

Messenger

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First UK Religious Liberty Festival

by Pastor Victor Hulbert with Pastors Dan Serb and John Surridge

A site that had witnessed 400 years of religious and political turmoil was a fitting location for the first Religious Liberty Festival to be organised in the British Isles, on Sabbath, 16 August.

In welcoming more than 2,000 visitors to the Bethel Convention Centre, Councillor Derek Rowley, the Mayor of Sandwell, noted that the centre is close to Sandwell Priory, a place of religious worship – but also religious and political dispute from the twelfth century onwards. Noting both the difficult international stage, and the need for tolerance in local society, Mayor Rowley welcomed the whole concept of the festival and was delighted to host it in his borough.

This 'Free to Worship' festival was a 'high day' for Adventists who had travelled from as far away as Scotland and Ireland to show solidarity with those who struggle to keep their faith in intolerant societies, but also to hear good preaching.

That preaching came from US Senate Chaplain Barry Black, who mixed humour and personal anecdotes together with deep biblical insights to make the point that religious liberty is not just something for 'them over there', but is a radical, positive, and liberating message related to both religious freedom and religious living.

Admiral Black suggested that the Church has not been as assertive as it should have been in this area. 'Religious worship must lead to action,' he boldly asserted, adding that, to many believers, 'Worship is what happens during the church service, while it should be seen as commencing when the service ends.'

Looking back through Adventist history he argued that the Church should have been more prompt on dealing with issues like the wearing of a wedding ring, race discrimination, domestic violence and the role of women in the Church.

For Black, Matthew 25 and Luke 4:18, 19 'confer upon the worshipper the liberty to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and minister to the marginalised'. He argued, 'True worship also grants us the liberty and courage to be prompt in publicly voicing concern and offering solutions to social ills which threaten human dignity.'

During the Sabbath School, Dr John Graz, secretary-general of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) reported on the state of religious freedom in the world, underlining the new challenges and the recent events in Iraq.

In the afternoon, Dr Graz was joined by Dr Ganoune Diop, director of Adventist-United Nations Relations, General Conference vice president, Dr Delbert Baker, and Attorney Dwayne Leslie, deputy secretary-general of the IRLA, for a panel discussion ably chaired by Pastor Audrey Andersson, executive secretary of the Trans-European Division.

Interspersed with some of British Adventism's best musical talent, including a massed choir, Pastor Andersson led the panel through some tricky religious liberty issues, including the concept of whether Adventist parents practise religious liberty in making their children go to church! The consensus was that parents have the right but force is not the best way. Developing a positive relationship, showing the positive side of church, and making it into something they want to do is more effective.

Looking at modern-day persecution, Dr Baker emphasised that we

should do all we can to preserve life. He stated that we all want to avoid persecution but gave examples as to how Jesus can see us through when it happens. 'Our security is in Jesus.'

Talking through current discrimination legislation in both the USA and the UK, Dr Diop noted the safeguard that 'courts do not want to get involved in our theology'. This helps the Church in issues such as same-sex marriage. At the same time, Attorney Leslie emphasised that 'as a Church we need to be careful how we say things. Don't make fun of or denigrate alternative lifestyles that we disagree with.' His key words were 'sensitivity' and 'love'.

The day closed with a corporate commitment and desire from attendees to 'thank God for religious freedom, thank the UK for religious

freedom', and to work to maintain such freedoms both locally and wherever members have a sphere of influence.

Photos from the Friday and the Sabbath meetings are available on the Adventist Church's picture gallery at: <http://adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/free-to-worship-friday>; and <http://adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/free-to-worship-day-of-fellowship>.

You may also see a full report of the Friday symposium at <http://adventist.org.uk/news/2014/2014-buc/liberty-and-truth-at-religious-liberty-symposium>.

A BUC News video report is available at: <http://youtu.be/CdUcgYEXtgM>.





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editorial

I stood nervously at the end of a long queue. It snaked slowly up to the airport's immigration desks. There were two passports in my jacket pocket, one earned by birth, the other by ancestry.

Eventually my turn came. I stepped up to the desk and put the South African passport down in front of the uniformed official. 'Good afternoon, sir. Unfortunately there was a delay in issuing my visa. It was too late for them to post it to me, so somebody has brought it to the desk behind you . . .'

That was as far as I got. The official's response was loud and brutal, devoid of all finesse. 'Get to the back of the queue!'

But I was at the back of the queue – or so I thought. Until I turned sheepishly around – and there, stretching across the arrivals hall, out into the bright African sunlight, were hundreds of passengers from a Lufthansa 747 that had just landed!

Why had he been so rude?

The answer wasn't really rocket science. For years South Africa had actively supported the internationally unrecognised former government of his country. The South African government had supplied it with fuel, military hardware and fighting units during its war against those who were now in power. It was payback time!

Fifteen minutes or so later I was back at the same desk, facing the same stern-faced official. But this time I quietly put my British passport down in front of him. He opened it, looked at my likeness, looked at me, date stamped the passport – 30 March 1983 – and wished me a pleasant stay in his country!

Prejudice

That day I learnt a harsh lesson about prejudice: it is both *degrading* and *irrational*. Degrading, because its ultimate aim is the ruthless destruction of human dignity and self-respect – irrational, because it won't be subject to reason and logic.

In an article entitled 'Prejudice and Discrimination' (2008), Saul McLeod helps us define the term 'prejudice' a little further: 'Prejudice is an unjustified or incorrect attitude (usually negative) towards an individual based solely on the individual's membership of a social group.'

The term 'social group' is broad enough to embrace any formation of people, irrespective of the characteristics that unite them. It may refer to race, nationality, language, class, caste, gender, physical or mental handicap, religion, occupation, age, and so on – or any combination thereof.

The immigration officer was prejudiced against me on the grounds of my nationality. His attitudes were already formed and deeply felt. But attitudes can be concealed – especially if you have enough self-control or thespian talent. He was a poor actor though . . . and his thoughts and feelings ignited in a

A tale of two passports

flash of discriminatory action that had me queuing a second time!

I bear no malice towards that man. He had undoubtedly suffered far worse discrimination for most of his life (as have so many). Now it was my turn, and humble pie is never tasty.

Let's not make *this* mistake

There is one mistake that we should never make: to think that the absence of obvious discrimination in a country, community, or church, is a sign that prejudice doesn't exist. Nothing could be further from the truth, even among those who are constrained to behave properly by culture, politics, law or doctrine.

We are appalled at the harassment, persecution and slaughter in Nigeria, Syria and Iraq – especially of religious minorities. We are repulsed by the thought that a UK jihadist beheaded US journalist, James Foley. And now we are smouldering over the sordid revelations oozing out of Rotherham – involving upwards of 1,400 innocent children! How long, then, before prejudice gets the better of us? How long before discrimination sets in? Unthinkable? Think again!

What was it like?

What was it like in Christ's day? Prejudice and discrimination were rife. Relationships between groups were tense, brittle. Jew despised Gentile; Sadducee antagonised Pharisee; rich avoided poor; Rome was wary of the lot, and hated by all.

How did Jesus respond within this fragmented society? Contrary to prejudice, which tars entire groups with the same brush, Jesus openly and unashamedly reached out to them through selected individuals. He let His actions preach. He showed, by His gracious interaction with 'representatives' from each group, that prejudice and discrimination were wrong.

He mixed freely with the working classes (Matthew 4:18, 19); showed respect to the needs of the wealthy (Matthew 9:18-26); took time to meet with a prominent politician, who was also a Pharisee (John 3:1-15); broke numerous social taboos while speaking to a Samaritan woman (John 4:4-32); openly invited Himself to the home of a tax collector (Luke 19:1-7); responded graciously to the request of a Roman centurion (Matthew 8:5-13); allowed Himself to become 'ceremonially unclean' while healing a chronically sick woman (Luke 8:43-48); modelled respect for children and their mothers (Matthew 19:13-15); mixed freely with the poor and the sick (Matthew 4:23, 24); and restored the dignity of a woman some might regard as a sex worker today. (John 8:3-11).

Each of these personal encounters powerfully demonstrates that there is no single group deserving of prejudice or discrimination – not then, not now, never!

Back to the airport

Permit me one last visit to that immigration desk. Earlier I said that prejudice is 'irrational, because it won't be subject to reason and logic.' Let me illustrate what I mean: the only difference between my visits to the immigration desk that day was the passport I presented. Everything else was the same: clothes, hairstyle, personality, value system, religion, date and place of birth, name, occupation and education.

So, what difference did the second passport make? Technically it changed my 'nationality' from South African to British. But my identity, personality and morality remained the same. Reason suggests that there is more to our humanity than those labels: Christian, Jewish, Muslim or secularist; black, white or Asian.

