

Messenger

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Christian parenting a priority in NEC

by Geraldene Farmer and Pastor Patricia Douglas

Are parents hanging up or hanging in? 'Digital Parenting in a Media World', an eye-opening series of seminars presented by Dr Jeffrey Brown and his wife Pattiejean, aimed at answering this pressing question. The series was held during a brief tour of Manchester and Birmingham between 6 and 13 September.

Parents were introduced to 'digital speak', which covered some of the lesser-known texting abbreviations used by young people today, and a discussion of the media habits of modern children. Most parents could only identify one or two of these abbreviations, highlighting the divide between children's online activities and their parents' deficiencies in staying abreast of them. According to Lungani Sibanda, who heads up one of the local media teams: 'After this series I am convinced that I need to place a tighter rein on the access my children have to the social media and its gadgetry.'

Doctor Brown, a Family Ministries specialist and former president of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and his wife Pattiejean, have authored parenting books, and he outlined his 'Four Seasons of Parenting' as follows:

Winter (ages 0-6): Consists of laying down the foundation for the future. This season emphasises the importance of preparation and aims to make sure that our children are appropriately disciplined and that they understand the key word 'authority'.

Spring (ages 7-10): Addresses what we can do to give our children security and protection from abuse. The key word during this season is 'security'.

Summer (ages 11-16): Deals with the changes our children go through and the ups and downs experienced during this time. The keyword during this season is 'scrutiny' and includes monitoring their gadgets for their own protection.

Autumn (ages 17+): This season covers the time when children leave home. The keyword during this season is 'identity' and it is a time when parents get to ponder whether they have done enough with their children to ensure that they can stand on their own two feet as they face life alone.

In a lighter vein, Doctor Brown referred to 'helicopter parents, who take their child to university and then don't want to leave, preferring to hover and watch him or her for as long as they can'. Handling the other seasons well can make all the difference, as they each

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Dr Jeffrey Brown and his wife Pattiejean



in turn lead up to the 'autumn' phase.

When asked what she hoped these training meetings would achieve, Pastor Douglas had this enthusiastic response: 'Firstly, we want parents in the NEC to know that they are supported and that someone is interested in the job they're doing. We want them to know that there is help on how to align what they are doing with counsel God has given us. So often in our churches the children seem to sit back as spectators. This makes it essential, on our special days, when the emphasis is on parenting, to strive to have intergenerational worship. We must help both the children and the church see how important it is to involve them. So, it's really about casting a vision of best practice.'

In Manchester South this point was demonstrated by the participation of the children in a dramatic re-enactment of mothers bringing their children to be blessed by Jesus, along with the angelic singing of their local children's choir.

In Birmingham child participation was taken to another level as child evangelists Eden and Esmond, from Wolverhampton Central, preached to hundreds of people. Eden encouraged the congregation to stay focused because God's plan was for us all to get to Heaven. Esmond shared his understanding of what Heaven will be like and told the congregation not to miss out on getting there. They are two of the seven child evangelists who preached during the 'Now Is the Time – It's Time to Make a Change' outreach series, conducted at Wolverhampton Central. Each child was presented with a certificate from the NEC Children's Ministries department in recognition of their contribution.

Janet Taylor, Children's Ministries leader, and her secretary Jennifer Munroe-Dinham

also received gifts of appreciation for the work they have done within the church. The NEC Children's Ministries department wanted to acknowledge that something outstanding had taken place; it was a team effort with Pastor Appiah and the entire church in full support. The prayer is that other churches will be inspired to follow their lead. Wolverhampton Central's Children's Choir and the Wednesbury Church Choir provided inspirational singing throughout the day. The seminar ended with a concert organised by the NEC Children's Ministries praise team – a wonderful end to a truly inspirational seminar.

During his comments, Pastor Cyril

Sweeney, BUC Family and Children's Ministries director, referred to the parable of the wise and foolish builders, highlighting the importance of choosing to build on the right foundation. He appealed to parents to invest in their children by spending time with them in family worship, but also in sharing with them in every other aspect of their lives.

The meetings were all very well attended and parents were really grateful to Dr Brown and Pattiejean for equipping them to connect with their children and especially their teens.

A DVD of the training will be available soon from the NEC Children's Ministries department and also the ABC bookstore.

editorial

As I write this editorial, history of a sort is being made in a New York appeals court by attorney Steven Wise. He will appear on behalf of Tommy and the Nonhuman Rights Project in 'a novel legal effort to have chimpanzees declared "persons" rather than "things" so the animals can be freed from what critics say are inhumane conditions'.¹

Wise is going to argue that 'animals with human qualities, such as chimps, deserve basic rights, including freedom from imprisonment'.²

Tommy's owner, Patrick Lavery, doesn't seem to see what all the fuss is about: after all, what more could a twenty-six-year-old chimpanzee want than a 'state of the art' shed that cost £93,400 and is equipped with cable TV and a stereo system?³

How does Tommy feel about all this? I guess we'll never know, seeing that he's just not 'human' enough to tell us!

What about the Whanganui?

Let's forget about Tommy for the moment and think about New Zealand's third-longest river, the Whanganui, which was accorded a 'legal identity' on 30 August 2012. What does this mean? Simply this: that this river 'will be recognised as a person when it comes to the law – in the same way that a company is, which will give it rights and interests'.⁴

Apparently this arises from the fact that the river is a special treasure to the Māori people because their traditions invest it with spiritual importance. This is why 'efforts have been made to safeguard the river and give it the respect it deserves'.⁵

Rights and respect

Will the Whanganui River ever exercise its 'rights' or protect its 'interests'? I guess not – that is, not without the help of human beings acting on its behalf!

Don't take them for granted!

Well, I don't know about Tommy or the Whanganui River, but I am in the process of learning that one cannot take a human or legal right for granted. Here's why. A few years ago I decided to pay a 'virtual' visit to a property that we own in a small but picturesque South African village. I logged on to Google Earth, fed in the details, and within seconds was 'hovering' directly over my little piece of real estate.

The co-ordinates were right but something on the ground was wrong. Believe it or not, to my shock and horror, I found that a gravel road had been graded through my property and a lamppost erected slap-bang in the middle of it! Suddenly my difficulty in selling the property through a local realtor made sense. No one in his right mind would consider buying a plot of land that was disguised as a side street!

That discovery was the beginning of sorrows. My letter to the authorities received a typical 'your-enquiry-is-receiving-our-attention' response, followed by months of silence. Eventually, in despair, I turned to a solicitor for help, setting in motion a costly process to defend my rights as a property owner against the illegal action of a county council authority.

I find it hard to grasp that something so self-evident and universally accepted as a 'right' has to be defended. But, sadly, this is the thing with rights: **their implementation too often results in an adversarial outcome.**

Is there another way?

The modern human rights culture is viewed as a necessity by many today. Without it authorities would probably find it even more difficult to impose mutual respect and tolerance across the racial, religious, moral, political and cultural diversity that characterises life in our 'global village'.

That notwithstanding, is there another way to dignify the lives of others than through argument, acrimony, legal processes and court orders? I think there is – a way that is profoundly Christian.

Take a look at the way Paul sets this out in Romans 12:1-10 using four closely linked principles (NIV-UK, emphasis supplied):

'Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, . . . [a] **Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** . . . For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: [b] **do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,** but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. . . . Love must be sincere. [c] **Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.** Be devoted to one another in love. [d] **Honour one another above yourselves.**'

Firstly, Paul is suggesting that we move beyond the '**pattern of this world**', whatever it may be. The emphasis on human rights is the contemporary pattern to which we are expected to conform. For Christians, however, that is not enough. God expects more than information, sensitisation or education to impose conformity to a set of human norms. **He wants transformation – a totally new way of thinking about human dignity.**

Secondly, **the apostle is pleading with us to lose the attitude.** He wants us to discover that, in His eyes, we are all equal. Far too much money has been spent on lawyers by those ostensibly trying to defend their rights, while they were really just 'panel beating' their pride!

Thirdly, he challenges us to live by His moral compass – '**Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.**' How likely are we to void another's dignity if we shun the wrong and uphold what is right?

