

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

Messenger

News to the churches • 21 March 2014 • Volume 119 • 6

Life on the edge . . .

by Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK



People often ask me if I feel sad at seeing people living in extreme poverty overseas. Such feelings are an occupational hazard in my line of work, but I prepare mentally for my trips to ADRA projects abroad. I make sure that I am ready to expect the worst – poor living conditions; food scarcity; limited access to water; irregular or no power supply; with people suffering and barely surviving.

While 'on the ground' in such disadvantaged places I don't stop to reflect on how people make do in these situations; how they manage to live; how they scrape together enough food to eat or collect water from questionable sources. But those powerful feelings of sadness at seeing so many people living on the edge of existence always hit me when I return home.

The poverty and deprivation shock really hits me when I step off the plane at Heathrow airport. I feel it when the neon lights of our privileged existence welcome me back. It grips me when I see the shopping trolleys at ASDA or Tesco – filled to overflowing – and I am reminded about how self-indulgent our lives can easily become!

Yes, I feel that sadness when I go home to

my comfortable clean home, with light at the flip of a switch, running water and anything else that I missed on my trip.

That's when I realise how privileged we really are – and how sharing a little of my wealth, giving a little of my time to collect for ADRA, is not a big ask at all.

The funds collected through the ADRA Appeal over the years have gone to meet the desperate needs of people around the globe, in countries like Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Uganda, Nepal, Haiti and, most recently, the Philippines.

Just as Jesus cared for the poor of His day, so the funds of the ADRA Appeal have helped to provide food, water and clothing for the sick and the poor of ours. They have brought education, tools, skills, and hope for a brighter future to millions of people around the world. Just as Jesus came to set people free from dark prisons in the past, so the humanitarian programmes of the Adventist Church, through the work of ADRA, set people free from dark prisons of poverty and deprivation today.

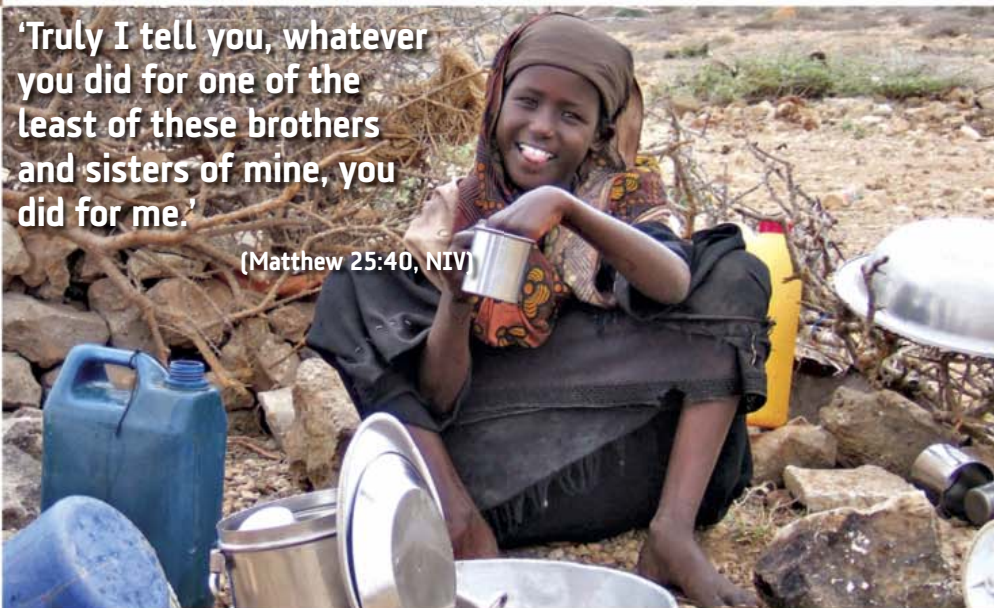
The 29th of March marks the beginning of our 2014 ADRA Appeal. Please show your support this year by collecting door-to-door for this appeal, or by giving a generous donation of your own funds.

Visit our website to download the 'Fundraising Powerkit' for great fundraising ideas and contact us to find out how you might be able to volunteer your time and skills. *Help us to help others.*



'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

(Matthew 25:40, NIV)



 **ADRA UK**
Annual Appeal 2014

Annual Appeal 2014

29 March – 13 April, UK
(extends to 20 April in London)

Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ, England
Tel. +44(0)1923 681723, Fax. +44(0)1923 681744
Registered charity 1074937 (SC037726 – IOM1101)

www.adra.org.uk



ADVENTIST VOCAL ENSEMBLE

JAIME JORGE

ONWARDS & UPWARDS

PASTOR STEVE SILEY
COMMITMENT SPEAKER

PASTOR ROBERT PHILLIPS
PRAYER & PRAISE SPEAKER

PASTOR MARK STEFANOVIC
BIBLE STUDY SPEAKER

PASTOR CHARLES WISLEY KNIGHT
YOUTH SPEAKER


SEC CAMP MEETING
23-29 JUNE 2014

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

Daily Commitment Messages, Family Life Plenary Sessions, Bible Study Sessions and Workshops

For more information please call 01923 232 728
or email campmeeting@secadventist.org.uk

LOVE LEE



NEC Camp Meeting 2014

Transformed Agents

30 June - 6 July
Pontins - Prestatyn

Guest Speakers

DR E. PUN, DR L. EVANS, DR J. BRADSHAW, PS K. DENVER, PS R. KEENE, MR D. MACDONALD, DR L. MURPHY

Rebuilding the "Walls" - Rebuild • Restore • Inspire

ALL BOOKINGS WILL BE HANDLED BY PONTINS. PLEASE CALL 0871 474 0009 TO MAKE YOUR BOOKING OR SEND YOUR APPLICATION FORM DIRECTLY TO PONTINS. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK



Enhancing Health

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

- Schedule a specific time for your exercise.
- Go to bed a little earlier and wake up a little earlier if necessary.
- Aim to do 45 minutes of exercise per session.

Aim to train (exercise) in the morning (if possible)

- Exercising in the morning will help avoid those excuses that easily arise later in the day and cause us to miss out on exercise altogether.
- Set your alarm for your chosen exercise time.
- Place your exercises on a 'to do' list which you can tick off once you have done it.

Don't worry if the above sounds challenging. It may take some effort to commence but it gets easier with commitment. Recently I was *forced* to commit to a 'get fit' regime which I commenced in January – here's why.

Following a head injury in October 2011, I was placed under the care of a consultant neurologist and given a prognosis of up to two years' recovery. However, in my follow-up appointment in January 2014, the goalpost shifted and I was told that full recovery could take several years. In an attempt to help with some of my ongoing *protracted post-concussion syndrome* symptoms, I was informed that I needed to commence a structured gym programme with some specific workouts which were known to be helpful for those with head injuries. I was to commence with two to three sessions a week, then be up to five or six sessions a week by my follow-up appointment in six months' time!

My scheduled one-hour walks and other gym activities for an hour at a time take planning and commitment, but I'm feeling the benefits already.

Next issue we examine some interesting research on exercise benefits.

Good health!

¹<http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/ten-health-resolutions-to-make-in-2014/story-fneuzle5-1226796364341>

Is exercise on your 'to do' list?

In a previous instalment of Enhancing Health (*MESSENGER* 21 February 2014) we highlighted ten health interventions provided by Tania Gomez from bodyandsoul.com.au.

In her list of 'ten health resolutions to make in 2014' exercise featured four times.¹ Here are some of her suggestions:

Sign up for a fitness event

- Challenge yourself to do more.
- Have a fitness goal to work towards to keep you motivated.
- Get involved in a training regime and stick to it.

