 6 July	£50.00	£250.00	£150.00
1 Sept – 31 Dec	£45.00	£225.00	£135.00

For bookings please contact us at:
 Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, LL53 8BT • Tel: 01758 760281
 Email: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com



Enhancing Health

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

UK workers' health status

The *Economic Voice* of 13 November 2013 carried the headline: 'One In Four Of UK's Workforce Suffering Ill Health'. According to the new Health at Work Index created by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) for the British Heart Foundation (BHF), more than a quarter of the UK's workforce suffer from a health problem which has lasted for more than a year.¹

Based on data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the British Heart Foundation study found that 27% of workers (8 million people) have a long-term illness.²

The BHF found that 16% of study subjects suffered with long-standing cardiovascular problems which were identified from their reporting of poor heart or circulatory health.

The data from 185,364 people was evaluated in the ONS sample.

Among the findings were the following:

- 11.7% of workers (more than one in ten) stated that their poor health impacted negatively on their ability to do their jobs.
- 58% of people with diabetes found their work was affected by their condition.
- 58% of people suffering from depression, mental illness or panic

attacks also reported that their illness had a negative impact on their work.

Here's what the results by job type and health impact revealed:

- Transport and storage sector jobs, including warehousing and logistics, had the highest proportion of workers reporting serious health problems.
- Second came agriculture and mining.
- Third were the administrative and support sectors like security jobs, wholesale and retail trade (supermarkets and high street shops), hotels and catering.
- Healthier sectors included IT and communications, education, health and social work, finance, and real estate.

Lisa Purcell, project manager for the BHF's Health at Work programme, said: 'This research reveals the true health of the UK's workforce, and the results are shocking. . . . Poor health can lead to more sick days, lower morale and less productivity.' She adds that: 'By shining a light on the health of workers in a range of industries, we hope to inspire employers to champion the well-being of their workers. This will ultimately benefit the health of their business in the long run.'

The BHF's free Health at Work programme assists employers in creating health and well-being initiatives that can improve the health and productivity of their workforce. The scheme incorporates free tools and resources that employers can utilise to encourage their employees to become more active, eat well and reduce their stress. The Health at Work programme has already benefited more than 7,000 organisations.²

For more information on how to establish your own health club at work, visit: www.bhf.org.uk/HealthAtWork/join_today.aspx.
Let's get moving!

¹<http://www.economicvoice.com/one-in-four-of-uks-workforce-suffering-ill-health/>
²<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/National-News/27-suffer-lasting-health-issue-2-7975623.xnf>

editorial



Julian Hibbert
 Editor

Bully beef and ration biscuits . . .

'On Christmas Day, the average Briton will consume 6,000 calories, the equivalent of almost 5kg of egg-fried rice, or 24 baked potatoes. A Christmas dinner main course is only 1,000 calories, but all the extras, puddings and booze tip the scale.'¹ Now that is something to sit up and take notice of!

But then so is this. That faceless person we call the 'average Briton' will have 'consumed 38,000 calories over the festive period and gained up to 6lbs in weight, according to new figures. A study found that the typical adult gorges on the equivalent of 15 days' worth of food in just eight days between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.' But if you just take the average consumption between Christmas Eve and Boxing Day – it mounts to a staggering 15,000 calories!²

Now don't get me wrong. I am not trying to be a killjoy. I'm as attracted to a good mince pie as is the next man.

The big 'unwrap'

What are we most likely to forget in the last hours before Christmas Eve? Yes, you're right – wrapping paper and gift labels! But, even though that does happen, we Brits still manage to bin a staggering '226,800 miles of wrapping paper' – enough to 'stretch nine times around the world'! Not to mention all that dreadful plastic wrapping – 125,000 tons of it – that we need to dispose of on Christmas Day!³

Now, lest I be misunderstood, I love to receive gifts that have that *über-chic* Harrods look to them – with smart wrapping paper creased only where it ought to be! I enjoy that happy cadence that friends and families create as they celebrate life together. And we all enjoy the hearty traditional meals we spoil ourselves with on such occasions.

Christmas past

During my childhood our family had some wonderful Christmases together. They were very traditional, elaborate affairs, with no detail overlooked – my mother saw to that – under the watchful eye of her mother, and her

grandmother! Yes, when the dinner bell rang on Christmas Day, four generations of our family took their places at the table, with Dad on one end and our matriarch on the other.

Strangely though, when my father reminisced about his most memorable Christmas dinners, there were always two that took pride of place. In 1938, as a working lad of 17, he celebrated Christmas away from home for the first time. His pay was meagre, and, after settling the week's expenses, he had just enough left to treat himself to a 'good plate of fried tomatoes on toast'!

There was no family around him that Christmas. No gifts. No traditional dinner. Just 'fried tomatoes on toast' – and by the way he told it, they tasted really good!

On 25 December, 1941, he and his mates cooked their Christmas dinner somewhere in the Western Desert, crouched in a foxhole, hovering over a 'Benghazi burner'.⁴ What was on the menu that memorable day? Bully beef and ration biscuits! According to my dad, and contrary to all expectations, 'That bully beef stew was one of the best Christmas dinners I ever had!'

Simplicity

There were no silly hats or Christmas crackers; turkey stuffing or honey-roasted parsnips. No one handed out gifts or collected crumpled wrapping paper. They were just too glad for their biscuits and bully beef, a cup of tea . . . and the silence of the guns!

Why did my father remember those fried tomatoes with such fondness? This is my theory: because they became the simple symbol of a young man's freedom and financial independence. Similarly, the biscuits and bully beef stood out in his mind as a symbol of survival in a harsh environment of desert, imminent danger and lurking death. There is something hauntingly powerful about simplicity . . . and it doesn't get simpler than this:

'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

'Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

'When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

'So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.' Luke 2:8-20, NIV-UK.

Yes, there is something hauntingly powerful about simplicity – about the Nativity story – about that Nativity scene. That story unfolds in the simplest of settings, totally lacking all normal sophistication. The humbled witnesses are working men who bring no gifts other than their awestruck adoration, but they are the first to hear those words, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

Don't lose the simplicity of the Nativity message this Christmas . . . among the dirty dishes . . . or the piles of crumpled wrapping paper.



¹<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/dec/22/eating-excess-christmas-british-tradition> ²<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2255317/Christmas-2012-Average-Briton-scuffed-40-000-calories-festive-period.html#ixzz2lgC2wxn1> ³<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/8964837/How-Britain-bins-227000-miles-of-Christmas-paper.html> ⁴'Troops on the move often cooked food and brewed tea on a makeshift stove dubbed the "Benghazi Burner". This was basically half a tin filled with sand soaked in petrol and set alight.' <http://archive.iwm.org.uk/upload/package/21/cretegypt/standegypt06.htm>



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

'When God told Moses what the first month should be in Exodus 12:2 and 13:4, did He mean that the year would begin then? If so, when did the previous years start?' *Whitnell Anderson*

A Exodus 12:2 (NKJV) says, 'This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you' – referring to the month Abib (Exodus 13:4 – also spelled 'Aviv'). 'Aviv', like the rest of the Hebrew months, was given a new name during the Babylonian exile, 'Nisan' (Nehemiah 2:1; Esther 3:7), by which name Jews refer to it today.¹ It must not be confused with 'Av', the post-exilic name for the fifth month.²

Paradoxically, Jews don't begin their year with their first month! 'The "first month" of the Jewish calendar is the month of Nisan, in the spring, when Passover occurs. However, the Jewish New Year is in Tishri, the seventh month, and that is when the year number is increased. This concept . . . is not as strange as it might seem at first glance. The American "new year" starts in January, but the new "school year" starts in September, and many businesses have "fiscal years" that start at various times. . . .'³

The reason for making Abib the first month of the year during the Exodus is addressed on a Jewish website: 'This month marks a new beginning, the point in time when God's chosen people are finally to come into their own. This month begins a new way of counting time, the beginning of what will be a fundamentally new and radically different reality. . . . Spring, after all, is the universal symbol of renewal, the time that nature itself is renewed. . . . What makes Nisan the month of spring is not the fact of liberation itself but the fact that the Jewish people took advantage of that liberation to chart a new beginning, as a people committed to God and His Torah.'⁴

When did Hebrew new years start previously? It's possible that they started with the Egyptian New Year,⁵ since the Hebrews had until then been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. However, the Bible Commentary has this to say: 'The new ordinance implies that the Israelite year had hitherto begun at a different time, probably with the month later called Tishri, which corresponds to our September or October. Henceforth two reckonings were employed, one for sacred, the other for civil, purposes, the first month of each year being the seventh month of the other, though the numbers always ran from Nisan as the first. Abib . . . became now the first month of the ecclesiastical year. . . . The civil year, beginning with the month of Tishri, was never abandoned by the Israelites and is still in use among the Jews today.' This was 'in the belief that God created the world in the autumn of the year'.⁶

Fascinating as these issues are, though, Scripture tells us not to vex ourselves unduly with 'days and months and seasons and years' (Galatians 4:10, NKJV; see also Colossians 2:16). We might have to ask God what He meant in Exodus 12:2 when we talk with Him in Heaven!

¹www.biblefood.com/hebrewcalendar.html ²www.jewfaq.org/calendar.htm
³www.jewishfederations.org/page.aspx?id=59848 ⁴www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/180708/Egyptian-calendar ⁵Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 549

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.

perspective



. . . In a split second

David Bell, *MESSENGER's* graphic designer, who joined the Stanborough Press staff at 16 and has worked there for thirty-three years, shares his take on one of life's key considerations.

We've all done it at some point in our lives. It's enough to make you kick yourself. In a single moment of stupidity, you drop your mobile phone on the floor, or, worse still, down the toilet. Or perhaps, without thinking, you leave your glasses on the sofa, for someone to sit on.

Years ago, an old friend of mine took out his contact lenses and left them in a glass of water on the draining board. Then his dad did the washing up! It can happen while parking your car. It takes only a momentary lapse in concentration, and you end up hitting the wall or nudging the car next to you. Earlier this year, I rear-ended a car on my way to work – expensive and very inconvenient.

It's easy to sit and analyse these mishaps. Your mind overflows with 'what-ifs', and 'if-onlys'. But these experiences that we all face, however annoying or inconvenient, don't really

matter in the grand scheme of things. Why? Because you can go out and replace your phone, or take your car to the body shop.

Sometimes, though, it's more serious . . .

In just a single moment, the lives of so many people changed. It was a Friday morning, back in January 2013. I was at home, enjoying a relaxing breakfast, when the phone rang. It was my wife, calling me from her office in a flood of tears. . . . 'Emily is dead, . . . Emily is dead!'

How do you respond to that?

Emily was just 17, and would have celebrated her 18th birthday the following Tuesday. She had her whole life ahead of her. She was busy with her A levels, and really looking forward to uni. A loving, caring and very creative girl.

So what happened?