Finally, he touches the very heart of the issue: '**Honour one another above yourselves.**' Rights are purely cosmetic unless they are the product of genuine respect. For ultimately, it is respect that bestows true dignity upon those around us.

Perhaps this should be our contribution to the human rights culture of today.

¹<http://abcnews.go.com/Weird/wireStory/ny-court-hear-arguments-chimps-rights-26043177> ²<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/court-to-decide-if-chimpanzees-get-human-rights-9781782.html> ³http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whanganui_River ⁴ibid



Julian Hibbert
Editor



Enhancing Health

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

Sleep health

Are you getting enough good-quality sleep – every night? Well, just in case you feel interrupted sleep has few consequences, research has some stark warnings. *The Telegraph* on 9 July 2014 published an article from science correspondent Sarah Knapp titled: 'Why disrupted sleep is as bad as getting none at all'.¹

Researchers discovered that being woken up in the night can negatively impact sleep quality and is as detrimental as getting just four hours of sleep per night. This was found to be the same for parents as for on-call workers who experienced interrupted sleep. It was found that broken sleep caused the same symptoms of confusion, depression and fatigue as those experienced by individuals suffering from severe sleep-deprivation.

Researchers at Tel Aviv University's School of Psychological Sciences looked at the sleep experience and its impact on parents woken by a crying baby and individuals who awoke to attend to a frantic emergency call. The study found that even when individuals had

a total of seven hours' sleep a night, being forced to wake up for regular 15-minute feeds, or consultations, was likely to leave them feeling as though they had had only four hours of rest.

The study findings warn that disturbed sleep is likely to leave parents feeling 'bewildered, dejected and exhausted' and could impact the 'decision making and attention spans' of on-call professionals like doctors or firefighters.

Professor Sadeh, lead researcher, stated that 'Our study shows the impact of only one disrupted night', then added: 'But we know that these effects accumulate and therefore the functional price . . . is enormous.'

An earlier article by Seth Maxin published on 30 December 2013 in *The Atlantic* carried the caption: 'How Sleep Deprivation Decays the Mind and Body'.² The article highlighted findings from Dr Joyce Walseben, a psychiatrist and former director of Bellevue Hospital's Sleep Disorders Centre.

Dr Walseben's work highlights sleep's importance in regulating the body's hormones. Her findings revealed the following:

- Sleep regulates the brain's flow of epinephrine, dopamine, and serotonin, chemicals closely associated with mood and behaviour.
- Sleep loss can cause psychological damage.

She states: 'Mood and sleep use the same neurotransmitters.' She explains that when these neurotransmitters are disrupted by sleep loss, it causes chemical changes in the brain which result in manic feelings and behaviour similar to that of patients with bipolar disorder, which is characterised by highs of ecstasy and lows of depression and anger.

Sleep well!

¹<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/10956884/Why-disrupted-sleep-is-as-bad-as-getting-none-at-all.html> ²<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/12/how-sleep-deprivation-decays-the-mind-and-body/282395/>

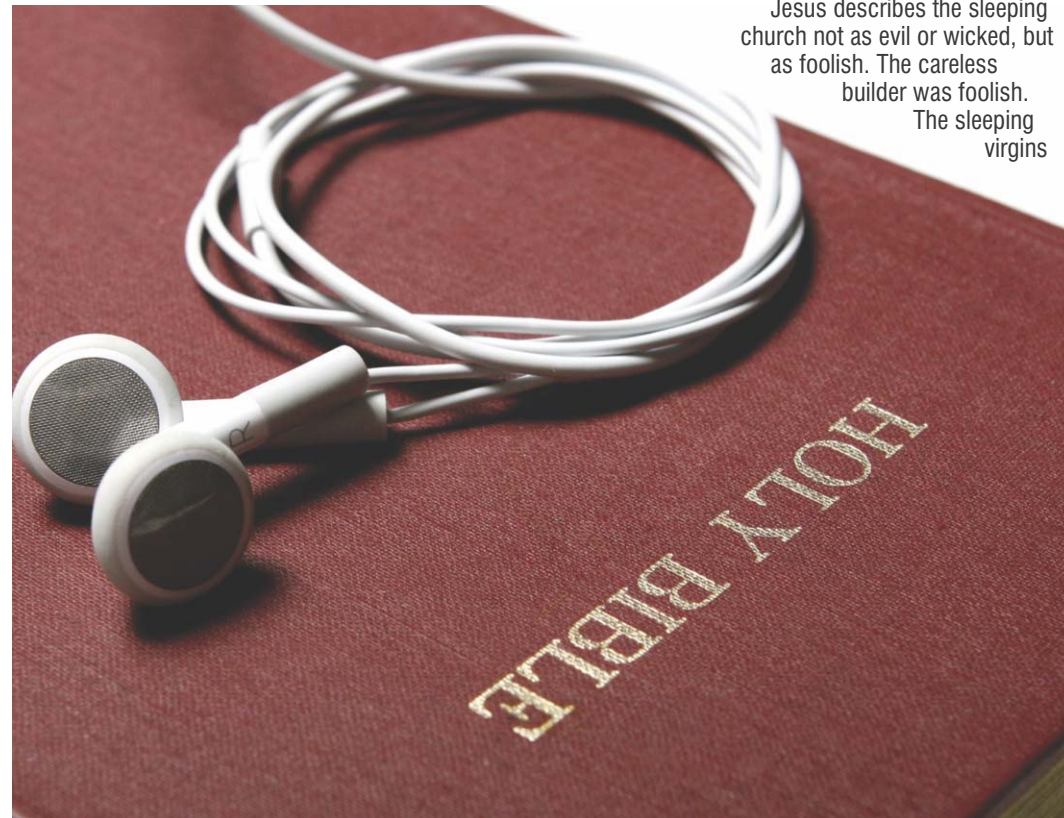
How does Tommy feel about all this? I guess we'll never know, seeing that he's just not 'human' enough to tell us!





The divine obsession

by Pastor Patrick Boyle (retired)



Our Heavenly Father is obsessed with it. It is ever before His mind and it is the all-absorbing content of His conversation with the inhabitants of Heaven.

Our Saviour, likewise, speaks of nothing else. He is constantly drawing attention to its importance in the vast scheme of divine activity. He regularly reminds all Heaven that it is on a 'war footing' in order to make this enterprise successful.

The Holy Spirit's energies are wholly directed to impress its importance upon the hearts and minds of both angels and men. All His attention is focused on its implementation.

The cherubim, which surround the throne of God, draw attention to it.

All the angels co-operate with the Godhead and each other,

directing their abilities in support of the project.

When our Saviour left Heaven and came to Earth He plainly laid out the vital importance of this obsession. He made certain no one could misunderstand it or be ignorant of what it involved. He declared it with this announcement:

'The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'¹

The burden for the lost souls of men and women, boys and girls, 'obsesses' the mind of God. If anything can be called the divine obsession, this is it – the divine rescue operation which consumes all Heaven's energies.

Nothing is allowed to obscure it or minimise its importance.

'Oh, let us contemplate the amazing sacrifice that has been made for us! Let us try to

appreciate the labour and energy that Heaven is expending to reclaim the lost, and bring them back to the Father's house. *Motives stronger, and agencies more powerful, could never be brought into operation.*'²

Our Saviour, looking down the corridor of time to our day, saw that the Church, His chief agent to implement this rescue plan, would become sleepy while busy with it. Not just any kind of sleepiness, but one that would lead to forgetfulness and compromise. A sleepiness that would absorb all our energy.

Jesus describes the sleeping church not as evil or wicked, but as foolish. The careless builder was foolish.

The sleeping virgins

The 'drug lord' who supplies the 'sleeping pills' is Satan, the prince of darkness. He, with all his angels, seeks to induce the sleep of indifference and carelessness among God's people. After all, wasn't it while everyone was sleeping that the enemy, the devil, sowed weeds among the wheat?³

Few things are more likely to contribute to sleep than modern media and technology. Television, iPods, sophisticated phones, tablets, all exercise a fascinating power over too many minds. They absorb our time and interest, weakening our concern for the lost souls of men and women. Sadly there is now a fatal tendency to replace personal witnessing with media communication. People talking to machines rather than to living people.

