

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

# Messenger

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## A 'prodigal' and the 'glass bridge of faith'

by Ian Sabadin

**B**ristol Central Church rejoiced on Sabbath, 17 January, as Kevin Simpson and Mary Smith were baptised by Pastor Anand Measapogu in a church packed with friends and family.

Mary was baptised as an Adventist in Jamaica in 1998, but she wasn't really ready for it and in no time she was out of the Church. After a number of years she started re-attending occasionally at the Bristol Central church, as well as attending the Seventh-day Church of God. But she realised that her heart belonged to the Adventist faith, and to use her own words: '... that is the reason why I decided, like the prodigal son, to return to the Adventist Church'.

According to her, she wanted to be re-baptised, because, 'now I've made up my mind, it's my personal decision, no one's pressured me, and the relationship that I've developed with God and my personal experience with him is why I've decided to give my life to Him'.

Summing up the day, Mary said, 'It's been very special for me. When I heard a couple of weeks ago that there was going to be a baptism, I thought, "In a few weeks it's my birthday – what better way to give my life to the Lord and be born again, than in the month of my physical birth" – and here I am today, and it feels so amazing.'

Talking after his baptism, Kevin explained how he felt that the Holy Spirit had been instrumental in leading him to this place. Last year his plans to fly to Jamaica were changed at the last minute when the travel agent advised him it would be cheaper to go via New York. So he did that and ended up staying with his aunty, whom he had never met, and who



happened to be a Seventh-day Adventist. While he was there, they got talking about God and spiritual things, and when he arrived in Jamaica he stayed with his aunty's family, who took him to church on Sabbaths. He had planned to go out and party, but instead, he felt that it 'wasn't for me and I found myself wanting to go to church'.

When he returned home, he started to attend Bristol Central, but found it difficult, as he had been working on Sabbaths. Eventually, however, he came to the point where he felt that he just had to trust in God and step out in faith. Kevin explains it like this: 'It was almost like stepping off and landing on the glass bridge of faith – finding that there is a bridge and you can walk on it.'

This is how Kevin summed up his experience: 'It's just been such a journey. I feel joyful. I feel like I'm brand new now, and I just want to get deeper into God, and every day I want to take steps to know God more.'

Two beautiful stories that show how the Holy Spirit is always working to bring us back to God! Whether we've been through a 'prodigal' experience, or through the simple influence of a travel agent changing our bookings, we can all have confidence to step out trustingly onto the 'glass bridge of faith'.



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# editorial

## A bomb in my basement?



**Julian Hibbert**  
Editor

Some time back I visited a church full of members I have known for many years. Unfortunately, I only had a few seconds to swap pleasantries with each of them as they filed from the sanctuary, but it really felt good to be part of their lives again – even if only for that fleeting moment.

Most of them were uncomplaining, bright and positive. Just what every pastor hopes to hear when he revisits a much-loved congregation. There was one person, however, who bucked the trend. She briefly told me what I hadn't expected to hear – a skeletal summary of some of her traumatic memories – in less than a minute!

Actually, she was just giving me an honest answer to my routine question: 'Hi, how are keeping these days?'

Since that Sabbath I have reflected often on the things she said, and the passion with which she expressed them. My conclusion: this good woman has much to be sad and bitter about and – like so many of us – she bears the burden of accumulated bitterness.

### My back yard

Recently I was forced to do some fence repairs after a few days of winter wind and rain. Unfortunately, the repairs required some digging, which soon left me with the strange sensation that I was no longer walking on the soles of my shoes. A quick check revealed that I wasn't. I was walking on an ever-thickening layer of sticky black clay that had begun to affect my balance and threatened to trip me up!

Bitterness does the same thing. Every time we dig into the past, freshening up the bad things buried there, we risk carrying away layers of accumulated bitterness – and bitterness will eventually affect our emotional and spiritual balance!

### King Saul

If you're in any doubt about the destructive effect of accumulated bitterness, all you need to do is re-read the story of Israel's first king, Saul.

As the narrative unfolds we see young David as one of his most loyal, devoted and successful followers.

'Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. . . .' (1 Samuel 18:5.)

But Saul became envious of David's success and the praise he received from the people:

'Saul was very angry; . . . "They

have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.' (1 Samuel 18:8, 9.)

Sadly, Saul's bitterness towards David steadily accumulated, shaping itself into a dreadful grudge that led the king to make a series of attempts on the young man's life. Through all of these, however, David remained loyal to his king, unwilling to do him any harm. (1 Samuel 19:9-16.)

Saul's grudge against David became so intense that it went with him to his grave: 'When Saul realised that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David, Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy for the rest of his days.' (1 Samuel 18:28, 29.)

This story makes it clear that bitterness can be highly destructive.

### What about you?

There is a human tendency for us to archive our most painful memories. We bury them as deeply as possible, hoping that we will be able to forget the cruelty and unfairness they represent. Unfortunately, *out of sight* doesn't always mean *out of mind*! Which challenges each of us to answer this question: 'How much accumulated bitterness infects my life?'

According to the *Oxford Dictionary* ([www.oxforddictionaries.com](http://www.oxforddictionaries.com)) bitterness is a feeling of 'anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly' and, whether we like it or not, life is going to treat each of us unfairly at some point. How we react is largely up to us.

### Zinaida's story

For years Zinaida Bragantsova had been telling people that there was a bomb under her bed, but no one took her seriously.

It all started one night back in 1941 when the Germans were advancing on Berdyansk, Ukraine. Zinaida was sitting by a window working at her sewing machine when she was startled by an ominous whistling sound. She got quickly to her feet, only to be blown aside by a blast of air.

When she struggled to her feet, her sewing machine was gone and there were holes in both floor and ceiling. Unfortunately, she couldn't get anyone to check out her story, so she 'just moved her bed over the hole and lived like that for the next 43 years.'

Finally, her problem was uncovered when phone cables were being laid in the area. Demolition experts were called in to probe for buried explosives. 'Where's your bomb, grandma?' asked the friendly lieutenant. 'No doubt, under your bed!'

'Yes! Under my bed,' Zinaida answered dryly. And that is when they found an unexploded 500-pound bomb buried in the foundations below!\*

### Lethal until defused

Yes, bitterness is like Zinaida's bomb. You can ignore it or pretend that it isn't actually there, but it will remain lethal until defused. So here is our challenge:

'Let today be the day you finally release yourself from the imprisonment of past grudges and anger. Simplify your life. Let go of the poisonous past and live the abundantly beautiful present . . . today.' Steve Maraboli

\* Adapted from [www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations](http://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations). All Bible verses are from the New International Version (UK).

Editor's note: If you feel that you need help to defuse your bitterness or the grudges that have grown up around it, please talk to a sensitive and trustworthy person who could be of help in resolving the problem – perhaps your pastor or a professionally trained counsellor might be able to help.



## Enhancing Health

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

### Health 'alternatives' – how healthy are they?

In the quest to escape 'unhealthy' products, be they food, drink or potentially toxic household items, science continues to create some 'alternative' health products, which are being brought into question.

Recently, I made a list of some 'healthy' options that over the years have been put under the microscope of diverse scientific opinion, but still remain cloaked in controversy as far as their health benefits are concerned.

Here are a few of the more controversial ones:

- Artificial sweeteners
- E-cigarettes
- GMO crops
- Polystyrene fast food containers
- Some meat analogues

With regard to both personal and environmental health concerns, please take note of the items on this list and do your own research over the next two weeks. See what diverse media comments, concerns and claims you can find about each of them. We will be looking at these in more detail in future *Enhancing Health* articles.