Well, she was on her way to



school with her three friends. It was about 8.15am, and, being the last to be picked up, she was in the front passenger seat of the little Corsa. (We have since been told that, statistically, the front passenger seat is the most dangerous position in a car.)

The girls live in the village of Long Bennington, just a few miles outside of Grantham, Lincolnshire. Emily's house is just a stone's throw from the slip road onto the A1. It was a clear, dry morning, but the sun was low in the sky, and as they rounded the corner onto the slip road the driver did not see the articulated lorry parked up, and ran right into the back of it. The heavy metalwork of the trailer struck the passenger-side A-pillar. Emily was killed instantly!

We had known Emily since birth, and her parents much longer, her mother being a bridesmaid at our wedding. So you can imagine our shock.

Suddenly, everything had changed. Emily had lost her life, something the driver is going to have to live with for the rest of hers, however blame is apportioned. Emily's parents and wider family will have to find a way of facing life without her.

I am sure that the parents of Madeleine McCann have gone over and over in their minds, trying to make sense of what happened to them. . . . 'If only we hadn't . . . !'

This got me thinking about our complex lives and the way we all live them, and the chances we all take from time to time. None of us knows what's around the corner. What might happen to us as we start our day, or, worse still, what we may do or say to others.

I don't have any clever religious comments to make. But I do think we should all be on our guard. It's so easy to make that flippant remark, or a wrong move, each of which can have far-reaching consequences for ourselves . . . and for others.

Take care!

face to face



'Let us love one another'

Pastor Sam Davis, South England Conference president

We are very privileged to come to the end of another year and to be able to look back and talk about God's goodness to us. 2013 has been another year in which we have seen many of our members laid to rest. We have also seen many natural disasters. As I write, I am thinking of the hundreds of thousands of displaced people in the Philippines and the thousands of lives lost because of Typhoon Haiyan. As the coming of the Lord draws nearer these natural disasters will become more and more frequent, says the servant of the Lord, Ellen White. Let us hold on and be faithful because 'He that shall come will come and will not tarry'. Soon our greatest enemy, death, will be defeated, and sin and the devil will be no more. Amen!

We began 2013 with the launch of the Mission to the Cities programme at our evangelism expo at Newbold College. Our members were motivated and galvanised for service. As a part of the MTTC initiative we have seen several evangelistic initiatives come to fruition. We give God thanks for what we have been able to accomplish.

2013 will always be remembered for the closure of the John Loughborough School after thirty-three years. Although the SEC leadership fought valiantly to save the school, it was not to be. The Holcombe Road site remains ours, however, and we will seek to maximise its use by transitioning the Hyland House School to this location in order to make good use of the very good facilities that the site has.

At Camp Meeting this year we saw the graduation of more than 100 students from our first cohort of the School of Evangelism. We give God thanks for those who have embraced the challenge of seeking to equip themselves for evangelism. The school has now begun its second year and we are delighted with the support from our members.

The Church is a loving, caring community, and as we move into the new year let us remember that God is love. At the heart of the Christian Gospel is this God who loves us unconditionally. A God who loved us when we were not interested in Him. The apostle John reminds us, 'Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God. . . . ' 1 John 4:7, 8, NKJV.

These words are easy to say, but not so easy to live up to. In our fast-paced and digitalised age it is so easy to be mean, savage, unkind, and ungodly without even thinking about what we are doing.

Going to church events, taking pictures – still or moving ones – and then posting them on Facebook or YouTube for people to gawp at with accompanying negative comments is an act of savagery that runs counter to the spirit of the Gospel. Notice the apostle Paul's words: 'Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a

fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.' Galatians 6:1, KJV. How does that translate into, 'Let's expose and shame them on the internet'? The fact that malicious gossip, slander, and tittle tattle has gone digital does not make it right. In fact, it has just become more deadly.

As we move into 2014 there is so much for which to give God thanks. Let us remember that God is love, and we ought to love one another, whether we agree with them or not.

The South England Conference is seeking to appoint an Early Years Practitioner for its Hyland House School in Waltham Forest, London, E17.

The successful candidate will assist with Foundation Stage and be required to commence 1 January 2014, full-time. If you would like to join a committed, professional team; are familiar with the Early Years Foundation Stage and Profile targets; have acquired at least an EYFS degree at level 5; are keen to keep abreast with current educational practices; and enjoy being part of a learning and faith community, we would like to hear from you.

Essential criteria:

- A minimum of an EYFS degree at level 5
- Recent experience of having worked with Early Years
- An empathy with the work, values and ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Excellent organisational skills

Working 52 weeks per year, the annual salary, which includes London weighting, will be £24,766.16.

The Hyland House School will be relocating to Holcombe Road in Tottenham, London from September 2014 and the successful applicant will be expected to relocate to this new site. A visit to the present site in Waltham Forest is warmly welcomed. To arrange a visit or for any further information please contact Mrs Gina Abbequaye at Hyland House School on tel: 0208 520 4186 or email: gabbquaye@secadventist.org.uk.

The South England Conference 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 a Disclosure and Barring Service (Criminal Record Bureau) check before they can be appointed.

Applicants are required to have the right to work in the UK and to complete an application form.

For a job application form, person specification and job description please email Mrs Jacqui Crawford on: jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk.

Application deadline: **15 December 2013.**



Building relationships

Pastor Lorance Johnson, North England Conference president

As we approach the end of another year, I would like to reiterate that the vision and mission of the North England Conference calls us to rebuild what has broken down. One area in particular is that of relationships. You see, a church that models loving relationships is a powerful witness in the community. Satan wishes to destroy this in order to render the church ineffective.

Life has its positives and negatives. For those of us who belong to the household of faith, we are aware (though at times we may forget) that we serve a sovereign God who not only holds the whole world in His hands, but is deeply involved in the affairs of our individual lives – a God who allows each event to happen, in the hope that it will serve as an opportunity for growth.

Therefore God encourages community, despite all our brokenness and dysfunction. In this context His glory may be seen as we, in humility, submit one to the other, esteem others better than ourselves and bear one another's burdens.

God is also preparing us through relationships, as in many other ways, ultimately to spend eternity with Him and to fellowship with sinless beings. This is why Paul says in Romans 8:28 (NKJV), 'And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose'; and God says in Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV), 'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.'

Each of us is special to God – so very special. From the well-known book *Steps to Christ* (page 100) we read these amazing words penned by Ellen White:

'The relations between God

and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son.' (Emphasis mine.)

The call is for each of us to rebuild – not those physical walls that we read about in Nehemiah – but our relationship with God. Then He will give us the grace to be gracious in our relationships with others as we reach across to them.

We are called as Seventh-day Adventists to declare the goodness of the Lord. Through transformed relational living we will naturally bear witness

to the communities around us; becoming a spectacle to the world that God can rebuild people, restore relationships and inspire excellence.

No matter who you are – male or female; young or old; church member or visitor; church employee or lay person – I challenge you to reach up to Jesus so He can impart to you the spirit of kindness, patience, acceptance, goodwill and meekness.

My prayer is that life's circumstances, trials, challenges and even successes will cause us to draw closer to one another – to shine all the brighter – because by this all men will know that we are His disciples. Let us build!



Evangelism is the key

Pastor John SurrIDGE, Welsh Mission president

Throughout this year, as with so many previous years, we have witnessed numerous disasters in our world, both natural and man-made. Each disaster is quickly followed by soul-searching, hand-wringing, and sermons (including my own) on the fact that time is running out for our world. The problem is that we often end up leaving it there. Time passes, the disaster gets forgotten, and our lives carry on much as before.

In fairness Adventists are very good at giving to good causes, and ADRA appeals for specific needs are usually well-supported. But deep down we know that even an ADRA response is just a sticking plaster solution for a problem that is not going to go away. The suffering and needy in our world,

like the poor of Jesus' day,¹ are always going to be with us.

So what should we do? Well there is really only one answer, and He is the answer to all of the world's needs. Our primary task is to tell the world about Him so that they can have the opportunity to invite Him into their lives and communities, where He can make the changes that will lead them not only to a better life, but to eternal life.

This task is so fundamental to our role as Christians today that we cannot leave it to the occasional burst of door-knocking or leaflet distribution as the mood takes us. It needs to be a routine, regular and systematic activity, engaged in by every local congregation. It should be the main item on our business agendas and



'Yes', we're 'Better Together'!

Pastor Bernie Holford, Scottish Mission president

Scotland's 2014 calendar is filling up fast! On 18 September the Scots will vote either 'Yes' or 'No' to becoming an independent nation again. From 23 July to 3 August Glasgow will host the thrilling Commonwealth Games. The prestigious Ryder Cup golf championships will be played on the greens of Gleneagles in September. There are so many things that Scots are looking forward to this year.

Just as some of our London churches and members used the Olympic Games as an opportunity to reach out and make friends in their communities, we want to use the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow as a golden opportunity to make friends for Christ.

Part of our special message as Seventh-day Adventists is that we separate ourselves from evil

practices. As Revelation 18:4 says, 'Come out of her, my people' (KJV). Unfortunately, many of us have interpreted this as a command to *stay away from those who do not love God*. This is a distorted perspective – a teaching whose core of truth is not balanced with the whole truth of Scripture, and especially the practice of Jesus. The calling of Matthew Levi (Matthew 9:9-13) shows how we are to live in the presence of Jesus. Rather than avoid people who don't know Jesus yet, we should welcome them. One way of doing this is by inviting our friends to 'Matthew Parties', where non-members can spend time simply getting to know Jesus' followers.

Our Scottish leaders are working on creative plans for activities that will take advantage of the wonderful opportunities we have to reach out to our communities. If you have a gift and a passion to share Jesus with others, in fresh and interesting ways, we want to invite you to come to Scotland during the summer for a 'witnessing holiday'. There is plenty of holiday accommodation available for you to book, and you could then spend part of your time joining other Adventists from around the world in a range

of witnessing activities. The Commonwealth Games run from 23 July to 3 August, but you would be welcome anytime in June, July or August.

If you can't come to Scotland to help us this year, please pray that the Lord will send workers to our harvest – Luke 10:2. The harvest in Scotland of 5.3 million Scots is enormous, but God has given us a vision to reach this nation for Him.

Every day we read news of the upcoming referendum in Scotland. One side urges us to say 'Yes'. Our church in Scotland is full of people saying 'Yes' to a different kind of agenda. The 'newcomers' have said 'Yes' to the call of God to come to this beautiful country. We are saying 'Yes' to His invitation to follow His call wherever He leads. We are saying 'Yes' to serve as witnesses to the Scots. The Scottish opposition parties are telling us that we are 'Better Together', and we know that, whatever we do, our witness is stronger when we work side by side. Please pray that we will be guided by God to make the most of the opportunities 2014 provides to reach Scots with the love of Jesus and our special message for this time.



Take another look . . .

