

Messenger

News to the churches • 22 May 2015 • Volume 120 • 10



ADRA tarpaulins arriving in Dhading. Mai Ogawa, ADRA project manager, pictured to the right.

ADRA distributes tarps in hard-to-reach villages

Kathmandu, Nepal – ADRA Nepal staff are working around the clock to deliver much-needed tarps and food to families in remote villages in Dhading and Kavre.

Tough road conditions, including rubble from houses destroyed by the earthquake, are making distribution more difficult. In some cases, ADRA workers are driving up to five hours, then walking long distances in the mountainous regions of Nepal carrying tarps and other materials so desperately needed in these remote communities.

‘We are going to great lengths to ensure that even those who are hard to reach receive the urgent assistance that they need as soon as possible,’ says Robert Patton, ADRA Emergency Response Co-ordinator.

Over the last week, ADRA has distributed 1,278 tarps in Dhading district, 900 tarps in Kavre, 50 tarps in Kathmandu, and 64 tents in Lalitpur. Food distribution has also begun in addition to these ongoing deliveries of tents and tarpaulins.

Families in remote villages are relieved to see they have not been forgotten.

‘There is no food, no water, no gas,’ said 42-year-old Sushila, a mother of four, living in a remote village. ‘We are using firewood to cook. The tarpaulin that houses the entire village has holes, so the rain comes through.

There are 45-50 people sleeping under the tarp every night.’

Sushila was at the village temple when the earthquake struck. She, her husband and children survived, but her cattle, which were tied to their home, died under a collapsing wall.

‘Right now what we need most is a place to stay and something to eat.’

ADRA distributed tarps in her village that day.

Continued on page 2



ADRA distributes tarps in hard-to-reach villages Continued from front cover



Left: Rami and her son Enos at the hospital.

Rami's story

'We need food and shelter. There is nothing left in our village!' says Rami. She is from Lapa village in Dhading. The earthquake flattened her home, leaving her son, Enos, trapped inside. For three days, Enos suffered under the rubble in extreme pain. The collapsed house had fractured his arm and leg. Finally, a rescue helicopter arrived to take him to the district hospital. 'He is supposed to be referred to the bigger hospital in Biratnagar. He is in a lot of pain, but our turn has not come yet,' says Rami with tears in her eyes. 'The district hospital does not have the capacity to do the surgery he needs right now.'

How you can help

Aid agencies are asking that those who want to help the people of Nepal give cash donations.

'Cash donations enable organisations to respond to urgent needs as they change, which happens frequently in [the] early stages of response,' said Thierry Van Bignoot, ADRA's Director for Emergency Management. 'They are the most efficient and allow us to purchase goods locally, ensuring that everything we get is culturally and environmentally appropriate.'

Please donate online at www.adra.org.uk or text ADRA00 £10 to 70070 to donate £10 to ADRA and make a difference today.



Enhancing Health

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

Meat analogues – How healthy are they?

Imagine yourself at a meal, about to sample a wonderfully prepared dish which both looks and smells good. Your dining counterparts have ordered their meals from the meat menu while yours is a vegetarian dish classified as a 'meat substitute'. They ask you what your meat-free choice is made from. Good question. How would you answer?

Meat substitutes/alternatives are also known as meat analogues, which are described as food products that have similar aesthetic qualities and/or chemical characteristics as do certain types of meat.

Some meat analogues, such as Quorn, are made of mycoprotein, which is a highly processed product produced by a fermentation process from a type of fungus called *Fusarium venenatum*. The fungi are placed in a fermentation vat to which is added carbon dioxide, glucose, oxygen, nitrogen, minerals, vitamins and other undisclosed ingredients. These ingredients enable the fungi to grow under the constant temperature at which the vat is kept. Once the fungi reach the desired size, ingredients such as egg and seasoning are added, then cooked and developed into chunks. Next, it is frozen, which results in a structure that resembles meat.

Other meat analogues such as TVP (Textured Vegetable Protein), also known as TSP (Textured Soy Protein), are made from defatted soy flour, a byproduct of the process whereby oil is extracted from the soybean. It can also be made from oats, wheat and cotton seeds and is very high in protein.

Both Quorn and TVP-based products have their detractors and supporters. One of the main areas of concern for some is that certain

of these products may result in negative reactions from those with food and mould allergies. In response to these claims, others suggest that there is insufficient scientific evidence to substantiate the reports that meat analogues are harmful.¹

However, the safety debate continues, with some reports going as far as suggesting that processed meat substitutes could be more harmful than meat. The concerns include the 'artificial' ingredients and additives in these products; their high salt and fat content; and the reported dangers of soya products made from GM (genetically modified) soy. The advice: 'Go back to basics. Try tofu, seitan, and tempeh. These natural sources of soy can be great options. . . . Just make sure you look for non-GM varieties (for soybeans, too).'²

Good health!

¹<http://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Manufacturers/Claims-that-mycoprotein-is-unsafe-lack-scientific-credibility-Quorn>
²<http://www.blistree.com/2011/03/30/food/processed-meat-substitutes-may-be-unhealthier-than-actual-meat/#ixzz3Y3ccD98Y>



editorial

On a busy Friday last year my wife had the misfortune to have our car stall while she was waiting to turn into the Morrisons car park in Grantham. She immediately tried to restart the vehicle – a few times actually – but without success.

The traffic was congested and the weather warm, factors that no doubt helped sour the mood of the man who chose to hoot at her for the delay! Poor Elize, what could she do under the circumstances but wish her helpless embarrassment away.

Men are sometimes pretty useless in such situations, and I was no exception. Instead of quietly applying a comforting hug after listening to her ordeal, I launched into some poorly timed 'if-it-happens-again-do-this . . .' advice!

Stamford

Just a few weeks ago, I was sitting in my car in Stamford, waiting patiently for the traffic light to change. There were three vehicles in front of me and, when it did change, the first two moved off smartly. But the third driver appeared engrossed in a conversation with her passenger and made no visible effort to move.

Yes! You guessed it. Instinctively, without giving it a second thought, I honked my horn at her! The response from her passenger was swift and emphatic, involving a hand signal that is definitely not listed in *The Highway Code*!

It was then that my wife pointed out that the car 'parked' in front of us was that of a registered driving school with its L-plates clearly on display! Unthinkingly, I had just put cruel and unnecessary pressure on someone who was nervously struggling to master her clutch control.

Then I did something even more undignified. As we drove off, I still mumbled off some weak excuses for my impatient and uncharitable treatment of this fledgling driver.

Why?

Why do things like this happen to me? Am I the only one who experiences such lapses? Or are there other believers who end up praying for God's guidance and grace in the morning . . . and His forgiveness in the early afternoon? What is it about sin that makes it so malignant – so hard to eradicate? Will we ever be able to confidently claim that we are 'in remission'?

What about you? Have you reached the place where you are no longer bothered by any **inclinations** to sin? Believe it or not, but a number of our UK members think they have reached this spiritual milestone.

Which poses a vital question: how legitimate is the idea that all 'genuine' believers will achieve a state of 'sinlessness' before Jesus comes again? Meaning that they will no longer **commit sinful acts, harbour sinful thoughts, or feel any inclination to sin** whatsoever.

Have you given up sinning too?