Have a fitness support network

- Be accountable to someone who will encourage you with your exercise.
- It's easy to find excuses to skip your allotted exercise time if you exercise alone. Having a friend/s or trainer to exercise with helps to keep you committed.

Train (exercise) four or more days a week

- Commence slowly, two to three times weekly to begin with, then increase gradually.

editorial

On Sunday, 2 March, Russia firmed its hold on the Crimean Peninsula. Reports indicated that 16,000 of its troops had crossed over onto sovereign Ukrainian soil, holding that country's loyal troops hostage in their bases.

On Monday, it was reported that 'Russia's Black Sea Fleet had given the Ukrainian forces in Crimea an ultimatum: surrender by 5am on Tuesday or face a military assault.'¹ Some did, but not those at the Belbek garrison, near Sevastopol. Just before reveille that morning, their commander, Colonel Yuli Mamchur, received word that the ultimatum still stood, but with the surrender deadline delayed to 4pm that afternoon. Failure to comply would lead directly to the severing of all 'power and gas lines to the base'.²

Mamchur recognised the Russian tactics for what they were, 'a *mind game*'. 'What they are trying to do is make us snap,' he told a *TIME* reporter.

Then, without the approval of his superiors, he informed the Russians that his men were preparing to advance on the nearby airbase . . . and they did! With Mamchur at their head, around 300 troops, half of the Ukraine's 204th Tactical Aviation Brigade, marched up the road towards the Russian checkpoint – unarmed!³

Russian snipers and machine-gunners were deployed at the roadside to deter their advance, but they marched on, singing the Ukrainian national anthem, 'Ukraine's glory hasn't perished, nor her freedom. . . .' Then, as the column neared the checkpoint, Mamchur was ordered to stop, 'and when he refused, they began firing bursts into the air, one after another, screaming that they would shoot to kill'.⁴

Did this stop the marching men or send them scattering for cover? Some of them ducked instinctively, but they marched bravely on until their colonel stopped them a few paces from the Russians – an assault rifle pointed at his head.

His demand was simple: 'It is our duty to the constitution of Ukraine to guard this base.'

The stalemate

The stalemate dragged on deep into the afternoon. Then the news came through by mobile phone that 'Putin's on TV. . . He's ordered his troops to pull back!'⁵

It wasn't a full withdrawal from Crimea – no such luck – but it was the order for Russian troops on the border to return to their bases. This was a sign for the soldiers at the checkpoint to concede that ten Ukrainian soldiers could take up positions inside the occupied airbase.

Just before dusk Colonel Yuli Mamchur marched his men back to their barracks, where they discovered that the power and the gas were still flowing!

Stand-off at Belbek



Julian Hibbert
Editor

A victory

This event may be insignificant to the future of the Crimea and the unity of tomorrow's Ukraine. None of us can predict with any certainty what fate the days and weeks ahead will bring to this region: but, that notwithstanding, this standoff at Belbek is a victory.

It is a reminder of that truth, expressed so eloquently by Thucydides, that 'Of all manifestations of power, restraint impresses men the most.'⁶

While watching that BBC news clip of Colonel Yuli Mamchur standing unarmed at that Russian checkpoint, there was one thing that immediately impressed me. He practised restraint in his dealings with those who blocked his way, and firmly imposed the same on those who followed him.

From the word go these troops showed restraint. They left their weapons behind in the barracks. They didn't force their way through the blockade. They didn't hurl abuse at the 'invaders' or their vocal local supporters. They epitomised restraint.

A godly quality

The Word is quite clear about the value of restraint, especially in the choice of our words. 'The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered.' (Proverbs 17:27, NIV-UK.)

Had Yuli Mamchur begun to hurl abuse at those Russian troops, or goaded his own men into ill-considered action, the outcome could have been widespread bloodshed – perhaps even a 'second' Crimean War!

The apostle Peter struggled to restrain himself at times. We all remember his violent reaction during the betrayal of Jesus. Had it not been for his Master's swift restorative action he may also have been on trial that night! Notice how his fellow disciple, John, records the turbulent event:

'Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

'Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"' (John 18:10, 11, NIV-UK.)

Jesus was not asking Peter to jump through a hoop of his own. In fact, He won't ask anything of us that He wouldn't do Himself. He expects restraint from us but, as with everything, He leads from the front:

' "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"' (Matthew 26:52, 53, NIV-UK.)

Ray Overholt's 1950s hymn just says it all:

'He could have called ten thousand angels
To destroy the world and set Him free.
He could have called ten thousand angels,
But He died alone, for you and me.'⁷

Divine restraint made our redemption possible. Without it there would have been no incarnation, no crucifixion . . . nothing but lostness!

¹<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/newsdesk/2014/03/russian-invasion-uncorks-ethnic-strife-in-crimea.html> ²<http://world.time.com/2014/03/04/ukraine-crimea-belbek-russia/> ³<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2572777/Russian-troops-fire-warning-shots-unarmed-Ukrainian-soldiers-demanded-jobs-run-airfield-Moscow-sends-naval-landing-ship-Crimea.html> ⁴<http://world.time.com/2014/03/04/ukraine-crimea-belbek-russia/> ⁵There is no suggestion that Putin's decision was a direct result of the action of Colonel Mamchur and his men, although such incidents may have had an influence on it. ⁶According to Simon Hornblower and Charles Stewart of University College London, this is a paraphrase of Nicias' speech in Thucydides' book *The Peloponnesian War*, book 6, chapter 11 – <http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/4150899?uid=3738032&uid=2&uid=4&sid=21103673878503> ⁷<http://hymnsoftheweek.net/?p=714>



Are we the salt?

by Pastor Ian Sweeney

This is an adaptation of the BUC president's recent keynote address at the Union's Ministers' Council at Swanwick (18-20 February).

Every Sunday, around 1 million people attend Church of England services. Another three quarters of a million attend their other monthly services.¹

Some 3 million people participated in C of E services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, and it has the largest following of any denomination in Britain. More than four in ten in England regard themselves as belonging to it while six in ten consider themselves Christian.

One in four primary schools and one in sixteen secondary schools in England are C of E schools – 4,700 of them – and they educate some 1 million children and youths.

At the end of 2009, the Church of England had 19,504 licensed ministers, clergy, readers and Church Army officers – more than double the number of members in the North England Conference! A figure which does not include more than 1,600 prison, hospital and armed forces chaplains. And while we struggle for enrolment at Newbold College of Further Education, consider that the Church of England recommended 491 future clergy for ordination training in 2009, a figure it has consistently maintained since 2000.

And yet, despite all this, a former leader of the 85 million Anglicans worldwide,² Archbishop Carey, stated in November last year that his church in the UK is one generation away from extinction!³

One generation away from extinction!

He went on to say that the Church of England attracts fewer people onto its pews because of boredom among the masses, which poses a major threat to the future of Christianity. To quote him: 'In many parts of Britain churches are struggling, some priests are diffident and lack confidence; a feeling of defeat is around. The burden seems heavy and joy in ministry has been replaced by a feeling of heaviness. . . . So many people do not see the average church as a place where great things happen.'

Carey's warning is one that we would do well to heed, because the growth in some of our congregations should not be taken for granted, particularly in light of an increasingly unbelieving population. It has been reported that more people in the UK believe that life exists on other planets (33.1 million) than believe there is a God (27.5 million).⁴

Allied to this unbelief is an ignorance regarding the Bible, as reflected in this examination response: 'Moses led the people of Israel to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients at all. Moses went up on Mount Sinai to get the Ten Commandments; he died before he ever reached Canada.'