The apostle Paul was aware of the perils of this drowsiness. To the Romans he wrote '... it is high time to awake out of sleep'.⁴ To the Ephesians, 'Awake thou that sleepest. ...'⁵ To the Thessalonians, 'So then, let us not be ... asleep, but let us be awake. ...'⁶

There is no valid excuse we can offer for being asleep. To be found sleeping at this time is inexcusable. We are all called to wakefulness. For 'how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation ... ?'⁷

If we were awake and identifying with the divine obsession, how many missing members might be recovered? Surely at this terrible time of world unrest, when thousands of men, women and children are dying daily, Heaven's obsession with the salvation of lost souls should also be ours.

Fathers and mothers, where are your children? Children, where are your parents? Church members, where are those who once fellowshipped with us? Pastors, where are those missing from the flock? Most importantly, why are we not, like our Lord, out searching for the lost sheep? Jesus wept over Jerusalem⁸ because it knew not the time of its visitation. Does He weep over His church today, asleep in the day of its power? Should we also weep?

were foolish. The wicked servant who said, 'My master is staying away a long time' became lethargic and sleepy. Unprepared, his lord returns and finds him sleeping. The tragedy, the unrelieved tragedy, is that the sleeping church leads to the ruin of countless souls who might otherwise have been saved and entered the Kingdom of God.

There is not *one* single church in the whole of the British Union, where some members whose names are on the church roll are not missing – regularly missing! It is not only true of the British Union but also of the churches in America, Europe, Africa and India. In fact, throughout the world there are members missing from our church's membership lists. Sadly there seem so few who share the Lord's burden for their souls and make efforts to recover them.

¹Luke 19:10, NKJV ²Steps to Christ, p. 21, author's emphasis ³Matthew 13:25, 39
⁴Romans 13:11, NKJV ⁵Ephesians 5:14, KJV
⁶1 Thessalonians 5:6, NIV ⁷Hebrews 2:3, 4, NKJV ⁸Luke 19:41

Support of Wimbledon's missionary work

Dear Editor

I just wanted to offer my wholehearted support to the Men's Ministry department of Wimbledon International Church (MESSENGER, 29 August), for their missionary outreach. Some of my fondest childhood memories involve fishing. My dad and I used to go fishing, and on our family holidays to the Croatian seaside we would get up early in the morning, meet the fishing boats in the harbour, and buy fish. We would then go to the beach and clean the fish. The rest of my family would then join us as we enjoyed a barbeque. Nothing has ever come close to how good that fish tasted!

My brothers, keep fishing – both literally and spiritually!

ANNA VAGGAS



ADRA-UK is now recruiting!

ADRA-UK, an independent charity working to make a difference in the lives of the poor and afflicted across the world, is looking for a full-time Administrative Assistant to support the team's busy workload. We are seeking an organised and pro-active person with previous administration experience, excellent time management skills and a commitment to the values of ADRA-UK.

Visit our website at www.adra.org.uk/contact/work-adra to find out more.
The deadline for all submissions is midnight on 1 December 2014.

Applicants must have the right to work in the UK prior to the submission of their applications.



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

Andrew Puckering

'According to 1 Samuel 16:18-22, King Saul knew David well. Yet 1 Samuel 17:55-58 implies that Saul did not know him. Can you explain his apparent memory loss?'

Ervin Herbert

I've sometimes wondered about this one too! 1 Samuel 16:21, 22 (NKJV) says, 'And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." ' However, by the time David faced Goliath, Saul had to ask the commander of his army, 'Abner, whose son is this youth?' (1 Samuel 17:55, NKJV.) How do we explain this?

It could be that the part where David becomes Saul's armourbearer, even though it appears in the biblical narrative before his killing Goliath, actually occurred later chronologically, such that 1 Samuel 16:21, 22 could also be translated, 'And Saul would come to love David greatly, and eventually he would in time become his armourbearer.' The *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* says of verse 21, 'It is possible that this statement is made in anticipation of David's role at court after the victory over Goliath. ... It is evident that Abner had not previously been acquainted with David, and that therefore David was not too well known at court. He had, apparently, been brought in only as a visiting musician, and had not become a member of the court (see *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 643).'¹

The biblical narrative doesn't always follow chronological order, so this is not as contrived an explanation as you might think. In 1 Samuel 17, verse 57 is reported after verse 54, but must have occurred before it, if David brought Goliath's head to Saul before taking it to Jerusalem. Verse 55, referring to David going out against Goliath, occurs at the same time as verse 40 or 48, whereas verse 57 clearly reports his return.

On the other hand, verse 15 suggests that David spent as much time with Saul as with his father's sheep even before he killed Goliath. His three older brothers serving in Saul's army might not have realised it (vss. 13, 28), but then they were common soldiers. David, by contrast, was brought before the king as soon as his words were reported to him (vs. 31), and then tried on the king's armour (vss. 38, 39) – which does suggest a certain degree of familiarity.

This, of course, still leaves the question: why did Saul ask who David's father was? Well, his mind wasn't exactly undisturbed (16:14). Furthermore, although he sent messengers to David's father and had heard his name, there's no indication that he knew Jesse's tribe or social standing (16:18-22). Finally, just as David asked about Goliath repeatedly in order to confirm what he'd heard (17:23-30), it's possible that Saul was doing the same – confirming the identity of David's father was especially important because he would receive tax exemptions, and because their two families would be united in marriage (vs. 25).

¹*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, pp. 531, 532, 540

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.

Living in a world at war

We live in a world at war – a world where the media delivers daily doses of ‘virtual’ war to our living rooms. This war against terror can so easily claim us as its collateral damage, helping us view other human beings with whom we have strong ideological differences as ‘vile’, ‘detestable’ and deserving of unmitigated destruction. It has the potential to turn us into ‘passive combatants’, allowing our feelings to effectively enlist us against an ever-widening group of people. Is this what God wants?

Perhaps it is time to reflect again on our Church’s official statement, ‘A call for peace’ . . .

Call for peace

We are living in an increasingly unstable and dangerous world. Recent events have resulted in a heightened sense of vulnerability and personal or corporate fear of violence. Throughout the world, countless millions are haunted by war and apprehension and are oppressed by hate and intimidation.

Total war

Humanity has, since the middle of the last century, been living in an age of total war. Total war implies the theoretical possibility that, except for the providence of God, Earth’s inhabitants could wipe out their entire civilisation. Nuclear weapons and biochemical arms of mass destruction are aimed at centres of population. Whole nations and societies are mobilised or targeted for war, and when such war erupts it is carried on with the greatest violence and destruction. The justification of war has become more complex, even though advances in technology make possible greater precision in destroying targets with a minimum of civilian casualties.

A new dimension

While both the United Nations and various religious bodies have proclaimed the first decade of the twenty-first century as a decade for the promotion of peace and security in the place of violence in its various forms, a new and insidious dimension of violence has emerged: organised international terrorism. Terrorism itself is not new, but worldwide terrorist networks are. Another new factor is the appeal to so-called divine mandates as the rationale for terrorist activity under the guise of culture war, or even ‘religious’ war.

The rise of international terrorism makes it clear that it is not only a nation or state that makes war, but human beings in various combinations. As one of the leading founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church pointed out a century ago, ‘The inhumanity of man

toward man is our greatest sin.’¹ Indeed, human nature is prone to violence. From a Christian perspective, all this inhumanity is really part of a cosmic war, the great controversy between good and evil.

Terrorism exploits the concept of God

Terrorists, in particular those having motivations based on religion, claim that their cause is absolute and that taking lives indiscriminately is fully justified. While they claim to be representing the justice of God, they wholly fail to represent the great love of God.

Furthermore, such international terrorism is totally at odds with the concept of religious liberty. The former is based on political and/or religious extremism and fundamentalistic fanaticism which arrogate the right to impose a certain religious conviction or worldview and to destroy those who oppose their convictions. Imposing one’s religious views on other people, by means of inquisition and terror, involves an endeavour to exploit and manipulate God by turning Him into an idol of evil and violence. The result is a disregard for the dignity of human beings created in the image of God.