Sadly, prejudice only reads labels!

*<http://www.simplypsychology.org/prejudice.html>



Julian Hibbert
Editor



Enhancing Health

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

Obesity and brain health

Charlie Cooper, health correspondent for *The Independent*, published an article on 21 August under the heading: 'Further evidence that obesity in middle age increases dementia risk'. He reports that recent studies suggest that people as young as 30 who are obese may be at greater risk of developing dementia later in life.¹

Researchers at Oxford University looked at the medical records of people admitted to hospital with obesity-related issues for a period of twelve years, from 1999 to 2011. They discovered the following:

- The earlier in middle age people become obese, the more likely they are to suffer from dementia later in life.
- Obese individuals between 30 and 70 years old were more likely to develop dementia than non-obese people of the same age.
- People who were obese in their 30s were more than three times as likely to develop dementia.
- Those who were obese in their 40s were 70 per cent more likely to develop dementia.
- Those who were obese in their 50s were 50 per cent more likely to develop dementia.

- Those who were obese in their 60s were 40 per cent more likely to develop dementia.

The study, published in the *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, concluded that there was a clear increased risk of people developing dementia if they became obese between the ages of 40 and 70. However, the following study limitations were noted. Firstly, patients were only followed up for 12 years. Secondly, the sample of individuals in their 30s with obesity was small, so drawing conclusions from that sample group may not be entirely reliable.

Earlier studies have pointed to an association between obesity and cognitive decline. One such study from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), discovered that people who were overweight had 4 per cent less brain volume than their slimmer counterparts. Specifically, obese elderly individuals had 8 per cent lower brain mass than older adults of normal weight.² UCLA professor of neurology, Paul Thompson, PhD, states: 'That's a big loss of tissue, and it depletes your cognitive reserves, putting you at much greater risk of Alzheimer's and other diseases that attack the brain.'

Dr Eric Karran is director of research at Alzheimer's Research UK. Analysing the link between obesity and brain health, he concludes that obesity could lead to high blood pressure and diabetes – two conditions that can influence our dementia risk. He adds: 'As well as maintaining a healthy weight, research suggests that keeping blood pressure in check, not smoking and regular exercise throughout life are good ways to keep the brain healthy.'³

Good health!

¹<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/further-evidence-that-obesity-in-middle-age-increases-dementia-risk-9681376.html> ²<http://www.healthymen.com/content/article/can-obesity-affect-brain-health> ³<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/further-evidence-that-obesity-in-middle-age-increases-dementia-risk-9681376.html>





Fit for royalty

by Stephen Holden

In June this year the national press reported on a new state coach that had been built for the royal family – only the second such coach to be built in a hundred years. Her Majesty used it for the first time during the procession to the state opening of Parliament on 4 June.

Jim Frecklington

This extraordinary carriage was the result of a nine-year-long ‘labour of love’ by Jim Frecklington, a sixty-four-year-old Australian craftsman. He had joined the royal household in 1972, initially looking after the Duke of Edinburgh’s horses, then tending the Queen’s show horses, driving her carriages and serving as an outrider at the Royal Ascot.

Jim had developed a love for all things equestrian during his formative years, while growing up on a sheep farm in the Australian outback. This expanded into the building of horse-drawn vehicles; something that has since become what may be called his ‘obsession’.

Having returned to Australia in 1976 he maintained his royal connections and subsequently drove for the Queen during the Silver Jubilee Exhibition in 1977. Ten years later the Queen gave her blessing for him to build his first royal carriage – the Australian State Coach – that was given to her by Australia to mark that country’s bicentenary. The Queen has used it until now for the annual opening of Parliament procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster, escorted by the Household Cavalry.

Frecklington’s new creation – 18 foot long, 11 foot high and weighing in at a solid three tons – cost almost £3 million to complete. It has been described as a unique ‘time capsule of British history’ on wheels, ‘fit for a queen’.

Supported by the royal household’s surveyors of the fabric, English Heritage and many of the other trustees of British history, Frecklington has been able to incorporate into the coach more than 100 fragments from historic British ships and buildings. The armrests were crafted from the Royal Yacht *Britannia*’s handrails, and the crown on the roof was carved from wood taken from HMS *Victory*, Admiral Nelson’s famous flagship.

It also includes apple wood from Woolsthorpe Manor, birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton; timber from Sir Ernest Shackleton’s Antarctic base camp; material from the Mary Rose, Henry VIII’s flagship; and ‘a piece of a doorway from 10 Downing Street that dates back to 1760’.

The door panels are inlaid with timber from dozens of buildings, including Althorpe – Princess Diana’s final resting place. They also contain pieces from St Paul’s Cathedral, the Tower of London, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and the old royal box at Ascot.

According to *The Daily Telegraph* (Wednesday, 4 June, page 5) the bodywork ‘also features a penny used to fine-tune Big Ben, a musket ball from the Battle of Waterloo and piece of metal from the casting of the Victoria Cross, while the handles are inlaid with 260 sapphires and 48 diamonds’.

Huram

After reading the account of this royal carriage’s construction, I was reminded of the building of the temple in Jerusalem – planned by David and executed by Solomon – that is recorded in the books of Kings and Chronicles.

It took seven years to complete this vast project that involved thousands of labourers. They levelled the chosen site on Mt Moriah, built vast retaining walls, laid broad foundations and brought in the massive stones and beams, all pre-cut and ready to fit. This is how 1 Kings 6:7 (NIV-UK) records that part of the process:

‘In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.’

While all this was taking place, a man named Hiram was set to work on the furnishings. In 2 Chronicles 2:13, 14 (NKJV) we read more about this remarkable master craftsman’s astounding range of skills:

‘And now I have sent a skillful man,

endowed with understanding, Hiram my master craftsman . . . skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple and blue, fine linen and crimson, and to make any engraving and to accomplish any plan which may be given to him. . . .’

When finished the temple was a building of palatial proportions, surpassing beauty and unrivalled splendour. It was garnished with precious stones, lined with carved cedar and burnished gold and surrounded by spacious courts, and reached along a magnificent approach. The whole structure, softened by embroidered hangings and appointed with rich furnishings, was a fitting earthly symbol of God’s greatness.

You and I

It was also a reminder of God’s expectations for His Church. After all, isn’t that what Paul said in Ephesians 2:20, 21 (Clear Word):

‘To use another analogy, you’re like living stones of a beautiful temple carefully and securely laid on the foundation of the apostles and prophets who, in turn, are cemented to Jesus Christ, the great Cornerstone. All these stones are joined together into a beautiful, holy temple, being aligned on Christ and raised up to the glory of God. And in Christ you too, . . . are part of this growing temple in which God, through the Holy Spirit, lives.’

Together, as a band of devout believers, God wants us to become His ‘dwelling place’. He wants our faith and hope to rest solidly on Jesus – on His saving grace. He wants each of us to be shaped by the Holy Spirit to take our own unique place in this living temple. And, ideally, this should take place without the sound of ‘hammer, chisel or any other iron tool’ – without the harsh sounds of conflict and discord!

In his prayer for the temple’s dedication Solomon posed a question:

‘But will God really dwell on earth?’
(1 Kings 8:27a, NIV-UK.)

He does – within His Church – today!

©wikipedia.org



Dear Editor

In Pastor Paul Haworth’s letter (20 June 2014) he makes the point that ‘Reverence My Sanctuary’ no longer applies primarily to a church building, but that it now means that we must give reverence to our own bodies and to each other.

The following examples show people who are given reverence. Hebrews 12:28: ‘. . . serve God . . . with reverence . . .’; 1 Kings 1:31: ‘Then Bathsheba . . . did reverence to the king . . .’; Hebrews 12:9: ‘. . . we have had fathers . . . and we gave them reverence . . .’ (KJV). Reverence is only given to persons of authority. The Bible teaches that we give respect to everyone, but reverence only to those in positions of authority.

Leviticus 26:2 says, ‘reverence my sanctuary’ (KJV). The primary meaning of *sanctuary* is the tabernacle built in the wilderness that was in use at the time this text was written. This became a sanctuary tent in Judea, then Solomon’s temple, which was destroyed and later rebuilt after the Babylonian captivity. Our body is named the ‘temple of the Holy Ghost’ (1 Corinthians 6:19, KJV); and of course, ultimately there is the sanctuary in Heaven, of which all these other sanctuaries are types (Hebrews 8:1, 2; 9:11, 12). Can we rightly give reverence to our church buildings in response to the command to ‘reverence my sanctuary’? I believe we can.