Pastor David Neal, Irish Mission president

Holman Hunt painted three versions of the same painting, 'Jesus the Light of the World'. Hunt said of the painting: 'I painted the picture with what I thought, unworthy though I was, to be by Divine command, and not simply as a good Subject.' The inscription underneath is taken from Revelation 3:20, KJV: 'Behold, I stand at

the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.' Every detail of this familiar painting is rich in symbolism. The 10cm-long spiked crown of thorns on the head, the patient expression on the face of Jesus, the position of the feet indicating that He's been waiting a long time and is now

preparing to enter the door. Of course, we cannot forget the door itself – opened only from the inside, our side.

'Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus' are words I learnt in my early Sabbath School years. Hunt's painting became my visual aid to show that God is on our side, and – more than anything else in His entire created universe – that He wants the pleasure of our company. For years I only understood one aspect of the painting's symbolism – that the opening of the door is only possible from the inside. But in recent times, pausing to stop and take another look, the painting has come alive as I have examined its other details. It reminds me of how we sometimes see Scripture. We see the words on the page, but take them at face value without digging deeper. It is so easy to see the biblical 'fact', without understanding the biblical 'truth'. The result is that we end up with a half-truth.



The people of Ireland are still trying to hold on to religion and faith. Many continue to see God through the filter of their church – a church which continues to have a serious trust deficit. Likewise, the people of Northern Ireland are also trying to hold on to religion and faith. Many continue to see God through a Calvinistic filter. My hope for 2014 is that we will continue to 'Make God Known' to our family, friends and colleagues through the clear lens of Scripture. I hope we will demonstrate through word and deed how wonderful it is to 'eat with Him, and He with me'. My hope is that as we continue the journey of 'restoring' biblical truth to our

lands, we'll also continue to personally re-examine the 'great painting' of Scripture and discover the new and deeply personal truths the Lord wants to reveal to us.

'Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.' (Revelation 3:8, ESV)

Christmas Concert

Featuring local & national guest artistes

Saturday 21 December at 5pm

Venue
Simon Langton School for Boys
Langton Lane, Canterbury CT4 7AS

In aid of
Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre

Enquiries:
07961 366 757
ralphlombart@gmail.com

Free Entry
Donations on the door

Find us on **facebook**
 Search for: RL-KMSTC

WWW.kentmstc.org.uk

MTTC: London report



Mission to the Cities: London

An update on this important evangelistic outreach by Pastor Sam Davis and his South England conference team.

'You don't understand, we have nothing like this in our country! No one opens doors to you, no one speaks to you, most people assume that you are Jehovah's Witnesses or that you've come to rob them and so they will not open to you. But here, we are really surprised and thankful that we can reach and speak to people. You don't understand what you have here!' This was the response of a group of Serbian and Croatian pastors, youth workers and lay members who had travelled from various parts of Europe to observe how we in the UK use the resources that we have at our disposal for the purpose of evangelism. We very much take for granted the fact that we are offered the freedoms that so many people are unable to enjoy elsewhere.

London Areas

In Area 6a, as part of the Mission to the Cities initiative, every church has conducted an evangelistic or revival series. These include different programmes involving the

community, such as the Community Fun Day and the Women's Ministries Retreat run by Lea Valley; also, an initiative by the Central London church called 'Dialogue Café', which has gone extremely well, with members eagerly inviting their friends to attend. Most importantly, the church's doors have been opened to the community and each night that it has taken place, members of the community have walked in – off the street – and stayed for the duration of the evening, some returning each time the programme has been presented.

Engaging the community is key to this initiative and six churches have risen to the occasion by presenting health expo programmes (Hampstead, Central London, Edmonton, Chingford, New Life and Kings Cross). CHIP programmes were conducted by three churches in Area 6a, along with health and fitness classes. Some of these churches have extended the social and spiritual aspect of community programmes by maintaining



ongoing ministry programmes such as youth clubs, free English and mathematics tutoring, clubs for the elderly, fitness clubs, and even seminars on prostate cancer by the Men's Ministries department. As a result of these and some more spiritual programmes, Area 6a has reported baptising sixty-six individuals.

There was also a co-ordinated effort by the churches of Area 6b. They hosted the Mission to the Cities 'Hope 2013' series with guest speaker Dr Kelby McCottry. Music played an integral part of the overall spiritual experience and five people were baptised as a result of the series. With planning starting early, churches opted to have individual projects in differing styles designed to reach areas of the community previously untouched. South-East London Community Church embarked on their Jesus and Ministry (JAM) programme. Although this is not new, their youth hosted their third campaign and also launched their watchful eye of the SEC Youth department. Brixton hosted 'Mission Impossible I and II' with guest speaker Dr Dexter Thomas, who is legally blind, and Pastor Donette Blake. Croydon, always a vibrant church in their evangelism and music, hosted the 'Abundant Living' series, while Plumstead, the Downham branch and Wallington all had their own outreaches. Their combined efforts harvested fifty-nine baptisms. In total to date, there have been 163 baptisms since the beginning of the year and seven professions of faith in 6b.

Area 6c has a large Muslim community and its churches made an effort to interact with members of this community. Churches like Plaistow, under Dr Elliot Williams, held evangelistic campaigns but also reached out with social activities that connected with people of all

persuasions. The Women's Ministries department embarked on community sewing classes for a nine-week period. The lessons have received a positive response from the local Muslim community, which was reflected

in their attendance at the classes.

This is the second year of the Immigration Advice Service to both church members and the local community. This attracted a wide range of people from the local community. Plaistow also ran a summer school, and its community services provided voluntary support to residential care homes for children and adults with special needs. This was also an opportunity for the church to witness through distribution of literature and sharing personal testimonies. In the Romford area, Pastor Williams conducted three concurrent house campaigns and reported that they have two clear advantages: they are much more economical to run (renting a hall would have cost £50 per hour; and the warm, friendly setting of the house campaign made it much more inviting for the unchurched and people from other religious communities to attend.

The wide range of ethnicities across this area meant that the churches have been quite inventive in making the MTTC effective in as many lives as possible. Baptisms for the year total seventy-one, with two accessions by faith.

For Area 6d (West London) the collective decision of the churches was to raise a new congregation in an unentered area. It has been and still remains a steep learning curve for those involved.

A three-phase strategy was adopted for this mission. Firstly, making contact with the community through community surveys and direct interactions. Secondly, building confidence by ministering to the community needs in the areas of health and family life. Thirdly, making converts through the sharing of the Gospel.

Pastor Michael Mbui, Area co-ordinator, says that 'the contact-building stage took longer because we needed to set up a supporting structure for the taskforce and to provide continuous training for the participants. There are many opportunities when you meet people where they are, and show interest in their concerns. Out of the 470 surveys conducted, 77% of which were completed by young people, 31% asked for information on health and expressed willingness for further contacts or to attend events by the group. 42% registered social issues that affect them.'

Follow-up events have been planned, including the ADC health courses, health expos and the mini CHIP programmes. A messy church and youth club programme will help connect and respond to the needs of the children and youth, while a house church will build on a Bible study group that currently meets in the area.

This MTTC programme will be conducted under the umbrella of **Centre of Hope, Uxbridge**. Through the website and other media outlets there has been a great deal of interest in these programmes from the community, many of whom are not Adventists.

The area churches have continued with evangelism through meetings and personal

Bible studies, which have resulted in the addition of forty-four new members to date, with another thirteen expected by year-end.

reFresh

Adrian Peck, who is one of the leaders steering the Potters Bar MTTC project, reports that it is moving



Above: Pastor Steve Thomas.
Left: Young people from the Advent Centre.

jobs in Southend-on-Sea. They decided to attend the South London Hispanic church. Once they discovered the joy of knowing Jesus Christ they started to return tithes; but not just one faithful tithe: they started returning a second tithe to the church budget.

Luis and Donna had been living together for a long time, but they have now requested baptism after being shown the importance of marriage. On 12 October, during the Mission to the Cities programme (Hispanic Church), they were baptised. Donna invited her sister, who came from Spain to see a Christian baptism and attend her sister's wedding. She was so moved to hear the Gospel that she has come back to London to learn how to become a disciple herself. This is just one of the amazing things that have taken place during the MTTC programme.

SEC Youth department

The SEC Youth department ran a four-week 'What's love got to do with it?' campaign from 5 October to 2 November in four local churches under the Youth Mission to the Cities project. Specifically geared towards a young person's world, each week a different speaker spoke on pertinent real-life issues, including sex, sexuality and drugs. Featuring music, workshops and sermons, the topics were designed to challenge young people to be intentional about their Christianity and to live exemplary lives. Set in a restaurant style and starting at 7pm with a meal, the participants enjoyed both physical and spiritual sustenance.

CRAVE is one of the youth MTTC initiatives, the main purpose of which is to support the SEC campus ministry programme as it reaches out to university students searching for something to meet both their nutritional and spiritual needs. Pastor Steve Thomas had a vision for CRAVE and believes that the youth are our future, and that they need our full support. As a result of the CRAVE programme at Greenwich University, an official group has been set up and will be run by the Adventist students in attendance.

Also launched during the project was an SEC Youth app, which is available for download from the App Store and Android Apps on Google Play, and features information



Left: Welling team.
Below: Pastor Griffin.



Left: The Advent Centre.



MTTC: London report

and offers for SEC youth. The Youth department will now be able to update all its youth on news, events, issues in relationships, and so on, by using it as a communication channel for all. The culmination of the Youth MTTC programme was a youth day of fellowship at the Emmanuel Centre.

The provinces

Back in February, when the groundwork and preparation were being put into place for Mission to the Cities London, so infectious was the enthusiasm generated that the South England provincial ministers met at Newbold College to explore their role in the initiative. Their consensus was that evangelism today is challenging, and that, irrespective of the community you work in, it takes time to make an impact.

Although MTTC is geared toward London, these ministers got involved in the challenge of evangelism in their areas. Prior to his retirement, Pastor Ian Sleeman became involved in the 'City of Dreams' project run by the Oxford church and Mervyn Weir, which is aimed directly at the thousands of students who are the lifeblood of that city.

In October Pastor Augustus Lawrence and the Milton Keynes church also held a very successful outreach. The invited speaker, Pastor Samuel Telemaque, the Missions and Personal Ministries director of the Inter-American Division, preached pointed messages which resonated with the hearts and minds of those who attended, leading to the baptism of twenty-eight precious souls. By any standard that is an amazing result!

As the president of the South England Conference I would like to give God thanks for the energy and dynamism that has been shown by our pastors and members as they have gone about the business of touching lives for the Lord Jesus Christ. Due to the MTTC we have seen more than forty-five evangelistic programmes held and 346 members added to the Church so far, with more to be baptised before the end of the year. To God be the glory!



'Amazing and daring'

A report on the recent TED Field School of Evangelism by Pastor Eglan Brooks, BUC Evangelism director

For ten days, sixty-three delegates from the eleven Unions of the Trans-European Division (TED) met in the Britannia Hotel, Central London, to attend the TED Field School of Evangelism as part of the Mission to the Cities initiative.