While it is inevitable that nations and people will try to defend themselves by responding in a military way to violence and terror – which sometimes results in short-term success – lasting answers to deep problems of division in society cannot be achieved by using violent means.

The pillars of peace

From both a Christian and practical perspective, any lasting peace involves at least four ingredients: dialogue, justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

Dialogue – There needs to be dialogue and discussion in place of diatribe and the cry for war. Lasting peace does not result from violent means, but is achieved by negotiation,



dialogue, and, inevitably, political compromise. In the long run, reasoned discourse has superior authority over military force. In particular, Christians should always be ready to ‘reason together’, as the Bible says.

Justice – Unfortunately, the world is rampant with injustice and a fallout of injustice is strife. Justice and peace join hands, as do injustice and war. Poverty and exploitation breed discontent and hopelessness, which lead to desperation and violence.

On the other hand, ‘God’s word sanctions no policy that will enrich one class by the oppression and suffering of another.’²

Justice requires respect for human rights, in particular religious liberty, which deals with the profoundest human aspirations and undergirds all human rights. Justice requires nondiscrimination, respect for human dignity and equality, and a more equitable distribution of the necessities of life. Economic and social policies will either produce peace or discontent. Seventh-day Adventist concern for social justice is expressed through the support and promotion of religious liberty, and through organisations and departments of the Church which work to relieve poverty and conditions of marginalisation. Such efforts on the part of the Church can, over time, reduce resentment and terrorism.

Forgiveness – Forgiveness is usually thought of as necessary to heal broken interpersonal relationships. It is highlighted in the prayer Jesus asked His followers to pray (Matt. 6:12). However, we must not overlook the corporate, societal, and even international dimensions. If there is to be peace, it is vital to drop the burdens of the past, to move beyond well-worn battlegrounds, and to work towards reconciliation. At a minimum, this requires overlooking past injustices and violence; and, at its best, it involves forgiveness which absorbs the pain without retaliating.

Because of sinful human nature and the

resulting violence, some form of forgiveness is necessary in order to break the vicious cycle of resentment, hate, and revenge on all levels. Forgiveness goes against the grain of human nature. It is natural for human beings to deal in terms of revenge and the return of evil for evil.

There is, therefore, first of all the need to foster a culture of forgiveness in the Church. As Christians and church leaders, it is our duty to help individuals and nations to liberate themselves from the shackles of past violence and refuse to re-enact year after year, and even generation after generation, the hatred and violence generated by past experiences.

Reconciliation – Forgiveness provides a foundation for reconciliation and the accompanying restoration of relationships that have become estranged and hostile. Reconciliation is the only way to success on the road to co-operation, harmony, and peace.

We call upon Christian churches and leaders to exercise a ministry of reconciliation and act as ambassadors of goodwill, openness, and forgiveness. (See 2 Cor. 5:17-19.) This will always be a difficult, sensitive task. While trying to avoid the many political pitfalls along the way, we must nevertheless proclaim liberty in the land – liberty from persecution, discrimination, abject poverty, and other forms of injustice. It is a Christian responsibility to endeavour to provide protection for those who are in danger of being violated, exploited, and terrorised.

Support of quality of life

Silent efforts of religious bodies and individuals behind the scenes are invaluable. But this is not enough: ‘We are not just creatures of a spiritual environment. We are actively interested in everything that shapes the way we live and we are concerned about the well-being of our planet.’ The Christian ministry of reconciliation will and must ‘contribute to the restoration of human dignity,

equality, and unity through the grace of God in which human beings see each other as members of the family of God’.³

Churches should not only be known for spiritual contributions – though these are foundational – but also for their support of quality of life, and in this connection peacemaking is essential. We need to repent from expressions or deeds of violence that Christians and churches, throughout history and even more recently, have either been involved in as actors, have tolerated, or have tried to justify. We appeal to Christians and people of good will all around the world to take an active role in making and sustaining peace, thus being part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

Peacemakers

The Seventh-day Adventist Church wishes to stand for the uncoercive harmony of God’s coming kingdom. This requires bridge-building to promote reconciliation between the various sides in a conflict. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘You will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell’ (Isa. 58:12, NASB). Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, wants His followers to be peacemakers in society and hence calls them blessed (Matt. 5:9).

Culture of peace through education

The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates what may be the second-largest worldwide parochial school system. Each of its more than 6,000 schools, colleges, and universities is being asked to set aside one week each school year to emphasise and highlight, through various programmes, respect, cultural awareness, nonviolence, peacemaking, conflict resolution, and reconciliation as a way of making a specifically ‘Adventist’ contribution to a culture of social harmony and peace. With this in mind, the Church’s Education department is preparing curricula and other materials to help in implementing this peace programme.

The education of the church member in the pew, for nonviolence, peace, and reconciliation, needs to be an ongoing process. Pastors are being asked to use their pulpits to proclaim the Gospel of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation which dissolves barriers created by race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and religion, and promotes peaceful human relations between individuals, groups, and nations.

The Christian hope

While peacemaking may seem to be a forbidding task, there is the promise and possibility of transformation through renewal. All violence and terrorism are really one aspect of the ongoing controversy, in theological terms, between Christ and Satan. The Christian has hope because of the assurance that evil – the mystery of iniquity – will run its course and be conquered by the Prince of Peace and the world will be made new. This is our hope.

The Old Testament, despite the record of wars and violence, looks forward to the new creation and promises, like the New

Testament, the end of the vicious cycle of war and terror, when arms will disappear and become agricultural implements, and peace and knowledge of God and His love will cover the whole world like the waters cover the oceans. (See Isa. 2:4; 11:9.)

In the meantime, we need, in all relationships, to follow the golden rule, which asks us to do unto others as we would wish them to do unto us (see Matt. 7:12), and not only love God, but love as God loves. (See 1 John 3:14, 15; 4:11, 20, 21.)

¹Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 163 ²Ibid, p. 187
³Quote from Pastor Jan Paulsen, former president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

This statement was voted during the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee on 18 April, 2002 in Silver Spring, Maryland.



WWI reflection in Cheltenham

On 4 August in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, there was a procession through the town followed by a service in Cheltenham Minster to reflect on the Great War (1914-1918). Around the church were several displays for people to look at afterwards, giving them a chance to reflect on and pray about various aspects of this dramatic event. These displays included parts of a German diary, French material on the Somme, and an artistic depiction of Christ’s sacrifice. The thought-provoking and emotionally moving displays were left up for most of the week for more visitors to have the opportunity to see them. Robin Beamish (15) and Vicky (his mother), from Cheltenham Church, along with an older member of the local Quakers, contributed by producing a display on conscientious objectors.

It was good to be working together across the generations and they found the experience of learning and sharing about the hardships conscientious objectors suffered very enlightening. Their display attracted quite a lot of interest and was reported to be ‘much appreciated’ by those who viewed it. Cheltenham Church would like to thank their pastor, James Shepley, for his encouragement and input, Richard Lacock from Cheltenham Quakers for his help, and Victor Hulbert for his contributions on the Seventh-day Adventist website, all of which were most helpful in the preparation of the display – something that gave many the chance to reflect on the horrors of war.

VICKY BEAMISH



Freedom and the Sabbath

by Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference president

According to Stop The Traffick and Churches Together in England, Sunday 19 October 2014 was designated as Freedom Sunday, on which Christians from around the globe were invited to join together in worship, in prayer and in the raising of awareness of the crime of human trafficking.

While the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not a member of Churches Together in England, the issue of slavery and its abolition is one close to the roots of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 1861, while the American Civil War was in its infancy, Ellen G. White made a telling comment about that war in *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, page 264: 'God is punishing this nation for the high crime of slavery. He has the destiny of the nation in His hands. He will punish the South for the sin of slavery, and the North for so long suffering its overreaching and overbearing influence.'