Ellen G. White says in *My Life Today*, p. 286:

‘God is high and holy; and to the humble, believing soul, His house on earth, the place where His people meet for worship, is as the gate of heaven. . . .’

‘When the worshippers enter the place of meeting, they should do so with decorum, passing quietly to their seats. . . . Common talking, whispering, and laughing should not be permitted in the house of worship, either before or after the service. Ardent, active piety should characterise the worshippers. . . .’

‘. . . Teach them [your children] to have the highest reverence for the house of God and to understand that when they enter the Lord’s house it should be with hearts that are softened and subdued by such thoughts as these: “God is here; this is His

house. I must have pure thoughts and holiest motives. . . . This is the place where God meets with and blesses His people.” . . .’

‘Parents should not only teach, but command, their children to enter the sanctuary with sobriety and reverence.’ (Writer’s emphasis.)

JOSEPHINE VINE

Dear Editor

I would like to pay tribute to the ‘unknown conchies’ whose stories and photographs do not appear in any of the reports that we have seen published. I wonder how many of their stories may be hidden in the reports that cannot be published until the 2040s, according to the information given by Victor Hulbert (*MESSENGER*, 1 August). What more horrors are there still to discover? I personally have known of several ‘unknown conchies’, but in particular my maternal grandfather, Tom Clarke.

The only written mention I have seen of him is the message in the book he gave to my mother for her birthday upon his return from prison. He never discussed it with any of his children. A few years after his return he and his brother were involved in building the Newport church in south Wales. During his wartime absence my mother (13) had to leave school to go out in service to keep the family: her mother and three younger sisters. She walked home for miles on Friday evening to give her mother the few pence she earned, and walked back on Saturday evening, ready to start work early on Sunday morning. She rarely used a bus, as that would have meant using the farthing a week that she was sometimes able to keep for herself. Incidentally, when I asked her when she had been baptised, having attended Newport Church since she was four years old, I was amazed when she said that it was not until she went to work in the Sanitarium in Watford (1919). When I asked her why, she told me she was refused baptism because she did not pay tithe – on a farthing a week!

While we remember, as we should, all those who gave their lives – and their families who were left to struggle at home – for us to be free today, I want to say ‘thank you’ to all the unknown heroes and heroines who also served, unnamed and unrecognised.

Will we also stand for the right when our turn comes? It might be easy now, but what of the future?

VALERIE FREEMAN



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

‘What does Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 15:29 when he refers to baptism for the dead?’ Sharon Puckering

A That’s a good question! 1 Corinthians 15:29 (NKJV) says, ‘Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?’ Some Christians, notably the Mormons, believe that Paul is referring to what they consider a valid Christian practice of living believers undergoing vicarious baptism so that the dead, who would otherwise have missed out on it, might have eternal life. They believe this because of Joseph Smith’s teaching on 1 Corinthians 15:29.¹ Apparently, this explains their great interest in describing an exhaustive genealogy of all mankind. However, their practice contradicts not only the Bible, but also Smith’s previous teachings on this topic.²

The Bible, by contrast, teaches that baptism is a personal, conscious choice (Acts 8:36, 37); that repentance must be a conscious choice made by the individual for himself (Ezekiel 18:20-28); and that ‘there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest’ (Ecclesiastes 9:10, KJV). My faith can never atone for anyone else’s sins (Psalm 49:7-9; Ezekiel 14:14-16). It’s clear, then, that Paul wasn’t endorsing any kind of vicarious baptism by the living so that the dead might be redeemed. In that case, what *did* he mean?

Well, the context is Paul’s ongoing argument for the veracity of the resurrection. It’s possible that Paul is referring to vicarious baptism as a ‘heretical custom’ ‘in support of a fundamental Christian doctrine [the resurrection]’.³ The *Bible Commentary* further states, ‘Paul, without in any way endorsing the practice, might say, in substance: “Even pagans and heretics fasten their faith on the hope of a resurrection, and if they cherish that hope, how much more should we!”’⁴ Tertullian, among others, refers to the practice being carried out early on in Christian history.⁴ However, Ángel Manuel Rodríguez points out that ‘there’s no evidence that vicarious baptism was practised during the Apostolic Age’, and ‘Paul could have hardly condoned or ignored such a superstitious practice’.⁵

Rodríguez raises another possibility, however – Paul could refer ‘to new converts who, after the death of a Christian relative or friend, are moved to become Christians in order to join them at the resurrection. This suggestion is based on the fact that the Greek preposition *hyper*, “for”, can be translated “for the sake of”, which does not carry a vicarious connotation.’⁶ In one concrete example of this, Frederick Pelsler recounts the example of a vibrant young Christian teen called Patricia, who prayed for her family: ‘I’d give my life for their conversion!’ Following her tragic early death after being hit by a car, all of them ‘gave their hearts to God and were baptised’.⁷

While it’s difficult to know for sure, it could be that Paul had experiences like that of Patricia’s family in mind. For further hypotheses, please see the footnotes.

¹www.mormon.org.uk/faq/baptism-for-the-dead ²www.catholic.com/tracts/mormonisms-baptism-for-the-dead ³Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 807 ⁴Ibid ⁵<https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/materials/bible-nt-texts/1-corinthians-15-29> ⁶Ibid ⁷Frederick Pelsler, ‘Acts of Grace’, *Prayer Made Practical: God at close quarters*, first published in 1996 by Autumn House

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.

'Hit Squad' active in Manchester

by Geraldene Farmer

It's a blustery day in Manchester, and for many people remaining indoors seems a reasonable option. However, on the fourth floor of Oakland House, the Mission to the Cities headquarters near Old Trafford, it's all systems go. A group of fired-up volunteers gather after their morning classes and a cooked lunch to pray and discuss the strategy for the afternoon's practical evangelism activities. Soon they will take to the streets, knock on doors, complete their community survey forms and, God willing, find someone with whom to share the Gospel.

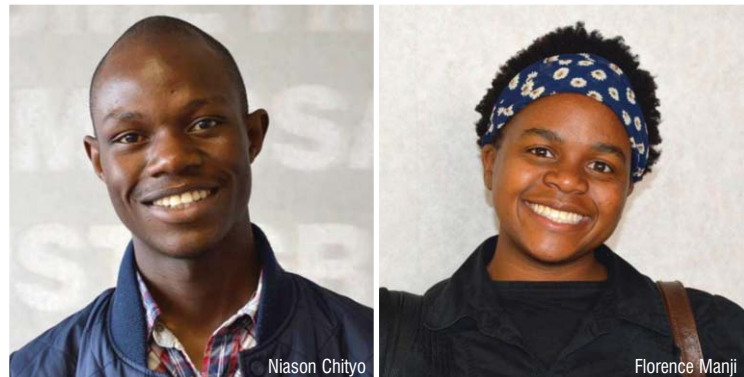
Known as the 'Hit Squad', these IMPACT volunteers are undergoing the Level 3 Taskforce Worker Training and form a valuable part of the Mission Possible Programme. This group of students are channelling their missionary zeal towards Mission to the Cities (MTTC) projects in Manchester.

IMPACT 2014 co-ordinator, Niason Chityo (22), explains, 'Our objective is to impact the community using Christ's method of evangelism. He "mingled with people as one who desired their good" and sought ways to meet their needs.' He continued, 'We knock on doors and find out what people's needs are. Based on these needs MTTC then uses depression seminars, parenting classes, cooking demonstrations and sports clubs to bridge the gap between church and community.'

Students undergo an intensive four weeks of practical evangelism training, starting with a week of theory, followed by two weeks of 'full on' community outreach, and in week four they help run an evangelistic series.

Here is what some of the 'Hit Squad' had to say:

Cynthia Chigoda from Stoke-on-Trent is 19 years old and studies Human Health and Nutrition at Suffolk University. She came to IMPACT in 2013 because she felt God calling her to do it. Now she is back again because she wants God to reveal the direction He wants her to go. She shared, 'I



Niason Chityo

Florence Manji



have come for a new vision. Last year I sort of gave up on others after a while. I am going to have to balance my uni work and my calling as a missionary better. I have come for clarity. This year is different. The Lord has shown me that I need to care more. I need to show proper love and be more patient.'

Florence Manji (21) can think of nothing better than sharing Jesus with others every day. She has previously been described as a diminutive dynamo and this PEACE graduate (class of 2012) is showing no signs of letting up any time soon. Stationed in Southport as a Taskforce volunteer since January 2013, she makes the trip to the Manchester MTTC office about twice a week to help 'wherever she can'. Today she has taught two classes ('How to knock on doors' and 'How to conduct Bible studies'), and feels blessed because she knows that students can make a big impact on the work in the North England Conference.