Our population seems largely dismissive of Christianity, irrespective of its branding. People just don't seem to care about the Church or Christianity any more!

On the other hand, there are signs of growth, as the Evangelical Alliance reported: 'The number of people going to church on a Sunday in London has leaped by 16 per cent [and these figures] show that the growth is driven by London's ethnic diversity. The census, commissioned by London City Mission, found that two new London

churches opened every week in the seven-year period, and two thirds of those were Pentecostal black-majority churches (BMC) and a third catered for a particular language or ethnic group (such as Polish Lutheran or Ghanaian Seventh-day Adventists).⁵

The picture is not all rosy, however, as this huge growth may not necessarily continue, because much of it is a consequence of migration patterns, which may change.

Were the United Kingdom and Ireland to suffer a serious economic downturn, our churches could soon empty as people move to lands of greater opportunity! Now is not the time for complacency or smugness.

Time will prove Carey right or wrong about the Church of England, but God has certainly not called us to administer the last rites to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom! Not in any place or among any ethnic group.

You see, while we would do well to heed Carey's warning we would do even better to understand and apply the words of our Saviour, who said, 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5:13-16, NIV 1984.)

We must never forget who we are

For us to prosper in the British Isles, we must never forget who we are. We are salt and light when we are the culmination in character and conduct of all that Christ has said we are to be in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12).

Salt is a common substance – and yet, while salt, and light, might be taken for granted, we should never downplay their importance. As the ancient historian Pliny wrote, 'Nothing is more useful than salt or sunshine.'⁶

In ancient times salt was a necessity, one of the most highly prized minerals. In many societies it was so highly valued that it was used for money. The English word 'salary' is derived from the Latin *salarium*, which refers to the payments made to a Roman soldier with salt.

Historically, salt has had many uses, such as to enhance the flavour of food, but in the days before modern refrigeration one of its greatest uses was as a preservative. Salt was used to stop or retard the process of decay in food. The drying and salting of food is one of the world's oldest known preservation methods.

Salt must make contact

Salt in a cupboard neither flavours nor preserves. Which begs the question, 'When our congregations meet each week do they exert a flavour-enhancing or preserving influence on the surrounding community? Whenever the church becomes a 'cupboard' or a 'salt cellar', it has missed the lesson that salt must make contact to have an effect. Ellen White, in commenting on Matthew 5:13, put it this way:

'Salt must be mingled with the substance to which it is added; it must penetrate and infuse in order to preserve. So it is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel. They are not saved in masses, but as individuals. Personal influence is a power. We must come close to those whom we desire to benefit.'⁷

Salt that doesn't leave the shaker is only a table decoration. By refusing to touch, interact and mingle with people, we deny our purpose, our calling and our function as salt. To deny the salt function is to deny the principles of the Kingdom of God. Jesus emphatically said, 'You are the salt!' And if we avoid contact with those whom Christ wishes to flavour and preserve, who is going to contact them?

Now I am aware that this creates a tension for some Adventists, because of statements like this by Ellen White:

'It was not God's purpose that people should be crowded into cities, huddled together in terraces and tenements. In the beginning He placed our first parents amidst the beautiful sights and sounds He desires us to rejoice in today. The more nearly we come into harmony with God's original plan, the more favourable will be our position to secure health of body, and mind, and soul.'⁸

For those Adventists who are fleeing from the cities to escape the perils and wickedness of such places, being salt is impossible.

However, Ellen White spoke of fleeing the cities while still being salt.

'It is God's design that our people should locate outside the cities, and from these outposts warn the cities, and raise in them memorials for God. There must be a force of influence in the cities, that the message of warning shall be heard.'⁹

So she makes allowances for some of us to live in the country but still to be salt to the cities! But, that notwithstanding, she encourages others to live in the city to be salt:

'Close around us are cities and towns in which no efforts are made to save souls. Why should not families who know the present truth settle in these cities and villages, to set up there the standard of Christ, working in humility, not in their own way, but in God's way, to bring the light before those who have no knowledge of it?'¹⁰

It was not Ellen White's purpose that we form rural Adventist communities or ghettos: 'It is not the purpose of God that His people should colonise, or settle together in large communities. The disciples of Christ are His representatives upon the earth, and God designs that they shall be scattered all over the country, in the towns, cities, and villages, as lights amid the darkness of the world.'¹¹

Whether we live in or out of the cities, we are called by Christ to be salt, and to touch the lives of those for whom He has died! When the church becomes nothing more than a club looking after its own interests and refuses to make contact with the world, it becomes like the salt that is useless, having lost its savour.

If we recognise that we are salt, then we must understand our role as influencers of the world! As salt we are not hiding from the world, ignoring the world, being alienated from the world, or having an 'us versus them' mentality. As salt we are to influence, season and preserve!

As salt we are to arrest the decay of our world. As salt we are to have a profound, positive effect on the world! When we are salt, which is tasted in our communities, we will promote a thirst for Christ in those we touch. The thirst our saltiness will cause is a thirst for Jesus. Being salt is not about how many lives I or my congregation can touch – it's all about how many lives can be touched by Jesus!

To be salt, we do not have to be spectacular, or sensational, or even successful by the world's standards.

To be salt, we just have to have a positive effect in our little corner of the world.

Christ said . . . 'You are the SALT of the world!'

¹Figures in this article, except where otherwise stated, are taken from the Church of England website, www.churchofengland.org/about-us/facts-stats.aspx ²www.anglicancommunion.org ³*The Telegraph*, 18 November 2013, 'Christianity at risk of dying out in a generation, warns Lord Carey' ⁴*The Commentator*, 12 October 2012, 'More people in the UK believe in aliens than believe in God' ⁵Lucy Cooper, Evangelical Alliance UK, 25 July 2013, <https://www.eauk.org/church/one-people-commission/stories/black-and-ethnic-Christians-lead-london-church-growth.cfm> ⁶*Natural History*, 31.102, as quoted in 'Salt and Sunshine: Ethos and Catholic School Identity', Paul Faller, Catholic Institute of Education *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 36 ⁷*Ministry of Healing*, p. 365 ⁸*Review and Herald*, 14 April, 1903 (quoted in *Evangelism*, p. 76) ⁹'Missionary Work', *Review and Herald*, 29 September, 1891 ¹⁰'Work for the Church', *Review and Herald*, 15 May, 1888, par. 12



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

Andrew Puckering

'Can you please clarify whether or not tuna and mackerel have scales? I don't think they do, and even went to the market to buy them fresh. This issue is causing big debates at church.' Joana Owusu

A Thank you Joana – you've caused us to rethink this one carefully too! *Kashrut.com*, an online list of kosher fish compiled by devout Jews eager to avoid eating anything without both fins and scales, lists as kosher 'mackerels and tunas (family *Scorbridae*), including: mackerels (*Scorber* species, *Scorberomorus* species, *Auxis* species); Spanish mackerels, cero, and sierra (*Scorberomorus* species); king mackerel or kingfish (*Scorberomorus cavalla*); bonitos (*Sarda* species); wahoo (*Acanthocybius solanderi*); tunas (*Thunnus* species, *Euthynnus* species); skipjack tunas (*Euthynnus* or *Katsuwonus* species); albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*)'. However, they stipulate that snake mackerels (*Gempylus* species) are *not* kosher!