So, with so much debate over what are really 'health' products and safe for human use, how do you know which information to trust? A good starting point is to check where the information is coming from; for example, is the source a credible one? Is it backed by rigorous evidence-based research? We will use this benchmark when checking out the reports on the healthy products that we will put under the spotlight in the future.

The use of natural remedies is commonplace and studies have shown that around six out of every ten cancer patients (60%) use herbal remedies alongside conventional cancer treatments.<sup>1</sup> This means that it is important to evaluate their efficacy and safety as well.

Several national and international bodies have a voice on what constitutes good health products. One example is the Alliance for Natural Health International, which is a research, educational and advocacy non-profit organisation, working to promote natural and sustainable healthcare. Here is what they say about their work:

'We believe passionately that personal empowerment and freedom of choice in healthcare, including access to a diverse array of natural modalities, should be the basis of future healthcare.'<sup>2</sup>

We will be comparing their reports with other scientific studies to enable you to make a choice about what you believe to be the best advice in regard to healthy, safe wellness practice.

### Homework:

Take some time to check out the ingredients in your health products (food, drink, personal care and household items) and make a list of their ingredients. Then compare that list with your regular products to see the difference.

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/cancers-in-general/treatment/complementary-alternative/therapies/herbal-medicine> <sup>2</sup>[http://www.anh-europe.org/natural\\_health\\_news](http://www.anh-europe.org/natural_health_news)





## Two kinds of blindness . . .

by Esme Sutton

There are many people who live in darkness; they cannot see the light and the world it reveals. But there is a blindness of the mind where people find it difficult to comprehend what is perfectly obvious to others; they can't see what is staring them straight in the face. Sadly, there is also a blindness in which people choose not to see the obvious. Blindness in any form is a serious handicap, but there are 'none so blind as those who will not see!'

The disciples of Jesus were blind too! Towards the end of His ministry they were preoccupied with their ambition; they aspired to sit in a seat of power and glory when Jesus set up His kingdom. Such ambition may seem strange to us, for every day they had seen Jesus serve mankind, rather than seek personal success. They had seen Him lift men and women out of despair and degradation. They had seen His miracles of healing. They had seen His amazing compassion and love towards the most wretched. They had witnessed true wisdom as He expounded the principles of His kingdom – concepts that seriously challenged the wisdom of the Pharisees.

Despite this, however, their Jewish notion of a Messiah was still that of the 'Lion of Judah' who would come to crush their enemies. They had little understanding of His role as the 'Lamb of God', full of humble service and sacrifice. In fact, self-promotion and self-importance was blinding them. They still needed to learn, like many of us do, that we exist in order to give glory to God and not to seek glory for ourselves.

### A young graduate

A young graduate was delighted to be appointed as a National Gallery guide. His brief was to guide people to the paintings,

answer their questions and then step out of the way. Initially he succeeded. He took the visitors to the framed treasures, identified the artist and then stepped out of their view. 'This is a Monet,' he would say and then he would relate one or two pertinent facts and move back as people admired the work and asked a question or two. When they were ready he would lead them to the next masterpiece and repeat the procedure. 'This is the work of Rembrandt.' He then stepped back and they drank in the picture.

It was a great job. He took great pride in his work. Too much pride perhaps, for in a short time he forgot his brief. Rather than step away from the work, he would linger nearby. At the exclamations of pleasure he would respond with a 'Glad you like it, thank you!' – taking credit for work he hadn't done. Visitors disregarded his comments, but they couldn't disregard his movements; for lingering near a painting gradually progressed to lingering in front of it. The very work he was sent to reveal he began to conceal. 'This job isn't about you,' the curator said, 'don't stand in the way, you're obscuring the masterpiece.'

The disciples, like the young guide, didn't realise that they were hiding from view that which was of greater importance. They were totally unaware that they had this problem. They, like the young guide in the art gallery were working hard, doing their best, but little by little their desire to promote themselves dominated.

Jesus knew His disciples well and realised just where their ambition was leading them. He wanted them to realise that humble and loving service was what He desired – that notions of grandeur and

greatness were not His way.

### They had their own agenda

He told them that He was going to suffer, die, and rise again. He wanted them to know what lay ahead and be prepared for it. They heard His words but they just couldn't comprehend their meaning. Why was He talking about death when they were looking forward to a great life? Death would destroy their dreams.

So what did they do? They dismissed His words and spent their spare time promoting themselves. They spoke of 'me, myself and I' in order to impress, for they all aspired to be the greatest! They had their eyes on the seat at the right-hand of Jesus.

Imagine Peter if you will. 'I feel really happy that Jesus has chosen my house in Capernaum to be His mission headquarters. It's good to be at the centre of things.'

John cuts in, 'Well, you know I have a special relationship with the Master, but I'm sure that we'll be able to work closely together . . .'

Each disciple was trying to outdo the other and it wasn't long before the whole thing got out of hand. The disciples thought their behaviour had gone unnoticed until Jesus asked; 'What were you arguing about back there?' Suddenly they were lost for words. Even the most articulate had nothing to say. It was the silence of shame.

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.' (Mark 9:35, NIV-UK.)

They continued on their way to Jerusalem with Jesus leading the way. He was pre-occupied, anticipating imminent events that would culminate at the cross. Then, for the third time (Mark 10:32), 'He took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him' in depressing detail. Unbelievably though, at the first opportunity after this for James and John to be alone with Jesus they beg for preferential treatment for themselves. He asked them this question: 'What do you want me to do for you?'

This was their answer, 'Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.' (Mark 10:36, 37, NIV-UK.)

As George Knight in his commentary on this passage wrote, 'Their petition tells us a

great deal about the Zebedee brothers . . . But most of all, the brothers' request indicated to Jesus that they had still not understood the nature of His kingdom!' They still couldn't see it! They found it so hard to understand the upside down world that Jesus had introduced to them. Yet Jesus didn't show any frustration or impatience with their blindness – He gently and lovingly tried to help them overcome it.

### Bartimaeus

It was not long after this that the disciples met a blind beggar who saw Jesus more clearly than they did. He lacked eyesight, but not insight!

Like the disciples, Bartimaeus knew exactly what he wanted – they wanted positions of power and privilege; but he wanted to see, then get up from his squalid beggar's seat and follow Jesus. It seems clear that Bartimaeus had heard all about Jesus and realised that He was none other than the promised Christ. Hence his cry as Jesus passed by: 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' (Mark 10:47, NIV-UK.)

Interestingly, Jesus asked him the same question that he asked James and John, 'What do you want me to do for you?' These words were music to his ears and he had no hesitation in saying, 'Rabbi, I want to see.'

Here was a blind man who was conscious of his blindness, whereas the disciples were not aware of theirs. Repeatedly Jesus had emphasised His forthcoming death and their wrongness in struggling for supremacy – but they didn't see it. Jesus wanted to heal them as much as He did the physically blind. 'What do you want me to do for you?' The words were music to Bartimaeus. They should be music to our ears today as well.

Blindness is a terrible thing! Both physical blindness and spiritual blindness will blight the life. According to Knight, 'One of the tragedies of the church down through the ages is that it has had too many blind disciples. Disciples who were oblivious to their faults and oblivious to Jesus' power to heal and restore them both spiritually and physically and they were oblivious to their need to cry out to "the Son of David" in the persistent voice of faith.<sup>2</sup> Are we blind to our faults and failings? Is it easier to see the faults of others rather than see our own? Is it possible that 'me, myself and I' are standing in the way, obliterating the view of the One mankind ought to see?