'At the Conference at Roosevelt, New York, August 3, 1861, when the brethren and sisters were assembled on the day set apart for humiliation, fasting, and prayer, the Spirit of the Lord rested upon us, and I was taken off in vision and shown the sin of slavery, which has so long been a curse to this nation. The fugitive slave law was calculated to crush out of man every noble, generous feeling of sympathy that should arise in his heart for the oppressed and suffering slave. It was in direct opposition to the teaching of Christ. God's scourge is now upon the North, because they have so long submitted to the advances of the slave power. The sin of Northern proslavery men is great. They have strengthened the South in their sin by sanctioning the extension of slavery; they have acted a prominent part in bringing the nation into its present distressed condition.'

History records that at the end of the American Civil War, legislation was passed, the 13th

Amendment, which granted freedom to four million African Americans. Slavery was outlawed, yet in commenting on the significance of this law, Frederick Douglass, a former slave and abolitionist leader of his time, said: 'The black was free from the individual master, but a slave of society. He had neither money, property or friends. He was free from the old plantation, but he had nothing but the dusty road under his feet. He was free from the old quarter that once gave him shelter, but a slave to the rains of summer and the frosts of winter. He was turned loose, naked, hungry and destitute to the open sky.'

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, but yet other forms of slavery replaced the freedom which blacks had been given.

Freedom is one of the most powerful and well-treasured words among those who have suffered the indignity of slavery and oppression.

In speaking to a nation that had recently experienced freedom from slavery, God shared the following commandment recorded in Deuteronomy 5:12-15 (NKJV): 'Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant,

nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.'

Israel was told that they should remember to keep the Sabbath day because they were once slaves in Egypt; and that the source of their freedom was the Lord God who brought them out of there with His mighty hand.

For this reason God commanded them to observe the Sabbath day.

Moses said you need to remember to observe the Sabbath day for it is a weekly reminder of the freedom God has granted you.

Slavery still present today

The attainment of freedom is still the cry of twenty-first-century human beings.

According to the Human Trafficking Foundation, trafficking is the world's fastest-growing global crime and is one of the largest sources of income for organised crime. The profits are high and the risks are low.

Human trafficking is a system based on greed, control and power. In whatever shape or form

everyone dreams of progress, whether it's to be loved, to be seen, to belong, or for a better future for their family. Traffickers often exploit that desire among the most vulnerable. The trafficker creates an intimate point of sale, making promises of progress like an education, a new start and future choices. This is the ultimate deception.

Trafficking is a global market place where people are the product and everyone has a price tag. It's based on an international conveyor belt of transactions and exchange, with sophisticated trade routes and communications. This human product creates profit, tens of billions every year and growing.

By way of illustration we might recall how, in 2004, twenty-three Chinese cockle pickers drowned on a beach near Morecambe. The BBC reported that it was their gangmaster, however, and a wider web of criminals, that truly profited while paying scant regard to the cockle pickers' safety on the sands. ('Gangmasters "continue to exploit"', 31 July 2009.)

Mick Gradwell, the detective who led the investigation into the tragedy, said criminals were funnelling £1m per day to China by exploiting workers all around England.

A report in *The Guardian* (13 June 2014: 'A global economy untainted by slavery? It can happen – and here's how') by Siddharth Kara stated, 'Abuse, slavery and child labour underlie many of the goods and services we take for granted. . . . A few years ago, I stepped into an unbearably hot and oppressive shrimp processing facility in Samut Sakhon, just south-west of Bangkok. Scores of workers toiled feverishly to process mountains of shrimp for export to the US and EU. Most had been trafficked to the facility from nearby Burma and Cambodia. They toiled like automatons, processing shrimp around the clock.'

'The workers were exhausted and malnourished, and almost all were kept in a state of debt bondage, with most of their "wages" deducted for exorbitant room, board and other expenses. One worker showed me his cramped, blistered fingers and said: "My hands pain [me] so much, but I must work like a machine or the guards will beat me."

'Such is the reality for tens of

millions of workers at the bottom of the global economy's supply chains. Most individuals are exploited in brutal working conditions and paid paltry wages. In the worst cases, the workers are exploited in conditions of outright slavery. They are beaten, abused, tortured or worse. The underbelly of the global economy has become a dark, brutish realm in which under-regulated labour markets provide minimised production costs for dozens of commodities exported around the world.

'Nowadays, you can traffic someone any distance, and at minimal cost, inside a day – generating thousands, tens of thousands – or, in the case of sex-trafficking, hundreds of thousands – of dollars a year for each slave.'

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been invited by a cross-party group of politicians and peers to join the campaign for ensuring that a Modern Slavery Bill will go through Parliament.

A number of denominations have joined forces in highlighting this issue of modern slavery, and this is their joint announcement:

'On Sunday 19 October 2014 or Saturday 18 October (for those for whom Saturday is the Sabbath), churches all over the world will join together to raise awareness of the crime of human trafficking and show the world our compassion for men, women and children who are trafficked and exploited.'

As the church we must demonstrate a united and tangible response against human trafficking. This abhorrent crime must not be tolerated.

The church will make commitments to take action to prevent the crime of human trafficking in our local and global communities. Together, let's stop human trafficking and let's start freedom.'

For the Adventist Church 18 October was Spirit of Prophecy/Heritage Sabbath Day, and part of our heritage includes what Ellen White wrote in *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, pages 191, 192:

'All heaven beholds with indignation, human beings, the workmanship of GOD, reduced to the lowest depths of degradation, and placed on a level with the brute creation by their fellow men. And professed followers of that dear SAVIOUR whose compassion was ever moved as He witnessed human woe,

heartily engage in this enormous and grievous sin, and deal in slaves and souls of men. Angels have recorded it all. It is written in the book. The tears of the pious bond-men and bond-women, of fathers, mothers and children, brothers and sisters, are all bottled up in heaven. Agony, human agony, is carried from place to place, and bought and sold. GOD will restrain His anger but a little longer. His anger burns against this nation, and especially against the religious bodies who have sanctioned, and have themselves engaged in this terrible merchandise. Such injustice, such oppression, such sufferings, many professed followers of the meek and lowly JESUS can witness with heartless indifference. And many of them can inflict with hateful satisfaction, all this indescribable agony themselves, and yet dare to worship GOD. It is solemn mockery, and Satan exults over it, and reproaches JESUS and His angels with such inconsistency, saying, with hellish triumph, *Such are CHRIST'S followers!*'

Slavery is still present today, and not only in the suppression of one race by another but also in an economic, social, sexual dimension. All as a result of the spiritual slavery that enslaves the world.

In a discussion with the Pharisees Jesus said (John 8:34, NKJV): 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.'

We should not underestimate the strength of sin's bondage and the slavery in which we find ourselves. Paul graphically described this struggle in Romans 7:18, 19, 24: 'I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. . . . What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? (NIV 1984.)

The world is crying out for freedom, and it seems to me that Seventh-day Adventists who hold

the Sabbath truth should be at the forefront of sharing what the Sabbath means in the context of freedom.

and give special thanks for my Redeemer and the freedom He offers.

I do not keep the Sabbath because I am a slave to the law or in bondage to the law, NO! I keep the Sabbath because it is a weekly reminder of who my Saviour is:

I am free, I am free
Praise the Lord I'm free
I'm no longer bound
There are no more chains of sin holding me
My soul is now forever resting
And it is just another blessing
Praise the Lord
Alleluia
I'm free

I'm free
Praise the Lord I'm free
I've been saved and sanctified
Filled with the Holy Ghost inside
I'm now resting
It's another eternal blessing
Praise the Lord
Alleluia
I'm free

I'm free, I'm free
Free at last
I thank God Almighty
I am free at last





Baptism and dedication at Greenwich

On 13 September the Hope Community and Greenwich congregations held a combined baptismal service at the Greenwich church. There were eight candidates – six from Greenwich and two from Hope Community.

The baptisms were conducted by two of the local elders, brethren Richardson and Yeboah, and Pastor

Terry Messenger, executive secretary of the South England Conference. The sermon was preached by Pastor S. Matthias Esson, while David Gray read the baptismal vows.