Julian Hibbert
Editor



Let's listen to John

It is widely believed that John, author of the New Testament books generally attributed to him, died around 100 AD. This means that he had the longest exposure to the development of Christian doctrine of any of those who had been taught by Jesus. This being the case, what did he say about the subject of 'sinlessness'?

'If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.' (1 John 1:8-10, NIV-UK.)

What are the essential points conveyed in these verses?

- **We cannot claim to be free from sin or never to have sinned.** To do that is nothing short of an insult against God. There will, however, be a point at which sin will be eradicated from our lives – at the Second Coming of Christ. The apostle Paul describes it in 1 Corinthians 15:53 (NKJV) as the moment that *'this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality'*.
- **We can, however, claim God's forgiveness if we humbly confess both our sins** (actions and attitudes) **and our sinfulness** (disposition). Provision for this forgiveness was made at Calvary when Christ became our sin-bearing Substitute.
- **We may trust God to pursue an ongoing process of purification in our lives until Jesus comes.** This process is also an act of grace made possible through Christ at Calvary and effected daily by the Holy Spirit. It is a painful process of 'cauterisation' through which the Surgeon of our souls destroys the malignant cells in our characters as we allow Him to!

These thoughts from John are fully supported by the comments of a highly respected Adventist author:

*'The more clearly we discern the purity of Christ's character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin. There will be a continual confession of sin and humbling of the heart before Him. At every advance step our repentance will deepen. We shall confess: "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing." "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 7:18; Galatians 6:14. Let not God be dishonoured by the declaration from human lips, "I am sinless; I am holy." Sanctified lips will never give utterance to such presumptuous words.'*¹

Even though it is painful, I personally appreciate that God patiently continues to identify and 'cauterise' my character imperfections. **How about you?**

¹Ellen White, *From Trials to Triumph*, page 295

reflections

Are UK Adventists really living below the 'breadline'?

by Cor Saunders

During my travels abroad, especially during my younger years, I visited many of our churches in Europe, Australia, South Africa, Chile, Thailand and other countries. There I met and learned to know many wonderful Adventists – people who astonished me at the work they were doing for God in their local communities. Some of them were hard at work in our hospitals, colleges and schools, while others were enthusiastically engaged in various community welfare projects. I found all this to be very heart-warming.

These days I still meet a lot of people, mostly through my work. Interestingly, I find that religion often pops up in the discussions I have within my work environment – mostly because a contractor wishes to come in on a Sabbath to catch up on some unfinished tasks.

Recently I have been chatting with one of them, a Christian, about our church's teachings, especially tithing. Among other things he mentioned that he had been looking around on the BUC website and at other online documents that provide financial information about our church. According to his research, which was based on 2012 statistics, our tithe income for that year had been around £12,400,000 and our membership around 34,000. He had also calculated that our tithe return for that year was a mere £365 per member, which meant that the average Adventist earned a mere £3,650 for that year – just £304 per month!

He observed that this was an astonishingly low average income, which suggested that many of our members were living below the breadline! Then he looked at me for an answer! What would you have said?

I told him that the higher incomes enjoyed by those of our members on a full pension or in work were being offset by the fact that many of our members were children and youth who probably depended on their parents for everything, including their pocket money.

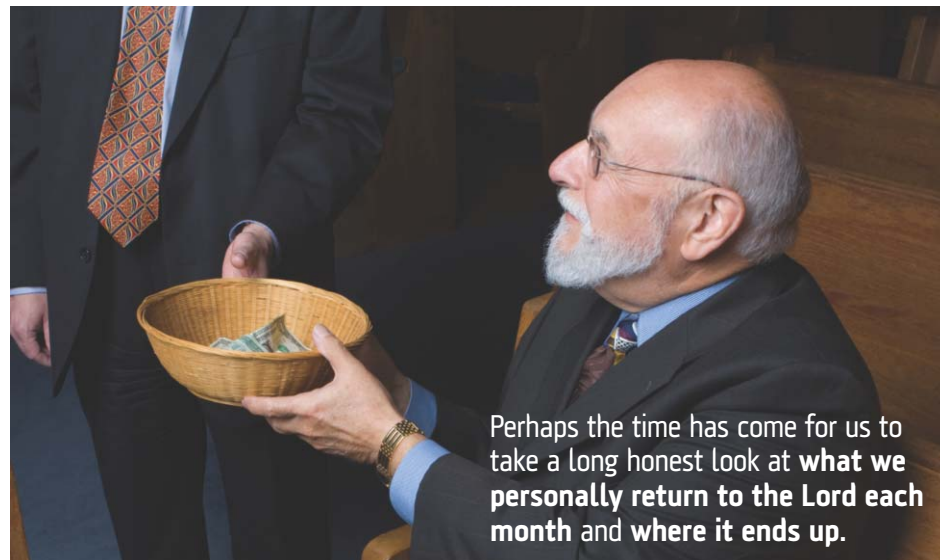
But is this really the case? Yes, there are many members who have lost their jobs, or are restricted to occasional 'zero hour' contract work. But does it really look as though we are a church packed with people who are living below the breadline?

My worry is that there may be something substantially wrong in our church community that makes for such an astonishingly low per capita tithe across the UK and Ireland.

Some have suggested to me that there are many members who claim to be returning

their tithe – but just not in the UK! Instead they are repatriating the money to their countries of origin. If this is the case, then I find it sad that those who directly benefit from the ministry and resources supplied by the BUC and its conferences and missions cannot find it in their hearts to support it.

It makes me wonder what Jesus actually meant when He said: 'Well, then,' Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." His reply completely amazed them.' (Mark 12:17, NLT.) Surely He was expecting His audience to render both their taxes and their tithes within the jurisdiction (both civil and ecclesiastical) under which they lived and earned them.



Perhaps the time has come for us to take a long honest look at **what we personally return to the Lord each month and where it ends up.**

Perhaps the time has come for us to take a long honest look at **what we personally return to the Lord each month and where it ends up.**

Here is something else for us to reflect on. Surely, if we have grown up here or migrated here by choice, we have a responsibility to finance the mission of God's church *here*, in order to reach the millions of indigenous Britons around us who don't yet know Him and His saving grace.

Do you remember that comment of Jesus about those missed opportunities for mission that might be right under our noses?

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

Then these righteous ones will reply, "Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?"

And the King will say, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" (Matthew 25:35-40, NLT.)

inbox



Assisting Nepal's people

Dear Editor
My eldest son, James, is in Nepal.

James, his friend Richard Jones and my wife, Naomi, trekked up to Everest Base Camp between 3 and 17 April. On the way they made friends with people from around the globe. In particular they connected with other young adult trekkers.

When the earthquake hit on midday of 25 April James was worshipping in the Seventh-day Adventist church, Kathmandu. Rich was on the trail to the Annurpana Base Camp. Naomi had flown to Bombay on Friday 24 April.

Initially Rich was out of range of any mobile phone masts but safe. James stayed in the Adventist compound, sleeping in the church on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Initially food was short. Severe aftershocks hit the area several times during these two days. Until Thursday he helped clear the debris from collapsed boundary walls at the church compound and took pictures in Kathmandu. He is a professional photographer. The British Embassy called James on Thursday, offering him a place on a returning UK aid flight. James declined, as he knew Rich was

due back in Kathmandu on Friday.