Starting on Thursday, 10 October, they explored the biblical principles of evangelism in the context of how to 'impact' the world's major cities. They also observed comprehensive and practical methods of reaching 'city folk', through the potpourri of evangelistic activities in London.

The purpose of the Field School was to inspire and equip the Union, Conference, and Mission leaders with the necessary tools to develop and engage in a cyclical evangelistic approach 'back home'.

Dr Bertil Wiklander, TED president, believes: 'Reaching people with the Gospel today requires connections with them, allowing us to mingle and share as friends . . . building relationships with every human being, to eradicate evil from the earth, and to create a new heaven and a new earth. This is big, but God can raise us to the task by His Spirit.'

Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, TED Evangelism director and principal of the Field School, was assisted by BUC Evangelism director, Pastor Eglan Brooks. The trainers were gifted practitioners in contemporary evangelism from across the TED, British Union Conference (BUC) and South England Conference (SEC).

According to Janos, the aim was to place 'a curriculum of evangelism before our eager delegates and challenge them to experience and engage in what is happening in London.'

This was partly achieved by



Above: The Sabbath sofa. Top: Dr Bertil Wiklander. Middle: Dr Daniel Duda. Bottom: Pat Walton.

getting the delegates actively engaged in the projects, including the preparation of resources and door-to-door witnessing.

The 'Sabbath sofa' was a great hit in Oxford Street. Situated in the middle of one of London's busiest streets, it was definitely a 'talking point'. This unique concept invited passers-by to stop and rest for a while. The simplicity of the invitation engaged a number of individuals.

Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, was also excited about the event, and grateful that the delegates had been able to participate in the MTTC projects in Brixton, the youth project at the Advent Centre, and the two church plants at Potters Bar and Uxbridge.

Dr Michael Hamilton, TED Sabbath School director, noted the 'keen sense of motivation' among the delegates. A Latvian delegate, Lītvija Baltrušaitė, stated that the programme 'started amazingly and ended daringly'. A Finnish colleague added that the Field School taught us 'not to be afraid'. Pastor Richard Jackson, North England Conference (NEC) Ministerial Association director, spoke of how he 'was enlightened' by the event.

'The Field School of Evangelism was extremely beneficial in that it highlighted

where every member and congregation needs to place their focus and understanding of evangelism,' stated Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president. He was among many who referenced a key statement in the book, *The Ministry of Healing*, p 143:

'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."'

According to Pastor Sweeney, 'No longer can we believe that we have fully accomplished our evangelistic purpose by simply distributing Adventist literature without first mingling and serving our community. It is in winning people's confidence that introducing Jesus Christ becomes ever more meaningful, and the Field School was powerful in showing this.'

For resources from the TED Field School of Evangelism, contact your local Union delegate. Delegates have full access to additional resources on the Mission to the Cities website: missiontothecities.co.uk.

(ADAPTED FROM TEDNEWS)



'We have nothing to fear lest . . .'

by Victor Pilmoor, British Union Conference treasurer

'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.' Ellen White, *Life Sketches*, page 196.

So let us reflect a little on how God leads.

Governor Mark Carney is a name with which we are yet to become familiar. The leading voice of the Bank of England is usually authoritative, and his opinion that our economy is set for growth has to be good news. During the past five years we have faced the abyss, with the collapse of national economies, industries and entire banks, largely due to the scandals of the self-interested.

While these perils may have seemed remote to those with job security, for the Church, along with the many who depend on the dynamic exchange economy, calamity was a real possibility. There were times when our journey was like eating in a Greek restaurant: though the food was flavoursome, we anticipated a cascade of crashing plates after the meal!

We are still here though, and the Church has survived and grown, though not without scars. Between the shattering of New York's twin towers and the economic foundations that underpinned those duoliths, our world view has changed, and our trust in a large-hearted economy has dissipated. Many no longer have trust in institutions, including their Church. They look for undercurrents and do-it-yourself solutions. Our belief systems have again become a source of contention rather than consolation.

The economy of our faith follows a separate track. It is based not on the purchase of a world franchise, but the gift in creation of the world as we find it. We are born into it, and we receive it as a gift of grace alone. It may have been used, bruised and tarnished along the way, but it is repeatedly redeemed by the graciousness of its Maker.

The question for all of us is to know how to respond to the 'given', to the 'gift' and to the 'Giver'.

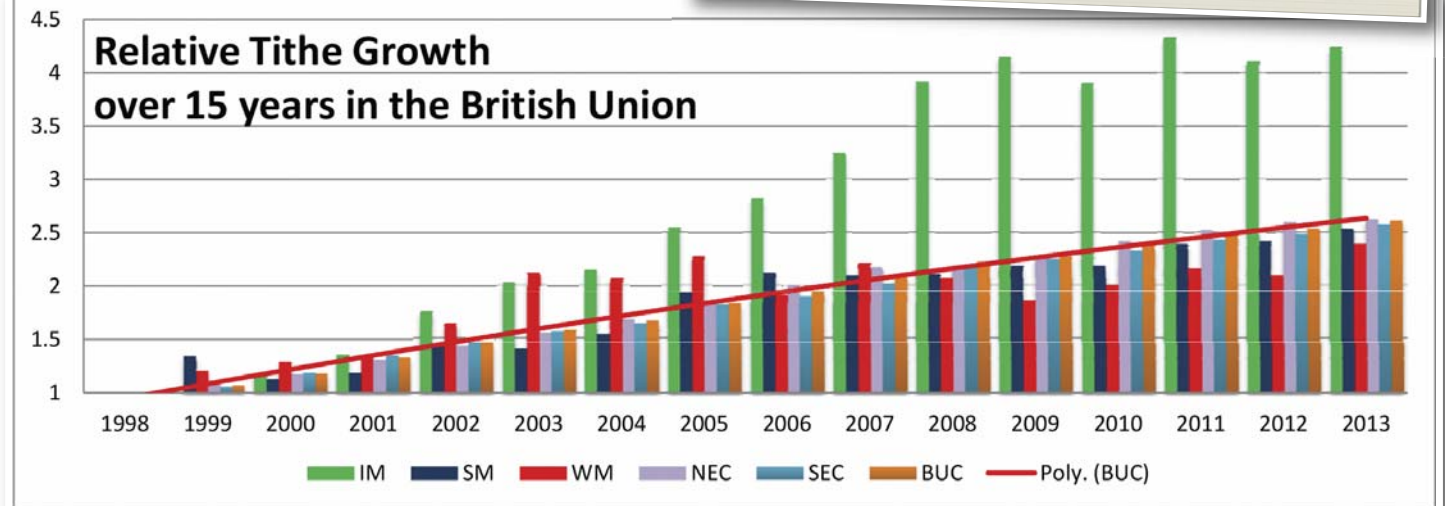
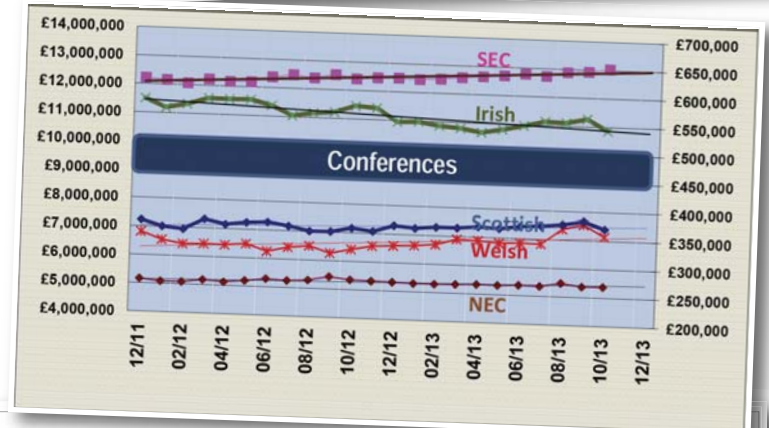
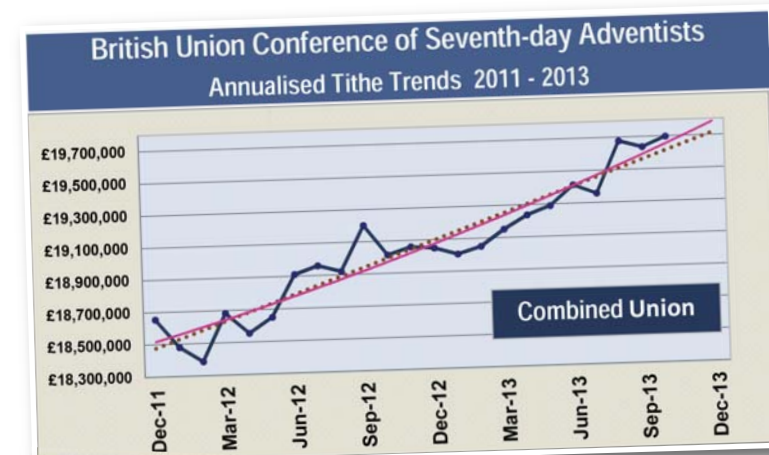
It would appear that the majority in our society accept their being and the world around them as 'given'. It just is! A large plate of food has been placed before them. Gulping it down and asking for more before the competitors get there is the way to play the game. There is no need for them to look up or offer gratitude; they are born entitled.

treasurer's report

At the other extreme are those who feel so obligated by the generosity of God that they can scarcely enjoy the food, because they believe God's abundant gifts demand a behavioural price that is beyond their means. They are forever washing dishes in the scullery of God's restaurant.

In the middle of the gift economy is this simple missive, to the effect that we have received freely, for which our response should not be payment, but free-will giving. We do for others what God has done for us. This is the basis of our 'tithe and offering economy'; it is the means by which the economy of grace is cycled and recycled. We are blessed, and bless, so that others may be blessed in the knowledge of God's grace. The cycle is reflected not just in our giving, but in our service to and for others. It is simply the way God intends it to be.

During the last fifteen years our tithe has grown 2.6 times – the outliers being Ireland (x4.2) and Wales (x2.4). It is true that the pace has slowed during recent difficult periods, but we have grown. God has been with us, whatever our difficulties or disagreements – and we have them. God, in His loving mercy, has not failed us.



children

NEC Children's Ministries Mission Weekends

by NEC Children's Ministries director: Pastor Patricia Douglas

The NEC Children's Ministries department has recently been on a mission to get the adults of the Conference to involve the Church's children in its services. Sadly, most church services are pitched to the level and needs of adults, with children usually having only the children's story to look forward to. Then the activity books and toys come out; the daydreaming commences; they chatter with friends; or the gadgets surface, those mobile phones and iPads with their mesmerising apps that ensure silence throughout the service.

To counter this trend the department ran three special weekend events. The first was the parenting seminar at Leeds Central Church (28-29 September), intended to make parents aware of God's job description for them as stipulated in Deuteronomy 6:1-7. God makes it clear that He wants parents to spend time with their children, teaching them about Him, helping them discover their identity, training them to become Jesus' disciples.