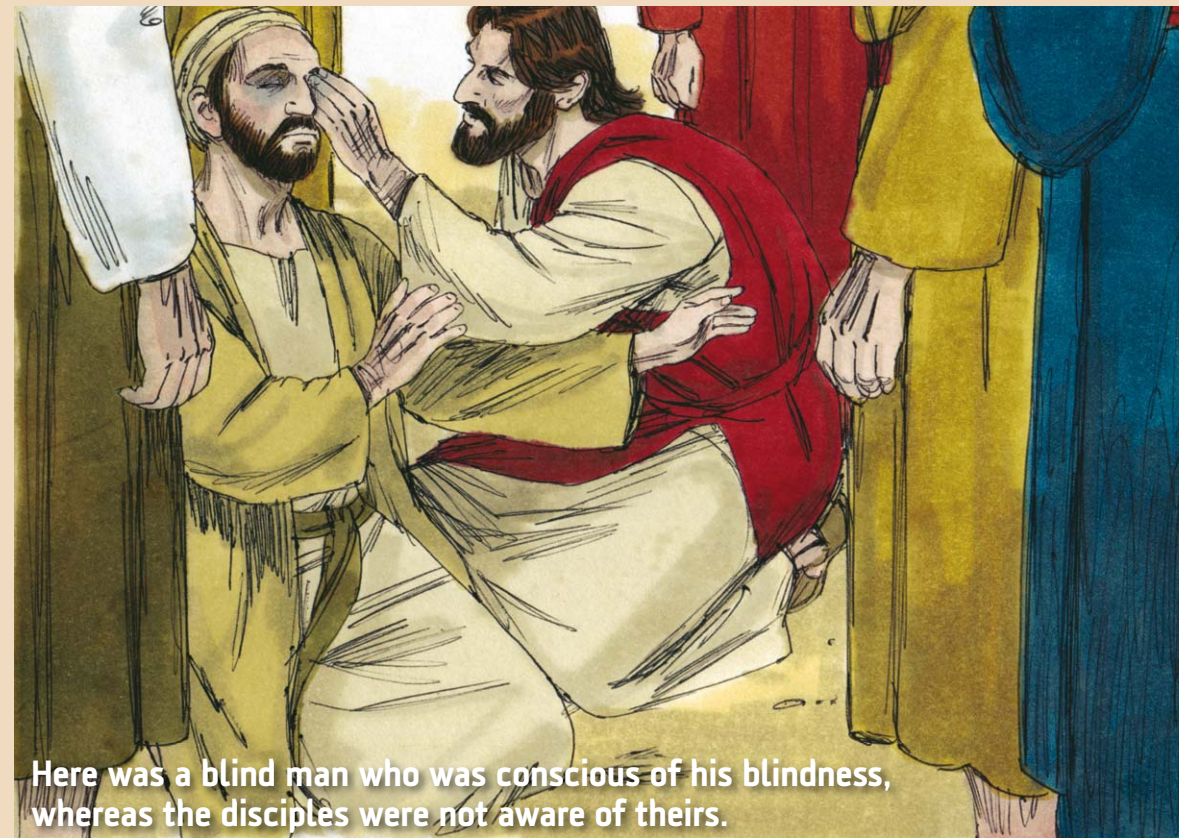
### 'I want to be like Joe!'

Tom was chronically unemployable; a beggar who no longer dreamed of useful work. But he visited the local 'Care and Share

Centre' operating at the back of a small church. There he received warmth and nourishing food, clothing to keep out the chill, but most importantly he was made to feel that he was someone of value. He always felt at home there and that was largely due to Joe, one of the volunteers who had become like a big brother to him. One day he accepted Joe's invitation to attend an evangelistic meeting in the church, where his heart was touched by what he heard. When the appeal was made Tom was on his feet in a flash, shouting out his response: 'I want to be like Joe!' Members of the congregation tried to hush him up. 'You mean you want to be like Jesus?' suggested the evangelist. Tom paused, 'Well, I don't know what this Jesus is like,' he said, 'but if He's anything like Joe, then I want to be like Him!'

How important it is to let Jesus have centre stage in our lives. Joe had let Jesus have centre stage in his life; selflessly he showed what his Saviour was like. And so did those ambitious disciples who had been so blinded by their lust for greatness. Christ's sacrifice on the cross and His subsequent resurrection opened their eyes and they were healed! Blindness is a terrible affliction . . . but Jesus is still in the business of healing it!

<sup>1</sup>Exploring Mark: A devotional commentary, by George R. Knight, page 194 <sup>2</sup>Ibid, page 199



Here was a blind man who was conscious of his blindness, whereas the disciples were not aware of theirs.

## An update on the relocation of Hyland House School

Hyland House School, the only Adventist primary school in the east of London, will move to Holcombe Road in Haringey for the 2015/16 academic year. Work is well underway to renovate the existing building from a secondary to a primary educational institution in preparation for Hyland House's open days on 19 and 20 May.

The school has ninety students enrolled at present and the new premises can accommodate three hundred. 'We have a three-year plan to increase enrolment at the school and we already have one hundred and twenty children registered for this coming academic year,' said Gina Abbequaye, the headteacher.

Hugh Gray, the project manager, stated: 'We consulted with all stakeholders, including local residents, staff, parents and resident church pastors Holness and Kwaye, of the congregations that worship at the Holcombe Road site during the weekends, to ensure that everyone was fully briefed as to the way forward'.

Working alongside Mr Gray (who is also a member of the Beckenham church) is Chris Fadoju, senior associate at Pellings LLP. He is the building surveyor and contract administrator on this project. Speaking about the management of the project, he said, 'It was my role to develop a feasibility study to assist with the relocation and transition and to ensure that I continually liaise with the project manager to ensure that the project is completed on time and within budget.'

It appears that, despite the unexpected challenge of having to renew the roof on one of the main buildings, the project is still well under its million pound budget and due to be completed in April 2015.

At the onset of the decision to transfer Hyland House School to the Holcombe Road site, we held meetings with staff, parents, governors and students. The Education department also organised a weekend retreat for Hyland House staff and family members. The focus was on "Making the Most of Change". The workshops were led by Dr Lincoln Sargeant who facilitated discussions on the potential benefits and challenges of the change of location. The outcome empowered staff to contribute to plans for a shared vision in order to maximise the potential of this transition', said Opal Christie Johnson, South England Conference Education director.

'I'm really excited about moving to our new school,' said the smiling headteacher. 'I'll naturally miss the greenery of Epping Forest next to our current building, but the new Hyland House School will be one of the most up-to-date primary schools in London.'

The new school building will have two large state-of-the-art Science labs (with prep rooms), two Art rooms, one large Home Economics lab, three Computer suites and a dedicated Music room, as well as spacious classrooms, each equipped with the latest educational technological devices.

CATHERINE ANTHONY BOLDEAU

## North England Conference Family Ministries Announcements

### Family Camp bookings

Dates for Family Camp 2015 are 24 July to 2 August. Bookings will open on Monday, 2 February, at 9am on the NEC website, [www.necadventist.org.uk](http://www.necadventist.org.uk).

Alternatively, you may request a booking form from the Family Ministries secretary on 0115 9606312, or via email from [yweekes@necadventist.org.uk](mailto:yweekes@necadventist.org.uk).

### 'Keeping the Church Family Safe' training 2015

(by Pastor Paul Liburd)

**Sunday 19 April** from 10am at Sheffield Burngreave Church, Andover Street, Pittsmoor, Sheffield, S3 9EE (for Areas 1-3)

The specific online DBS training for the Child Safety officers will be done separately.

Please note that all members working with children in any of the departments such as Children's Ministries, Sabbath School, Adventurers, and Pathfinders, or planning to attend the Master Guide Training Course 2015, should attend this 'Keeping the Church Family Safe' training.