The source we quoted in our earlier tuna article,² the Northeast Fisheries Science Centre, is the research arm of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Understanding fish is one of their primary objectives,³ and they have multiple laboratories and research divisions,⁴ as well as the financial backing of the US Government, so I'm reasonably confident in their assertion that 'all species' of tuna 'have scales' – the reason many might miss them, they suggest, is that 'scales are so small over most of the body as to be nearly invisible. Prominent scaling appears only around the head, on the cheeks, and in a triangular area on each side of the body near the head.'⁵ The only possible exception might be dogtooth 'tuna'.⁶

As for mackerel, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute says, 'The scales of the mackerel are so small that its skin feels velvety to the touch; indeed they are hardly to be seen on the belly with the naked eye, but those about the pectoral fins and on the shoulders are somewhat larger.'⁷ The Florida Museum of Natural History states of the cero mackerel: 'The body is covered with small scales'⁸ – and of the king mackerel: 'The entire body is covered with rudimentary scales, except for its pectoral fin.'⁹ An article from the Sea Grant programme of the University of Delaware states of Atlantic mackerel: 'The mackerel's scales are small and smooth, giving a velvety feel to the skin.'¹⁰

These sources suggest that both tuna and at least some species of mackerel have scales. It's worth noting that, while many of the above quotations are taken from research institutes based on the north-east coast of North America, British sources including the BBC also state that mackerel should be descaled before cooking¹¹ – suggesting that there are scales to remove. While we cannot guarantee that this is true for every species of mackerel, the best guidance we can offer to believers is that they should follow their conscience and not eat anything of which they're in doubt.

¹www.kashrut.com/articles/fish/ ²MESSENGER 22 November 2013, p. 5 ³www.nefsc.noaa.gov/mission.html ⁴www.nefsc.noaa.gov/contactus.html ⁵www.nefsc.noaa.gov/faq/fishfaq1d.html ⁶This might not actually be a tuna at all – see our previous article. ⁷www.gma.org/fogm/Scorber_scorbrus.htm ⁸www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/gallery/Descript/CeroMackerel/CeroMackerel.html ⁹www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/gallery/Descript/kingmackerel/kingmackerel.html ¹⁰www.deseagrants.org/outreach-extension/seafood/mackerel ¹¹<http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/glossary/mackerel> – see also www.greatbritishchefs.com/how-to-cook/how-to-cook-whole-mackerel

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.

BUC Ministerial Council: Salt and light

by Pastor Victor Hulbert,
BUC Communication director



With more than 1 million people attending church each Sunday, and more than 3 million participating in Christmas services, the Church of England is the largest denomination in Britain today. There are 28 Anglicans for every Seventh-day Adventist in this country. Yet even with these figures, a former leader of the Church of England, Lord Carey, who was head of the Church with its 85 million Anglicans worldwide, stated his belief in November 2013 that his church in the UK is one generation away from extinction!

If that is true for Anglicans, what does that mean to Seventh-day Adventists? Those sombre words formed the challenging key-note introduction to the three-day BUC Ministerial Council, at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, 18-20 February, 2014. (See pages 4 and 5 for a more detailed version

of Pastor Sweeney's address.)

BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, emphasised that he was not there to perform 'the last rites' on the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, but that rather, with all his ministerial colleagues, and with all our fellow church members, we are there to be 'salt and light' – the Christ-given theme for the council.

The salt and light were shared in three different, energising ways. These included two excellent overseas speakers, but what really caught the imagination of the entire workforce was a series of reports from various churches and groups that find themselves

to be 'salt and light' in their communities. Feeding programmes, planting a community-based ministry in a small village, running a centre that reduced local crime by 42%, or even joining in with the community to find themselves studying the Book of Romans with a group of nuns. All these reports then led to more sharing, ideas, and thoughts on how each local church, allowing for its own

strengths and focus, can be a centre of excellence in its own community.

Those who presented the various projects found themselves surrounded by questioning pastors during breaks and through mealtimes. This was not just sitting through theory and lectures. These were practical ideas that could be taken home.

The eight 'salt and light' presentations certainly stimulated thought for Scottish Mission president, Pastor Bernie Holford. He stated, 'A few weeks ago, after I had preached on the importance of sowing seed, a couple of homeless men were invited to join the regular fellowship meal. I was struck by the question of one of the men. It was not "What do you believe?" but, "What do you do?" My renewed focus in ministry will be visioning and facilitating the building of Jesus Community in Scotland, helping our ministers and members discover prayer, friendship-building and caring for the needy as some of the essential elements of living the Adventist Christian life.'

Pastor Jeremy Tremeer added that he was really encouraged by seeing 'local churches sharing their projects rather than someone from the GC telling us what the local church is supposed to be'.

Naturally there were lectures. While the speakers came from opposite ends of the planet their themes nevertheless gelled into the salt and light theme. In a bold but unusual move, the British Union Conference, organisers of the event, brought in a Communication and PR expert as one of the key speakers. Pastor Garrett Caldwell, Communication associate director at Adventist world Church headquarters, shared how 'We want to build bridges of relationship.' If we do this, he stated, 'We can then convey love and a picture of God.'

This then led into three presentations that demonstrated how our PR presence, the language we speak, our perceived reputation in our communities, our behaviour and our performance will all either build up or destroy God's reputation. Heads could be seen nodding as practical advice on PR, websites, corporate visual identity and much more challenged ministers to think about how their communities view their church. Practical ideas were given and shared on



how to 'improve the view'.

Coming from Australia, Pastor Brendan Pratt may have been jet-lagged, but bounced in with enthusiasm as he shared practical answers on how to be a Christian in a consumerist society. While the mantra of the world is that 'Time = money = things = happiness', Brendan clearly showed not only that this mantra fails, but that the antidote to it is community. The hyper-culture of desire generated by TV ads does not exist in reality, but building relationships with people, getting involved, relearning to be cross-generational, turns us from being empty consumerists seeking a new thrill, into being the caring, fulfilled individuals that God intended us to be.

Pastor Steve Palmer enjoyed the whole three days: 'The presentations from both men were refreshing and enlightening and very spiritual. Brendan's presentation on consumerism was an eye-opener. The Church needs to hear this message.'

We could report on the exercise programmes, the late-night fellowship, the excellent

worship teams, or the positive, good-natured leadership of Pastor Llew Edwards, who spearheaded the event, but the most important thing to report is the very many ministers who are all saying, 'This is one of the best councils I have ever attended.' 'This council is making me feel good about my Church.' 'I can see new hope for the future of Adventism in the British Isles.'

That is all that BUC president Pastor Ian Sweeney hoped for. On the final morning he smilingly stated, 'It was my hope that our pastors could be energised, encouraged and enthused about their ministry as they lead their congregations to be community influencers and changers as salt and light. I believe this has been accomplished.'

A selection of photos from the BUC Ministerial Council can be seen on the Adventist Church picture gallery at: adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/salt-and-light-buc-ministerial-council.

Board of Governors votes to regenerate Newbold College

Dr Philip Brown



On 10 February 2014 the Newbold College of Higher Education Board of Governors voted to regenerate the college over the next 18 months.

According to Dr Bertil Wiklander, TED president and board chair: 'The regeneration model calls for an estimated increase of 100 full-time equivalent students over the next two academic years (2014/2015 and 2015/2016). There will be no significant reduction in the total number of staff, operational costs and appropriations, but intentional staffing realignment for growth and effective marketing and recruitment efforts are needed to achieve ambitious targets.'

According to Dr Philip Brown, Newbold principal and board secretary, 'A key initiative includes establishing a Centre for Christian Leadership with opportunities for BUC church members to participate in campus-based and field-based training in evangelism, mission, biblical studies, leadership, health and wellness and preaching.'