Tony Byrne, another PEACE graduate, is no stranger to the rigours of door-knocking and is part of the IMPACT support team. He started as a Taskforce volunteer in Southport in March 2009. Tony says, 'I like the action – knocking on doors and winning souls for God. I feel a strong call to do missionary work.'

IMPACT teams are used to assist smaller churches or groups to make valuable contacts in their communities. IMPACT is an acronym for 'Inspire Members to Proclaim the Advent of Christ Together'.

I was eager to know what the difference was between IMPACT and PEACE. Niason was quick to reply, 'IMPACT training is free to attend – that's the best thing about it! You do have to get yourself here though.'

The course is four weeks long as opposed to four months at PEACE. While not as intensive or detailed, IMPACT nevertheless provides cash-strapped students and others with the chance to undergo valuable training on how to generate valuable leads and give Bible studies to their contacts. Many IMPACT students go on to PEACE and vice versa, as Niason was eager to point out. 'IMPACT really is an excellent platform to get young people involved in evangelism.'

Finally, to the strains of 'There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place...' the group leave to go door-knocking, despite the threatening rain clouds. It appears that making an impact on the city has nothing to do with the weather and everything to do with making an IMPACT for Christ.

IMPACT training is run annually during the summer holidays by the North England Conference Adventist Mission and Church Planting department and has been going for five years. In 2015 the NEC plans to deploy double the number of IMPACT volunteers for the MTTC Year of Reaping.

If you feel the call to ministry and would like to join a future NEC IMPACT team, please contact Pastor Mike Simpson, Church Planting director at the NEC office, for more details.

Members who would like to donate to this worthy cause can make card payments directly to the Church Planting department on 0115 960 6312; or send a cheque, made out to North England Conference, to 22 Zulla Road, Nottingham, NG3 5DB.

baptisms



Luton churches hold baptism

On Sabbath, 9 August, the Luton Central and Luton North congregations celebrated together as Pastor O. Chackochen and visiting minister, Pastor Gucilar, officiated at the baptism of five new members: Wang Dolcey, Chenai Zindond-Scott, Rhianna Warren, Iver Gucilar and Aira Gucilar. Their faces beamed from the encouraging messages given by family and friends.

Pastor Chackochen shared with the congregation how, when the date for the baptism was set, there were no candidates from Luton Central. Unbeknown to him, however, Wang – a former student at the University of Bedfordshire – had been studying the Bible and was being prepared through the leading of the Holy Spirit. Finally, Wang approached him with a simple but heartfelt request: 'Here is water – what prevents me from being baptised?' Wang's decision was a clear response to the counsel of his chosen text: 'Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.' (Proverbs 3:5, 6, KJV.)

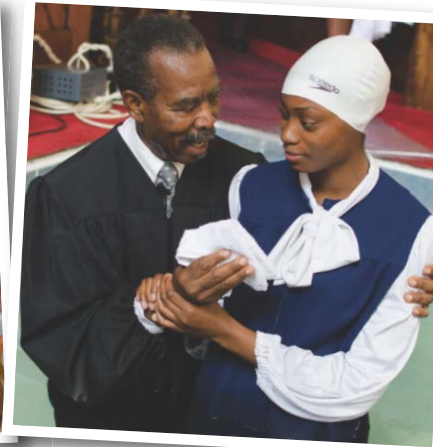
Pastor Gucilar had experienced the privilege of baptising two of his grandchildren. As Iver and Aira entered the pool, he challenged them with the words: 'You are the third generation of Seventh-day Adventists in this family. Teach this message of truth to your own families, until Jesus comes.'

AVERY DAVIS

Baptism at Hampstead

On 12 July four new members joined the Hampstead church by baptism. They were: Derek Bartley, Gabrielle Morrison, Jerusalem Riyas and Marlene Silva.

Their journey into Adventism began last October and November during the 'Art of Living' series run by the evangelist Costa Vaggas. Since then both Pastor Humphrey Walters and his successor, Pastor



Bristol's 'beautiful' baptism

There was joy in Heaven and Bristol Central on Sabbath 16 August as 13-year-old Nicholas Da Costa and 12-year-old Geneve Harmitt-Williams from the North Bristol church were baptised by Pastor Anand Measapogu, in front of a church packed with friends and family.

The two young people were dressed in their Pathfinder uniforms as they took their baptismal vows, and they were supported by an honour guard of Pathfinders on either side of the baptismal pool as they were baptised. Both young people said that being in Pathfinders had helped them in making their decision for Christ, through learning more about God, and seeing the inspiring example of others at a recent camporee.

It was a particularly happy occasion for their parents, one of whom is Shiloh Harmitt, first elder of North Bristol, who said of Geneve: 'This is a wonderful moment for us as a family, and as a church family. I'm truly proud and humbled by her determination to give her life to Jesus.'

Shiloh also gave the sermonette, based on the story of how Hannah kept her promise to give Samuel to serve the Lord, which he compared to the promise the two young people had made to serve God, despite the challenges which may lie ahead for them.

Immediately after the service Nicholas said, 'I grew up in the church and I have always wanted to get baptised, and I love Jesus. It's probably the best moment of my life. I feel good.' Geneve added, 'I just feel kind of new and better. I've always wanted to get baptised, but I haven't had the right experiences to do it. And now, I just really wanted to get baptised and be with God and take that step.'

The occasion was described as 'beautiful' and was truly a cause for celebration.

IAN SABADIN (COMMUNICATIONS, BRISTOL CENTRAL)

Felix McPherson, have been involved in their instruction. These new members have really bonded with the Hampstead members.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM: KIRK MORRISON (LEADER), PAELO SADDLER AND FIONA PACQUETTE

Religious Liberty Symposium

by Pastors John Surridge and Victor Hulbert

Friday, 15 August 2014, saw more than 100 Seventh-day Adventist pastors and leaders, together with guests from the world of politics and civic leadership, meet at the Bethel Convention Centre in West Bromwich for the first Religious Liberty Symposium run by the Adventist Church in the United Kingdom.

In his introduction BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, welcomed the special guests, who included MPs John Speller and David Jamison, Councillor Yvonne Mosquito, and representatives from the Sikh community. Representing the Adventist Church were Dr John Graz, secretary-general of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA), Dr Ganoune Diop, director of Adventist-United Nations Relations, General Conference vice president, Dr Delbert Baker, and Chaplain Barry C. Black, a retired rear admiral and 62nd chaplain of the United States Senate.

Chaplain Black began the day with a devotional based on Daniel chapter one. Drawing from his 27 years of service in the US Navy and subsequent service to the Senate, Chaplain Black acknowledged the right of everyone to worship God according to their own conscience. However, he also pointed out that, in practice, some ways of securing this right are better than others. He recalled one situation when, at a formal meal, he and some

Adventist colleagues had been served meat instead of the vegetarian food they had requested. While he resolved just to eat the vegetables, another of his party decided to make a point of the error – thus drawing the comment from their secular host: ‘He has an attitude problem.’

A consummate diplomat himself, Chaplain Black went on to examine the situation of Daniel and his three Hebrew friends in Babylon, and how they found diplomatic ways to remain true to God, even in the service of a powerful autocrat. Three principles stood out for Chaplain Black:

Firstly, that the young men were well prepared. As General Patton said in a speech to the Third Army in 1944, ‘I believe that an ounce of sweat will save a gallon of blood.’

Secondly, we should trust God for His favour. Daniel managed to win the eunuch over on to his side, and while there are times when we need to be prophetic, sometimes we need to have allies.

Thirdly, that we should put God to the test. ‘God is not intimidated by the challenges that we face,’ said Chaplain Black. In his own experience of becoming chaplain to the Senate, he had faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles, one of which was a direct challenge from a senator regarding his religious beliefs. On the spur of the moment he responded, ‘I can say a hearty amen to the Apostles’ Creed’



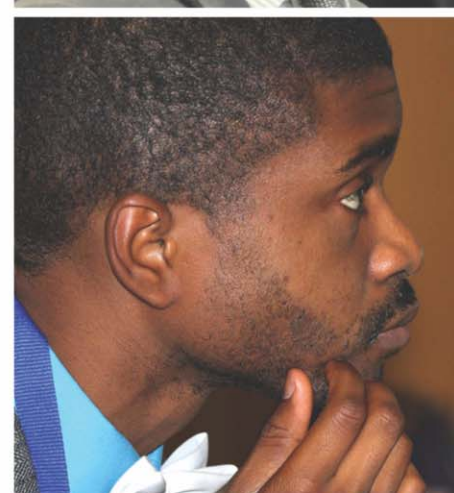
and, though he hadn’t memorised it as such, proceeded to recite it word for word. With hindsight he realised that he had heard the Apostles’ Creed many times in his work as a navy chaplain. ‘God was programming my hard drive, because He knew that one day a clever senator would think he had me checkmated.’