Just before her baptism Ida, one of those baptised, had her baby daughter, Esther, dedicated to the Lord.

PASTOR S. MATTHIAS ESSON



Winson Green's first baptism

On Sabbath, 6 September, the Winson Green church (formerly the Community of Hope church, Bishop Latimer) held its first baptism in a building that can seat upwards of 1,000.

This time there were more than 300 present to witness a baptism that included several of Pastor Masih's grandchildren, a woman who had recently attended a Daniel seminar, and a 10-year-old boy from the Erdington church.

Pastors Lawrence and Masih officiated and a wonderful day was enjoyed by all – members and visitors alike.

W. MASIH



Special Area 3 DOF

The Freemantle United Reformed church in Southampton played host to the Area 3 day of fellowship (South England Conference) on 13 September. Area 3 covers the region from Portsmouth to Winchester, down to Southampton, over to Bournemouth and pretty much everything in between. The theme for the day was John 13:34, 35 and while Pastor Tihomir Zestic was getting Sabbath School into the swing of things by looking at this passage, a group of members led by Pastor Daniel Thompson took 300 roses and gave them out on the Shirley High Street, just a few minutes' walk from the church where we were meeting. The roses included a short message inviting the recipients to join us in church and were accepted by some with suspicion, but others received them gratefully and one elderly lady chased after one of the members because she wanted to have a rose!

Pastor Ian Sweeney was the main preacher for the day, while Pastor Dejan Stojkovic shared the Gospel with the young adults and Sheiris Vaval explored the Exodus story with the children. In all just under 400 people gathered for this special day. The worship ended in the afternoon with the first graduation service of the Area 3 School of Evangelism. This was the first extension of the School of Evangelism outside London and was organised by Pastor Kirk Thomas, the SEC Personal Ministries director. In all, twelve of the students received their certificates of graduation from Mavis Bramble and Elsie Staple in the subjects of church growth, community leadership, lay Bible work, lay preaching and women-to-women evangelism. Pastor Ian Sweeney charged them to use their gifts and the tools that they had been taught to further the Gospel in their lives and in their local communities. One church member commented on the 'energy and the vibrancy' that accompanied the day's events, and that God's presence had certainly been felt.

PASTOR DOUGLAS MCCORMAC



Stanborough Park Church redevelopment report

The congregation at Stanborough Park Church are 'camping out' under canvas for their services for the next few months. The church, built in 1928, 'is being remodelled to accommodate the worship and technology needs of the twenty-first century'.

A bold redevelopment plan, of around £2 million, is currently underway to extend, alter and refurbish the church along with the two adjacent halls, which were constructed during the early 1960s. This involves knocking down the entire external wall adjacent to Holland Gardens in order to extend the platform to provide a 'concert hall' platform to showcase the huge range of musical talent in the church, and to create a pastoral centre for use by the ministerial team. The demolition requires the current side balconies in the sanctuary to be rebuilt and the seating arrangements to be redesigned, new pews to be purchased and a complete redecoration to be undertaken. A new audio-visual room used to record and broadcast services will also be installed in the church tower.

The adjacent halls will be redecorated, more storage created and a new kitchen installed in the Williams Hall to provide flexible catering arrangements for functions. A lift will be installed to give access to the upper floor.

The ministerial team is looking forward to having a permanent base in the new pastoral centre, which will contain rooms they can use for counselling. The Music department is enthusiastically awaiting the



enlarged platform, which will accommodate both the expanding choir and the orchestra during the regular concerts held at the church.

As a result the sanctuary and adjacent halls are unavailable for use and the congregation have moved to a marquee on the field in front of the BUC building. In an attempt to create the right worship atmosphere, the pews and other church furniture, including the organ, have been relocated to the marquee, as has the audio-visual equipment, which will enable the church to continue to broadcast its services via the internet. Portable heaters will be used during the winter months in an attempt to keep out the cold. It is hoped to have the sanctuary and halls back in use by the end of next May.

During this time the Stanborough centre will continue to operate as normal. The Parallel Service and Children/Youth Sabbath School and Pathfinder departments will use rooms that are unaffected by the development.

JUNE COOMBS



Robert Cole

Lives transformed at Lewisham

At the end of a special series of nightly meetings at Lewisham Church 14 people were baptised. The two-week series was entitled 'Transforming Life' and presented by Pastor Gregory Carrol, a visiting speaker from the Greater New York Conference, USA. The well-attended meetings were enjoyed by church members and visitors alike, especially for the simplicity and clarity of the messages.

On the evening of 13 September the candidates included several young people, three generations of one family, and one of our deaf brothers, Robert Cole, who has a ready smile and friendly personality. He is a great example of someone who has not allowed a disability to have the better of him: he is always willing and ready to talk to our hearing members and patiently teach them some sign language.

Robert first heard about the Adventist message when he visited Hounslow Church to assist one of the deaf members who wasn't able to understand British Sign Language well enough to follow the interpretation. After that he attended a special 'Deaf Day' Sabbath service that was held at Peckham Church earlier this year. It was there that he met Sister Blossom from Croydon Church, who told him about the Deaf Ministry at Lewisham and helped to get him there.

For several years Robert has been searching for the truth among a variety of denominations and churches. Since coming to the Adventist Church, however, he feels that he is in the right place as he has realised that the Church's doctrines are founded on the Bible and the commandments, including the fourth.

Now that he's joined our church he wants to work along with the church's Deaf Ministries department to have more amenities available for the deaf, such as regular weekly interpretation.

JUSTIN VICTOR, LEWISHAM COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



MOHAP 2014 annual retreat

The 2014 annual MOHAP retreat was held from Friday 28 August to Monday 1 September, at the De Vere Venues, Horsley Park, East Horsley. Warm sunny weather welcomed the attendees and this was reflected in the warm fellowship experienced throughout the retreat.

One of the attendees was Ustine Mugabe, who was visiting from Zimbabwe. She was readily adopted as 'mum' by many of the attendees, which made her feel 'immediately loved and at home'.

Besides the many opportunities for fellowship and prayer, both corporately and in smaller groups, Pastor Lloyd Lambert, an ex-army physical fitness instructor, led the attendees for a prayer walk each morning, and gentle exercise in the scenic grounds of Horsley Park.

Nutritious, vegan whole food was served at the retreat and this was a positive witness to the hotel staff. One young waitress stated, 'Watching how you all eat so healthily makes us [the staff] want to be healthy.' Pastor Aris Vontzlidis, SEC Church Growth director, echoed the attendees' comments by declaring that the whole food vegan meals were 'delicious'.

The MOHAP retreat ministers to those in need of spiritual, physical, emotional and social healing. The professional and experienced international presenters provided thirteen power-packed presentations over the course of the retreat, with each focusing on a different aspect of healing. Pastor Randy Maxwell (USA), author of *If My People Pray*, presented five devotionals, which focused on spiritual healing. One of his presentations, 'Disturbing the peace', was based on Psalms 50:15 and 80:18, and it outlined how disturbing the peace occurs when lack of vision disturbs us and requires us to call on the Lord, which takes faith but results in healing.

Pastor Lex van Dijk (Netherlands), a clinical psychologist with over 20 years' experience, gave four presentations on emotional healing. One of them, based on the life of Elijah ('What About Self-Respect?'), outlined the relational aspect of self-respect and how to build self-respect in a Christian way. Dr Zeno Charles-Marcel (USA), vice-president for Medical Affairs at Wildwood Lifestyle Centre and Hospital, used his four presentations to challenge attendees to rethink their understanding of health. One of his presentations, entitled 'Biblical Notions of Health and Well-being', encouraged the attendees to see health as a journey as well as a destination and examined the Hebrew perspective of health and disease transmission.

The London Adventist Chorale, directed by Ken Burton, delivered a special selection of inspiring songs on Saturday evening, much to the delight of the appreciative audience. The Sunday afternoon anointing service provided attendees with the opportunity for one-to-one counselling, pastoral prayer and anointing. Pastor Cyril Sweeney, BUC Prayer Ministries director, echoed the attending pastors' sentiments, stating, 'In ministering to those in need, we too have in turn been very blessed.' Pastor Curtis Murphy, NEC Prayer Ministries director, and Fen Braithwaite ably led the spiritually energising praise and worship sessions.