On Wednesday, 29 April, James reconnected with some of the people he met on his Everest trek. He booked himself and Rich into the hostel where these friends were staying. The hostel lodgers have been raising funds individually and by groups, purchasing supplies of rice, lentils, tarpaulins, rope, shovels, saws, hammers and other needed items for life support and rebuilding.

The next day James's group visited the Innovative Social Centre – a family-run children's home. They look after 15 children. There they delivered the rice, lentils, sleeping mats, and so on, and stayed to play with the children.

On Friday, 1 May, James was in the village of Goldhunga, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, where their team uncovered a family's staple food, their rice harvest. On 2 May, James erected a better shelter for two other families. The monsoon is just weeks away.

The hostel groups are fluid. They are well organised and are connecting with people who have had no help. They are making an immediate difference, which is desperately needed. Until James and Rich flew out to Bombay on 6 May they continued to go to the villages to offer help.

To learn more about the spontaneous aid efforts of these tourists contact James via his email at thecombover@mac.com.

MALCOLM WATSON

Corrigendum: The picture supplied to accompany the article 'MTTC Manchester' on page 16 of *MESSENGER* 30 April should have shown Drs Thomas and LaVerne Jackson rather than Pastor Kirk Thomas. *MESSENGER* staff regret any confusion this may have caused.



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

'What is the role of Ellen White's writings in Adventist theology, given the Protestant principle of *sola scriptura*?'

A Our church recognises the gift of prophecy at work in the ministry of Ellen White, and support for this view is provided by Gerhard Pfandl in his list of five biblical tests of authenticity that confirm such a gift.¹ However, despite the obvious respect given to her writings, Ellen White never wavered on the *sola scriptura* principle. 'The Bible must be our standard for every doctrine and practice,' she wrote in 1888. 'The Bible, the Bible alone, laid up in the heart and blessed by the Spirit of God, can make man right and keep him right.'²

Was she willing that others should value the Bible above her own writings? Absolutely. In fact, when asked for something she'd written to settle a particular point, she inferred that it was 'providential' that she'd lost it: 'God has a purpose in this. He wants us to go to the Bible and get the Scripture evidence.'³ As far as she was concerned, even long-held doctrines should be tested against Scripture: 'Will not the truth bear to be investigated? Will it totter and fall if criticised? If so, let it fall, the sooner the better. The spirit that would close the door to investigation of points of truth in a Christlike manner is not the Spirit from above.'⁴

What, then, are White's writings for? According to her, 'It is because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey.' In her works, 'additional truth is not brought out' – probably a good thing, given Revelation 22:18 – 'but God has through the *Testimonies* simplified the great truths already given . . . to awaken and impress the mind with them.'⁵

Her role in the formation of our church's doctrines was an auxiliary one. According to the Adventist Theological Society, her visions would 'reaffirm the consensus' of those who 'devoted themselves to a prayerful study of the Bible'. They provided 'confirmation rather than initiation'.⁶ Of verbal inspiration she wrote, 'You have never found that I have made any such claims,' and 'in regard to infallibility, I never claimed it; God alone is infallible'⁷ – a fact that became evident in the 1911 revision of *The Great Controversy*, and in her writing of 'certain chapters for *The Desire of Ages* "over and over again"'.⁸ Instead, as her son claimed, 'God has given her discernment to use that which is correct and in harmony with truth regarding all matters essential to salvation'⁹ – foremost of which was an extraordinary love for Jesus Christ. Perhaps her whole life work can be summarised by her comments following a meeting in 1888: 'My burden during the meeting was to present Jesus and His love before my brethren, for I saw marked evidences that many had not the spirit of Christ.'¹⁰

¹<http://www.adventist.org/en/spirituality/prophecy/article/go/0/the-gift-of-prophecy/>
²Quoted in George R. Knight's *A Search for Identity: The Development of Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs*, pp. 97, 98.³Idem, p. 96.⁴Idem, p. 97.⁵Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 665.⁶<http://www.perspectivedigest.org/article/92/archives/18-1/the-ecclesiastical-role-of-ellen-g-white> 'Selected Messages', vol. 1, pp. 24, 37, quoted online by the White Estate at: <http://www.whiteestate.org/issues/herm-pri.html>⁸George Knight, p. 135, 136.⁹<http://www.whiteestate.org/issues/herm-pri.html>¹⁰George Knight, p. 106

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.

Coventry youth 'are' the sermon as they build a church without walls

by Farai C. Muzungu



Cigarette in hand and holdall over his shoulder, the young man briskly approached the square where the Coventry Eagles Pathfinders were doing their drill display. He moved to the edge of the pavement to avoid the gathering crowds, and his bag brushed against the table. He looked briefly down at it, took a few steps, then turned back.

'Do you have any free Bibles?' he asked Sam, who stood behind the table. She smiled and pointed to the three Bibles, which were the only items left on the once-full table.

'Help yourself,' she said. 'Really!' he responded, with excitement in his voice. Suddenly he was no longer rushed as he chose a Bible and flipped open the pages. 'My mum gave me a Bible when I left home, but I lost it. For a while now I have been thinking of getting another one.'

Words cannot explain the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Sabbath, 21 March, is a day the Coventry youth will not forget. Responding to the call by the General Conference Youth Ministries department to 'Be the Sermon' as part of the Global Youth Day celebrations, they loaded over 100 pre-packed goodie bags containing water, cereal bars, bookmarks, *GLOW* tracts, and copies of *Steps to Christ* and *The Great Hope* into the waiting cars. They also loaded a selection of books, Bibles and DVDs supplied by the Personal Ministries team, together with balloons and extra water bottles and cereal bars. They then walked to Bull Yard Square, Coventry City Centre, where they spent the next three hours singing hymns and giving out gifts and literature, as well as just talking to the general public



as part of the Kindness event. The youth were so amazed at people's willingness to receive material and have a general chat, that they wanted to stay on even after all the materials they had brought with them had run out. The Pathfinders did not disappoint the crowds as they demonstrated their abilities under the watchful eyes of an ex-army officer who had been having a chat with one of the youth. The drum corps ably supported them and at regular intervals filled the air with harmonious beats. Fiona, one of a number of people who ended up going back to Coventry Central Church for fellowship lunch, remarked that 'the Pathfinders looked really smart and well prepared. I think it's good that they are sharing their love with everyone.'

As the youth enjoyed lunch most were already reminiscing and wishing the day would not end. 'It was a good event and I learnt self-confidence – and that there is more to church than staying in the church environment,' said Shantain.

'It was very interactive talking to people and I felt I made a difference in their lives,' quipped Chipo. 'I had a good experience meeting people and telling them about God,' Aaron added.

Lunch was cut short as the youth had to go out again and perform more acts of kindness. They spent the afternoon at Brandon House, a nursing home for dementia patients. Here again the youth sang songs and interacted with residents. The highlight of the day was when, halfway through the programme, one of the male residents burst into tears and thanked the youth for brightening his day. Tears welled up in the young people's eyes as the reality of God's love reflected back on them.