Concluding the story of Daniel, Chaplain Black noted that after the period of ten days the Hebrew young men were found to be ten times better than the others. Under the power of the Holy Spirit we too will achieve far more than most people can dream of.

Following Chaplain Black’s devotional, Dr Graz shared something of what is being done to promote religious freedom around the world and why it is important. ‘If we don’t promote

and protect religious liberty we will lose it,’ he said. ‘The most difficult place to promote it is in countries where we have it. But people should remember that a lot of sacrifices have been made to arrive at where we are today.’ Dr Graz also surprised some in the audience by strongly emphasising that Adventists ‘need to defend the rights and freedoms of all people, of all religions, and of those of no religion’. Thus Adventists should be prepared to defend vigorously the rights of Muslims, Catholics and even atheists.

Dr Diop, who represents the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the United Nations, spoke about the importance of human dignity. Citing the establishment of the Society for the Abolition of Slavery in 1787, he highlighted the key role of the Quakers, whose belief in equality was founded in their understanding of the Bible. Today, similarly motivated Seventh-day Adventists continue this tradition in their focus on religious freedom.



‘The most important foundational value in every society is human dignity,’ said Dr Diop. ‘It is the foundation of human rights. . . . Human dignity is the foundation of all other values in society, whether freedom, justice or peace.’

According to Dr Diop the Adventist view of creation is key. ‘The fact that we are made in God’s image,’ he said, ‘is the foundation of human dignity itself. We can only understand who people are in the light of who God is.’

Concluding the morning programme, Dr Baker related the story of Pastor Antonio Monteiro who was imprisoned on false charges for nearly two years in Lome, Togo, before finally being released on 13 January this year. Although the IRLA had helped to secure this release, Baker was quick to point out that there are other cases still outstanding and there is much work still to do.

The theological basis for a strong religious liberty stance continued in the afternoon, with Dr Diop pointing out that ‘Whatever is done to any human being is done to God’, and that ‘The love of God for the world is a model of relating to others.’

Dwayne Leslie, a veteran attorney of 20 years, represents the Adventist Church on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. He noted that we ‘must have relationship to influence people. We need to go to our political leaders *before* we are in trouble.’

Dr Graz then concluded a positive exchange of ideas by pointing out that Jesus was a strong believer in religious freedom. He gave people a choice, asking, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ (John 6:67, NKJV) He gave information to help people make a decision: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must . . . take up their cross . . .’ (Mark 8:34, TNIV). He gave free choice. In Revelation 3:20 (TNIV) He states, ‘I stand at the door and knock . . .’, but leaves it to the believer as to whether or not that door is opened.

The day finished in debate – but also in unity, as Dr Diop concluded that both religious liberty and truth are important aspects of Adventism.

A selection of photos from the day can be found on the Adventist Church’s picture gallery.

A video report of the entire Free to Worship conference is available at: <http://youtu.be/CdUcgYEXtgM>.



Our position statement regarding religious minorities and religious freedom

Throughout history religious minorities have often been subject to discrimination and outright persecution. Today religious intolerance and prejudice are again on the rise. Notwithstanding the affirmation of the freedom of everyone to hold and disseminate religious views and to change one’s religion – an affirmation sustained in the United Nations instruments and documents comprising an ‘International Bill of Rights’ – many countries deny this right to their citizens.

International instruments condemn discrimination against minorities, but tragically, some nations have published lists of religious groups described as potentially dangerous sects. Anti-sect commissions have been set up, investigative personnel have been trained, and restrictive laws passed. Hundreds of thousands of innocent believers are now under official suspicion and are treated as second-class citizens. All this violates religious freedom, which is the most basic and essential of the fundamental rights of humankind. Seventh-day Adventists believe in obeying the laws of the land as long as they do not conflict with the laws of God. However, we oppose any law, policy, or activity which discriminates against religious minorities.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church stands for religious freedom for everyone, as well as for the separation of church and state. Scripture teaches that the God who gave life also gave freedom of choice. God only accepts homage that is freely given. Seventh-day Adventists further believe that the law must be applied evenly and without capricious favour. *We submit that no religious group should be judged because some adherents may appear to be extremists.* [Editor’s emphasis.] Religious freedom is limited when aggressive or violent behavior violates the human rights of others.

In support of Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments, and in harmony with its beliefs and its history, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is fully committed to promote, defend, and protect religious freedom for everyone, everywhere. To that end, we will continue to co-operate with the United Nations Human Rights Commission and other international agencies and religious organisations to encourage every nation to implement the fundamental right of religious freedom. In addition, we will continue to promote dialogue and better understanding between governmental authorities and people who belong to religious minorities.

This statement was voted during the Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee on Wednesday, 29 September, 1999 in Silver Spring, Maryland.

An earlier statement on religious freedom voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and released at the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, 29 June-8 July, 1995, contained the following additional commitment:

‘We will continue to co-operate and network with others to defend the religious liberty of all people, *including those with whom we may disagree.*’ [Editor’s emphasis.]



Glasgow's common-health prayer relay

There was excitement as the Queen's Baton passed through the Clydebank and Faifley area. Community members lined the streets to cheer it on as it travelled the length and breadth of Scotland, in the countdown to the Commonwealth Games (23 July to 3 August). There were countless sports and cultural events taking place daily along the route. One of these was the Faifley Community church's (Glasgow) inter-faith prayer baton relay, which led to five of the churches in the Clydebank area joining in prayer along with members of the community.

During these walks they would meet at the church each evening for a brief devotion before heading out to the streets to pray. They stopped at schools, hospitals, commercial buildings and residential areas, even meeting the youngest member of the community, who was just five days old! Some people who had never been in a church attended the prayer walks. The president of the Scottish Mission, Pastor Bernie Holford, also joined the walk one evening. He said, 'As we walked the streets near our church, we prayed that God would show us what to pray for. The focus of the prayers was very poignant. I will never forget seeing Clydebank with God's eyes; there were so many people and issues to pray for, right on the street!'

The prayer relay involved Faifley Parish Church, Faifley Seventh-day Adventist Community Church, St Margaret's Parish Church and Elim Family Church, all within the Clydebank area. Each day members from all the churches would meet in prayer for the Clydebank community and the Glasgow district.

What a privilege to be able to stop and publicly pray in the open. During these prayer walks we also took time to pray for our friends around the world who do not have this opportunity to pray openly.

This initiative was led by Community Services leader, Yvonne Blake,

SEC prayer conference: practical and balanced

One hundred and thirty people attended the South England Conference's annual Prayer Ministry conference at Wokefield Park, Reading from 8 to 10 August. The weekend provided a well-balanced approach to prayer, with time for presentations and the practical application of what was learnt. There was also time for the attendees to pray alone.

This year Pastor Jansen Trotman and Dr Gloria Trotman were the guest speakers. During his 40 years of ministry, Pastor Trotman has served in various pastoral and administrative capacities within the Caribbean Union Conference. His wife is a commissioned minister and recently served as Children's Ministries and Women's Ministries director for the Inter-American Division. The couple used their experience to show, in both a practical and a theoretical manner, how people can implement prayer in their lives. 'The Power of Prayer' and 'Why Won't God Answer My Prayer?' were among the topics covered.

Some people, like Margaret Mcbean from Ashford, were attending the Prayer Ministry conference for the first time, hoping to get practical help on how to enable their church's prayer ministry to move forwards. Other people came for different reasons: 'I'm here because I need prayer,' was one attendee's response. Vineta Krailina from Holloway Church expressed the importance of feeling God's greatness – not just to know that God is great, but to feel it with your entire body. A regular attendee, Winifred Williams from Stevenage, was eager to enjoy the blessings of the conference, and had invited another church member along to share them with him.

'Prayer has always been an integral part of my life,' shared Hilton Punter from Tottenham Holcombe Road Church. 'It's what keeps my life going.'

There was an increase in the number of men attending the conference this year. According to Pastor Osei, SEC Prayer Ministry leader: 'When we started seven years ago the men were noticeably absent. Now God has answered our prayer and we see more men actively involved in prayer ministry.'