At the end of the retreat many of the attendees were reluctant to go home – Damaris Kyloba, from the Greenwich church, stated she 'didn't want the retreat to end'. Sadly, goodbyes had to be said and the retreat concluded in the manner in which it commenced, with prayer and hugs of love and fellowship.

The next MOHAP day retreat will be on 16 November at the Advent Centre. See www.mohap.org for more details.

JANET HAMILTON



Bucksburn Company launched

Sabbath, 20 September, was a special day for the Bucksburn company, which meets on the northwest outskirts of Aberdeen, at the Beacon community centre. It marked the formal inauguration of the group as a company of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Scottish Mission.

The morning services were held as normal with Pastor Bernie and Mrs Karen Holford as special guests. Pastor Holford, Scottish Mission president, aimed his sermon, 'Little Things Can Make a Big Difference', at the children, of which there were twelve in attendance.

In the afternoon, the sixteen adults and twelve children from the morning congregation were joined by friends from the Aberdeen Central church, swelling the group to around 50 – all packed into the room which normally seats 30. Nigel Emm (elder) gave a brief outline of the history of the group, which started just over two years ago. A message of greeting from Pastor Victor Harewood, who had pastored the group early in 2013, was read by Janice Savizon, the Aberdeen church clerk. Pastor Ndlovu, the Aberdeen district pastor, then introduced the officers of the company to the congregation: Nigel Emm (leader), Ghislain LeFloch (treasurer), and Laura Fermin (church clerk). After this he encouraged the group to make the Beacon Centre a beacon of spiritual light to the surrounding community.

Then, following the children's story by Mrs Karen Holford, and a special song by Detroit Barrett, Pastor Holford preached an inspiring message. He made the point that the company's Children's Ministries emphasis should continue and that the Messy Church programme should be developed as a great method of reaching out to, and becoming friends with, the community.

Then the founding members of the Bucksburn company all signed the official foundation document in front of the congregation. Once the service had closed there was a time for some refreshments and much handshaking, talking and hugging among all present.

NIGEL EMM (LEADER)

Wolverhampton Central reaches out

Over the past nine months Wolverhampton Central's Community Services department, inspired by the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus, has been running projects to meet people's needs in Wolverhampton.

These needs stem from issues such as homelessness, recent immigration, young people that have come out of the care system, lost contact with families, unemployment and needs in the local church.

Wolverhampton Central members recognise all God has done for them and want to pass on this gift of love to others who are less fortunate.

On the first Monday of every month they invite the community to the church for a three-course meal, worship, a quiz, a free therapeutic massage and a chance to talk, feeding on average 28 people each month and giving out food parcels – 120 since the beginning of the year.

On 21 June, at the Community Services Day titled 'Here to Serve', Michael Dantzie challenged members to reach out and show love in action. Service users attended, one singing a song in Divine Service. The following day, seventy members took part in door-to-door witnessing around the church, including a service user who said he would come out again, as he 'enjoyed meeting people and promoting what we do'.

Members of the community and church are attending the twelve-step Journey to Wholeness session that assists people struggling with addiction, compulsions or obsessions: including self-substance abuse, work, shopping, food, pornography, anger, self-esteem, work and power, among other things. All these addictions can be found in church members.

The sessions are Christ-centred and facilitators aim to 'let go and let God' do for us what we cannot do for ourselves, deriving inspiration from the BUC 'Journey to Wholeness' weekend with Pastor Elie Honore and Sharon Platt-McDonald.

Other forms of outreach include a youth club, a soup kitchen, and the provision of clothing, friendship and a community fun day on 10 August, with singing, Ministry Helps and ABC books, health checks, natural hair products, food and numerous local businesses in attendance.

This work has connected church members to those they serve and gives a kind of satisfaction that self-interest can never offer.

Churches must reach out, and it's time to meet the needs of the community; all we need to do is to be willing.

DONNA PALMER



'The highest and the best'

The Cleveland Show is a fantastic country event, which allows the farming community to exhibit their best livestock in a variety of competitive events. The farmers have the chance to display not only their magnificent horses, cattle and sheep, but a host of smaller animals like rabbits, ferrets and dogs. There are also many other farming products on display such as fresh fruit and vegetables, preserves, and so on. All these entries are on display and as the day progresses the judges decide those entries that deserve the top awards – 'the highest and the best'.

While all this was taking place the Middlesbrough church team ran a stall of their own where they welcomed the passers-by and introduced them to the 'highest and best' Friend they could have. They had books and pamphlets on display, with bookmarks, and so on, for anyone interested in taking them. Those with children were invited to the 'parasol' table where the children were able to make their own badges from a choice of Christian designs, or ones saying 'Best Mum', 'Best Dad', and so on.

This gave the team a chance to chat with the parents while the children were busy. Some visitors even placed requests into the 'prayer box'. One thing is for certain – no one who stopped at the stall left empty-handed!

The children are always excited to show their mums and dads the fantastic badges they have just made. There is much laughter and the families happily move on to the other stalls, saying, 'We will see you next year.'

One of the best things of all is that as they move on they are wearing their own very special badges which announce to everyone around, 'Smile, Jesus Loves You' or 'Jesus Is Alive', or lets everyone know that their mum or dad, nanna, sister, and so on, is definitely 'the best'!

The Cleveland Show was a wonderful opportunity to help people learn who actually is 'the Very Highest and the Very Best!'

VALERIE RAYNER, PERSONAL MINISTRIES LEADER

BUC Secretary opportunity

The British Union Conference has a vacancy for a part-time secretary to work in the Scottish Mission office in Crieff. We are looking for a cheerful person, with general office secretarial skills, who is able to offer a welcoming, helpful and professional approach to visitors and callers. Responsibilities include oversight of photocopying, office accounts, child protection administration, the maintenance of general office supplies and any other secretarial duties.

Employees of the BUC are expected to be committed to the mission and the values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Salary £9,800-11,100 per annum, in accordance with experience.

Closing date for applications is **31 October 2014** with interviews to follow in early November.

Applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

Application forms are available from:
Scottish Mission Office, Comraich, Gwydyr Rd, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4BS
Tel: 01764 653257
Email: sdascotland@gmail.com

Applications should be posted to the BUC in Watford or emailed to Pastor Paul Lockham: plockham@adventist.org.uk

Daniel's dream

One month in advance we had a huge banner in a prominent position at the front of the Middlesbrough church so that everyone travelling along the main road was made aware that we were presenting a Daniel seminar.

Around 1,500 invitations were distributed and we were blessed when our local newspaper printed the information of where and when the seminar would take place. On Friday 3 August Colin Woodford began to 'unlock' a powerful presentation of the book of Daniel and it was fantastic to see how people's faces began to 'light up' as they recognised the significance of the historic prophecies being revealed.

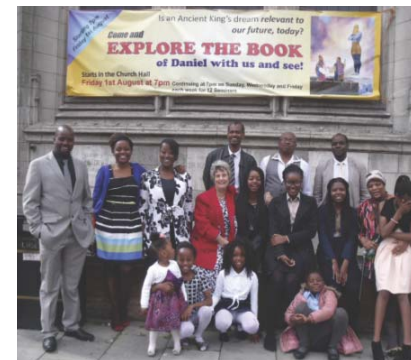
The programme ran for three evenings a week throughout the month of August and it was interesting to see one visitor in particular taking notes during all ten evenings he was with us.

Colin also presented a very interesting and informative question and answer time, which helped relate prophetic revelations to present-day events.

Several church members also helped by performing excellent items of music and poetry during the series.

Please pray for those who have heard these exciting truths for the first time.

VALERIE RAYNER





**Get on your bike!
Or lace up your
trainers!**

Support ADRA-UK on your own cycling or running challenge!
It's time to get fit and start making a difference today!

Across the UK there are many sporting events that look to raise money for charity. As a result, ADRA-UK is considering the launch of 'Sport Team ADRA', where members can participate at (endurance) running or cycling events in order to promote and raise funds for ADRA-UK.