As they all headed back to church to start the week of prayer, the question everyone was asking was, 'Why don't we do this more often?' The Youth leader confirmed a plan to run the event again in the summer and, God willing, every quarter if not once a month. Surely the Coventry youth have been a sermon well lived.



coming & going . . .



David Foster preaching his final sermon as pastor in Rhyl

Passing the baton in Rhyl

On Sabbath, 28 March 2015, Pastor David Foster preached his last sermon as minister of the North Wales district of churches. David joined the Welsh Mission in September 2008, after having served for a number of years in the South England Conference, and brought with him both maturity and a wealth of experience.

Initially David worked for British Telecom, firstly as an engineer but later as a senior manager. Taking an opportunity for early retirement from BT, David, already an active lay preacher in Ipswich, studied at Newbold College and had his first placement in 1998 at Lowestoft and Oulton Broad, where he also became a chaplain to the local prison and chairman of Churches Together in Lowestoft.

In 2000, moving to pastor south coast churches, he served as a chaplain to the three prisons on the Isle of Wight as well as being SEC Area 3 co-ordinator and chairman of the SEC Provincial Ministers' Forum.

On joining the Welsh Mission David served congregations in Rhyl, Llandudno Junction, Bangor and Wrexham. He was later joined by

Malcolm Turner, who served his internship with David before being given sole responsibility for the Llandudno company.

In the latter part of 2014 David and Malcolm took on the pastoral care of the entire northern half of the Welsh Mission, adding Shrewsbury and Telford to their portfolio.

David and his wife, Sandra, have been well accepted by the various congregations they have served, and David's technical skills have been particularly appreciated. In the Rhyl and Telford churches he installed hi-tech video projection systems, and in Rhyl he ran regular computer training classes for local senior citizens.

David always emphasised that he was a Christian first and an Adventist second. Having grown up in the Church of England he was familiar with many different forms of worship and mixed easily with fellow Christians in the Rhyl area, regularly participating in Cytûn (Churches Together) meetings and inter-church services.

In his final sermon, at a well-attended service in the Rhyl church, David preached on Joshua chapter one, a point of transition in the Israelites' history when Moses stepped down and Joshua stepped up. Immediately distancing himself from any direct comparison with Moses, David emphasised the importance of change and transitions in the life of every church group. 'The church has to move forward,' he said. 'When Moses was gone Joshua was told to get up and get on with it. Just as God had been with Moses, so He would be with Joshua.' The message for the Rhyl church was clear: change happens, but God, His purposes, His mission, His promises and His assurance remain constant. We simply need to follow His instructions and, like Joshua, step forward in faith.

Following the service, organist Leslie Riskowitz thanked David and Sandra for their years of service on behalf of the church members, and presented them with flowers and a painting of the Conwy harbour. Other members gave personal gifts and then shared their own words of appreciation over a fellowship lunch which included a splendid cake!

Malcolm Turner now takes over as minister of the Rhyl church. Having worked together with David for the last two and a half years he is on course for commissioning in the not-too-distant future. We wish David and Sandra all God's blessings as they explore their retirement options, and Malcolm and Geraldine Turner God's continued guidance as they take up the baton in North Wales.

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE



SDAA welcomes Nathalie Johansson

SDAA Ltd may be one of the lesser-known entities within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but a bright new face there will be helping ensure that the legal and property issues affecting the church are well cared for.

Nathalie Johansson joined the Seventh-day Adventist Association team at the beginning of April and will be supporting BUC associate treasurer, Stephen Okelo, with report, case and project preparation, as well as more general office duties.

All of this may sound daunting to a girl born in Denmark but of Swedish and German parents. However, she has wanted to live in England since graduating in 2010 with an MA in English with an emphasis on social history. Her reaction after just two weeks in the new job? 'I absolutely love it. I studied social history such as people's living conditions, history, architecture and anthropology.' Because her job involves dealing with the details of buildings, research and some history she says, 'This is absolutely perfect.'

Nathalie is the first Adventist in her family, having attended Bible studies with her mother at age 12, joined the choir and then chosen to be baptised at age 14. That commitment has never faded. She says, 'I always wanted to work for the church and have even considered pastoral work.' While throwing herself into this new role she plans to continue her theological interests in her spare time and simply states, 'I walk wherever God wants me to walk.'

For more on the SDAA visit the Adventist Church website: <http://adventist.org.uk/departments/seventh-day-adventist-association-ltd>.

PASTOR VICTOR HULBERT

BOOKSALES

May
31 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

June
8-14 NEC Camp Meeting
15-21 SEC Camp Meeting

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Report: Women of Virtue Conference

by Geraldene Farmer

If you entered the Advent Centre in London at about 10am on 22 March, you would be forgiven for thinking you'd arrived at the scene of a mass choir practice. The majestic sound of over three hundred women raising their voices in praise filled every corner of the church building and even witnessed to the street outside. The pews were awash with various shades of purple because the attendees had complied with the instruction to 'wear something purple'.

This was the scene at the BUC Women of Virtue Conference and Exhibition Experience. Guest speaker, General Conference Women's Ministries director, Heather-Dawn Small, spoke on 'Lessons from the Life of a Virtuous Woman', highlighting our tendency to describe ourselves in terms of our physical appearance. She spoke of the billion-dollar industry focused on attempting to rid us of our imperfections, and drew our attention to the fact that, as women of virtue, we ought to be spending our time on eternal things – for 'often under silken apparel there is a threadbare soul'.

The whole day was geared towards encouraging, edifying and enriching the lives of women through the thirteen attributes identified in the Women of Virtue (WOV) programme. In the hall downstairs thirteen

exhibition booths provided a practical, colourful visual representation of these attributes. Heather-Dawn Small remarked about the 'Women as Homemakers' exhibition, saying: 'This is such a beautiful representation of the homemaker. There is no evidence of the drudgery sometimes associated with this role; rather, an expression of Godly creativity.' She described all the exhibits as very 'creative and spot on' in their interpretation. Exhibits covered were: A woman of godly character, Women as singles, Women as wives, Women as homemakers, Women as providers, Women as mothers, Women maintaining their appearance, Women of strength, Women who are industrious, Women as investors, Women as community activists, Personal development, Encouraging and affirming excellence.

A unique feature of the day's proceedings was that of getting 'A Man's Perspective' on the Proverbs 31 woman, which saw two Men's Ministries leaders, Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt from the north and Doctor Chidi Ngwaba from the south, field questions from WOVS team members, Val Grosset and Pilira Zipita. During the lively discussion that ensued, Dr Ngwaba encouraged women to 'Talk to the king inside' when addressing their husbands, and not to put them down but to

pray for them and value the importance of respect in the home.

Another man on the programme was Gregg Wilson (licensed minister) from Bedford Central Church, who very ably threw some light on what it meant to be 'At the Gate'. He concluded that when women are loved they become the abundant producers of home life, the root of a happy and healthy community, and that the man in Proverbs 31 was a righteous man who was known at the gate because of the excellent works of his wife.

It is hard to fully describe all the aspects of the excellent programme presented on Sunday. In the words of Heather-Dawn Small, 'This is stuff that women can participate in, they can see, touch and hear – it is a holistic experience. I cannot see anyone coming here and not being impacted by this programme. This is preparing women for heaven. I'm very impressed with the fact that my sisters are so dedicated to focusing on their character because that's really all we have to take with us when we leave here.'