## Marriage, divorce and remarriage

by Pastor Paul N. Liburd,  
NEC Family Ministries director

I am usually caught off-guard by the shopping queues during the pre-Christmas rush. I will pop into a shop for a quick purchase, then have to queue for thirty minutes in order to make the payment!

In January, the same thing occurs in reverse, when the refund/exchange queues are clogged with shoppers returning the goods they purchased only a few weeks earlier.

In our consumer society customers feel they have the right to obtain a refund or exchange for reasons ranging from 'faulty goods' at one extreme, to a mere 'change of mind' at the other. Some even return goods they actually need, believing them to be faulty – merely because they have failed to read the owner's manual or understand the operating instructions.

Unfortunately, a growing number of married couples behave like Christmas shoppers, eagerly queuing up to terminate their marriages and exchange their spouses. Their reasons are all too similar to those of the shoppers. At one extreme is the view that the spouse is 'faulty' and 'beyond repair', while at the other is the recognition that both parties have had a 'change of mind' about their relationship.

According to the Office for National Statistics, approximately 43% of all UK marriages end in divorce, with only 14 percent of divorces being granted on the grounds of adultery – which means that a staggering 86 percent of our marriages end for reasons other than infidelity.

### Are we affected?

Regrettably, a growing number of our members are in this larger group who cannot cite adultery as their reason for divorce – and they are asking the question: 'Where do I go from here?'

The Bible is our divine instruction manual, written by

the loving God who performed the first marriage in Eden (Genesis 2:21-25). It outlines the allowable grounds for divorce, and more importantly, it reveals the divine instructions for marital success. But too few have read and understood the manual and end up queuing like Christmas shoppers to terminate the very relationships God has ordained for their happiness and wellbeing.

With this in mind, let us consider a question Jesus was asked concerning marriage and divorce:

'And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?" tempting him. And he answered and said unto them, "What did Moses command you?" And they said, "Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away." (Mark 10:2-4.)

The command of Moses to which the Pharisees referred is in Deuteronomy 24:1-4, and it appears to give divorced spouses the right to remarry even in cases where the marital breakdown was not caused by adultery.

This was Christ's reply: 'For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.' (Mark 10:5-9.)

When the disciples were alone with Jesus, they asked him for further clarification on the matter and this was his response:

'...Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.' (Mark 10:11, 12.)

It is clear from the above that



Jesus limits the justification for biblically sanctioned remarriage to adultery.

### Abandonment

The apostle Paul, however, adds another reason for justifiable divorce and remarriage that covers a situation that would not have arisen in pre-Christian times. Suddenly, gentile couples were being confronted with the Gospel message, and in many cases only one of the spouses would accept it. This left the 'unbelieving' spouse with a choice: either to stay married to the 'believing spouse' or abandon him or her. This new injunction of Paul allowed the 'believing' spouse, who was thus abandoned, to remarry without condemnation. (1 Corinthians 7:15-16.)

These statements from Jesus and Paul form the basis upon which our Church's position on divorce rests, as is expressed in the latest version of the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, 2010 edition, page 151:

'Scripture recognizes adultery and fornication (Matthew 5:32) and abandonment by an unbelieving partner (1 Corinthians 7:10-15) as grounds for divorce.'

### The burning question

This brings us to the burning question on many minds in our churches today. When spouses divorce one another for reasons other than those sanctioned above, and either or both subsequently remarry, thereby committing adultery, on what basis can they be forgiven?

**Can the new couple obtain forgiveness for their sin of adultery while remaining married to each other, or do they have to get divorced in order to obtain forgiveness?**

Since God promises to 'remember our sins no more' (Jeremiah 31:34) and to 'cast our sins into the depths of the sea' (Micah 7:18, 19), are we really obliged to 'undo' the effects of our sinful actions before repentance can be obtained? What if those

actions cannot be undone?

Take King David for example. He committed adultery with Uriah's wife, then deliberately caused the man's death in battle. How could he possibly 'undo' the results of those wrong actions? How could he make restitution for his wickedness?

Would it have helped for him to divorce Bathsheba, thereby abandoning both her and her unborn child? Surely that would have caused even greater misery and heartache for all involved? Can two wrongs ever make a right?

Did God command David to divorce Bathsheba? No, He didn't, but there were some very sad consequences that the two of them had to live with because of their adultery. Their first baby died and David had to hear that 'the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' (2 Samuel 12:10, ESV.)

So what is the answer to the question: **Can the new couple obtain forgiveness for their sin of adultery while remaining married to each other, or do they have to get divorced in order to obtain forgiveness?**

What does the Bible say about David's adultery? Was it forgiven, even though he and Bathsheba remained together?

'David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die." (2 Samuel 12:13, 14, ESV.)

Clearly, David and Bathsheba were forgiven without having to divorce... but not without deep remorse, complete repentance and sincere confession. Psalm 51 is David's own account of that confession and it is deeply moving.

God's forgiveness does not depend on our ability to 'undo' our sins or make 'restitution' for them – if that were the case we wouldn't need a Saviour, would

we? Instead, God forgives our sins because Jesus lovingly bore them all on the cross, leaving to us the work of confession:

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9, NIV-UK.)

### The case of William Wales

In the late 1800s the case of Mr William Wales was brought to the attention of Ellen White. He had left his wife for reasons other than adultery and had begun living with another woman. The first wife (who was deemed the innocent party) subsequently remarried, following which William Wales proceeded to marry the woman he had been living with. His father and brother were both indignant and sought to break up his second marriage, as they deemed them to be living in a state of perpetual sin. The matter caused division in the church, but Ellen White was careful not to give guidance on the matter based on her own personal opinion. In 1902, however, she wrote the following concerning the case of William Wales, who, although repenting of his past conduct, remained married to his second wife:

'God's mercy to those who sincerely repent and come to Him through Christ, knows no limit. He will pardon the most guilty and purify the most polluted.

'Brother Wales' case has been a trouble to me, but I have a more distinct light on it, and I will now say that if Brother Wales keeps close to the Lord Jesus, he will be safe; for Christ has pledged his infinite power, faithfulness,

and love to save to the uttermost. Let Brother Wales know that I have written this.'<sup>1</sup>

In a letter to her son, Edson, who had enquired about the case, she wrote:

'If anything can come from me through you to him, I would say that his case cannot be improved by leaving the present wife.'<sup>2</sup>

Not only did Ellen White refuse to condemn William Wales as seen above, but she rebuked the conduct of William's father and brother as follows:

'I have not written to Will Wales, but know that if the father would repent before God and do his first works, and cease to consider himself as one that can help his son, he would ask himself the question, "Is my name written there, on the page white and fair?" He might well begin to humble himself before God, and leave Will Wales with God. Let the father and brother make diligent work for themselves. They both need the converting power of God. May the Lord help these poor souls to remove spot and stain from their own characters and repent of their wrongs and leave Will Wales with the Lord.'<sup>3</sup>

### The Church's position

Here is the Church's official position regarding forgiveness for those who have committed adultery:

'Divine grace is the only remedy for the brokenness of divorce. When marriage fails, former partners should be encouraged to examine their experience and to seek God's will for their lives. God provides comfort to those who have been

making a bogus asylum claim; can that person repent and obtain forgiveness while still assuming the false identity or continuing to benefit from the bogus asylum claim?

## Food for thought:

### Scenario 1

If a man purchases a house using money gained through fraudulent activities and then repents many years hence, does that mean he must sell the house and return the money? Or can he repent and obtain forgiveness while continuing to live in the house? And what should he do if it is no longer possible to return the money to its original owners?

### Scenario 2

If a woman obtains a job by making false claims about her qualifications and experience at the interview, can she receive forgiveness and keep the job without owning up to the falsehood and deception?