The second weekend seminar was held at Leicester West (Sabbath) and Leicester Central (Sunday), 5-6 October. The third weekend was held at Manchester Central (19-20 October). These children's emphasis weekends were held under the leadership of Pastor Patricia Douglas, NEC Children's Ministries director, who also conducted the worship services. The children were involved at each of the locations, leading in the praise and worship, praying and collecting the offering. Their little faces beamed with joy as church became a place where their little needs were being met.

During the afternoon a plenary session was conducted, during which there was a 'Big Read'. The children sat with parents and other adults within the congregations forming small groups, to which age-appropriate Bible story books were given. Each group shared a story. The children were the first to comment on how much they enjoyed it, but the adults also found it to be a time of bonding



too. The books used are available from the ABC, which has many wonderful titles to aid in the mission of giving children a clear identity as we take them on their 'discipleship training'.

The plenary session was followed by a number of workshops:

- One on drama, presented by Marlene Simpson, who engaged children and adults alike, helping them to appreciate drama and its effectiveness in conveying a powerful spiritual message.
- One by Pastor Carlton Douglas, who, together with the local Children's Ministry teams, conducted the Arts and Crafts Workshop, which was most popular among the children. Using the theme for each Sabbath they created amazing pieces of art.

- Another by Pastor Patricia Douglas on preaching, which enabled the participants to more readily appreciate the purpose and craft of this activity. Participants lost all inhibitions as they preached for a minute on a Bible story of their choice. This task was repeated after they received guidelines on how to approach the text, and the improvement was remarkable.
- And the fourth one by Alex Douglas, the NEC Music and Worship sponsor, who assisted parents and children alike to see the importance of aiming for excellence as they seek to praise God through their musical instruments and song.

On the Sunday of each weekend there was the opportunity for everyone to experience 'Creative Church', a warm atmosphere where the entire family may enjoy learning about Jesus. Patricia Thompson, an experienced primary school teacher, led out in this area. She used the *God Loves Me in 28 Different Ways* book – a child's version of the 28 fundamental beliefs of our Church. The craft activities consisted of making a promise box, which they filled with promises from the Bible, and a prayer book to record prayer requests. It was such a wonderful time, made even more special when two girls from the community came to join in the fun! 'Creative Church' shares the same ethos as 'Messy Church' in seeking to cater for the needs of families with young children.

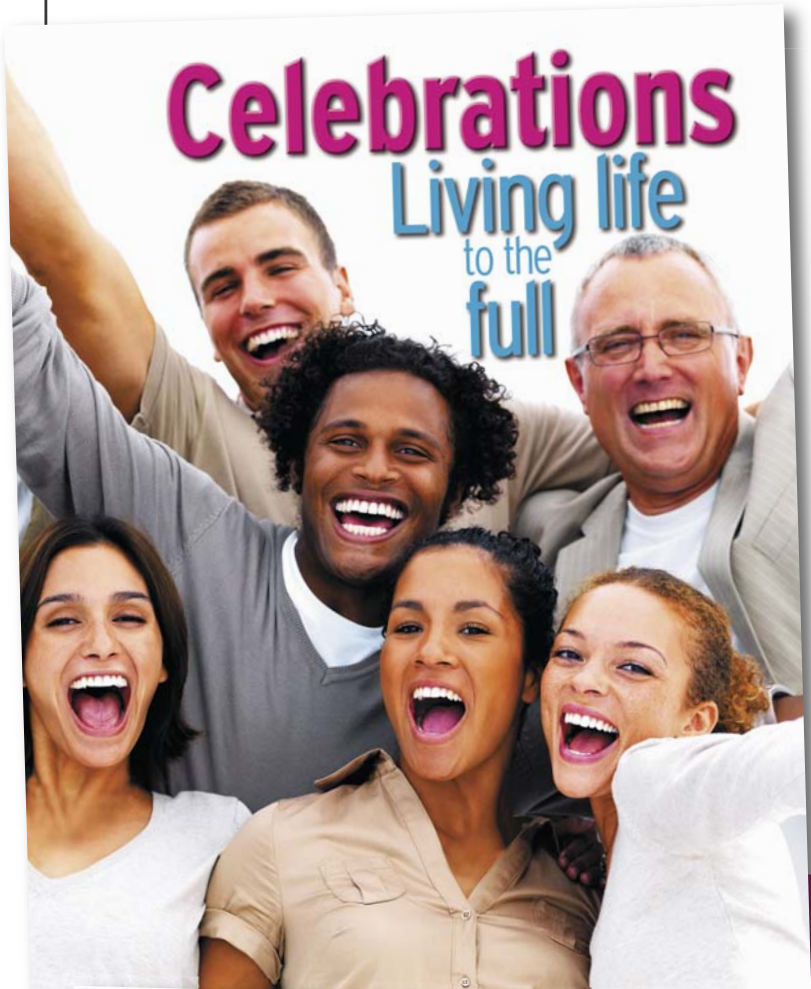
In the afternoon Alex Douglas presented part two of the music workshop, stressing the importance of knowing the words of songs and choruses, and of pitching songs just right for both children and adults.

He also demonstrated the art of encouraging boys to sing. By the end of these sessions it sounded quite heavenly as all voices were united in praise to God.

These weekends were a blessing to all who attended, and the adults were amazed at how interested and engaged the children were. One mother asked if it would be possible to *require* all churches to involve the children in their services. The mission of the NEC Children's Ministries department is to assist parents, pastors and churches to see the value of intentionally taking all children on 'discipleship training', so that they may love and live for Jesus.



A new witnessing tool



Celebrations: Living life to the full is the latest witnessing tool on offer from the Stanborough Press. This 64-page, full-colour A4 magazine has been produced in collaboration with the General Conference Health Ministries department for use in personal witnessing, health expos, cooking schools, evangelistic seminars, and so on.

The magazine features the essential elements of the Adventist health message in a positive and engaging manner. These are the topics covered, each one written by a medical expert:

- Choices • Exercise • Liquids • Environment
- Belief • Rest • Air • Temperance • Integrity
- Optimism • Nutrition • Social support.

This attractive magazine is available at only £1 per copy (*plus postage and packaging*) – an unbeatable offer!

To order yours now, contact your Personal Ministries secretary, or phone our sales team on 01476 591700, Monday to Thursday, 8am-5.30pm.

Initial reaction . . .

The initial reaction to **Celebrations: Living life to the full** has been overwhelmingly positive and orders are streaming in. For example, Pastor David Neal (Irish Mission president) has booked 10,000 copies for the Mission's 2014 evangelistic projects; Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Health Ministries director) has ordered 1,000 for use in her UK-wide training programmes; and the GC Health Ministries director, Dr Peter Landless, has asked for 500 to be shipped to him.



Bank holiday expo

On the 26 August bank holiday the Erdington members held an enormously successful expo-cum-street party for the Wood End Lane community and visitors from further afield.

The event's invited dignitaries included Councillor Penny Holbrook, Stockland Green Ward Councillor, and Councillor Mike Finnegan of Birmingham City Council. A lot of emphasis was put on the health expo, which checked on the health and well-being of both members and visitors. Representatives from Wolverhampton Central, Dudley, Windsor Street, Oxhill, and Erdington took part in this health awareness day. Frederica Reid, Chrise Jamanda and Naomi Watson were in attendance to give visitors a complete health check, while Grace Walsh, the NEC Community Services director, was there to ensure that everything went according to plan. The Erdington & Wellcom Forum also played a vital role in this health exercise.

In total twenty stalls were set up, ranging from the food and drinks pavilion to textiles and book stalls. Jay Sewell had the chance to use his skills as a colporteur by using the Church's publications, which he displayed in his stall. The Great Ormond Street charity sold raffle tickets, and did face and balloon painting to raise money for the Birmingham Children's Hospital. There was also plenty of food for the visitors to sample in an atmosphere that was friendly and welcoming.

The Fool's Glory Band, led by the manager Richard Wall, provided music throughout the day. There was a talent competition for young artists, which was won by Jojo of Erdington. Other local artists such as Barren McLaughlin and Kien Ryin also entertained the crowds, while Brother Massey and Alvin Dawati of Camp Hill provided music with a Christian flavour. The MC for the occasion was Derrick D, a radio presenter from Radio Sandwell.

The fire brigade and St John Ambulance were in attendance, as were the police. In fact, PCs Yarnall and Sweetman took the children for rides in their police van, giving them a taste of being a bobby on the streets of Birmingham.

At the end of the party a professional cleaner, Bancroft Tabnor, with his team volunteered to help clean the street without charging the church.

Not only did the event meet a need in the community of Erdington, bringing them together by using the church as a centre for the community, but it also helped raise money for the local Adventist youth activities and the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG WITH PHOTOS BY MOSES JAMANDA



Special guests at the expo. Left to right: Derrick, radio presenter (Sandwell Radio), Councillor Mike Finnegan (Birmingham City Council) and Councillor Penny Holbrook.



A face painting artist at work at the expo.



Neighbourhood community police officers, including PC Yarnall and PC Sweetman, who covered the expo.

Wood Green health fair

How do you measure success? It's great when members support their church events, but they're a success when people from the community show up. The health fair at Wood Green Church on Sunday, 15 September started before it began. Two weeks prior to the event the banner was up; flyers were dropped through doors in the local community and posted on the BUC website. The night before the event, the church hall was transformed into a replica GP surgery (with a waiting area); a massage salon; a seated cookery demonstration/presentation venue; and a Boots health consultant area in preparation for the fair.

The weather for the day did not look promising – the forecast was heavy rain – however, God showed up and gave us not just a dry day but sunshine as well. The day started with a buzz in the air as team members erected a welcome tent at the side of the church and a gazebo for a nurse station/CPR demo area in the church yard. While we were erecting the tent an Asian passer-by enquired what was going on. Once it was explained to him, he commented that we were 'doing something good for the community' and said he would go and get his wife and come back.

Once everything was set up and ready our pastor (Pastor Roberts) prayed for the team and the fair was opened officially. By then

guests were already waiting for their 'Free Health MOT'. Among the team there were two doctors, a physician associate, several nurses, a masseuse, a Boots health consultant, two cookery demonstrators, a Food Electro Statics engineer and several other volunteers.

There was excitement among those who came for their free urine test, blood sugar test, blood pressure test, doctor's consultation, massage, advice from the Boots representative and free health 'goodie' bag. Each area remained busy, especially the cookery demo/presentation area, which was always full as people listened eagerly to the Food Electro Statics engineer explaining the importance of a balanced diet and correct food combinations. Others enjoyed the juicing demonstrations and the tasty samples that accompanied them.

There were many positive comments from the attendees. Pat, from the community, wanted to know who funded the event. When she heard it was the church she couldn't believe the team of doctors, nurses and assistants had given up their time as volunteers. She also said that when she is free she will come to visit the church. A Caucasian gentleman commented: 'You don't find this type of community togetherness anymore.'