The 'Women of Virtue' programme was introduced at a BUC Women's Ministries retreat in October 2013 and officially launched during the weekend of 26-27 April 2014. Founder and director of the programme, BUC Women's Ministries director, Sharon Platt-McDonald, says that the idea of WOV is not a new one and that God had been speaking to her about the life of the virtuous woman outlined in Proverbs 31:10-31 for many years. In 2007, she was further led to the idea of formatting 13 key principles which now form the basis for the Women of Virtue programme. She is supported by a team of volunteers who all work to their particular areas of giftedness.

Sunday's event was attended by a significant number of non-Adventist women, who participated enthusiastically. One woman was heard to say, 'This is such an amazing opportunity to see God in the everyday roles of women. I will certainly come again. It's made me think.'

Sheila Samuels, who was attending her first Women's Ministries conference, felt it was well worth it too. She wrote, 'The highlight was your guest speaker, Heather Small – what a woman!' She added, 'We are planning to ask our Women's Ministry at Kings Cross Church for funds to buy the manual as we know we could benefit from its guidance.'

Heather-Dawn Small is excited about the potential for this programme to be rolled out globally through the GC Women's Ministries department. 'When we present this next year at our advisory, I am hoping to let the division leaders experience this programme. It is only as they experience it that they will be convinced to implement it. My associate director and I will be pushing this programme as we travel.'

As the vision for the programme has grown, so has the need for dedicated volunteers. Anyone wishing to assist can contact the BUC Women's Ministries department for more information.

The next Women of Virtue event will be a women's business conference to be held on Sunday, 27 September 2015, in the North England Conference.



Editor's note: Unfortunately, we receive too many low-resolution photographs these days. Those on this page are an example. Just imagine how good they would have printed had they been above 1MB instead of just 50-100KB!

Middlesbrough's Passion

It has taken a year to grow this seed – was it worth it?

Seeing all the attention Christmas is given, it struck me that it was about time we reminded people that Jesus wasn't just born so we could all celebrate one day a year . . . and so the seed began to grow in April 2014.

We bought plastic eggs and hunted for a suitable Easter story for children. We were given permission by a local nursery to read the Easter story to their children. We followed this up by giving out those plastic eggs, which by now contained a small chocolate egg, a children's version of the Easter story and an invitation to come and watch a live performance of the play in our church.

After months of research on costumes; the writing of the play; the casting and prop-making; rehearsals at all hours; and much stress and laughter, the seed from last Easter matured this Easter.

We put on a very visual performance of Christ's Passion for the community of Middlesbrough, hoping to show them how much Jesus really loves and cares for all of us.

Fourteen church members dressed in full costume gave a very moving and passionate portrayal of the Passion of Christ. It was attended by our mayor, Ray Mallon, a Catholic, who was very keen to learn about how our church had started and how it was different from other denominations: a great opportunity to share our belief about the Sabbath.

The play was watched by over 100 people, and many – including men – were brought to tears. A lot of the audience were not churchgoers and that was the aim – to reach at least one person who did not attend church. We had seven people there who come regularly to our Coffee Drop In and they were deeply moved. One male visitor was visibly affected after the play, and, when asked if he was okay, his reply was, 'I've never experienced anything like that before; I'm feeling very emotional.'

The 'all-nations' cast was made up of people from Filipino, African, Romanian and English backgrounds while among the audience we had a Catholic, a Methodist minister, two Anglicans and one of my friends, who is an atheist! After the play she got in her car, put on the radio and heard that the words of the song were 'Jesus loves you more than you will know'. She rang to tell me this and also that she'd told her husband that 'He [God] needn't expect her to go to church every week' – strange words from an atheist, I thought. We also had people from different charities within the community whose needs we support.

After the play everyone was invited upstairs where we continued the programme by talking through the meaning behind the Passover meal. Our 12 'disciples' each took a table that had been laid out with wine, bread, parsley, salt water, bitter herbs, haroseth, a candle and lamb-shaped biscuits. As everyone gathered around the tables they got to sample and understand the true meaning of the Passover.

We finished the afternoon with our mayor's encouragement regarding the importance of a good grounding for our children.

The comments received were all very positive and many hearts were obviously touched this Easter.

What will another year grow?
JUDY H-J (MIDDLESBROUGH COMMUNICATIONS)

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Pastor Nicardo Delahaye

BUC Youth Congress

Despite jet lag from transatlantic travel, Pastor Nicardo Delahaye was on full form at the opening night of 'Reborn', the British Union Conference Youth Congress, 2-6 April, 2015. He certainly caught the attention of the 200+ youth and teens with a no-holds-barred discourse on 'scandal' – starting with the present day but then harking back to the Old Testament story of David and Bathsheba.

Pastor Delahaye, currently ministering in Norwalk, Connecticut, challenged some of the preconceived notions surrounding the story, asking why King David was not at the war front himself, and pondered on the danger of being idle. 'A palace roof is always a dangerous place for a king,' he noted as he gave a description of the hazards and the history for both David and Bathsheba, stating that 'all sin is sin, whoever you do it with!'

More importantly he emphasised that 'God is more interested in our salvation than in anything else,' and that 'God will sacrifice our reputation so that we can get His salvation.'

Youth travelled to Newland Park in Buckinghamshire from across the whole of the UK and Ireland, resulting in a broad but warm mix of accents, cultures and music. While Pastor Delahaye spent most of his time with the SEC Teen Conference running concurrently on the same site, the older youth found themselves blessed by the ministry of two additional speakers, Sebastien Braxton, the founder of R3 Inc, a think tank that seeks to create opportunities for youth to serve God in meaningful ways; and Jiwan Stefan Moon, a world church associate youth director. Dr Moon shared very practical advice on living the Christian life on a university campus, particularly with the 'Follow Me' programme.

There was an abundant choice of workshops, with the 'Smart Love'



Photos: Victor Hulbert, Ashley Bloom, Griselda Rosales

sessions on relationships proving to be particularly popular. Other workshops included themes of Bible study, making Christ relevant either online or in the context of where you live, last-day events, leadership, and the biblical basis of values.

The weekend included great music from talented singers, both during the services and in the late evening cafe, where the ice-cream machine was a definite hit with those attending. Other activities included a prayer room with time for meditation and thought; Sunday morning's interactive games on the playing field; and plenty of time throughout for the development of friendships. 'I was impressed by the "potter and the clay" sermon,' stated Keri Rothwell from Ireland. She liked the idea that 'as long as the clay was moist he could remould it.' It taught her to 'trust that God knows what He is doing. God never gives up on us.'

'I am moved and touched,' Mhel Manliclic from Newbold Church reflected. 'My fuel is now fully tanked up. I'm impressed by all the guest speakers. A very fine and blessed weekend.'

'I was able to get answers to the questions I have in my spiritual journey,' a Scottish youth reflected. 'These are things I will take away with me and use in my spiritual life. I have been reborn.'