He added that 'The college will be working closely with the BUC and SEC leadership teams to plan continuing professional development opportunities for pastors, elders and other ministry leaders as well as training programmes for lay members and young people who want to strengthen their skills to serve and support their Church in local mission and evangelism.'

The one-year Licence in Theology for those who have already completed a degree in another discipline will still be offered, as will the options for three- or four-year undergraduate Theology degrees and the postgraduate Theology programme.

The college is also looking to expand its partnerships with Union seminaries in Poland, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia, and to offer field-based Theology degrees in the Baltic region of Europe.

A new model will be developed for the undergraduate Business programme at the college, allowing for an emphasis in Accounting as well as opportunity for students to complete the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) professional accounting qualification.

A new model will also be developed for an expanded English for Speakers of Other Languages provision, which will afford opportunities for new immigrants within the local community to strengthen their English speaking and listening skills via evening classes.

A new development this summer will be the introduction of a Certificate in Health and Wellness on the Newbold campus during mid-July and early August. Modules include: *Health Principles, Fit for Life, Nutrition, Personal Fitness Plan, and Consumer Health*.

'We are fortunate to have secured some of the best Adventist health and wellness educators internationally to deliver this programme, including Dr Winston Craig, Dr Jochen Hawlitschek, Dr Fred Hardinge, Dominique Wakefield and Dr Per de Lange,' Dr Brown stressed. 'These educators will be supported by well-known BUC medical professionals, including Dr Chidi Ngwaba and Dr Christopher Levy.'

'The college is committed to continuing to refine its academic programmes and short courses to deliver a more responsive and effective education for all stakeholders, with specific focus on the ministerial education and training needs of the TED's various fields, which include the BUC,' Dr Brown concluded.



A group of Newbold's summer school in English visit Warwick Castle.



The 2013 Newbold Bible conference.

Readers' gallery

Megapixels of creation

... and it was very good!

1. **Rose.**
Jovita Bhengra, Sony HDR-CX190E.
2. **Camels.**
Victor Hulbert, Nikon D300.
3. **Woodland walk.**
Jennie Hall, Sony Cyber-shot DSC-TX5.
4. **Adult mute swan.**
David Bell, Fujifilm S200EXR.
5. **Autumn leaves.**
Yvonne Bauwens, Nikon D90.
6. **Stoat.**
Stephen Chippendale, Panasonic DMC-FZ150.
7. **Water droplets.**
Jimmy Paghasian, Canon EOS 5D mk2.

Please visit: www.adventistpictures.org.uk/megapixels for more pictures.

A brand new year!

For many, the start of this new year has been horrendous, with storm surges and flooding affecting large parts of the country. I can only imagine what these people are going through. This is a strong example of our ever-changing world, created for us by God, yet left to us to care for. It's good for us to appreciate the beauty of our world, but, at the same time, be aware of less savoury aspects.

The steady flow of pictures into my inbox seems to have diminished. I know the weather hasn't been ideal for photography, but I am sure many of you still manage to get out with your cameras, or perhaps you have stock pictures. I would love you to send some in for Megapixels.

If you have enjoyed all these great pictures, how about sending in yours to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk – just remember to keep them 'hi-res'.

DAVID BELL

'Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.'

Genesis 1:31 (NKJV)



1



3



4



5



2



6



7

in His footsteps . . .

'Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John.'

(Matthew 3:13, NIV-UK)

Lewisham: a church of 'signs'

Lewisham Church enjoyed a wonderful service on 15 February, during which Pastor James Phillip baptised Glen Augustin, Breny Jimbo, Shanice Kudita and Monique Bell.

Glen, who was born on the island of St Lucia, lost his hearing after an accident at the age of 5. Fortunately, he has attended schools for the deaf in St Lucia and the USA, where he learned American Sign Language and got involved in ministering to the deaf for Christ in New York. He was able to use this experience to minister to deaf people in St Lucia and other Caribbean islands.

He was later invited back to the USA, where he learned many new things: Bible truths, techniques for teaching the Bible and how to break down the English language into concepts that would be more readily understood by the deaf community. He preached and taught while he was there and people were baptised as a result of his preaching.

He returned home and continued to use what he had learned around the Caribbean with great success, but was then invited by a deaf man to go to the UK. Glen again agreed, and arrived in 1999, eager to join an Adventist church. There was a



Glen signing the words of 'When Peace Like a River' during his baptism service.

setback though: he was not able to find a Seventh-day Adventist church that offered British Sign Language interpretation for the deaf. He looked online but the only church he could find in his vicinity was a Baptist church; Metropolitan Tabernacle in London's Elephant and Castle, which provided interpretation for the deaf at their services: so he attended there on Sundays.

He became aware that what they taught didn't quite match up with his knowledge of the Bible and his Seventh-day Adventist background. However, the need to be in a church setting to hear God's Word prompted him to continue, but several Baptist members questioned his being there as he still identified as a Seventh-day Adventist. He also felt that God was not happy with what he was doing, and prayed that God would help him to find an Adventist church that he could attend where there would be interpretation, and God answered his prayer.

He attended a party where he met a young lady who is an Adventist and attends the Lewisham church. She invited him to come to church and he agreed, but he was apprehensive as they didn't have any way for him to understand what was being preached. God certainly didn't disappoint! When he arrived at Lewisham he made contact with persons who had already learned British Sign Language (BSL), or who were interested in learning it, and he offered to help them learn some signs. In addition he started to make provision for deaf people who wanted to visit Lewisham; Bible studies; interpretation at services; teaching the members some basic signs and making them more aware of how to cater to the deaf in the church. It was difficult at first, but his enthusiasm and zeal soon spread, and his influence led to the establishment of a Deaf Ministry department at the church as well as the teaching of several classes introducing BSL.

What drives him forwards is his love for God and a desire to see the deaf reached for Christ: something that wasn't attempted before at Lewisham. God has allowed him to see that the message can best go forwards when both deaf and hearing must work together to achieve this. This means that some of the hearing learn BSL, and he has encouraged several members to do so. In the near future he sees more work to be done: making more resources available for the deaf; simplified English Bible resources; books that explain Adventist beliefs more pictorially; and having activities to meet the social needs of the local deaf. He sees his baptism as the next step towards this and prays that God will continue to use him to reach the deaf in the UK. J. VICTOR



The four new members after their baptism.

Heaven 'touches' Rhyl

On Sabbath, 1 February, Heaven touched the Rhyl church. This is the only way to describe the feeling of the congregation as Lee Holland was baptised.

Formerly a member of the British army, Lee now says he has 'joined Christ's army' and has confirmed his desire to devote his life to the Lord.

Lee has been attending Rhyl Church for the last year. He is employed locally as a taxi driver and feels he is often able to share the love of Jesus with those who use his cab.

While his baptism was a big 'first' in Lee's life it was also a 'first' for Pastor Malcolm Turner, who conducted the baptism and had studied with Lee over the past months. Pastor Turner was recently appointed as a minister to serve the Welsh Mission.

As a result of Pastor Turner's appeal, two men have requested Bible studies and hope to follow their friend Lee into baptism.

Rhyl Church was filled to capacity,

including the owner of the taxi company that employs Lee. He and his wife were among those who came to support Lee on his

special occasion. Please pray for the work of evangelism in North Wales.

PASTOR MALCOLM TURNER



Baptisms at Luton Central

There was joy at Luton Central on 11 January 2014 when Pastor Chakochoen baptised three young people: Selithemba Precious Ndlovu, Mkhaphi Leonell Ndlovu and Bianca Chikanya. Selithemba and Mkhaphi are siblings, and their mother told the congregation how happy and grateful she was that her children have made their decision to follow Jesus.