A church member remarked, 'In all the

years I've been in Wood Green I've never seen so many people from the community come through the church doors in a single event – people are truly interested in their health.' Another simply said, 'WOW, this is great stuff!' while others said, 'We need to do this more often.'

The day was so exciting that many lingered on to chat. From among the many that attended the health fair the doctors and physician associate reported that they had sixty consultations between them. Surely that defines real success!

WOOD GREEN HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Women of virtue

Over the weekend of 18-20 October 300 women from across the BUC held the 'Women of Virtue' retreat at the Orchard Hotel, Nottingham.

The theme of the weekend was based on the 'virtuous woman' of Proverbs 31 and forms part of the 'Women of Virtue' initiative by BUC Women's Ministries director, Sharon Platt-McDonald, and Sandra Golding.

Guest speaker for the retreat was Dr Deborah Harris, USA, popular speaker and founder of a non-profit organisation, 'Praying for Our Children'.

Her timely messages, 'Count It All Joy', 'Before the Hem' and 'What Women Want', spoke to the emotional, social and spiritual needs of those present. Dr Harris reminded them that the virtuous woman has something that the world cannot give to her – joy that comes from God! This joy allows her to be forgiving, patient and prudent.

Many participants were brought to tears by her relevant stories and life experiences – not to mention her openness and transparency, and the way that she bared her soul. This level of personal application and vulnerability deeply touched the women present.

Dr Harris was excited, in turn, that the BUC Women's Ministries department intends to start a UK chapter of Praying for Our Children.

Outreach and witnessing are central to being a woman of virtue, and to emphasise this a prayer blanket saying 'This child is covered in prayer' was presented to the PA technician at the event. The gentleman, a non-Christian, had a three-week-old baby boy and both he and his wife were delighted to know that the women would be praying for them.

Beautiful shades of purple could be seen during the Sabbath as the women graced the room with their array of clothing and accessories in purple, which is the Women's Ministries colour.

During the Saturday evening banquet, much fun was had by all, with some of the women stating they had not laughed so much in a long time.

Sunday morning was devoted to various workshops, including 'Breast Cancer Awareness' by Grace Walsh; 'Praying for Our Children' by Dr Deborah Harris; 'Single, Sassy and Saved' by Sandra Golding, and 'Time of Your Life' by Geraldene Farmer.

In the closing plenary Dr Harris encouraged the participants to remember that they 'are not in the race alone, and that God is always beside us through the pains, trials and tribulations. If God never does another thing for us, He has already done enough!'

On their evaluation forms many women stated that the weekend had been 'life-changing' and that they would be implementing the things learnt. One woman summed it up: 'Thank you, Lord, for a beautiful and spiritually uplifting experience!'

A selection of photos from the event can be seen on the BUC website at: adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/women-of-virtue.

SANDRA GOLDING



ASNA carers' weekend

'It was the best weekend I have had in a long time,' said the parent of a young man with autism. 'This was the best carers' weekend ever; the atmosphere, the scenery, the workshops and the banquet were all great and so relaxing,' commented Kathleen Springer, another carer and ASNA volunteer. 'This weekend was very relaxing. I learnt a lot from all the speakers,' observed Mrs Ramsey, a supporter of ASNA.

The annual ASNA carers' weekend was developed to support the one out of ten carers in the UK who support those with disability and long-term illness. October 18-20 saw the eighth such event take place in the wonderful setting of Hellindon Lakes Hotel, Northants, overlooking a golf course and acres of beautiful rolling fields.

Informative workshops, good food, spiritual nurture and peer support were the ingredients used to create this successful weekend. Dr Guti of the Camphill church, an

endocrinologist, spoke on Sabbath morning about the effects of exhaustion and looked at the life of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane as our example of how to handle stress and extreme fatigue. In the afternoon, Karen Holford spoke about 'taking care of your emotions when you are taking care of others', a presentation of great relevance to all carers.

Dr Chidi Ngwaba's final presentation, 'Stressed or Blessed', on Sunday morning summarised the importance of a healthy lifestyle in withstanding the pressures of caring. Nigel Nicholls, chair of ASNA trustees,

expressed his gratitude to Dr Chidi for his 'excellent presentation and words of advice and encouragement', and that he personally would be 'making significant changes' in his lifestyle. The weekend was also a witnessing venture to the non-member delegates who attended. One of them, a Mrs Cooper, spoke of the 'friendship and support' she had experienced.

For further information about ASNA, and to view a photo album of the weekend, log on to www.asna.info or visit our Facebook page.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS, SEC DISABILITY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR



Clapton's 'pantastic' harmony!

Clapton Community Church's women came out with a 'pang!' on 14 September, when they graduated from a ten-week programme of learning to play music using steel pans. The group, aged between 28 and 80, consisted of ten women and one man, and they skilfully demonstrated their new-found talents by playing the songs they had learnt both melodiously and harmoniously.

Following the group's debut at Clapton's yearly community street fair in August this year, the church recognised their achievement through a programme led by Pastor David Burnett and Women's Ministry leader, Rosemary Phillips, supported by Mr Harry Hughes and his young apprentices Shakira (13) and Shabazz (15).

The Women's Ministry leader was inspired to do something special for the women in the church community which would enhance the theme of 'togetherness' and bond them together. She felt it important to empower and motivate the women and build their confidence by learning something new. After gaining £1,000 from local funding, Rosemary was able to set up the classes. According to her, 'The steel pan was not unfamiliar to me, as I grew up in a house where steel was being played every day and every night. . . . I knew it to be a community builder and I hoped that its fun appeal would inspire women to come out in the evenings and be challenged.'

When asked what motivated her to complete the course, Angela Burnett stated, 'It wasn't just the act of learning something new and



unusual. . . . It was the fellowship and warmth between us, the dedication and support.' Terene A. Donaldson was excited that 'the cycle of home-to-work, work-to-home was broken. I was refreshed and revitalised while having fun with my church sisters. This experience has made me restart learning the violin.'

Karen Gordon summed up the group's feelings that 'glorifying God through the steel pans [was an] excellent, highly recommended and simply "pantastic" way forward for developing future community spirit for both men and women!'

ROSEMARY PHILLIPS, WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADER, CLAPTON

Inspiring speech night

On Thursday, 17 October, Stanborough Secondary School celebrated its students' achievements for 2012-2013. Nathaniel Peat was the guest of honour and delivered a dynamic and inspirational keynote speech.

'It's not about affluence,' said Nathaniel, 'it is about influence.' Faithful to his motto, at the age of 25 Nathaniel founded The Safety Box – a non-profit organisation that seeks to help young, vulnerable people and foster academic achievement. He is also co-founder of Gennex, a company that provides renewable energy products to middle- and low-income communities.

Nathaniel shared his own struggles with the students, confiding in them how discipline and faith in God helped him overturn his initial setbacks and obtain a degree in Mechanical Engineering. This work ethic eventually led him to become the first double award winner of the Enterprising Young Brits Awards, and to be listed on the Courvoisier Observers Future 500 Next Generation List. Nathaniel encouraged the students to aim high in their life journey, and not to allow challenges to stop them.

In her annual report, the head teacher, Mrs Dixon, pointed out Stanborough's strong academic results at KS3 and GCSE level, with 100% of the students achieving A*-C grades in Art, Physics, French, Spanish, and Music; 85% in Maths; and 83% in Biology and Chemistry. Mrs Dixon also commended students for their spiritual development through involvement in activities such as the school's Community Service Day and the annual humanitarian trip to India.

The school choir, conducted by Miss Ji Eun Ahn, beautifully performed 'You Raise Me Up' (by Secret Garden), while the music ensemble delighted the audience with 'Memory' (by Andrew Lloyd Webber & Trevor Nunn). The voice of the students was represented by the head boy, Caleb Thompson, who closed the evening with a heartfelt vote of thanks to the staff.

VANESA PIZZUTO



WANTED: Pioneer Taskforce Volunteers

The North England Conference seeks volunteers for the following:

To set up Bible studies through efforts such as door-to-door visitation, health and nutrition seminars, literature evangelism, distribution of Bible request cards, various methods of friendship evangelism and small-group activities. Applicants must have a well-rounded knowledge of Seventh-day Adventist teachings, and prepare contacts for baptism. Their personal lives will reflect the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle. These are voluntary positions for which full accommodation and a living allowance

will be provided. Starting date: 1 December 2013/January 2014. The minimum term of service is one year. Apply online at <https://www.adventistvolunteers.org> or to Pastor Michael Simpson at the Church Planting department, North England Conference, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB. You may also use msimpson@necadventist.org.uk, or tel: 0044 1159606312, or fax: 0044 1159691476.

Does your church need a reboot?

'REBOOT: restart or revive, give fresh impetus to.'

OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY

The answer to that question, as far as our church at St Albans was concerned, was a resounding yes! Almost without noticing, we had become so busy 'doing' church on a Sabbath morning that we had lost our sense of what we ought to be doing.

While some of us were involved with some good things like helping out at a local drop-in centre and distributing literature, the vast bulk of our time, effort and resources was devoted to the important task of making sure our church ran smoothly between 10am and 12.30pm on Sabbaths. There is no denying the importance of the worshipping, teaching, fellowshiping and communing that goes on during that time. However, were we having the impact we should on the local community? No! Were we discipling the citizens of St Albans? No! Did our church have a mission focus? No again!

Drastic steps were taken to address this situation. We recognised that our resources were meagre and that we needed the whole church to be involved. We took radical action because we wanted to send a message to ourselves, those who attend frequently and infrequently, that being part of a church is about more than just sitting in a pew.

So we have attempted a reboot. We are experimenting with doing church differently eight times per year. The Sabbath School time on these days includes a study on the book of Acts to give us a spiritual and mission-focused impetus. The service that normally follows this will then be spent out in our local community, worshipping, teaching, fellowshiping and communing.

On the first of these special Sabbaths, 19 October, we held a health expo. Nearly 100 people were involved in some way, handing out invitations, running an excellent children's programme, preparing food, performing health checks and tests and more. As a way to revitalise and re-energise our church it had an immediate team-building impact,

The ministry of 'health screening'

Our 'health-screening' team was once again active on the prime spot in Market Gates Shopping Arcade, Great Yarmouth town centre, on Sunday 6 October. The centre management appreciates the service our health team offers to the community and grants us their best site free of charge, with permission to display any literature we choose. We now run the health-screening programme at least twice a year.

During the 6 October event 143 people were checked for blood pressure, blood sugar and body mass index (BMI). We also gave carbon monoxide readings to twenty-eight smokers – and made several GP referrals. On our literature table we had a good selection, mainly of health-related materials, but there were also some other booklets, such as *Steps to Christ* and some containing information about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We also used this opportunity to advertise our free vegetarian cooking demos, which are held in the church on a bi-monthly basis. During the event we surveyed the participants and their response was overwhelmingly favourable. One lady was particularly surprised that the church should spend the time in doing this health work for the community – she was absolutely amazed! We received the following statement from the management after the event: 'We just wanted to say thank you for the photos and the lovely letter advising of the details of how many people you managed to check and the lovely comments received. Please do not hesitate to contact us to check for availability of any future screening dates.'