A selection of photos from the congress are available on the Adventist Church's picture gallery:

<http://adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/reborn-youth-congress>.
PASTOR VICTOR HULBERT

Global Youth Day at Hemel Hempstead

Our Hemel Hempstead teens were part of the eight million Adventist young people who took part in the Global Youth Day on 21 March. The teens took over the worship service, including the sermon. We began with an enthusiastic welcome by Tyla, followed by an equally joyous song of praise, 'Lord I Lift Your Name On High'. Prayers and readings followed, by Katherine and Sarah, Dylan, Sara and Dominique.

The younger children listened intently as the children's spot was taken by Ingabelle and

Anastasia, after which the two of them performed a beautiful violin duet.

During the message Panashe, Tatyana and Matthew challenged us to see things from their perspective and to remember that the most challenging time in life is when you are young. It is the time when you want to do so many things but may not be old enough! Teens should honour their parents as they often need their guidance. But teens know that they make mistakes and ask us to be patient, as God is still working with them. Despite the pressures of school and college, teens are still in church week after week and need to be valued for their commitment just like the youth in the Bible were. Matthew invited teens and

adults to affirm: 'I am God's masterpiece and nothing will stand in my way!'

PAUL KING



Basildon District Health Impact Day

On Sabbath, 18 April, we were able to take Sabbath into our community via the health message. We hired a hall in the community that is regularly used by members of the public. The atmosphere was light, friendly and welcoming. Our purpose was simple: to show acts of kindness in the form of these free health checks: BMI calculations, body fat analysis, hip/waist ratio measurements, blood pressure monitoring, peak flow assessment, the Harvard Step Test, one-to-one counselling sessions, tips on healthy diet and lifestyle, and raw food juicing. We also offered our guests a cup of tea, which gave us an opportunity to have a chat and get to know them a little better. On leaving, each one of our guests received a gift bag, which included both a *Focus* and a *Celebrations* magazine and other pieces of local literature, which were well received.

During the five hours spent in the hall, 20 people came through the doors and willingly stayed for up to two hours at a time. Many of them enjoyed the juicing demonstrations; some of them were even taking notes! It gave us an opportunity to display that we as a church see health and wellness as a combination of both the conventional treatments that are available to us, and how foods and a healthy diet and lifestyle can help in the healing process. The feedback from the community was extremely positive. On the evaluation forms, all 20 guests said that everything we did was of interest to them and all were willing to be invited to future health programmes. One woman said it has made her 'think more seriously about her health'. We have already made follow-up contacts, and our prayer is that through our efforts here in Basildon we can win our world for Jesus Christ.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Langley youth play

On the evening of Good Friday, the Langley Youth department performed a play on the subject of 'Denial', focusing upon Peter's threefold denial of Jesus. It showed that it is just as easy for us to deny Jesus today by what we say and do. In the accompanying photo the actors pose with Pastor S. M. Gill on the far right.

ROHEET SUBRAI

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SUGGESTED HOTELS: Britannia Country House Hotel or Premier Inn
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East Kilbride becomes a church

The small company of East Kilbride became a church on 7 March. Thirty years ago, on 7 September 1985, the new Adventist company of East Kilbride was formed with William Wilson, Jean Kelly, Margaret Edgar, Martin and Florina Clee, and Morag Sharp as original members. They first met at a school, then a local community hall, and for just over 20 years at St Andrew's Methodist Church.

A number of the Scottish Mission's interns have launched their ministry in East Kilbride: for example, Denys Baidam; David Nuttall and his wife Julia; Bryan and Isobel Webster; Geoff Smith (who is now married to Rose); Bob and Joy Smart; Brian and May McCormac; Gordon and Flor Smith (now in America); Marcel and Claudette Ghioalda; Andrew and Krista Willis; Clifford and Ophelia Herman; David and Janice Hatch; and Filip and Taylor Bajic (now in Tennessee). In late 2014 Senior Pastor Victor and Candice Harewood joined us at the beginning of their retirement to supervise our latest interns, Pastors Rory and Ivana Mendez (husband-and-wife team).

And what of the members over the years? Sadly, a few have died, and we remember Elizabeth Robson; William Wilson; Marjory MacDonald; and Glasgow member Harry Dornan, who was a regular at our services. Members who have moved away are Morag Sharp



Big-hearted Holloway

On 4 April the Holloway church family opened their hearts to the local community. They spread the love of Christ among them through gifts of sweets, fruit baskets and food bags for the less fortunate. These were also accompanied by uplifting Christian literature. The ill and elderly in the local church were also given fruit baskets. What a pleasant way to demonstrate the love of Jesus!

JANELLE PAMPHILE



(Australia); Martin and Florina Clee (Hastings) and their daughters Dawn-Louse and Caroline, both married and living in England. Original members Margaret and Jean are still with us, as is Jean's daughter Jacqueline. We also have Gordon and Pene Saggars, who are presently working hard in Malawi; and my family, who joined through a Bible and video study (my husband Peter and son Stephen are both deacons). A few have transferred here from other churches, such as Doreen and Carole; Paulo (Angola); and our latest member, Thyonne, who transferred from Jamaica on our special day.

We are a family in East Kilbride, not just a church. Twice a year we go to a restaurant for a 'night out'. We enjoy events and we celebrate special birthdays and anniversaries together. Although few in number we conduct a Pathfinder programme and run a youth class for Thomas and Stephen. We have had several baptisms over the years: most lately held in the baptistry of East Mains Baptist Church.

On 7 March many joined us for our usual morning service and lunch – which was a lovely meal, much of it made by Paulo, who is a chef. In the afternoon 90 people gathered from all over Scotland to hear Scottish Mission president, Pastor Bernie Holford, tell us that it was a day to reaffirm our identity and our purpose as ambassadors for Christ. Our pastors, Rory and Victor, led us in Scripture readings and song, and we listened to the Glasgow Choir, musicians Hellevi and Yvonne from Crieff, and our own Rainbow Singers Choir. Two of our former interns joined us, Pastor Marcel Ghioalda and Pastor David Hatch. Also visiting were Diane, granddaughter of original member William Wilson, and Mr Rod Shanks from St Andrew's Methodist Church.

We look forward eagerly to the next stage in our growth, and more new members.

MAGGIE ROBERTSON (ELDER)

Something to rejoice over

Reuben and Suneeta of Langley Church have something to rejoice over. He had been diagnosed with a heart complaint that required a procedure that could only be done in theatre.

The date was set and he received his NHS appointment letter in due course. There was a lot of praying going on, however, both by the couple and by their congregation.

Reuben was admitted to the hospital in the morning according to schedule and prepped for the operation . . . but at the last minute the specialists' checks revealed that that there 'was nothing wrong with his heart!'

Praise God! He was immediately discharged and went home rejoicing!

ROHEET SUBRAI



NEC Camp Meeting transport

Brother Hubert Smiley will be arranging the usual coach transport to Camp Meeting this year, taking passengers from all areas between Wolverhampton and Birmingham on the way. Call him on 01384213803 or 07868288310 or email him at hubert.smiley18@gmail.com, or failing those methods call 07831958114 or 07736509625 for details.



ASNA: connecting people, changing lives

The fifteenth ASNA (Adventist Special Needs Association) family respite and training weekend took place from 10 to 12 April at the beautiful Sunningdale Park Hotel, Ascot, in favourable weather.

Ninety delegates enjoyed the social, spiritual and emotional support provided during the weekend. This event was organised by ASNA through its Connecting People: Changing Lives project and was designed to provide an opportunity for families and people living with disability to come away for respite, and for disability co-ordinators and other volunteers to receive training.