Bianca Chikanya, the third candidate, was grateful her brother was there to support her and say a few words of gratitude.

PEGGY RUSIKE



New Life's first baptisms

The New Life Community church plant was established three-and-a-half years ago and last year they experienced their first baptisms. The first candidate, Pamela Phipps, was the neighbour of the church plant leader, Winsome Brown-Baadjes. She had attended the second anniversary service of the plant and became convicted of the need to join the Adventist church. The other candidate was Tracey-Anne Roach, who had visited their services and felt so loved and warmly welcomed that she couldn't stop coming. Both women have since become very active church members.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Aberdeen youth baptised

On 25 January the Aberdeen congregation watched as four of their youths were baptised by Pastor Victor Harewood, assisted by Pastor Njabulo King Ndlovu, the resident intern. Pastor Harewood had played a role in the spiritual formation of the youth during 2013 while caring for Aberdeen Church. The four are pictured above: Tahira, Inga, Catriona and Thana.

JANICE SAVIZON

Walsall's special 'homecoming'

On Sabbath, 7 December 2013, the Walsall church held its annual homecoming day, made more special because of the seven who were baptised that day – Harold and Lucian Smith, Ethlyn Taylor-Plummer, Earnestine Moyo, Albert Muvuti, Nothonda Sibanda and Phindile Tshuma. The sermon was preached by Pastor Adam Ramdin, while Pastor Richard Brooks conducted the baptism.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

BOOKSALES	March	23 Welling	10am-2pm	
		30 Retirees' visit to Stanborough Press		
	April	6 John Loughborough	10am-2pm	
	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			

Booksale amendment

The previous issue of MESSENGER (7 March, p. 5) advertised that there would be a booksale at Wimbledon Church on 30 March. However, at the request of the local pastor this booksale will now take place on 18 May instead, and not on 30 March as previously reported.



Adventist Book Center.com

April specials!



Family Favorites Series

Follow this exciting series of stories based on Israel's idolatrous years leading to captivity in Babylon.

0001110 (PB)

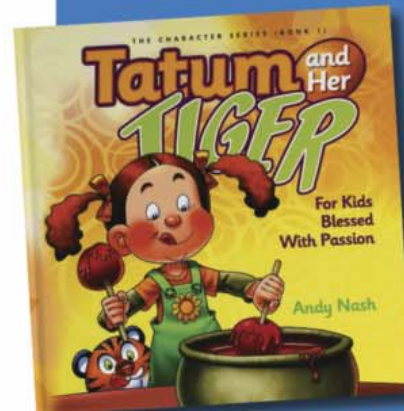
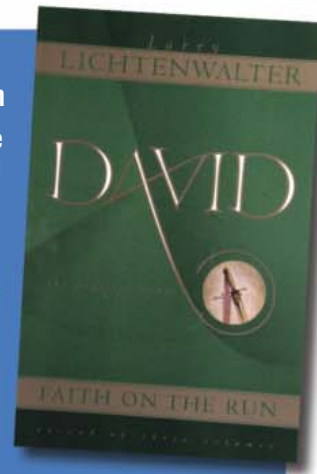
5-book set
Special price – £12.95

David: Faith on the Run

Learn more about David's fugitive years when his passion for God was stressed to breaking point.

978-0-8280-1770-1

Special price – £3.95

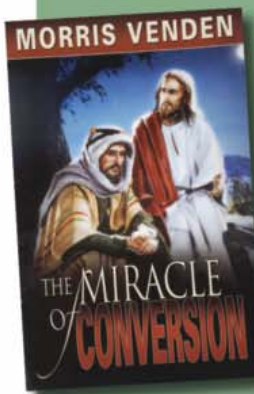


Tatum and Her Tiger

Share Tatum's excitement and passion for others despite disappointments.

978-0-8127-0451-8 (HB)

Special price – £1.95



The Miracle of Conversion

Morris Venden draws on the writings of others as well as his own to explain what conversion is all about.

978-0-8163-2342-5 (PB)

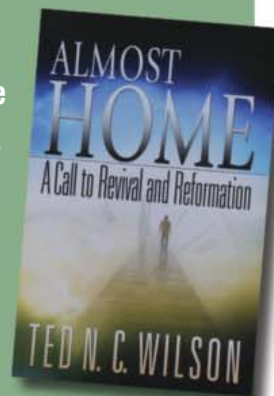
Special price – £2.95

Almost Home

General Conference president, Elder Wilson, identifies the spiritual essentials we all must have in these end times!

978-0-8163-3597-8 (PB)

Special price – £3.95

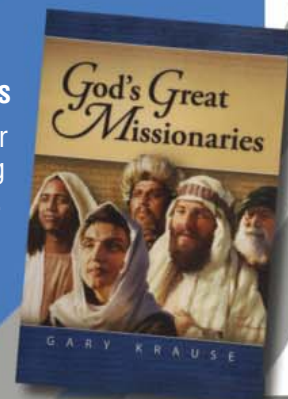


God's Great Missionaries

How Adventists can maximise their outreach effectively by reaching people where they are.

978-0-8163-2269-5 (PB)

Special price – £1.75



news



Worcester's first investiture

On 16 November last year Worcester Pathfinder Club held its first investiture programme since its formal organisation two years ago. Pastor Alan Hush (NEC Pathfinder director), four Area 5 co-ordinators (Loreta Mavis Griffin, Joseph Empawi, Mark Sinclair and Shirley Barnell) and an Area 6 co-ordinator (Colette Harvey) were present in support of the club, as were Micah Campbell (their new pastor) and Edwin Vargas (the Pathfinder club director). They, along with all the club staff, were pleased with the success of the event.

The following candidates were invested: Elroi Vargas and John Baltazar (Ranger); Jehann Importante (Companion); Moses Baltazar, David Baltazar, Abram Vargas and Ira Guevarra (Friend); Lara de Moura, Leighra Badar, Camille Guevarra and Melissa Manaia (Helping Hand); Shekinah Cabajon (Builder); Joelle Badar (Busy Bee) and Tobias Jurkovsky (Little Lamb). Four of those invested came from non-member homes, for which the club is very grateful.

W. BOLOZ

The toy run was begun 24 years ago by John Bartlett of the Triumph Owners Club and it has grown year on year. The bikers are mainly from the East Midlands, but some come from Watford and Manchester!

For the last decade or so the responsibility for distributing the toys was taken on by Stuart Snowball of the Salvation Army and his wife Brenda. For two or three years, they distributed the toys from their own garage until moving the operation to the Salvation Army Citadel. On the closure of the Citadel this autumn, Stuart, a regular member of one of our Sabbath School classes, asked if we would take on the task. Sadly, he died a few weeks before the event, but his wife guided us through. She said, 'We wanted the distribution to remain in the hands of Christians. This is a great opportunity for you to let the town know you are a church which is active in the community.'

Twelve different organisations working with children in Grantham and district collected the toys and sweets, some visiting our church for the first time. Our local church co-ordinator concluded, 'We feel honoured to be part of this exciting event and it has been great to see the faces of those collecting the gifts light up on seeing the mountain of toys.'

Photos of the event can be viewed on the Grantham pages of www.prayers4u-sdachurches.co.uk.

ELISABETH CARNELL



Swindon forms new club

On 1 February Swindon Church inaugurated their Adventurers' club amid great excitement. The children were so keen to make their special day a success that they were at the church early to welcome regular members and visitors to Sabbath School. The inauguration ceremony followed Sabbath School with the children reciting their Adventurers' Law and Pledge. The guest of honour, Pam Catchpole (South England Conference Area 2 co-ordinator), gave a brief background to the Adventurers' club and then officially inaugurated the Swindon club. The children also participated in the Divine Service and the afternoon programme.