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER



and that more than fifty people came in from the local community can only be put down to God's influence on the process.

It is probably too early to write much more about this initiative. . . . we've only had one such Sabbath. Yet the feedback, the excitement, and the enhanced feelings of togetherness have impressed us to pass on to you at least an inkling of what we have experienced.

ADRIAN PECK

Adventist Services and Laymen's Industries UK (ASI) Convention

31 January – 2 February 2014

Venue: Staverton Park De Vere, Daventry

Guest speaker: Dr Daniel Duda, Education director & Ministerial Association associate director, Trans-European Division

Also: Gifford Rhame, lecturer in Pastoral Studies (Newbold College) and Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma

Music: Paul Lee and company

To book, or for further information, please contact Christine Manners-Smith at: rovingcms@gmail.com or on 07790 452920. ASI-UK website address: www.asi-uk.info

Weekend cost:

1 night = dinner/b&b/lunch/conference
2 nights = dinner Friday to lunch Sunday/conference
All bookings include all-day refreshments & spa

Members: 1 night £65 per person/2 nights £130 per person
Non-members: 1 night £70 per person/2 nights £140 per person
(but if you join ASI-UK at weekend same as members)

Children (5-12 yrs): Half adult fee (4 and under free)
No supplement for single booking

Sabbath only:

(Including conference, refreshments, lunch, dinner, spa)

Members: £35 (with dinner), £25 (no dinner)
Non-members: £40 (with dinner), £30 (no dinner)
Students: £35 (with dinner), £25 (no dinner)
Children (5-12 yrs): Half adult price (4 and under free)

Saturday evening dinner only: £19.95

Pre-booking only for these prices



Fundraising results

The Flower Festival held at Stanborough Park Church in September raised just over £11,000 to be split equally between Keech Cottage Hospice for Children and the local church development fund.

While the handover of the Hospice cheque will take place during the church's annual Toy Service in December, the festival organiser, Audrey Balderstone, handed over one for £5,500 to Louis Guenin, chairman of the Church Development Committee, during Divine Service on 2 November.

JUNE COOMBS

Coping with stress

Pastor Richard Willis, former BUC Health director and author of a number of books and articles, conducted a stress clinic at Exeter Church on 14 September. Church pastor, Ian Lorek, had planned the day as a follow-up to the health checks conducted in the city the week before. One man, who had come to the checks, attended the morning services, during which Pastor Willis gave an encouraging message on the subject, 'Trust in God'. After a fellowship lunch, members and visitors stayed for the afternoon programme when Pastor Willis talked about the different types of stress, the physiological effects of distress and the practical strategies to cope with stress. Our new friend from the health checks, who is a Christian and a veteran from the Falklands War, asked questions relating to his comrades still suffering post-traumatic stress. He wants to help them in a practical way, but also find an opportunity to share the Gospel with them.



STELLA JEFFERY

Volunteer award

A member of Ystrad Mynach Church in South Wales, Miriam Wood, was recently awarded for her volunteer activities on behalf of MESiG: (Myalgia Encephalitis Support in Glamorgan). She serves as political liaison officer for the group, which meets in Cardiff but serves a wide area of Wales.



Her volunteer award was from InterLink 'in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the voluntary sector in Rhondda Cynon Taf'.

'I was shocked when I heard about this award! Other members of the committee work much harder than I do,' said Miriam. 'I suppose it happened because I support a person with extreme needs who lives in that particular area of Wales.'

Not only has Miriam been involved herself, but she has also involved two members of Ystrad Church. 'I treasure the help that these people provide. They help so much in very severe circumstances,' says Miriam.

ME, also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), causes

HARMONY IN PRAISE PRESENTS
YOUTH GOSPEL MUSIC Expo 2014
SAT **JANUARY 18**
RIVERSIDE CENTRE, RIVERSIDE COURT
PRIDE PARK, DERBY
DE24 8HY
TICKETS £10 PER HEAD,
£30 FOR A FAMILY OF 4

CALLING ALL GROUPS & MUSICIANS

WE ARE LOOKING FOR GROUPS TO TAKE PART IN THIS GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA. GROUPS MAY CONSIST OF TWO OR MORE INDIVIDUALS AND MAY INCLUDE SUPPORTING INSTRUMENTS.

THERE IS A CHANCE TO WIN A RECORDING DEAL AND PROMOTION OF FIRST SINGLE.

THERE ARE LIMITED SLOTS FOR PARTICIPANTS AND THE CONTESTANTS WILL BE CHOSEN ON FIRST COME BASIS.

ENTRANTS NEED TO BE REGISTERED BY 18 DECEMBER 2013

CALL: 078870 245 531 07557 915 725
EMAIL: register@harmonyinpraise.co.uk

Education, Care and Health Services

Family Placement Team, St Blaise Building, Civic Centre,
Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3UH

Long-term foster carers required

We are looking for a long-term foster family for Jack (8) and Matthew (6). The boys are of Jamaican heritage, and we need a family who can reflect and promote their culture. They have grown up together and have a good close relationship.

Both boys are pleasant-natured but have fallen behind at school due to poor attendance and are now catching up with their peers. They may need therapeutic support when they are settled in their new family, to help them understand their past and make the most of their future.

We are looking for an insightful two-parent family where one parent is available during the day. Carers must be willing to attend training and work to develop their parenting capacity, knowledge and skills. The boys need an active family that will promote their individual interests.

Can you provide:

- Two bedrooms for fostering;
- Support for direct, supervised contact with their birth family eight times per year in a neutral location?

If so:

An enhanced fostering package will be available to support the right family. In addition, there will be support from a dedicated and experienced supervising social worker, twenty-four-hour telephone support and access to a wide range of training.

If this is you, and you would like more information, please contact Sheila Delliston (Senior Practitioner, Fostering and Adoption, Education and Care Services), on 020 8461 7701, or at sheila.delliston@bromley.gov.uk.

'persistent fatigue (exhaustion) that affects everyday life and doesn't go away with sleep or rest'.*

MESiG is keen to raise awareness of the condition in Wales and further afield. If you would like more information about ME or how to support the work of MESiG, contact miriam_melody2000@yahoo.com.

*www.nhs.uk/conditions/chronic-fatigue-syndrome/Pages/Introduction.aspx.

MIRIAM WOOD



HOPE Channel -
passion for life



www.hopetv.org.uk

All I want for Christmas . . .

Hope Channel Europe is changing. The Hotbird satellite contract ends on 31 December 2013 and a new and better internet/TV-based solution will replace it right across the UK and Ireland.

From 1 January you can watch Hope Channel by plugging an inexpensive Roku box into your television; using a smart app on a Samsung smart TV; or via the website www.hopetv.org.uk on your computer, tablet or mobile phone. There is also a very effective mobile phone app for your iPhone or Android device available from iTunes or the Android Play Store.

Hope Channel is responding to changing technologies and viewing habits, and to the demand of viewers who want a 24/7 service in their own language rather than the current multilingual service. This change will also make the programmes more easily accessible to the public. Hotbird has proved effective for those with the satellite dish and equipment, but they are a minority audience in the UK and Ireland.

The new service will give you your favourite programmes in English; an ability to watch programmes in a variety of other languages and from around the world; plus the opportunity to watch some programmes at a time convenient to you.

How do I get the new service?

In keeping with current media trends, you will need an internet connection. Then you have the following choices:

- **Roku:** Purchase a small set-top box from any major electrical retailer (in the high street or online). Attach it to your TV via HDMI, component or composite cable. Connect it to your home broadband, turn it on and follow the settings. Ideally your broadband package should be 'unlimited download' with a speed at or above 2mbps.
- **Samsung smart TV:** Press the smart TV button on your remote control. Select Samsung Apps. Go to Lifestyle and look for Hope TV. Select it and download. It will then appear on your home screen and you can use it instantly.
- **Tablet or smartphone:** Search for Hope TV in your Android Play Store or on iTunes. Click Install.
- **Your computer:** Visit www.hopetv.org.uk. This will give you a range of programmes directly available for broadcast on demand and a choice of channels for live streaming, plus helpful information about Hope Channel.

More information about all these options can be found on the Hope TV website.

FAQ:

- **Why are you stopping satellite transmissions?** Broadcasters constantly have to evaluate the effectiveness of their transmissions. While Hotbird was the best solution ten years ago, changing technology now means that there are other more efficient, cost-effective ways of sharing the message of hope. Moving to internet TV will also increase the potential market for Hope Channel.
- **What do I do with my satellite dish?** You will still be able to watch 3ABN on Hotbird for the foreseeable future. However, Hope Channel Europe will cease transmission at the end of December.
- **Why Roku?** We researched a variety of platforms and this internet TV provider is popular, has an increasing market share, and already hosts a number of Adventist channels including Hope Channel North America, Hope Channel Church, The Adventist Channel and 3ABN. Our new channel, available before Christmas, will enhance these offerings and give you not just English, but German, Portuguese, Spanish and Indian languages and a growing variety of other options. It is also very affordable.

- **Why choose Samsung?** If you choose the smart TV route, the Hope Channel is only available through Samsung TVs. Working together with a variety of other European Hope Channel partners, we have created a free app for their smart TVs at low cost. We may look at additional providers in the future.



Ruephino Rolstand Coke (1936-2013) d. 26 June.

Ruephino Coke, fondly known as Rue, grew up in Jamaica in a loving Adventist home. He was baptised at the Harry Watch Adventist church, built by his father and uncle in the early 1930s, and was dearly loved and respected by all his family.

At the age of 20, he dreamt he saw a line of saints ascending to Heaven. As he stood in the queue he attempted to enter in. An angel instructed him to turn back, as it was not yet his time. Turning away he was filled with a great sense of disappointment. The beauty of Heaven stayed with him, and, on waking, his whole determination and desire was to meet his Saviour and make Heaven his home. This activated a fervent commitment in him to live for Jesus.

He arrived in England in October 1961, where he married Pearlletta Wint, and together they had seven children, including two sets of twins, and thirteen grandchildren. He was a loving father and family man. He encouraged all his children to achieve their full potential. Three of them attended the John Loughborough School.

He served as head deacon in the Battersea church for many years, enjoyed Ingathering, and received recognition for his contribution to various church programmes.

When Battersea Church first formed in the early 1980s he opened his home for services. Later, when they moved to a rented hall, he would carry the portable organ to the service each Sabbath – on his shoulders!

He delighted in gardening, as this was his trade in Jamaica. He worked on three allotments in the UK and shared his crops with neighbours and friends. He possessed 'green fingers' and loved working hard in God's beautiful outdoors. He travelled extensively and enjoyed attending family reunions every three years.