PASTOR KIRSTEN ØSTER-LUNDQVIST (SEC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DIRECTOR)



who said, 'I praise God for the great fellowship, beautiful weather, new friendships and, most importantly, the privilege of praying together! Reverend Gregor McIntyre from the Faifley parish church described her efforts as 'indefatigable' because she had worked tirelessly to bring all the ministers in Clydebank together – something that has not been done before. The plan is that this will be followed by other community-based prayer events in the future.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Scottish Mission earlier this year became part of *More Than Gold 2014*, a charity officially recognised as the inter-faith group supporting the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014. It was through *More Than Gold 2014* that Faifley Seventh-day Adventist church organised this interfaith prayer relay to run alongside the Queen's Baton Relay.

Eleven-year-old Ashanti Magoma, who took part in the walks, made this observation which really sums things up: 'The prayer relay was great; we got to mix with other churches and pray under one name: Christians.'

AUDREY MUTONGI



Children hold evangelistic meetings

The Wolverhampton Central church has had its first-ever children's evangelistic series. Under the supervision of Janet Taylor, Children's Ministries leader, and her secretary, Jennifer Munroe-Dinham, the children of the church conducted this series under the title: 'Now Is the Time – It's Time to Make a Change'. Through it the children presented to their church family and local friends how time is winding up and prophecy is unfolding in front of them.

The series was held from 2 to 9 August and the preachers were aged between 10 and 14. The theme song 'Now is the time' was written and composed by the Junior Sabbath School leader, Misheck Mutimbanyoka.

On the first Sabbath, Caleb (14) told the church to understand how brainwashing can easily take place in the local schools. That afternoon it was Elisha's turn and he asked the children about bullying, relationships among the young, 'parent pressure' and how to know if you will be saved. The children were answering all the questions, and really surprising the adults with some of the excellent answers they gave. On Sunday, Ben (10) told the church that Satan tries to make it impossible for us to see a way through our problems, but that all things are possible with God's help. On Monday, Muzi (10) challenged the children to stop playing games and start focusing on God. On Tuesday, Christabel (10) challenged the parents to strive to be better because children learn what parents live, particularly at home.

On Wednesday, Jabari (12) reminded the church about the last-day signs and that Jesus was coming back soon. On Friday, the children performed a play depicting the events leading up to Christ's return and how they imagined Christ's coming would be. During the finale on Sabbath, Eden (11) encouraged the congregation to stay focused, because God's plan is for us all to get to Heaven; while Esmonds (12) gave us his understanding of what Heaven will be like – and then told the congregation not to miss out on getting there.

As the week went by a lot of the children came forward to ask what else they could do – they wanted to do more! Children as young as three were singing solos and conducting the main pastoral prayer.

The NEC Children's Ministries leader, Pastor Patricia Douglas, challenged the children to serve the Lord with their talents. She also appealed to the church to use the children in future



Andrews University professor at Basingstoke music day

Andrews University professor, Dr Ben A. Maguad, was the guest speaker at the annual Basingstoke music day on 7 June. In the morning he outlined the challenges and successes Joseph faced in becoming governor of Egypt. In his afternoon seminar, entitled 'Managing Our Finances', he shared his testimony of how he overcame many obstacles to rise from a modest background, to being a tenured professor in Management, Marketing and Information Systems at Andrews University. He outlined the necessity of good budgetary practices and emphasised that 'If we are faithful to God, He will be faithful to us.' Dr Maguad encouraged the attentive listeners to be faithful stewards of their time, tithes, offerings and help for others. He concluded with the following words: 'God should be our financial advisor; this will ensure that our finances are managed from not just a human, but also a divine perspective.'

Beautiful music was heard throughout the day, reaching a climax during the afternoon concert. The musicians included local as well as visiting soloists and groups – including the twenty-strong Portsmouth choir.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY, BASINGSTOKE



programmes, for they are tomorrow's leaders.

The Sabbath ended with all generations of the church taking part in a special musical celebration. The children were able to see that their parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles all supported them, the Children's Ministries department and the staff of the Junior Sabbath School.

Pastor Douglas, the NEC Ministerial director, Pastor Jackson, and Pastor Appiah and his church elders ended the campaign with prayers of consecration for the children.

DONNA PALMER



'Building up, reaching out!'

Lea Valley Church celebrated their Education Day on Sabbath 26 July under the theme: 'Building up, reaching out!'

The day was set apart from other worship days in order to focus attention on the many young people who have successfully completed their studies at different levels of learning – GCSE, graduate and postgraduate courses.

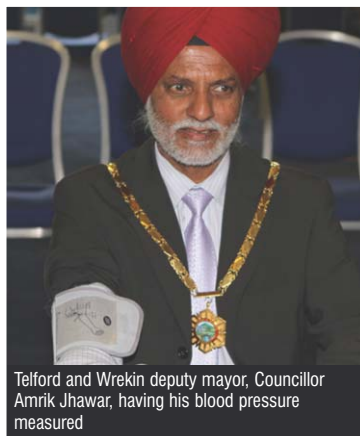
In recognition of these achievements, Daniel Obeng (head of the church's Education department) and Agymang Duah (an elder) presented certificates of recognition to the youth.

The church also recognised some young people for their exemplary leadership, punctuality and dedication to church activities. The youngest member cited was six-year-old Master Elias Nana Kweku Safo, for his enthusiasm and dedication in regularly playing the church organ during worship services.

Education, in whatever form it takes, is essential for our personal, moral and spiritual development. Through proper training and education, the Church is able to harness its human resources for the great commission in Matthew 28.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Professor Theophilus Gokah. Speaking on the theme, 'Living a life of purpose', he led the congregation through the life story of Nehemiah and urged the members – especially the youth – to be purposeful in life.

DANIEL OBENG AND DR THEOPHILUS GOKAH



Telford and Wrekin deputy mayor, Councillor Amrik Jhawar, having his blood pressure measured



Julie Bone and Sharon Smith from the Telford and Wrekin NHS Clinical Commissioning Group



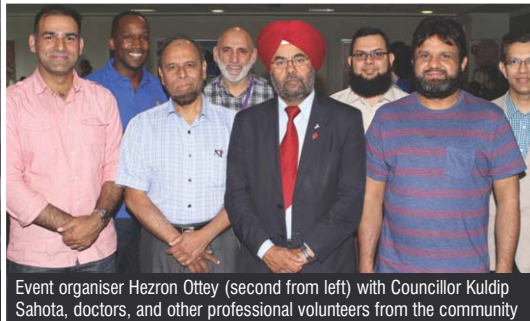
Welsh Mission Health Ministries sponsor Mrs Lil Saunders (left) with Gloria Konadu from the Telford Ghana church



The Whitehouse Hotel



Leader of the Telford and Wrekin Council, Councillor Kuldip Sahota, waiting for his test results



Event organiser Hezron Ottey (second from left) with Councillor Kuldip Sahota, doctors, and other professional volunteers from the community

Telford runs health day

by Pastor John Surridge

On Sunday, 3 August, the Telford church hosted a major community health day in the Whitehouse Hotel, Wellington. On offer were a wide range of health tests for the general public as well as free consultations with doctors and other health professionals.

The event was opened by Councillor Amrik Jhawar, deputy mayor of the borough of Telford and Wrekin, who spoke of the importance of preventative health measures in keeping the whole community healthy. Also on the podium was Councillor Kuldip Sahota, leader of Telford and Wrekin Council, who spoke warmly of the health work being done by the Telford Seventh-day Adventist church.

Professionals present included medical consultants and doctors, representatives from the NHS's 'FutureFit' and 'Patient Advice and Liaison' services, a community ambassador from the police crime commissioner's office (West Mercia Police), members of the Adventist Church's lifestyle team, and workers from the Terrence Higgins Trust, as well as a group from the Shropshire Islamic Foundation.

Event organiser was Telford member Hezron Ottey, an Accident and Emergency nurse at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital,

who speaks regularly on Radio Shropshire and has many connections in the local community. 'We really have had a lot of support from local groups,' he said. 'It's great to see the whole community coming together with the aim of improving health and lifestyle at all levels of our society.'

Dr Amir Ali Thakur, an A&E senior registrar at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, welcomed the opportunity to speak directly to members of the public during the day. 'Health is important for everyone and we should all be more aware of the importance of diet and lifestyle in maintaining good health.'

Dr Ali Jan, a paediatrician at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford, said, 'Diet is the key. We need to get the message across that children need a healthy, balanced diet.' A member of the Shropshire Islamic Foundation, Dr Jan pointed out that this was also a serious problem in the Muslim community. 'We face challenges with vitamin D and iron deficiency,' he said. 'People need to realise that if we're not getting these from our lifestyle or diet we need to take supplements or eat cereals that have been fortified with vitamins.'