This year's theme, 'Trust God's heart', focused on understanding our challenging experiences as 'gifts from God', as well as opportunities for spiritual growth. The delegates were admonished and encouraged by the insightful and Bible-based seminars of Jerome Knight and Nigel Nicholls.

A new family attending for the first time spoke of how they found the weekend 'refreshing, relaxing and spiritually uplifting'. A mother with a young girl with autism, when asked about the weekend, said, 'Love, love, love in all the hard work and dedication of the organisers and volunteers. I feel each year goes from strength to strength. This event is firmly in our family calendar!'

Fabrice Baker-Livingstone from ADRA-UK said: 'Having never attended an ASNA workshop or weekend before, I was welcomed into the "ASNA family" as soon as I arrived. The weekend was full of activities for both adults and children with special needs, as well as seminars for the carers covering topics that many found useful.'

Throughout the weekend all the children participated together in activities led out by Caroline Kamara (ASNA trustee), and then performed as a choir at the concert, much to their parents' delight! The concert on Saturday night was one of the highlights of the weekend and included wonderful music and a variety of songs, skits, and dances by the delegates.

Sunday morning activities included a wonderful arts project depicting the love of God for the adults with special needs, and outdoor activities for all the children. The weekend culminated with the thirteenth ASNA AGM on Sunday morning, where ASNA members and visitors were invited to provide feedback on the weekend and make recommendations to the trustees regarding the work of the charity.

Fabrice concludes: 'For those of you who may have doubts, the ASNA weekend is a fun, friendly and interactive weekend away! Why not attend the next one?'

ASNA would like to recognise the support and contributions from the SEC, ADRA-UK and the ASNA membership. It also thanks churches such as Newbold, which raised over £900 from a church music concert. All the funds go towards ensuring people with disabilities are supported spiritually, emotionally, physically and socially.

FABRICE BAKER-LIVINGSTONE AND SOPHIA NICHOLLS

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Desire of Ages p.75

This service is not a bar mitzvah (for boys) or a bat mitzvah (for girls), but it is a time to recognise an important milestone. Taking the time to pray, share, instruct and affirm. It is a time to praise and consecrate their lives to God.



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ADRA-UK is offering the opportunity for someone to work with our office for a one-year period (starting summer 2015). The ADRA-UK trainee programme will offer the successful candidate the opportunity to work within a high-profile NGO in programme development. The programme is designed to give individuals practical experience in different locations around the world in preparation for a possible career in international development.

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- Being able and willing to travel to challenging areas of the world;
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ADRA-UK is offering this position as a one-year contract. Possibilities to extend the trainee programme to a career path may be available upon successful completion of the trainee period.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **30 June 2015**.



obituaries

Delcie Martina Bell (1928-2014) d. 6 December.

On 22 December 2014 the family and friends of Delcie Martina Bell gathered at West Bromwich Church to celebrate her life, including her daughter and granddaughter from America. The officiating ministers were Pastors Dan Majaducon and Aster Bruce.

Delcie was born in Manchester, Jamaica, to Emily and Daniel Lawrence on 22 June 1928. She grew up in a happy Adventist family with two sisters and four brothers and was baptised at the North Street church in Kingston.

Delcie attended schools in Manchester and Kingston, was a bright student and enjoyed her school days. Her nursing profession brought her to England in 1958, where she settled in West Bromwich and trained as a midwife. She spent most of her career working at the Halam General Hospital, which is now known as Sandwell Hospital.

She was one of the 'pioneering' Jamaicans who came to serve in the NHS, and was keen to use the latest developments in midwifery and neonatal care. This led to her joining a team of specialist nurses that cared for premature babies, and on one occasion she even had to travel by helicopter to care for a critically ill baby. As a matron, her compassion and devotion to her work earned her great respect from all her colleagues, as did her Christian values.

On 20 August 1977, Delcie was re-baptised by Pastor Martin at West Bromwich Church. She enjoyed being with her church family and visiting those who were no longer able to attend services. She also looked forward to the annual church coach trips and visited many of the UK seaside towns.

Having a rich alto voice, Delcie joined the church choir, but also used her talents in various other church departments. She also inspired many Adventist youth to take up nursing as a profession. Delcie loved reading her Bible and could recite many passages of Scripture from memory.

Foreign travel was something she also enjoyed, visiting many European countries on various coach tours during the '70s and '80s, and returning to Jamaica as often as she could. She also visited America to see her daughter Maureen and her grandchildren.

In 1989 Delcie went to live with her daughter Paulette in



Birmingham, where she spent many happy years, until she needed professional care. She moved to Warren Farm Lodge Care Home in 2005, where she was a much-loved and popular resident. When she could no longer fellowship with West Bromwich Church they visited her regularly, in particular the Pathfinders.

In August 2014 her health declined rapidly, and after suffering a stroke she was moved to Church Rose Nursing Home in November. Her faith in God was strong to the end and one of the last things she said to her daughter Paulette was that 'Jesus came to see me today'. On 6 December, a sunny Sabbath morning, she was called to rest, leaving behind daughters Maureen and Paulette, son-in-law Henry, 7 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, 8 great-great-grandchildren, and her sister Joyce and brother Lancell, along with other relatives and many friends.

PAULETTE NEWELL AND TITO NEWELL

Mabel Perry (1917-2014) d. 11 December.

Mabel was born on 21 July 1917 to William and Mabel Williams in Great Bridge, West Bromwich. She had a brother and sister, William and Lily, and they had a difficult upbringing in the aftermath of World War Two.

Mabel married Thomas Edward Perry in 1944. A daughter, Janet, was welcomed into their home in 1944. In 1946 they moved to a newly built house in Wednesbury, where Mabel had a son, William Edward (fondly known as Billy) in 1949. Sadly he died aged 10 months, but in 1951 another son, Graham, was born.

When a VOP card was posted through her door with an invitation to attend a series of meetings in West Bromwich, conducted by Pastor Ball, Mabel completed the VOP lessons, attended the meetings and was baptised in 1963 into the West Bromwich church. She loved helping and caring for others; one of her neighbours loved her like a mother, saying she often helped take care of her children, and was always willing to help where she could. She held various offices, including church clerk, deaconess, Lay Activities secretary and Community Services secretary.

The West Bromwich church worshipped in a rented hall, but Mabel and others raised funds by knitting and making jam and marmalade. Eventually enough money was collected and a church



Newbold commemorates E. G. White centennial

Newbold's Ellen G. White SDA Research Centre hosted a centennial commemoration of her life and ministry recently. The event, which attracted approximately 370 people to the college campus over two days, was designed to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of the prophetess's death later this year, on 16 July. Newbold's Centre director, Dr Radiša Antić, and Dr Merlin Burt, Director of the Ellen G. White Centre at Andrews University, gave talks during the event, which focused on Ellen G. White's work and the impact it still has today almost 100 years after her death.