It is hoped that the club will follow in the successful steps of Swindon Pathfinder Club. Abigail Asante is the leader and currently the club has a membership of seventeen.

FRANCIS MAKONESE



Bikers' toy run

One Sunday in late November last year, 360 motorcycles roared into Grantham with 930 gifts of toys and sweets for the children of Grantham and district. The gifts were received on behalf of the town by the deputy mayor, Councillor Ian Selby, then transported to the Adventist church for sorting and distribution.

The cadets and staff of 47F Squadron ATC are regular volunteers at this annual event, along with councillors, their families and the mayor's staff. This year they were joined by members of the Grantham Pathfinder Club.

ASNA news

The statement, 'People with disabilities are at greater risk of abuse than those without disabilities', was discussed in detail during the ASNA volunteer training seminar held on 2 February at the Oxford Spires Four Pillars hotel, Oxford. Eighteen volunteers from the SEC and NEC attended, with the aim of improving their skills in support of adults and children with special needs within the church. Liz Ford, an experienced safeguarding trainer, stressed the importance of being vigilant with respect to protecting people with disabilities. She highlighted the church's policy on protecting children and provided more in-depth discussions on protecting vulnerable people.

Further training will take place on 23 March in the NEC and 30 March in the SEC. For more details contact the ASNA office on 01491 821104 or Rebeto Samuel-Ouadjo, SEC Disability Ministry secretary, on 01923 232728. Visit the ASNA Facebook page or website for more information about ASNA events in 2014. The next ASNA residential event will be the annual ASNA Respite and Training weekend from 11 to 13 April 2014.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS (ASNA TRUSTEE, SEC DISABILITY DIRECTOR)

Order on our Sales Hotline

01476 591700

sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk

find us on:



Adventist Book Centre (UK)

Adventist Book Centre – UK

Offer ends 30 April 2014

All prices are subject to Postage+Packing charges



'Lollipop Lady' is a local hero

Stanborough Park Church member, Barbara Hankin, was a runner-up in the 'Above and Beyond' category at the 'My Local Hero Awards' ceremony held at the 'Watford Hilton' at the end of November. The awards ceremony, run by a local free news magazine which is distributed to homes across south-west Hertfordshire and North Middlesex, is set to become an annual event and recognises the achievements of local people – the unsung heroes – within the community.

The awards consist of eight categories, each of which has three nominees, and an overall winner who acquires the 'My Local Hero' title. Barbara, who, at 80, is probably Watford's oldest school crossing patrol warden, was entered for the 'Above and Beyond' category. As the school's 'Lollipop Lady' she has been seeing children from Leavesden Green Primary School safely across the road since the beginning of September 2005.

Barbara's story of how she witnesses for her Lord in many ways first appeared in the *MESSENGER* early in 2013 (4 January, p. 10). In addition to being a 'Lollipop Lady' she is a deaconess at Stanborough Park Church, visiting elderly and housebound members; a member of the church's singing group, which visits local residential care homes each week; and a member of the SEC Prison Ministries group, which regularly visits 'The Mount' Prison near Hemel Hempstead.

During her time as a 'Lollipop Lady' she has hardly missed a day of work – unless she has been on a retreat or gone to visit her daughter in Australia – according to the school's head teacher, Mrs Cook; and is out in all weathers twice daily. She is very much part of the school community. As a demonstration of how much the school loves her, on Barbara's eightieth birthday last summer balloons festooned the crossing railings, she received a gift and card from the children, and her photo with the children she helps across the road appeared in the local newspaper.

'The children and parents love her and she knows all the children by name,' says Mrs Cook. 'She tells me if anyone is not crossing with her, and about any dangerous or difficult drivers, so I can track them down and speak to them.'

The school's governing body included this in their statement: 'The children and parents of Leavesden Green see Barbara as a friendly and constant part of this [safety in and around the school] every day but, more importantly, her presence and authority means that from a child in Early Years through the school until the day they leave, our children see and learn the benefits of road safety which they will hopefully carry with them into life.'

To Barbara, what she does is motivated by her Christian belief in the importance of helping others. She explains that she does it all 'for the love of the Lord'.

JUNE COOMBS

WOMEN OF VIRTUE

Free Event!

You are invited to a Day of Fellowship
to mark the launch of the
BUC Women of Virtue Programme
SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2014

◆ VENUE:
Hightown Methodist Church
47 Hightown Road
Luton, LU2 0BW

◆ TIME: 09.30am – 6.00pm
(You will need to bring your own lunch.)

◆ SPEAKER: Dr Deborah Harris (USA)

We will also be launching the UK Chapter of *Praying for Your Children* – an organisation run by Dr Deborah Harris.

◆ Contact: Dawn Tompkins at the BUC for your application form
Tel: 01923 672251
Email: dtompkins@adventist.org.uk
(We need to receive your application form to establish numbers attending on the day so adequate resources can be prepared.)

WOMEN OF VIRTUE

British Union Conference
WOMEN OF VIRTUE EXPERIENCE
Sunday, 27 April 2014

VENUE:
Woodland Grange
Conference Centre,
Old Milverton Lane,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire,
CV32 6RN.

TIME:
10.00am – 5.00pm

COST:
£35 per person
(lunch & conference
material included)

SPEAKER:
Dr Deborah Harris
(USA)

An experiential learning event capturing the 13 segments of the Women of Virtue programme. Come & enjoy the exhibition & receive your programme materials and bespoke resources for use with the launch of the programme.

TO BOOK:
contact Dawn Tompkins at the BUC for your application form
Tel: 01923 672251
Email: dtompkins@adventist.org.uk

obituaries

Astley Donald Daley (1935-2013) d. 16 October.

With great sadness the family and friends of Astley Donald Daley (Don) held his funeral on 13 November 2013 at Stanborough Park Church, followed by a reception at Watford Town Church (his home church of over 50 years). Donald was born in the village of Green Pond, parish of Manchester, Jamaica; one of eight children and the youngest son of Elizabeth and Wilfred Daley.

He attended the local village school but was not able to take his high school exams because of the death of his father.

Donald started attending the Seventh-day Adventist Church when his older brother had a dream that this was God's true church. At 15 years old he attended an evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Lindo and was among a group of young men who were baptised.

He found work at the West Indies College Bakery, a Seventh-day Adventist institution, where he learnt to drive and met his future wife, Merdeline Stephens, while delivering bread. They went on to enjoy over 54 years of married life together.

In 1959, Donald emigrated to England, moving first to Wolverhampton and then to Watford. He sent for his wife as soon as funds allowed and they remained in Watford for 15 years,



where four of their children were born.

Donald had a strong work ethic, a keen mind and a retentive memory, and found satisfaction in being practical and doing things with his hands. As well as working to support his family, he attended evening classes in TV and radio repairs and car maintenance. He was able to repair all the family's appliances and maintain the family car. He was also able to do some plumbing and electrical wiring.

In 1974 the family returned to Jamaica and Donald loved being back on his beautiful island home.

Don started what quickly became a successful business, but he had an eye for the future. He wanted his children to obtain the education he had been deprived of and took the difficult decision to return to England and begin again. This time he secured employment at Rolls-Royce in Leavesden.

He took early retirement in 1993 and worked harder than ever, regularly looking after those of his grandchildren who lived in and around Watford, plus supporting others who lived further afield. Don and Merdeline played a pivotal role in these young lives. For the next twenty years, right up till the time of his death, he gave his time, kindness, wisdom and love to each one of them in equal measure.