At the other end of the spectrum was Dr Ejaz Nazir, a Consultant in old age as well as a lecturer in psychiatry at the

University of Chester. 'Dementia is a growing problem around the world and there is a false belief that it is a normal part of ageing,' he said. 'We need to remove the stigma surrounding this disease and encourage people to contact their GPs or the Alzheimer's Society if they have concerns. It's true that there is no cure as such but there is still a great deal we can do.'

Representing the NHS were Julie Bone and Sharon Smith from the Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group. They spoke directly with members of the public and advised people on how best to interact with the health service at a local level.

Julie Rich of the British Heart Foundation gave demonstrations of simple emergency medical procedures.

Sajid Younis, a community ambassador for the police, spoke of the wider issues that affect communities and of the importance of building bridges between the police and local groups. 'We want people to feel that they can bring any local concerns and issues to their local policing teams,' he said.

Throughout the day a steady stream of people passed through the various stands, having their BMI, blood pressure, cholesterol level, heart rate and various other things measured. Local

resident Kirsten said, 'I really appreciated the fact that the health professionals had time to listen to me and reassure me about the concerns I had.'

Stu, also from Telford, said, 'I've only been to see a doctor twice in my life, so finding out my blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels was really helpful. I also appreciated the way the hall was organised – it was easy to work out where everything was and you could just pop in whenever you wanted.'

Welsh Mission president, Pastor John Surridge, said, 'We're so happy to have been able to make a difference in Telford, but we couldn't have done it without so much local support. These professionals have given their time freely on what was for many of them their only day off in the week. I'm also really proud of our own teams, led by Irving and Lil Saunders, and Hezron Ottey, who are now becoming experts in this kind of thing. Nearly all of the team members are full-time health professionals, but they believe so strongly in the importance of a healthy lifestyle that they do health promotion in their spare time as well!'

If you would like to be involved with this event next year please contact Hezron Ottey on: 07861 700542.

More pictures can be seen on the Welsh Mission website at: <http://wm.adventist.org.uk>.

GYC 2014

by Jan Carlyle Andrada (16) with Victor Samwinga

Fifteen young people from Newcastle Church were among more than 850 youth attending the recent GYC (Generation of Youth for Christ) conference held in Linz, Austria, from 23 to 27 July. Joined by their friends from other churches such as Middlesbrough, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Portsmouth and Coventry, Newcastle's youth made up the largest group from a single church in the North England Conference.

Many of them had saved for months for what was to be the biggest event of the year – possibly, even of their lives. The delegates faced several obstacles which made them wonder if they would make it to Linz on time. A long traffic jam caused by a severe traffic accident on the motorway; missing three of their trains; and a breakdown in a small Dutch village were just some of the challenges. However, with each problem, they prayed and God provided a solution. In keeping with this year's GYC theme, the group was 'unhindered', and despite all these challenges they arrived at the Linz Design Centre with time to spare.

This youth conference, held every two years, is a youth-initiated and youth-led movement of Seventh-day Adventists from diverse backgrounds, united in a common commitment to serious Bible study, intense prayer, uncompromising lifestyle, and boldness in sharing Christ with others.

Newcastle's fifteen were inspired by their youth leader, J. R. Narciso, who had attended GYC Europe two years ago, with fellow youth and church member, Paul Morales. GYC Europe 2012 was a major milestone in the spiritual journeys of the two young men, as they came back more determined to share their experiences and serve the Lord. This year's delegates to GYC, searching for answers or looking for a deeper spiritual experience, were not to be disappointed.

When asked what inspired her to attend GYC, Sofenna (17) replied: 'The theme "Unhindered" looked like something that could build me spiritually. I could see I

was growing spiritually but there were also things that were hindering me. I felt that GYC offered me the chance to acknowledge what was fully hindering me from committing myself fully to God's Word and to realise what I want to do in my future for Christ.' Mercy Sibanda (15) added: 'To me it seemed like an experience that would not only bring me closer to God, but also help me to make new friends that shared the same faith and the same mission.'

The youngest among Newcastle's youth was Tate Mukanganiki, who, despite being only 14, was determined to share in the spirit of GYC. Reflecting on her experience, Tate felt blessed, remarking: 'Going to GYC has made me realise that there are a lot of things holding me back from building my relationship with Christ and sharing His love with others. Every spare moment I get I should walk with Christ and reflect on His love for me.'

Two brothers, Jan and Sebastian Labro, 18 and 20, were also among those in attendance. Sharing his thoughts on the impact of GYC, Sebastian remarked: 'I attended GYC as a lost sheep, seeking for forgiveness and answers. God has showered me with His blessings through the speakers and new friends. After GYC, I feel closer to God and truly "unhindered".'

The youth saw the conference as an event that has helped them in their personal spiritual development, empowering them to deal with contemporary issues and helping improve their evangelistic outreach. Sebastian Braxton's daily sermons were especially beneficial. He not only explored Bible testimonies but also shared what it meant to him to be an 'unhindered' Christian living in a postmodern era. Key snippets from his discourses included the need for youth to acknowledge the things that hinder them from fulfilling their destiny; learning to give up 'unnecessary' things; and living a life of what he referred to as 'voluntary simplicity'.

Besides the many presentations, the youth also used their talents to participate

in outreach programmes, such as singing in the street choir, praying for people at the prayer booth, and conducting door-to-door evangelism.

With GYC over, the youths have vowed to ensure that what happens at GYC should not remain at GYC!



COMMUNITY COOKING HUBS

Location: Brixton SDA Church, London
2-day foundation Health Ministries course

Sunday 5 October & Sunday 12 October 2014

Time: 9.30am-4pm
Limited places: 20 places

Attendance by advance booking only

To book or obtain more information email:
createnutrition@gmail.com

Community Cooking Hubs is a training course designed to equip Health Ministries leaders and their teams to effectively promote healthy eating through community cooking demonstrations.





Wimbledon Pathfinders achieve

On 12 July, Wimbledon Fireflies Pathfinders and Adventurers marked their eighth year of operation with a day of celebration, starting with an investiture service in the morning and ending with an afternoon baptismal dedication and prize-giving service.

This year has been like none other in the history of Pathfinding at this church. The club has seen a flurry of activities to mark this anniversary: from taking a programme to Dundee Church; sharing in worship with Crieff's members; fund-raising for a children's charity; visiting housebound church members on Sabbaths for worship; to baking cakes for the seniors' lunch at church. The club has also sent more children and youth to camporees this year than ever before. It is also the year that the most honours have been achieved to date. The investiture service was extra special with Dr Des Boldeau leading out in what appears to have been his last investiture.

During the prize-giving section of the investiture numerous special awards were handed out to the well-deserving achievers within the club.

The highlight of the day was the honouring of Namooya Muzyamba and Czarina Nercua, who are the first ever Pathfinders to be baptised at the Wimbledon church (12 April 2014). They won't be the last, however, because there are others currently preparing for baptism in the near future.

TRISCY WILLIAMS (PATHFINDER DIRECTOR)



Langley dedication

On 9 August Robin and Joyce Masih had their daughter, Sharon, dedicated by Pastor S. M. Gill. Sharon's grandmother, wife of the late Habib Phares, is seated in the above photo. After the dedication, lunch was provided by the family.

ROHEET SUBRAI

Corrigenda: We apologise for our mistake in the article 'Stanborough Press: 120 Years of Service' which appeared in the MESSENGER of 15 August. We incorrectly identified Arthur Warren as Alfred twice on page nine. Arthur Warren was the first of his family to give outstanding service at the Press. His son Edgar served as proofreader and copy editor. His grandson Roy was an outstanding printer. His great-grandson Derrick was an IT worker. In the news item, 'Goodbyes' at Harlestone which appeared in the MESSENGER of 1 August, page 14 (issue 16, page 14), concerning Reginald and Christine Goodwin, the text should have read: Both have been active in community work and Reginald has been an invaluable head deacon and Christine a Sabbath School team member.' Our apologies for this mistake.

obituaries

Joan Diana Greaves (1944-2014) d. 30 June.

Joan Greaves was born on the sunny 'paradise' island of Barbados and lived there for the first 22 years of her life with her mother, father, five brothers and a sister. By all accounts Joan was a jovial, warm-hearted soul who entertained her family with her singing and dancing. She recalled her mother having a dream that encouraged her to join the Adventist faith. Subsequently both mother and daughter were baptised at Ephesus Church in the parish of St Michael.

In the mid-1960s Joan was selected from among hundreds of candidates for a sponsorship to live and work as a nurse in England. She arrived in London on 13 November 1966 as a bright-eyed young lady, going on to work in a number of nursing roles in several hospitals around the country including the Whittington, Hackney and Homerton, all in London. Joan met Betram Greaves at the Holloway church and they married on 15 July 1973, which would have made this a 41st anniversary year. They went on to have three sons: Hezron (1975), Urnell (1977) and Denzil (1979).