Having lived five decades in the UK, he returned to Jamaica in July 2010, where he spent three wonderful years working in his garden. He joined the



Caledonia church in Manchester, Mandeville, where everyone grew to love and respect him. While in Jamaica he encouraged Martin, his nephew, to accept Jesus.

He returned to the UK for a short visit, and, sadly, passed away suddenly on 26 June 2013. Although it was a devastating shock to the family, they know that he had a close walk with his Father, and that his life was lived in constantly readiness. The Lord graciously gave him time to talk to Him before he fell asleep peacefully, surrounded by Alica and Paul, the youngest of the twins, and Charlene, Theodore, Shomari and Omar.

His memorial service was held at Brixton Church on 16 July, and he was lovingly laid to rest in Jamaica on 28 July with all his children and grandchildren present.

He will be lovingly remembered for his active Christian service, cheerful optimistic approach to life, positive attitude, principled work ethic, commitment to serving others, encouraging words and people skills, and, more importantly, for being a wonderful father and grandfather. Tributes from far and wide testified that 'he was a good man', who led an exemplary, dignified Christian life. His family are confident that they will meet him when Jesus returns.

DOREEN COKE

Ivy Gwendoline Davis (1922-2013) d. 3 September.

Ivy Davis (the sister of Ebenezer Joshua, the first chief [prime] minister of St Vincent) was born on 24 October 1922 in Kingstown, St Vincent. Ivy heard the Advent message for the first time at an evangelistic series, which she decided to attend after receiving a leaflet promoting the event. She was baptised shortly afterwards.

In 1957, Ivy came to England with her family and settled in Harlesden, London, where – in spite of the economic and social hardships of the time – she was able to make a living as a dressmaker. She attended church at the New Gallery, Regent Street, in London's West End and



later became one of the founder members of the Willesden church.

In 1963 Ivy moved to Reading, where she joined the Reading Central church and quickly became involved in its activities. She served as Sabbath School teacher, Sabbath School leader and head deaconess. She also became a founder member and elder of the Whitley church (now Reading West Church). But her deepest desire was to serve God by reaching out to people in the local community, which she fulfilled through her Personal Ministries department work.

Ivy loved to study the Bible, but did not keep her ever-increasing knowledge to herself. She shared everything that she learned with others who wanted to know more about God's Word. She opened her home for Bible study and prayer meetings, and enjoyed the company of fellow believers as well as friends and relatives who were searching for answers to their questions about God.

Ivy Davis passed away peacefully on 3 September, 2013, and is survived by six children. She will always be remembered as a woman whose personal relationship with the Lord was expressed in the way she lived her life: focused on Jesus, continually reaching out in her quiet, gentle manner in service, within the church and to those in her community.

CLIVE MALCOLM

Phyllis Mead (née Hurdle) (1924-2013) d. 5 October.

Phyllis was born in Calcutta on 3 September 1924. Her parents were living in India at the time, where her father, Frank, was serving in the British Army. Her mother, Gladys, had been born in India of Russian and Spanish parents. They became Adventists following a local evangelistic series. Phyllis attended the Vincent Hill Seventh-day Adventist boarding school at Mussori in the Himalayan foothills, along with her two sisters, Gwynneth (who now lives in Australia) and Cynthia (who lives in Canada), and Ainsley, her younger brother, who became a pastor in Tasmania, and later a teacher in California.

After leaving school Phyllis began training as a nurse in Calcutta – but married a young army colour sergeant, Arthur



Mead, before finishing the course. She sailed to England at the end of the Second World War, and with her first daughter, Jeannette, went to live in Herne Hill, London. When her second daughter, Pam, arrived, the family moved to Brixton. Two more daughters followed – Diana, and Corrinne.

Phyllis's first job in 1956 was with the Freeman Catalogue Company, until she joined the General Post Office, where she eventually became a private secretary to one of British Telecom's executives. As her family grew, Phyllis began to take an increasing leadership role in the youth activities at the New Gallery Centre. She is still fondly remembered by many for the hiking, camping and social activities that she organised – something she continued to do when she later joined the Wimbledon church. Phyllis also enjoyed singing, and, as a member of the New Gallery Choir and the early London Adventist Chorale, often sang solo when visiting other churches.

After retiring, Phyllis moved to Yeovil in 1996, where she loved her little bungalow and especially her garden. Here she began attending the Croscombe church, until she discovered a small number of church members in the Yeovil area and helped them to become a fully fledged church. According to her local minister, Wayne Erasmus, she was fondly regarded as 'the matriarch of the Yeovil group'. She also loved having her extended family around her whenever she could – which included nineteen grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her son-in-law, David Wright, led out in her service, held at Yeovil Crematorium on 21 October, which was attended by family, neighbours and church members from all over the UK. Her eldest daughter, Jeannette Stuart, spoke about 'Mum's prayer list'; her eldest grandchild, Ian Wright, shared memories from the grandchildren; and David Wright gave the eulogy. Before closing the service with the committal, Pastor Erasmus shared some personal reflections about what Phyllis had meant to him and the local members – a lady with a strong, abiding and confident faith, who loved God and gave generously of her time to others.

Donations made to St Margaret's Hospice in Yeovil in memory of Phyllis have to date raised over £500.

DAVID WRIGHT



Golden wedding anniversary

Barbara and Barry Gresswell of Newark recently returned from Australia, where they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with their family.

Barbara was born in Calcutta and came to live in England in 1955. Barry was born in Newark and has lived there all his life. They met at a Christmas party in 1956 and married in 1963, after Barbara had completed her State Registered Nurse training. She was baptised before leaving Calcutta and worshipped with the Newark group whenever her duties allowed. During their courtship Barry attended the Newark meetings and received Bible studies from Pastor F. Edwards, but was only baptised in 1998 by Pastor Ron Edwards. At the baptism Pastor Edwards commented that he was very pleased to complete the work his father had started thirty years previously, and encouraged Barry with a proverb: 'The strongest trees take the longest to grow.' Barbara is a deaconess and Sabbath School superintendent at Newark, while Barry serves as leader and treasurer.

PETER JEYNES



CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The Certificate in Health and Wellness programme is intended to prepare those with an interest in dietetics, nutrition, wellness and fitness for service in their local church and community as they seek to share the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle - including the benefits of a vegetarian diet and of regular exercise and physical fitness.

HEALTH PRINCIPLES
FIT FOR LIFE
NUTRITION



The Certificate in Health and Wellness is an all-inclusive package designed to be completed over two five-week summer intensive residentials on the Newbold campus. The first intake will commence 14 July 2014. Financial assistance may be available - please contact your Union/local conference health ministries director for details.

For more information on the Certificate in Health and Wellness, visit www.newbold.ac.uk/health-and-wellness, email info@newbold.ac.uk, or telephone 01344 407492.

Job vacancies

Stanborough Press Ltd

Stanborough Press is the publishing house of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK with an important international projection.

We believe that through the publishing and distribution of Christian literature we can help in the Lord's work by supporting His Church and providing resources for outreach.

1. UK Sales Director

We are looking for a high-calibre candidate to join our Senior Management Team as our UK Sales Director to plan and carry out strategies for the sales and marketing of Seventh-day Adventist publications within the United Kingdom in support of the Church's national and global outreach vision.

Reporting to the Managing Director, you will manage a high-performing team of sales executives ensuring that the organisation delivers a first-class service.

2. Marketing Director

Our international publishing house seeks a bright Marketing Manager for an exciting position within our busy team, to play a key part in driving company growth!

Bringing insight, strategy, creativity and enthusiasm, you'll manage and deliver key marketing campaigns to successfully help us achieve our vision.

If you're a good leader, and able to motivate; you know a thing or two about hitting sales targets; and you have good planning and organisational skills, and the ability to present, to persuade, and to see trends emerging or developing – then send us a CV, or contact us for more details.

Full job description to be sent only on request.

Closing date for applications: 31 January.

Interested persons please send CVs to: Mr Paul Hammond phammond@stanboroughpress.org.uk



The evangelistic window!

Great Yarmouth has a new window. But it is no ordinary window – it's an evangelistic one!

In recent years we have replaced all the church's windows except the large one at the front of the building. That window had a large painted wooden cross in front of it, reaching up from the ground. Both the cross and the window were looking old and tired, and it was decided to replace them too – especially as they faced the approach to the church.

Not only is the new window double-glazed, but it also looks as if it is made from stained glass. But, most important of all, it serves an evangelistic purpose because it conveys the Adventist message of hope. Central to it is the cross, reminding everyone of our Saviour's loving sacrifice for our redemption. Beneath the cross is an open scroll, representing the Word of God. Upon it is written that wonderful promise that Jesus gave to this world: 'I will come again' (John 14:3, KJV).

When it is back-lit at night, it is really attractive to all who pass by. Several local folk have already commented on how beautiful it looks, and it certainly gives us a talking point when we chat to passers-by. After all, everyone in this world needs hope. Without Christ the future of this world is hopeless!

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER



Sutton hosts Jaime Jorge

Sutton-in-Ashfield Church recently hosted Jaime Jorge, Adventist violin virtuoso of international fame, who has played on five continents and in more than thirty-five countries. Pastor Paul Haworth was responsible for the arrangements. The church was packed for the performance and close on a third of the audience came from the local community.

His performance was inspiring, as was his testimony of how he came into the music



ministry. He had a poor upbringing in Cuba, where his mother would often work till late at night making plastic flowers to sell on the streets to raise money for him to have violin lessons – and, as we heard, it has indeed paid off.

A retiring collection of £155 enabled Jaime to put money towards buying Bibles for Cuba, which is part of his ministry.

MORAY STEWART, COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY



Supported by
Backstage

Gospel Music Concert

hosted by and featuring...

TOTTENHAM GOSPEL CHOIR

with support from special guests including:
JANICE SWABY & TESTIFY

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER | 7PM | JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH
SCHOOL HALL | HOLCOMBE RD | LONDON | N17 9AD

Tickets: £3 (plus booking fee)
Free for under 16s.

A portion of the proceeds will be given to support the Philippines hurricane appeal

FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK TICKETS GO TO: tgconcert.eventbrite.co.uk

BOOKSALES

December
15 John Loughborough
15 Manchester South
22 Stanborough Press Open House

10am-2pm
10am-2pm
9am-5pm

Adventist Book Center.com

ABC Shops
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm. 01923 893461
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm, Friday - 9am-1pm, Sunday - 11am-3pm. 0121 3286380
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset. 0207 7236849

Order on our Sales Hotline
01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Messenger

Volume 118 • 25/26 - 13 December 2013

Editor: Julian Hibbert
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 2 - 2 January 2014

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *Messenger*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk
Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900
Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.
www.stanboroughpress.com

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Dec 13	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
20	3.53	4.05	3.49	3.39	3.59
27	3.58	4.10	3.54	3.44	4.04
Jan 3	4.05	4.17	4.01	3.52	4.11

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.*
*Postage will only be charged for single copy subscriptions and overseas airmail.