From the age of seventeen until her death nearly 70 years later, Mrs White received what she and many others believed were supernatural prophetic dreams and visions. These dreams, and the writings that came from them, have helped and encouraged many people in their walk with Jesus. They provided a picture of the character of God and the cosmic conflict between good and evil, and served as a guide during the early days of the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

'Due to a misconception about what God's purpose for Ellen G. White was, she was not always fully accepted in the church during the early years,' said Dr Antić. 'But Mrs White had a strong passion for Christ, the word of God and salvation of the lost,' he explained during his opening address on Friday, which paved the way for Dr Burt's presentation on Sabbath.

Dr Antić described Dr Burt as a fine theologian, a deep thinker and one of the most knowledgeable people today regarding Adventism and the issues surrounding our theology. He is also Professor of Church History and the founding director of the integrated Centre for Adventist Research at Andrews University. 'Dr Burt has dedicated an extensive part of his career to preserving and educating people about Mrs White's work,' said Dr Antić.

During his sermon on Sabbath, Dr Burt highlighted the blessing that people continue to receive from the prophetess's writings, and that millions are able to access the writings of Ellen G. White as they continue to be translated into new languages. He described this as fitting in the context of the purpose of her writings and ministry, 'to bring people to Jesus and the Bible'.

Dr Burt reminded the congregation that Mrs White did not regard her prophetic role to be equal to that of the Bible prophets, nor did she regard her work to be canonical, but instead felt that it should be seen as a lesser light drawing attention to the greater light, the Scriptures. He challenged the audience to read Mrs White's writings alongside the Bible and to discover how her writing helps to understand the Bible.

The Ellen G. White Research Centre at Newbold was the first centre to be established outside the United States, and provides the facilities and resources to enable research into both the life and writing of Ellen G. White and the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To find out more, or to contact the centre, visit the webpage of Newbold's Ellen G. White Centre: <https://www.newbold.ac.uk/home/ellen-g-white-research-centre.html>.

NEWBOLD COLLEGE

was built in Dartmouth Street.

Due to sickness, Mabel was not able to attend church in the last few years, but was visited often by the church members in the Gildawood Court Care Home.

Mabel fell asleep on 11 December 2014. On Monday, 29 December 2014, family and friends gathered at the Heart of England Crematorium in Nuneaton to celebrate her life in a service conducted by Pastor Dan Majaducon.

Mabel will always be remembered for her cheerfulness. She leaves behind her daughter and son, one grandson, two adopted granddaughters and one great-grandson.

RITA DOBSON

Olive Archer (1919-2014) d. 30 December.

On 23 January friends and carers of Mrs Olive Archer met at Stanborough Centre, Watford, to celebrate her life and say goodbye to a lady who loved her Lord. Olive Selby was born in South Wales and attended a secretarial college in Swansea run by Mr Powell (former BUC treasurer Basil Powell's father), who introduced her to the Seventh-day Adventist faith. After she had completed the course, he also



found her Sabbath-free employment. She later attended the 'original' Newbold College and worked in the office there for a short time.

Olive then moved to the division's travel arm in Edgware; worked in the office of the North England Conference, as secretary to both the treasurer and Pastor Joyce, the president; and then, during the Second World War, she moved to Watford to work in the Granose Foods office. She worked there until 1971, with just a short break after her marriage. Olive's last assignment was at the Trans-European Division office, from which she eventually retired on the grounds of ill health.

Olive had a love for, and trust in, her Saviour. For many years she lived alone in her home, cared for by dedicated carers, and faithful church members who visited her. With failing eyesight she relied on audio tapes of Stanborough Park services, and later listened to DVD recordings.

Her funeral service was organised by Pastor and Mrs Anderson, who cared so much for her. Pastor Venter committed her to the watchful care of the Almighty, Whom she loved and trusted to the end. Pastor Mary Barrett read Olive's favourite Scriptures, while Pastor Clee brought the mourners comfort from God's Word.

PASTOR PAUL CLEE

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Cheltenham Teens and Tweens day

On Sabbath 7 March people came from Loughborough, Stoke-on-Trent, Stanborough Park, Croscombe, Swindon and Witney for the second annual Teens and Tweens day at Springbank Community Centre, Cheltenham.

It was a great opportunity for young people between 8 and 17 (and their families) to meet for worship and friendship. It was great to see that one of our young people, Abigail, had brought along a school friend too.

Wednesfield Pathfinder induction

The Pathfinders and Adventurers of Wednesfield (Wolverhampton) were really excited on 4 April. After being dormant for several years their club had new vigour.



The morning began with a session on the theme of 'Superheroes and Role Models' for all age groups. Once in their groups they discussed modern superheroes and biblical superheroes, including, of course, Jesus: the ultimate superhero. The older youth then demonstrated the example of David by drama, while the younger ones decorated colourful masks, with each one representing a positive Bible superhero and a reason for choosing him/her.

The worship service was preceded by a time of vibrant praise led by young instrumentalists using violins, flutes, a cello, a trumpet and an acoustic guitar.

The main speaker for the morning was Pastor Julian Hibbert, who spoke on the theme

of the well-known contemporary song – 'How Deep the Father's Love for Us'.

After lunch we took to the nearby hills for a beautiful sunny walk with plenty of opportunity for everyone to get to know each other better, and for the young people to use some of their energy.

For vespers, Cheltenham pastor, James Shepley, shared his thoughts about Daniel, whose trust in God was rewarded by the miraculous sparing of his life.

Vespers was followed by soup and rolls prepared by a few of the Cheltenham ladies, and some games for the young people to round off a very special day. The planning for next year has already begun!

MIKE BEAMISH

The young people practise hard, work hard, pray together and laugh a lot . . . together! They emphasise teamwork as they drill and march, and this was put to the test on 4 April.

Before they entered the church the youth checked over each other's uniforms, fixing and 'preening' until all were looking just right. As the children marched into church an older teen whispered, 'Left, right, left, right', keeping everyone in check. And when lines were slightly forgotten tiny whispers of prompting were heard from fellow club members.

It was a proud moment to see those yellow-and-blue scarves around the necks of the young people, knowing that for many of them this club marks the beginning of their road to the Kingdom.

Mark Sinclair (Area co-ordinator) joined them for the day and all present found his words encouraging.

The children chose to close their induction ceremony with the more-than-appropriate song, 'We are marching in the light of God'.

JO FISHER MITCHELL

1990s REUNION

7-9 August 2015



www.newbold.ac.uk/1990s-reunion
alumni@newbold.ac.uk

You are invited to Newbold's reunion for staff and students of the 1990s. Reconnect with friends during the worship and social activities over the weekend, including a cruise on the River Thames in Windsor and a special high tea on campus. The sermon on Sabbath will be taken by former Newbold principal, Andrea Luxton.

Registration is now open, and earlybird prices are available for those who register by Monday 1 June. There are limited en suite and shared rooms available so book now to secure your place. Full weekend packages start from £90, and include:

- all meals (Friday night to Sunday lunch, including a banquet lunch and high tea on Sabbath)
- two nights' accommodation
- a trip to Windsor with a two-hour steamer cruise on the River Thames on Sunday morning

For more information, please visit: <https://www.newbold.ac.uk/1990s-reunion.html>

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 22	8.56	9.08	9.07	9.31	9.34
29	9.05	9.17	9.16	9.42	9.44
June 5	9.12	9.24	9.24	9.52	9.53
12	9.18	9.30	9.30	9.58	9.59

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