### Scenario 3

What if an economic migrant obtains leave to remain in the UK by assuming a false identity or

These are quite clear examples of cases where, when convicted of our wrongdoings, we should confess them to those we have deceived or defrauded, and accept the consequences of our actions. Those consequences may be very severe: we might have to give up the house or mortgage it to pay back the money defrauded; we may even have to stand trial; we may lose the job or be demoted for revealing our deceit during the interview; we may even end up being deported once we reveal our false identity and benefit claims status.

There are Biblical examples where those who felt convicted of their sinfulness tried hard to make amends – to 'undo' the effect of their wrongful actions. We call this 'restitution' and we see it clearly at work in the life of Zacchaeus:

'And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the

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wounded. God also accepts the repentance of individuals who commit the most destructive sins, even those that carry with them irreparable consequences (2 Samuel 11: 12; Psalms 34:18; 86:5; Joel 2:12, 13; John 8:2-11; 1 John 1:9).<sup>4</sup>

As we wade through the ever deepening quagmire of moral and ethical issues facing our Church today, let us proceed with compassion, patience and prayerful humility, doing '... all things without murmurings and

disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.' (Philippians 2:14, 15.)

<sup>1</sup><http://drc.whiteestate.org/files/325.pdf>, pages 10, 11 <sup>2</sup><http://drc.whiteestate.org/files/183.pdf>, page 4 <sup>3</sup><http://drc.whiteestate.org/files/183.pdf>, page 4 <sup>4</sup>*Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*, 18th Edition (2010), page 151

Note: Except where otherwise indicated all Bible references are from the King James Version.

poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." (Luke 19:8.)

There are other situations where restitution is not possible, such as manslaughter, murder, rape, incest and child abuse. Here the damage is irreparable. All that convicted souls can do is experience deep contrition, make sincere confession and let God forgive them and transform their lives.

The same is true for the emotional damage that we inflict on others through our unkind words and wrong attitudes. How can we 'undo' such things? It is very difficult and sometimes impossible, which makes it all the more wonderful to know that 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9, NIV.)

It makes one think of Jesus' words to those who were itching to punish that adulterous woman in the temple: 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' (John 8:7, NIV.)

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## Help us do something amazing . . .

by Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK

'This water that we drink is full of diseases! It contains bacteria and so we get stomach aches and much more!' said Pascal. Pascal is retired and lives in a village in Cameroon (Central Africa). According to him, 'Our water well is probably over 100 years old. It is an open water source – there is no cover over it. The walk to and from the well is also very strenuous. Even though we can drink the water and it quenches our thirst, it also makes us sick.'

With your help ADRA-UK will help control the risks associated with water-borne diseases in villages like Pascal's by providing access to clean drinking water, sanitation and personal hygiene training, benefitting more than 32,000 people in ten villages in Cameroon.

One of the many things that people take for granted is the ability to read and write, count or even tell the time. Yet, in many parts of the world this is still a major challenge.

Syha lives in Laos (Asia) and has a dream to be able to read and write. 'Learning how to read and write will change my life. Everything will be better. I can help my children with their schoolwork and I can take notes and record information that I have heard or learnt. If I can

learn how to read and write now, I can use it in my daily life for things like trading produce from our farm.'

With your help, ADRA-UK will equip local schools with solar power and conduct evening classes to teach women like Syha to read and write. ADRA-UK will also improve the sanitation facilities at the schools in Laos.

In just a few weeks, the 2015 ADRA Annual Appeal will start. Between the 28th of March and the 12th of April (19 April in London) we are asking you to dedicate time or money (or both) to help us with our global work.

It is only with your generous support and sacrifice through door-to-door collecting this year that ADRA will be able to achieve its goals. Please 'help us to help'!



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## news



### Event raises £2,000 for STOP

Stanborough School science teacher, Kish Poddar, got the 2015 fundraising season for his STOP International charity off to a good start by raising £2,000 towards its current projects, during an Indian evening held in the Stanborough Centre on 31 January.



## God knows how to set an alarm

The last MOHAP day retreat for 2014 was held at the Advent Centre on Sunday 17 November. Among those who came seeking a blessing was someone who had only heard about the event late the previous day. She immediately left a voicemail message, requesting to attend if possible. To her surprise, her alarm clock woke her up very early on Sunday morning. This prompted her to check her text messages and she was thrilled to receive one welcoming her to attend the day retreat. She testified, 'I definitely did not set that alarm, but God wanted me to be at this retreat and I know the reason why, as I have been wonderfully blessed. By God's grace I will be attending future retreats.'

Attendees were blessed by the sermon of North England Conference president, Pastor Lorraine Johnson, who spoke about God, in His love, being in pursuit of His children since the fall, desiring to forgive us and restore our relationship with Him. He also commissioned the audience to receive freely of God's forgiveness and to then

share it freely with others. Pastor Des Rafferty, BUC Bible Discovery School director, shared a moving testimony of how his beloved mother-in-law had died unexpectedly. He declared that the prayer of the faith will 'save the sick', but noted that doesn't necessarily mean that they will be healed immediately. He made the point that even though some may die, all can have assurance in Jesus of a resurrection upon His return. Pastor Rafferty repeatedly reminded his audience that some would 'go through the water, some through the fire, but all through the blood'.

Elsie Staple, SEC Health Ministries director, outlined the essential components of physical health in her presentation, while psychotherapist Marlene Levy spoke on 'Criticism – the silent killer', in which she led the attendees into a deeper understanding of the topic, including some practical suggestions for handling criticism and developing a Christ-like attitude in the process.

Janet Hamilton, MOHAP founding director, facilitated a discussion on the topic of

suffering, which examined practical ways of dealing with suffering and of helping others in the midst of their suffering. Susan Watt and Fen Braithwaite ably led the Spirit-filled praise-and-worship sessions, while Pastors Campbell, Dranca, Martin, Mbruani, Mwasumbi and Walters provided one-to-one anointing, pastoral prayer and counseling

for those requesting it. To one attendee, who expressed her experience in writing: 'It was a wonderful day. I have never been before and felt spiritually filled and definitely changed. My mum had anointing and prayer with a pastor and came away with her burdens and illness feeling much better than when she arrived.'

JANET HAMILTON



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Eighty-two people sat down to a vegetarian three-course Indian meal, which included samosas, a choice of vegetarian curries, rice, popadums, naan bread, cakes and fruit salad, thereby raising approximately £700 for the charity. Teams of helpers prepared the meals in the Centre's kitchen, and then they were served by some of the Stanborough Park church's teenagers, who were keen to do their bit to help the charity – clad in saris to add a degree of authenticity to the event.

The rest of the money raised during the event came from an auction of donated items such as mirrors, household goods, an aquarium, an exercise bike – and even a car with an MOT, which is valid until May this year.

STOP International was founded by Kish Poddar, who arrived in Watford with his family as a schoolboy in the 1960s, and still maintains his links with his home country. Having originally agreed to get a party of helpers together to build a chicken house for an orphanage in Tamil Nadu in 2000, he was moved by the extent of the need of the many local orphanages in the area to set up STOP International (Save The Orphans Please).

Since this early beginning he has helped several orphanages in the area with increasingly ambitious projects, assisted by friends and the charity's trustees.

This year's projects include: drilling a new borehole for one of our orphanages, as the present borehole is dry; finishing the compound wall for the Love Home; painting the living accommodation of the Way to Life Home; and building a new compound wall for the Vocational Training Centre.

Mr Poddar makes several trips each year to the orphanages, with a team of helpers, to undertake much of the work that needs doing. Money raised by STOP also helps with the children's school fees.