He loved playing dominoes at church and was, until very recently, an active allotment

Sutton-in-Ashfield makes health matter

Sutton-in-Ashfield Church recently held a very successful four-week seminar on health matters. On average, eight of the twenty-eight regular attendees were from the community. The speakers were Sue Anscome (MSc in Clinical Neuroscience), Dr George Nbeza (hospital consultant, Derby Royal Infirmary) and Dr Winston (Chesterfield GP).

Sue spoke on 'Damaged Backs and Strokes', Dr Nbeza on Alzheimer's, and Dr Winston on diabetes.

After each presentation healthy tasters were served, each linked to one of the conditions. Handouts and recipe sheets were given out each evening.

MORAY STEWART



holder. He also used his special bread recipe to supply tasty loaves to his family and friends, and for the annual Harvest Service at church.

He was a man of faith, who expressed a deep love and concern for his church family, whose support and answered prayers on his behalf he recognised with love and gratitude. His children fondly recall how he endeavoured to inspire in them a growing faith by his regular family worship.

Don served in many capacities, including Sabbath School superintendent, teacher, deacon and treasurer.

He endured a number of chronic health conditions in later life, and on more than one occasion he had cause to rejoice, recognising that God had prolonged his life.

He leaves Merdeline (Merdie), sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, one brother, one sister, nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins and many friends.

His family and friends have laid him to rest with sorrow, knowing that he is asleep in Jesus. His body may be buried, but his legacy remains.

PAMELA COLEMAN

Lord David Watson Southcott (1936-2014) d. 13 January.

Watson (as he preferred to be called) was born in London but considered himself a Cornish lad as the family moved there at the outbreak of World War II.

Watson's father died when he was just 3 years old. His mother took in paying guests and it was one of them who acquainted them with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. On 2 September 1950 Watson was baptised by W. W. Armstrong in the Redruth church and soon after felt a call to ministry.

In 1954 he went to Newbold College for his ministerial training, and that is where he met Cynthia Chadderton. They were married on 28 July 1957 and were blessed with five children: Rosemary, Pauline, David, Peter and Nigel.

After graduating in 1959, Watson was assigned to the New Gallery Centre as part of evangelist Kenneth Lacey's team. From there he went on to pastor forty churches in both the South and North England Conferences; serve as preceptor of Stanborough Boarding School (1978/9); and



serve for five years as the Irish Mission president (1983-1988).

In 1988 Watson was appointed South England Conference executive secretary, but within a year was called to the North England Conference to serve as president. He held this position until September 1991, when he was requested to serve as BUC vice-president/executive secretary. In 1996 he returned to pastoral ministry until his retirement at the end of 1999 – which was short-lived, as he was called upon to serve in several churches on a temporary basis.

Pastor Southcott influenced many in a quiet way, including the writer, whose life direction was turned from training for dentistry to teaching by a single sentence. There are pastors serving today for whom, as one said, '... he planted in my mind the absurd idea (at the time) of going into ministry. ...'

Watson felt the need of God's power in his life. He felt a great kinship with Solomon, especially in the king's early years, when he prayed, 'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.' (1 Kings 3:9, NIV) This was his prayer too, not just once, but many times.

Due to the effects of Parkinson's disease, Watson was not able to teach or preach for at least three years prior to his death. However, he rarely missed a Sabbath morning service and always encouraged those who led out.

He thoroughly enjoyed the family's visits at Christmas and New Year's Eve, but was admitted to hospital on 7 January with bronchitis. This developed into pneumonia and he died six days later with his wife, daughters and son-in-law, Graham, at his bedside. He was laid to rest on 30 January in the beautiful setting of Weston Cemetery, in the presence of many of his family who had travelled from Canada, the USA, Scotland and Denmark. Following the burial, a service of thanksgiving for his life was held at the Weston-super-Mare Seventh-day Adventist church. Both the committal and the service were conducted by the resident pastor, Wayne Erasmus.

Now Watson rests from his sufferings and the next thing he will know will be the resurrection to new life in Christ.

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who sent messages of condolence and attended the Thanksgiving Service.

GORDON LETHBRIDGE

More than liberty, rights and respect

February Diversity Lecture by Dr Ganoune Diop
Newbold College of Higher Education, 11 February 2014

'There are times when I sit across the table from people who I know are doing terrible things to others. Sometimes when I talk with people I know that they are lying to me. But I also know that we share the same humanity.' These and other startling words came from Dr Ganoune Diop during the February Diversity Lecture at Newbold College of Higher Education.

Dr Diop is the United Nations Relations director for the global Seventh-day Adventist Church. He gave his lecture, 'More than Liberty, Rights or Respect' upon his return from Togo, West Africa, where he had been in talks at the highest levels of government concerning several imprisoned Adventist members. He was able to provide an update on the progress of the cases.

Dr Diop is a French citizen with roots in Senegal. 'In Senegal,' he said, 'people do not shout. Anyone who shouts is thought to be a little mad.' His gentle, gracious spirit made it clear to all present why he is ideally suited to this key ambassadorial role.

With the United Nations and many other agencies at work in trouble spots around the world, he asked why the Adventist Church should become involved in this diplomatic work. His answer was that Adventists believe that we are created in the image of God; therefore every human being, victim and perpetrator, is sacred and deserves to be treated with the greatest dignity. 'Things change when you treat people as if they matter,' he continued. 'People need to know that I am for them. Within the Church and beyond we need to create a culture of human dignity.'

Part of the problem, he said, was that we really do not know or understand each other. 'As Adventists we are here to heal misunderstandings. I tell government leaders that they should regard Adventists as assets to their society.' He emphasised his view that Adventist pastors and members should maintain connections with a variety of local organisations. He cited Ellen White (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 42) to underline the point: 'Christ . . . abolishes all territorial lines.'

He was clear that human beings cannot solve their problems in any final way. 'A new conflict starts somewhere in the world every month. Human beings have a very ugly side.' He continued, 'But . . . even if I believed that the world was going to end tomorrow, I would still plant a tree today.'

'As Adventists we should go beyond giving people rights and treat them with great dignity. We should go beyond showing them respect and treat them with great generosity.' Dr Diop, who comes from a Muslim background, became an Adventist because he saw it as a way of becoming free. 'We must offer that opportunity for personal freedom to people we meet in our everyday lives simply because we share a common humanity.'

DR MICHAEL PEARSON, THEOLOGY LECTURER AT NEWBOLD

A personal plea for ADRA

'Let us do the Lord's work while we can,' says Hubert Smiley, a former Ingathering champion, now incapacitated by a blood clot in the leg. 'I can no longer collect thousands, only hundreds, but someone can eat with the money you collect. Go out with the best of heart, and God's blessing be with you.'



Sheffield Manor joint carol service

Our carol service on 14 December was a special one as members of St Swithuns Church of England joined us for the second year running. Pastor Victor Marshall, our minister, was joined by the Reverend Julie Upton, vicar of St Swithuns, whose closing remarks reminded us of God's presence in all aspects of our lives.

LARISSA ANDREWS AND
ANDREW YESUDIAN

Messenger

Volume 119 • 6 – 21 March 2014

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

COPY FOR No. 8 – 27 March 2014

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *MESSANGER*, 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
Mar 21	6.15	6.27	6.20	6.28	6.39
28	6.27	6.39	6.32	6.43	6.52
Apr 4	7.39	7.51	7.45	7.57	8.06
11	7.50	8.03	7.57	8.11	8.19

MESSANGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.*

*Postage will only be charged for single copy subscriptions and overseas airmail.