Joan excelled equally at nursing and homemaking. She enjoyed knitting and baking and had a brilliant memory, especially for numbers. Her children remember her disciplinary efforts and strong Christian values with fondness. She sent her boys to Hyland House Primary School and then to Stanborough Park Secondary School as she was a firm supporter of Adventist education.

Sadly, in later years Joan developed diabetes-related complications; however, she hardly ever complained. She remained enthusiastic and would attend church at every given opportunity. The final days of Joan's life, spent in the hospital, were spiritually uplifting for all the family. In her final hours she was surrounded by her husband and three sons. The touching tributes given at her funeral reflected Joan's loving, sacrificial nature, which was a reflection of her relationship with God. She leaves a powerful legacy for her husband, three sons, five grandchildren, surviving siblings



and numerous friends. We have every hope to meet her again at the second coming of Jesus.

EMEKA NWOKOYE

Gloria May Forrest (1939-2014) d. 20 July.

Gloria May Forrest died on Sunday, 20 July, 2014. She was born on 5 December, 1939, in Brighton, Jamaica – one of nine children, seven of whom were sisters. At age two her family home burnt down, and she was raised with her aunt, growing up as an only child. After leaving school, she worked as a housekeeper. She arrived in London in 1959, and a year later she gave birth to her first child, Lorna. Later, Gloria's siblings joined her in England.

Gloria realised that she had a skill for cooking and became a caterer. In 1969 she married and had more children, and dedicated her life to caring and to her catering job. In 1973 she came to Manchester with her family. Their house was home to eleven people, nine of whom were children; however, the family members all agree that it was a happy place, filled with laughter. At this time Gloria worked as an auxiliary nurse at Withington Hospital.

In 1991 Gloria was baptised as a Seventh-day Adventist. She was an active member of her church and sang in the choir. She was also part of the community service team; served as the church's flower arranger; and as a member of the day care group. Gloria was head deaconess for more than fifteen years and continued in all of these positions until she became ill and was hospitalised. She was also married again in 2009, this time to Granville Forrest.

Gloria supported a variety of events and catered for funerals, weddings, birthdays – everything in fact; but she was best known for her cake baking. She was a worker for the Lord, always served others, lived selflessly and had an infectious smile. Sabbath lunch at her house was always a feast: whatever her guests liked, she would make sure she provided, to their taste and in abundance. 'No!' was never a part of her vocabulary. Her character can be compared to that of Tabitha from Acts 9, always doing good and helping the poor.



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Errors and omissions excepted

GO YE THEREFORE, AND TEACH ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST

MATTHEW 28:19

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Lecresia Campbell Alexis Spight

Errors and omissions excepted

Gloria loved having family around her and was a loveable, lively character. Her house was always a happy place to be, filled with people. She was fun to be around and even when she was ill and barely audible she didn't lose her sense of humour. When Gloria was discussing funeral arrangements with one of her older grandchildren, Sharee, she instructed her, 'Don't put on no shoes . . . where mi' a walk to?'

Even when dying, she still had her sense of humour because she knew she was at peace with God. Her family, the church and the community are all in mourning at the sadness of her unexpected death, but we all look forward to seeing her again one day. Gloria leaves behind her husband, Granville, five children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

SARA FRANCIS

BOOKSALES

October
 5 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
 24-26 Scottish Camp Meeting

November
 2 Sheffield Burngreave 10am-2pm
 30 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

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Hereford Church is on the move

Due to increased attendance the Hereford church is now meeting at: Aspire Community Hub, Canal Road, Hereford, HR1 2EA. Sabbath School is at 10.30am and Divine Service at 11.30am. Visitors are always welcome. Note that our Sunday, Monday and Thursday programmes are still taking place in our own building at: 62 St Guthlac Street, Hereford, HR1 2EX.

The North England Conference Children's Ministries Department Presents...

Children's Ministries Emphasis Weekend

Sometimes I Mess Up

Sabbath 18 October, 10am - 6.15pm;
 Sunday 19 October, 10am - 3pm

New Castle-Upon-Tyne, Nesham St (off Westmorland Road), Cruddas Park, Elswick, New Castle-Upon-Tyne, NE4 7BE.

Speakers
 Pastor Carlton Douglas and Marlene Simpson. Children, come & praise God! This is worship especially for you! Singing, Drama, Art and more.

Free event! Lunch will be provided. For more information please call the Children's Ministries Department on 0115 960 6312.

Errors and omissions excepted

back page



**NEWBOLD
COLLEGE**
OF HIGHER EDUCATION



Students complete part one of the Certificate in Health and Wellness at Newbold

On Friday 15 August, the Certificate in Health and Wellness students successfully completed their first five weeks of this Newbold programme. The ten-week intensive course is scheduled to be completed in two summers.

The participating students, who came from different parts of the UK, Europe and Africa, have different plans to implement their newly-gained knowledge! Their enthusiasm was commended by one of their lecturers, Dr Winston Craig, Professor of Nutrition at Andrews University, USA. He could only imagine the exciting days ahead as these students go off and implement new health programmes in their communities.

If you would like to find out more about the Certificate in Health and Wellness, please visit www.newbold.ac.uk.

This is what some of the students had to say about the course:

Jonathan Barrett, pastor (UK)

If you were the kind of child who couldn't wait for the lessons to be over so you could get to the sports field, then this intensive health study will suit you! Not only did we have lectures, but we also experienced practical sessions in the gym and outside. Even during the lectures we were encouraged to stand and move about or sit on exercise balls rather than chairs. Millions die each year just from inactivity, so we were encouraged to keep moving!

During these first five weeks of the course we learnt about nutrition, the principles of health and fitness, and consumer health. We also devised and implemented our own fitness plans, which can also be used in our ministry to the public.

It was so good that I am planning to come next year for part two – with my wife, as she really feels that she has missed out. If you want a huge boost of wellness, and intend to share that with your community, plan to come to Newbold next summer for part two of the Certificate in Health and Wellness!



Irena Stipesevic Rakamaric, MD, public health and health management specialist (Croatia)

While working in Croatia as a public health physician, it has been challenging to see our poor population face cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and cancer. An adequate vegetarian diet is a powerful tool in preventing, treating and reversing such illnesses. So I have found this course very useful to broaden my knowledge in nutrition and empower it with scientific facts. I will use this knowledge in my daily work while developing and implementing health programmes.

I appreciated how the course provided a vast variety of up-to-date evidence-based information on healthy diet and nutrition. All the controversial issues were freely discussed, and we felt comfortable to raise whatever questions we had. There was also a good group dynamic, which helped us acquire a broad perspective, while still staying focused. It was a blessing to touch on consumer health issues too.

I especially enjoyed our morning devotionals, which often reminded us of why we are here in the first place: to proclaim the Gospel!

I would strongly recommend this course to anyone who has a special interest in lifestyle health issues, but also to health professionals who want more practical knowledge on nutrition and fitness.



Kristoffer Sandstrom (Sweden)

It is our health and Gospel work combined that will finish the work on Earth. I am privileged to be part of a programme that has this as its main objective. I pray that what we have learned here will result in changed lives, for eternity.



Gloria Tukeba, a health missionary in London (Congo)

As a founder of Our Great Commission (OGC), a youth ministry that educates and inspires young people, I feel that God has opened the door for me to be on this Health and Wellness course. I plan to encourage the youth to see health as a lifestyle by delivering health presentations to different churches around London. I would encourage you to come to the

second part of the course next summer, and enjoy being at the beautiful Newbold campus.



Vacancy

Administrative assistant –
co-ordinator

General Conference Auditing Services

is looking for someone who is well-organised, outgoing, enjoys working with details, is able to plan well, and will help our team to be more efficient.

The ideal candidate will have three years of administrative work experience in a professional environment and advanced proficiency in Outlook, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Additional requirements:

- Excellent written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills
- A solution-orientation and the ability to anticipate team needs
- Strong time-management skills and the ability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously

Applicants must have the right to work and live in the UK.

Working hours: Initially the ideal candidate would work 2-3 days per week on a flexible time basis.

Closing date for applications:
10 October 2014

For more information contact:
Sandra Grice on 0753 2052474, or at
GriceS@gcasconnect.org

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Sept 12	7.22	7.35	7.28	7.39	7.48
19	7.06	7.18	7.11	7.20	7.30
26	6.50	7.02	6.54	7.02	7.13
Oct 3	6.34	6.46	6.37	6.43	6.55

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