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Club: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>										
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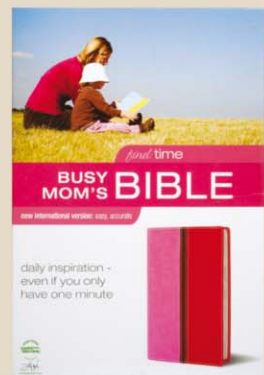


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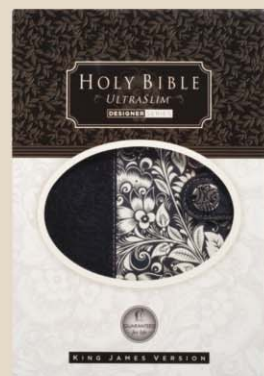
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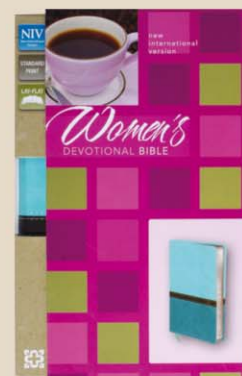
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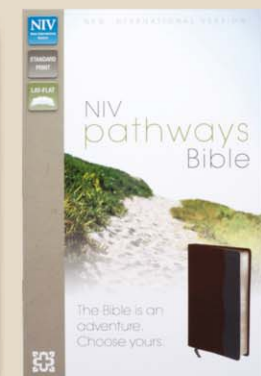
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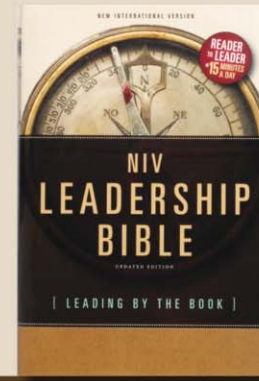
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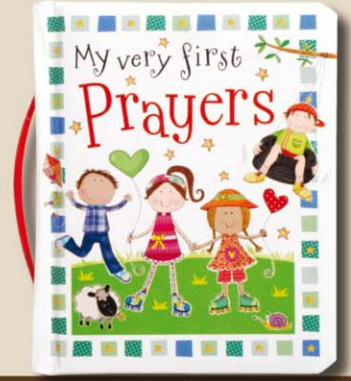
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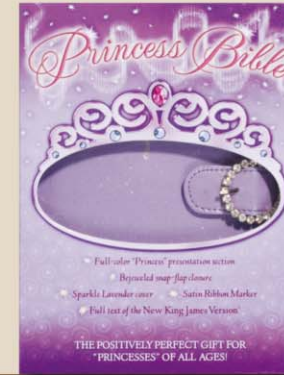
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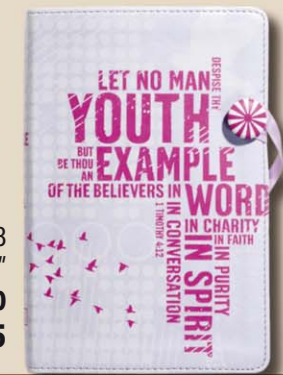
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### Galway baptisms tell a tale . . .

The Galway church welcomed four new members into its fellowship on 22 November 2014. The baptism was held in the picturesque outdoor baptismal font of the Galway church and the event celebrated four very unique experiences of God's love in action.

Firstly there is Helen Ohi, mother of a little girl. She came to embrace hope and joy in the midst of sadness. Widowed unexpectedly in 2013, mother and daughter were overwhelmed with intense grief. During their time of need the Galway members drew close to her and provided as much support as they could. As a result, she became convinced that she wanted to join their faith community and made the decision to be baptised.

Sphe Mdlawuzo has dedicated four children to God over the last few years. She always wanted the best for them. But recently she started paying attention to God's call in her own life. She realised that it was time for her to make her own commitment to him. That is how she came to be there on that Sabbath morning, with 30 fellow worshippers gathered around her, as she dedicated herself to God.

Anna Boisko is a talented musician and has brought the blessing of her skills on the piano to the Galway church. She has worked hard to educate herself in recent years and recently had an MSc conferred on her. She wanted to pay tribute to God, who has helped her through the challenges of college life, and requested to express this through baptism.

Yasmin Kilmartin has just begun secondary education. She grew up in an Adventist family and she felt that the time had come for her to embrace this faith as her own. The catalyst for this decision was an altar call by Pastor Mark Finley during the recent City of Hope Evangelistic series in Dublin. After that, Pastor Tony O'Rourke studied with her and she was pleased to be baptised by him.

The worship service for the day was enhanced by visiting volunteer workers from the United States who are currently helping out with some community projects in Cork. Together with Annamarie Freeman, another familiar Cork face, they led out in beautiful singing and engaging children's activities.

Betty O'Rourke made this observation about the event: 'We had a few visitors at the baptism. One of them remarked on the simplicity of the message, particularly the point that when one desires to follow Jesus, He will remove all barriers. She promised to visit the Galway church again.'

ELIZABETH O'ROURKE



### What a way to start 2015!

On Sabbath 3 January the Ilford Central church kick-started 2015 in a brilliant manner. They celebrated the baptism of two young people: Sade Burnett and Joseph Okochi.

According to Joseph, 'There is a certain warmth about our community, a sure sense of compassion and togetherness in Christ. With it being a new year, I wanted to carry that warmth with me – better still, to be a part of it . . . walking with Christ.'

Pastor Harrison Mburani officiated at the baptism, assisted by the elders.

Sade Burnett summarised her journey, saying, 'Growing up in an Adventist home, my parents set a great example for me. I made a resolution in 2014 that I would try to get closer to God, above anything else, so I started attending church more regularly and having Bible studies. After a while it felt like the right time to get baptised.'

Proud parent, Mrs K. Burnett, exclaimed that 'it was a beautiful day!' Her dad commented, 'Karen and I are truly proud of her and we're continuously praying for her'.

Mrs U. Okochi, Joseph's mum, who sang just before her son was baptised, had this to say: 'I'm happy Joseph realises that life without Christ will create a vacuum'. While his dad added, 'Joseph has chosen a closer walk with Christ, Amen!'

ABENA (COMMUNICATIONS)

### God is so amazing!

'Give and it will be given to you . . . pressed down, shaken together and running over . . .' (Luke 6:38, NIV). Our God is so real!

Ever since his arrival at Hanwell Church in January 2014, Pastor Dusan Uzelac has been encouraging us to befriend, visit and pray with people in our church's neighbourhood, and where we live and work.

As a result of a visit to a local bakery in Hanwell by Sarah Lubanga and Pastor Uzelac, the bakery promised to support the community lunch project and donated hundreds of loaves. The surplus bread was handed out to our very grateful members, local neighbours and the community lunch guests.

On Monday, 19 January, Sarah and Pastor Uzelac gratefully collected an abundance of food items from a local business: 107.5 kg of rice, 105 kg of wheat flour, several bags of lentils, and bottles of cooking oil, to mention just a few of the many items. On the same day Hanwell Church members, Glenroy and Angela Pinnock, collected more bread.



There is no longer a need for us to buy bread or any of the food items mentioned, because they are now supplied by businesses on a regular basis in support of our community lunches and other efforts to feed the homeless.

The bread and food items are actually overflowing and we are able to share some with our neighbours three days a week, while still leaving enough for our community guests to take a loaf with them every Sunday.

These donated food items were given as a direct result of Agnes David's appraisal of God's work at a 'Building Plan Public Meeting' she attended in her neighbourhood. What a fantastic opportunity God has given us.