Members of Sport Team ADRA will have access to special training days and other exclusive events! As part of the ADRA team, we will help you prepare for the big day with training plans, diet and nutrition suggestions – all to ensure that you are ready to complete your charity cycle ride or run in record time! You will also have access to a dedicated digital platform to share information and look for new challenge opportunities.

We will charge a yearly registration fee, which will entitle you to a free ADRA-UK jersey (for cycling or running) and free admission to two endurance events per year.

So why not combine getting fit with raising money for ADRA? ADRA-UK needs your help! Contact volunteering@adra.org.uk.

If we have sufficient interest we will launch **Sport Team ADRA in 2015!**

GAIN // Academy

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE
COMMUNICATION & MEDIA

Newbold College | February 26th - March 1st



Registration and more information:
sec.adventist.org.uk/gain



ASNA concert

The annual ASNA (Adventist Special Needs Association) fund-raising concert was held on 13 September in the Wesley Methodist church, Reading, with over 300 in attendance. They were treated to an excellent concert that included a wide variety of talented singers and a number of well-known music groups.

The reaction of Pastor Lesley Ackie typifies the way the audience felt that evening: 'I was impressed with the quality and standard of the singing. It was wonderful!'

The unselfish efforts of the singers and the generosity of the audience led to the raising of £1,000-plus for this worthy charity. The next ASNA concert will be held on 12 September next year.

ASNA COMMUNICATIONS



Sabbath School director visits Langley

On Sabbath 6 September, NEC Sabbath School director, Beulah A. Plunkett, visited Langley Church with her sister.

Beulah was greeted in a traditional Indian ceremony as Mrs Anju Subrai placed a garland over her neck.

She took the whole day's services, including the children's class, which contained a story about creation.

The day was ended with a fellowship lunch.

ROHEET SUBRAI

July 'high days' in West Bletchley

Fervent prayer, rousing singing and recommitment comprised worship on the recent Homecoming Day at West Bletchley Community Church, themed 'Except for Grace'.

Kevin Sterling, from Watford Town Church, explained how death, the result of sin that should be ours, is exchanged for God's amazing grace, the gift of His Son Jesus.

The youth then mimed the life of one who left the church, succumbed to temptation, suffered in consequence, and invited Jesus back into her life, becoming transformed and beginning a new life with Christ.

The music day the following Sabbath was a depiction of the life of Moses, to which members of the community were welcomed.

SYLVONIE NOEL, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



'Through the roof'

Sophia Nicholls, South England Conference Disability Ministries director, was the speaker at the Disability Awareness day held on 4 October at the Leytonstone church.

She challenged the members to emulate the role of the four friends in the biblical story of the paralysed man who was let through the roof to the feet of Jesus to be healed. She encouraged the church to remove the 'roof tiles' blocking the access of the disabled to the Gospel: from poor attitudes to inaccessible buildings. In the afternoon there was an opportunity to share practical ideas and resources as well as a chance to hear personal stories from members in the Leytonstone church living with disability. Speaking after the sermon, an active member of the church expressed herself like this: 'I was asking God what I could do in the community to reach souls and to do something different. Your coming to the church this week was not a coincidence, but God guiding opportunity.' The next SEC Disability Awareness day will be held in the Wimbledon church.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS



SUNDAY, 16 NOVEMBER
TIME: 9.30AM – 4.30PM

NATIONAL DISABILITY MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Mission to the Cities for All – Part 2

access
inclusion
acceptance
respect
involvement
diversity
education

For Disability Awareness Coordinators and those interested in Disability Ministry in the British Union Conference.

Aims of the event will be to:

- Provide information and resources
- Share good practice
- Foundation for new ideas

Guest Speakers:
Joy Ani
Michael Sharkey

Workshops include:

- Deaf Awareness Ministries
- Supporting Carers
- Mental Illness
- Starting your Disability Ministry
- Accessible Church

Venue:
Hilton Watford Hotel,
Elton Way, WD25 8HA

Cost: £30
Includes lunch, refreshments and resources

For further details contact Dawn Tompkins at:

BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE
BUC Offices
Stanborough Park
Watford, WD25 9JZ
Tel: 01923 672251
Email: dtompkins@adventist.org.uk



The London Youth Federation in partnership with The SEC Youth Department present...

GO UK 2014

31st Oct
2nd Nov

THE UK'S PREMIER CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH TRAINING AND EVANGELISM
NEWBOLD COLLEGE, BINFIELD, BRACKNELL, RG42 4AN
register now at www.goukevent.com

Music Workshops: **Lecclesia Campbell**
Concert Featuring: **Alexis Spight**
Keynote Speaker: **Pr Myron Edmunds**

GOUK2014 GOUKYOUTH GOUK2014

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

PACKAGES:

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SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT

ADVANCE TICKETS: £8.00 REGULAR PRICE: £10.00
FIRST 50 AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR PRICE: £12.00

Lecclesia Campbell Alexis Spight

PLATINUM AND GOLD PACKAGES RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION TO THE CONCERT & A 15% DISCOUNT WHEN YOU BOOK BEFORE THE 31ST AUGUST 2014. ACCOMMODATION FOR PLATINUM AND GOLD IS LIMITED SO EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED. ALL ROOMS ARE SINGLE SEX. UNDER 18'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR LARGER ROOM SIZES.

Errors and omissions excepted



International Day at Plymouth

Although still quite small, Plymouth Church is growing in both number and diversity. There are presently twenty different nationalities represented in the congregation and on 2 September they celebrated this through a special international service, celebrating their cultural diversity with songs, readings and interesting facts from all around the world.

Pastor Clifford's sermon traced the biblical origins of cultural and linguistic diversity (Genesis 11), including the event at the Tower of Babel and the

subsequent scattering of the people.

Worship was followed by a fantastic fellowship lunch packed with dishes from all around the world, including Indian kofta curry, Guyanese rice and peas with coconut milk and a Czech 'celebration' salad. For dessert there were Welsh cakes and South African chocolate mint cheesecake in the selection of treats.

In the afternoon the members listened to facts and figures about the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, South Africa, the

Philippines, Guyana and Wales. There were also interesting stories of faith from countries such as India and Zimbabwe. We also had beautiful musical items from Zimbabwe, Brazil and England (with Peruvian ocarinas).

JENNIE HALL



Andrew is ordained

On 20 September Andrew Willis, son of Pastor and Mrs Richard Willis, was ordained as a pastor at the Hemel Hempstead church by a team that included Pastors Ian Sweeney, Paul Lockham, Llew Edwards and Robin Lewis.

After graduating from Newbold College with a BA in Biblical and Pastoral Studies and an MA in Religion, Andrew moved to Scotland, where he interned in the Glasgow district before becoming the minister of the Edinburgh and Dunfermline churches.

After leaving the Scottish Mission he became the Bible course tutor, LIFEconnect web pastor and FreeBible administrator at the Adventist Discovery Centre (formerly the VOP) at the British Union Conference, where he has worked for almost six years.

He and his wife, Krista, attend the Hemel Hempstead church, where he currently serves as an elder.

JOHN BUTTERS



BRING PACKED LUNCH!

Gathered Together

MOTHERS PRAYER CONFERENCE

STARTS
9.45am
prompt!

SATURDAY
1ST NOV
2014

Parliament Hill School
140 Highgate Road
London NW5 1RL

Hallelujah KizPraise is inviting all Mothers and Mothers-in-Waiting! Learn to pray now! Come! Join the hundreds of mothers praying for their seeds. There will be **great music, prayer sessions, prayer school** and lots more!..

"Where two or three are gathered together, He is there to bless"

For more information please contact: **Barbara Lawrence** on **07940 007331** or **Toyin Aworinde** on **07533793253**

Messenger

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Sunset

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

		Lon	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
Oct	24	5.49	6.01	5.50	5.51	6.05
	31	4.36	4.48	4.36	4.35	4.50
Nov	7	4.24	4.36	4.23	4.20	4.36
	14	4.13	4.25	4.11	4.07	4.24

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