SARAH LUBANGA AND ANGELA PINNOCK



### SP Pathfinders win in Area 7

On Sabbath, 10 January, Stanborough Park Pathfinder Club gave God the praise and glory after they were judged to be the best Area 7 team in the Pathfinder Bible Experience. The team was comprised of Aarinola Ayo-ipaye, Paul Cooper, Matthew Lazzarin and Anthony Moyo, who are Pathfinders, as well as Akinto Ayo-ipaye and Joshua Ntata, who are Adventurers. The team was coordinated by deputy directors, Yetunde Bright and Adebukola Ayo-ipaye, and well-supported by committed parents. On 7 February they will pit their knowledge of Matthew against the best Pathfinder teams from the entire South England Conference.

FLORENCE ALLEN



Some of the newly-trained welcoming team at Holloway

### Holloway's 'Welcoming Ministry'

Holloway Church launched its 'welcoming ministry' on 6 December last year. Why the need of a welcoming ministry? Research shows that the first four minutes of human contact is crucial, as it almost always determines whether strangers remain strangers or become friends.

Our Welcoming Ministry team aspires to become more personal in their greeting of members and guests to avoid people becoming 'lost in the crowd'. The welcoming ministry is sponsored by the Personal Ministries department and is part of its evangelistic outreach programme.

Its goal is to welcome all worshippers into a space where they can be affirmed as God's children and be encouraged in their journey of faith. To this end, a training handbook was devised, and greeters first

met for training prior to the launch.

First-time guests are given gifts, both for them and their children, and an invitation to lunch at the end of the service. Regular guests and members benefit from warm welcoming smiles and any other assistance they may require during their time in the sanctuary.

As ambassadors of Christ we are partners with God in helping others along life's journey.

HOLLOWAY COMMUNICATIONS



### Double blessing in Portsmouth

Sabbath, 17 January, was a very special day for the Portsmouth and Gosport churches. During the morning service two new elders were ordained: Prenti Chenge and Nelson Batulayan. Then, in the afternoon, four new members were added to the Gosport church by baptism: Rachel Wanjiru Ndarua, Patience Tendayi Mutavayi, Tim Fordham and Stuart Cobby.

These new members were supported by both congregations, along with their own family and friends. Both services were conducted by Pastor Tim Zestic.

MARY EMMA MWITA, PORTSMOUTH COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

In collaboration with General Conference and North England Conference: Health Ministries, Family, Youth, Children and Education

MAIN PRESENTER  
**DR KATHLEEN KUNTARAF**  
Associate Director GC Health Ministries & Youth Alive

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**REGISTRATION TIME: 9AM**  
**EVENT IS FOR AGES 14-30 YRS**

**BOOK TODAY**

(PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL TRAINING CONFERENCE) This Health Programme is designed to equip youth with the necessary tools to prevent at risk behaviours and how to overcome and come alive through the power of Christ.





## Southern Asia's carol service

On Sabbath, 13 December 2014, for the third consecutive year, Manchester Southern Asia Church conducted its annual carol service in the city centre. There they sang lustily and distributed a large amount of literature, mostly *Signs of the Times* tracts. However, for those who expressed a keener interest, books like *Steps to Christ*, *Great Controversy* and *When God Said Remember* were also available.

The outreach proved successful for the sowing of the Gospel seed, and rewarding for the team who participated.

SANJAY SATHE (PM TEAM)

## Attention all songwriters

'Knowing God's Heart' is the theme of the 2015 South England Conference Camp Meeting and, to mark the occasion, the Music department, under the leadership of the new director, Mike Johnson, is inviting submissions for a theme song. **The deadline for submissions is 14 March.**

Lyrics should be in keeping with the theology of the Church and songwriters are encouraged to create a song that can be easily learned and sung often. Ideally, it should be verse, chorus, bridge, chorus, but this is not compulsory. Afterwards, the winning entry will be recorded and made available for download from the usual digital platforms.

If you are interested, please submit your lyrics sheet and a guide demo in MP3 format to Keith Bazari, at [keithbazari@musician.org](mailto:keithbazari@musician.org).

For those who do not know Mike Johnson, he is a radio broadcaster and co-founder of Adventist Radio Milton (ARMK). He won the Andrew Cross Award in 2000 for the series, 'Favourite Hymns', which was broadcast on this radio station. He currently serves as Radio sponsor for the South England Conference and is responsible for managing the conference radio station, Light FM ([www.lightfm.net](http://www.lightfm.net)). He is also founder of Secklow Sounds Radio in Milton Keynes, an online community radio station, working to bring people and communities together on a common platform. The station receives more than 20,000 plays from its on-demand service each quarter and has just applied to Ofcom for a full-time Community Radio Licence.

Mike has been involved in music for several years as Gospel promotor, and his company, No. 7 Promotions, was the first organisation to bring Grammy-winning group, *Take 6*, to the UK. Mike was appointed in January 2015 and will be developing the new music philosophy, 'Music for Worship, Evangelism and Enterprise', along with the SEC Music Advisory Council.

For further information please contact Mike Johnson at [music@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:music@secadventist.org.uk).

CATHERINE ANTHONY BOLDEAU



Filming an interview with Pastor Bernie Holford



Pastor Bernie Holford chats with Yvonne Bauwens



The crew

## SM Media is launched

The newly formed team of Adventist Media: SCOTLAND converged from across Scotland to meet near Dunfermline for a residential training and planning week over Hogmanay. Sun, rain, ice, wind, snow, a serious car accident and a number of viruses couldn't dampen the spirits of the team, who worked through the week learning video production and getting the feel of working together. They then presented their work on the following Sabbath at the new church building in Dunfermline, where it was very well received.

The car accident involved our planned devotional speaker for the week, Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, and his wife Deana, who hit ice on the M6 travelling north. Thankfully, they were unhurt but were unable to continue their journey. This meant that the team members had to take the morning and evening devotionals themselves, and they did a commendable job of it.

At the end of each day the main classroom was strewn with cameras, lights, instruments, reflectors, cables, Uno cards and empty mugs. The long days (and nights) spent writing, planning, filming, editing, praying and playing together resulted in several finished videos as well as concepts for future projects. So far the produced work includes a series of interviews with Scottish Mission president, Pastor Bernie Holford, who explains a little of how the Church in Scotland is structured and how it functions; some creative retelling of parables in a modern setting; live music; and visual poetry.

The first video of the interview series has already been released via the mission's main website ([www.adventistmediascotland.org](http://www.adventistmediascotland.org)) with more to follow soon.

CHARLES LETHBRIDGE



## Christmas dinner at The Regent

The church family should be a happy, sociable, outgoing group of Christians. The time we spend together should include more than just worship services, Sabbath School and prayer meetings – important as they are. Our religion should be mission-orientated! Our church social life should also, therefore, have a mission outlook.

This is just what we did in Great Yarmouth! Each year we like to go out as a church family and share a meal together at Christmas time. This last year was no exception – but it was a bit different. Let me tell you how. We have made a number of friends through our personal contacts and our various church activities, which include our health ministries programmes (vegetarian cookery classes) and Creation Health seminars. We decided to invite these friends to come and join us for a special meal at The Regent Restaurant in the town. Several members were unable to attend but most of our friends were able to be there and we had a wonderful time.

In fact, there were almost as many friends as church members present. We are so happy that they were able to join us and several were planning to be involved in our New Year's church social and our special Singles' Evening – but that is something to report later!

PASTOR MICHAEL WALKER, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

## Candlelight service is a success

One of our outreach ministries in the community around Great Yarmouth Church is the distribution of a small newspaper called *The Link* to some 160 homes since August 2012. It helps us keep our neighbours aware of our church and its activities in a positive and non-threatening way. One of the events we advertise in *The Link* is our annual Christmas Carol Candlelight Service.

People are reluctant to step inside a church for various reasons and each year we have only had a handful attend this service. This last Christmas, however, we saw more folk from the area, as well as a number from our Vegetarian Cookery classes and Creation Health seminars join us.

The Candlelight Service turned out to be a great success. Everyone expressed how much they enjoyed it, including one couple who mentioned that it was good to hear a 'real sermon' for a change,



## Blackburn banquet

Blackburn Church's year-end banquet, held on 27 December last year, was a most stylish affair enjoyed by all who attended. It was made very special by the fact that it was organised and laid on by the youth and children of the Blackburn church.

BEN MARSDEN

## Special Needs Camp

Have you ever been on the team or would you like to find out more before committing yourself to volunteering?

**Join us at a reunion/information day**

Hereford Church, Aspire Community Hub,  
Canal Road, Hereford, HR1 2EA

**14 March 2015**

*Hereford members are providing lunch,  
but contributions would be welcome.*

as they only get a five-minute homily in The Minster! The sermon was an evangelistic one presented by the writer, and designed to lead the congregation from the First Advent of our Saviour, through His own great sacrifice, to the Second Advent that gives us certain hope of something far better than the distresses of today! The service ended with lighting of candles and that rousing carol, 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'; then everyone enjoyed warm mince pies and mulled non-alcoholic wine in a happy and friendly atmosphere.

PASTOR MICHAEL WALKER, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY





The SEC Family Ministry  
Marriage Retreat


*Intimate Allies*  
Guarding the Foundations of Marital Love

An exploration of practical biblical principles to enhance spiritual, emotional and physical intimacy

**20th - 22nd March 2015**  
Venue: Denham Grove, Tilehouse Lane, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5DG

Cost: £240 per couple (subsidies and split payments available for early booking)

Presenters: Les & Irma Ackie Register at [sec.adventist.org.uk/events](http://sec.adventist.org.uk/events)




### A celestial performance

On 13 December last year the Hampstead church was treated to a day of magnificent praise and worship music, climaxing with an evening recital of Handel's *Messiah*.

The choir was supported by a symphony orchestra of sixty-plus musicians, who also led out in the evening's introductory carol singing. Among those held spellbound by the music and singing were the former mayoress of Camden Borough, Councillor Heather Johnson, and her mother.

The conductor for the evening was Fiona Pacquette, and she led both the Hampstead Adventist Choral Society and the HACS Millennium Orchestra and Semi-Chorus.

JAMES FRANKIE SPRINGER (HANWELL CHURCH)



### Creation Health at Great Yarmouth

In addition to our health-screening ventures in the town centre during 2014, our church health department has also been very active in other ways. For just over two years we have held vegetarian cookery classes for the community at bimonthly intervals in Great Yarmouth Church. As a result we have made several friends, and one lady now attends regularly on Sabbath mornings. We have now moved a step forward by presenting a series of health-oriented seminars with a spiritual emphasis that was developed at the Seventh-day Adventist-owned Florida Hospital in Orlando, USA.

Instead of using the church for these seminars, we decided to run them in a hired hall and advertise to the public. Commencing on 26 October last year, we successfully conducted eight consecutive Sunday sessions of the Creation Health seminars, for which attendees paid an initial charge of £5 per person. There was an encouraging response from some of our cookery class friends and a few others from the community, including a lady taking the Adventist Discovery Centre Health course. Twelve of them completed the course and received their certificates. Each session was conducted by an appropriate professional and followed by a vegetarian meal.

Creation Health is a faith-based wellness plan for those who want to live healthier, happier and less-stressed lives according to this unique whole-person health philosophy. Creation Health stands for: **Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal relationships, Outlook and Nutrition.**

PASTOR MICHAEL WALKER, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



### Pastors and wives honoured

On the last Sabbath of 2014 the Camp Hill congregation were in a thanksgiving mood. Their programme culminated in an evening of praise, which was interrupted halfway by a special act of thanksgiving and appreciation directed at their pastoral team: Dr Patrick and Mrs Ann-Marie Herbert, and Pastor Pardon and Mrs Anastasia Chenjerai. The surprised couples received plaques and bouquets along with the warm appreciation of their members.

NATALIE SUTHERLAND



### Love begins at home

Derby Women's Ministries department managed to create a climate of love and caring among its congregation during 2014. Their theme was 'Love begins at home' and they put it into practice by coming together to share each other's birthdays. At these special events they share presents together and provide caring support for each other. The leaders thank God for what has been achieved to fulfil their theme, and hope that 2015 will bring opportunities for them to go out in the community as one big, loving family and share the love they have at Derby Bethel Church.

FAITH MOYO



### Aberdaron Advent Campsite 2015 Summer Staff

Volunteers are needed for the summer of 2015: nine maintenance staff required for 10 weeks. Food and board provided along with a monetary allowance. Please post your CV to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT or email it to: [enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com).

Closing date: 28 February 2015.

**PRAYER EVANGELISM MINISTRY**  
Sponsored by the GC Revival and Reformation Committee

**100 DAYS OF UNITED PRAYER**  
LEADING INTO...  
**WORLD GC SESSION: JULY 2-11, 2015**  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

"A chain of earnest, praying believers should encircle the world...."  
Reflecting Christ, p. 121

**This initiative begins on 25 March, 2015.**

### Shirley's surprise!

It is a tradition in Exeter Church to honour members who reach the milestone of eighty years of age. However, Shirley Kemp-Tucker (née Uffindell) was completely surprised to be presented with a cake, card and planted patio container by Pastor Ian Lorek at our Christmas fellowship lunch on 20 December last year. She had no idea that the church was planning an early celebration, since Shirley was planning to spend her birthday – 6 January – with her daughter in Sussex. She has since said that she did not know that being 80 could be so much fun!

Shirley is currently our Community Services leader and a Sabbath School assistant at Exeter, and has also served as an elder and deaconess. As a retired nurse and midwife, Shirley has a deep concern for others and enjoys her voluntary work in the community. She keeps very active and also enjoys her garden – all of which we hope she will do for years to come.

STELLA JEFFERY



### Macedonian call!

Do you live in Bishop's Stortford or its immediate surroundings? Are you interested in joining three other Stortford residents in an evangelistic outreach?

We already have access to a small hall in the Central Park, which we have used for a community health programme. It is also available for Sabbath afternoon events.

We would like to engage more with the general public, but find it an enormous task!

If you would like to help in this challenging work please contact Margaret Todd (tel. 01279 658964).

MARGARET TODD

### Corrigendum

The editor regrets that the following paragraph was omitted from the obituary of the late Yvonne Leonora Baxter due to space constraints in the *MESSENGER* of 5 December 2014:

Donations in aid of St Margaret's Hospice, who were so kind and understanding during difficult times the family have experienced, have reflected how highly Yvonne was regarded and Brian, Elizabeth and Juliet would like to offer sincere thanks for all the words of sympathy and encouragement which have poured in.



# back page



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# Gathered Together

## MOTHERS PRAYER BREAKFAST

# SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAR 2015

**STARTS  
8.00am  
prompt!**

**Advent Centre  
37 Brendon Street  
London, W1H 5HD**

The Hallelujah KidzPraise (Mums in Action) Team cordially invites you to attend the Gathered Together, Mothers Prayer Breakfast. Come let us enjoy **breakfast together, prayer together, praise together and encourage one another together.** God is moving mountains on our behalf.

Limited spaces available! To get your **FREE** ticket visit:  
[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gathered-together-mothers-prayer-breakfast-tickets-15161645891](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gathered-together-mothers-prayer-breakfast-tickets-15161645891)

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	Notf	Edin	Belf
Feb 27	5.37	5.49	5.39	5.42	5.55
Mar 6	5.49	6.01	5.52	5.57	6.09
13	6.01	6.13	6.05	6.11	6.23
20	6.13	6.25	6.17	6.26	6.37

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