

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

# Messenger

News to the churches • 3 July 2015 • Volume 120 • 13

## Something to smile about . . .

Based on a report by Katie Allen and Pastor Steve Thomas



Above: Pastor Sam Davis.  
Left: Pastor Steve Thomas.



larger youth site for a long time and I believe this opportunity, especially for the price of £800,000, was God placing it in our hands!

### It ticked all the boxes

The site was discovered by his colleague, Pastor Kevin Johns, SEC Pathfinder director, while he was 'aimlessly perusing potential options' during 2014. Pastors Johns, Thomas and Stojkovic (SEC Teen director) wasted no time in visiting

the site and 'fell in love with it' once they realised that it ticked all the boxes for their combined youth ministries.

According to Pastor Thomas it was not difficult to convince the conference administrators about the value of their find. As he put it, 'Looking back, I must say, the trustees were brilliant and visionary, and we received their full support.' But, as with projects of this nature, the team assigned to the job has had to spend long and tiring hours getting everything in place. So much so, that when the sale was concluded on 14 April this year, Pastor Thomas says that, 'My body cried out, "Yes Jesus!"; then I packed

up, clocked out and went home to sleep.'

The always-enthusiastic Pastor Johns expressed his thoughts like this: 'This gives us an opportunity to host all our Pathfinder and Adventurer events on a site that belongs to us! The cost of accommodation is sometimes hard to afford, especially for families with more than one child in Pathfinders. I think that this will be one of the big benefits of having our own location, as well as it being a holistic environment where our young people can come together. It is a huge investment in the future of our youth – who are the future of our Church.'

### Proximity to London

One of the biggest selling points of the location is its proximity to London – just an hour and a half away – which makes it suitable for both SEC events and local church use. Another person who is excited about the project is Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, who made the point that 'It can be used by departments, churches, families, even as a spiritual centre for thousands of our teenagers through our annual events.'

The SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, feels that 'It is really a Godsend to us at this time. Since the closure of the Broomhill Conference Centre, we have been looking for a place that will serve as a centre for our young people. Runcton Hall is now that place!'

### This is our project

This is a project that will need the prayer and practical support of every member. Why not view the latest update on the project ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf\\_nat3HHus](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf_nat3HHus)) to see what is planned and how you can help make it all happen soon.

The future of youth ministry in the South England Conference is certainly looking bright due to the recent purchase of a 33-acre site near King's Lynn in Norfolk. The decision to acquire this desirable property in Runcton Hall ends a decade-plus search for a venue that will meet the needs of the varied youth programmes run by the SEC for its youth, teens and Pathfinders. This will include such events as Teen Faith and Prayer conferences, Extreme Teen camps, GO UK, youth training, Adventurer camporees and drilling and drumming camps.

According to Pastor Steve Thomas, SEC Youth director, 'There has been a need for a

### What to expect . . .

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# editorial



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## Mediterranean migrant crisis

Could the Mediterranean migrant crisis become a serious threat to European Union co-operation and cohesiveness? Was the Italian prime minister, Matteo Renzi, just blowing smoke when he warned this week that if the 'quota system' for the distribution of these migrants throughout Europe is not adopted, 'Italy would adopt a "Plan B" that would "hurt" Europe'?

What would his 'Plan B' consist of? Renzi has suggested that failure to agree to a migrant relocation plan 'could lead to his country denying landing rights to migrants saved by foreign ships or they could begin granting temporary Schengen residence permits to migrants to allow them to move within Europe'.<sup>2</sup>

### Imagine the chaos

Just imagine the chaos and human suffering the first option could create. HMS *Bulwark* is the only vessel in the current operation with the capacity to rescue large numbers of migrants from their floating deathtraps – around 3,000 so far this year – but her availability was pledged for just 60 days! The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) reports that more than 100,000 migrants had crossed the Mediterranean by early June.<sup>3</sup> Will the remaining fleet of smaller vessels cope with the incoming tide of desperate humanity if Italy denies them landing rights?

Exercising the second option would turn Italy into the EU's 'pariah' state. Granting the more than 50,000 migrants who have entered Italy (this year alone) temporary Schengen residence permits would give them freedom of movement and make them the problem of whichever nation they were in when their permits expired!

### Tension already exists

Reports are already circulating that the mounting crisis is already souring relationships between two of the EU's largest nations:

*'For the past few days, Italy has been involved in a row with France over the presence of more than 200 African migrants in Ventimiglia' – and that 'France has accused Italy of failing to respect EU asylum rules, . . .'*<sup>4</sup> Tension over just a few

hundred migrants – what if Renzi grants all 50,000 of them temporary residence permits?

### Migrants have problems too!

No one can really argue against the facts: Mediterranean migrants pose an enormous problem to the EU. By the sheer weight of their numbers and their desperately needy circumstances they place a heavy burden on the resources of Europe. They have the potential to compete with ordinary working-class Europeans for social housing and benefits, medical care, education and employment. To put it plainly then: migrancy is a major problem.

On the other hand, it behoves us to remember that migrants are more than a statistical or geo-political reality – they are people too!

### Everyone 'is an immigrant'!

A very recent project to study the genetic origins of the so-called White British component of our population prompted the lead researcher, Professor Peter Donnelly, to tell Sky News, 'One of the nice things about our study is that it reminds us that everyone in Britain is an immigrant.'<sup>5</sup> Confirmation of the fact that people have been migrating to this cluster of islands we call 'home' for thousands of years, largely from France, Germany and Scandinavia, and all – up till modern times – by boat.

In reality, the history of the world is the story of countless migrations (people movements), usually driven by more than pure curiosity! Most migrations are caused by two powerful factors – **bad things** that people desperately want to get away from; and **better things** that they hope to discover at their journey's end.

North America is populated largely by people whose ancestors went there for a better life – many to escape harsh rule by church or state. Former British colonies like Australia, New Zealand and South Africa drew people from here wanting to escape the threat of unemployment and poor living conditions.

### We once waved goodbye

Yes, my grandparents left this 'fair and pleasant land' for Cape Town shortly after the Great War, taking with them my father and his older brother. They were leaving **the bad** and hoping for **the better!** I wonder how they felt when they arrived in Table Bay with no one to greet them? They were not penniless, but had to manage what they had carefully. There were no benefits to claim, or social housing to inhabit. They had to work hard and make their contribution, which they did. Sadly, not all who migrate around the world do so with the same ethic in mind, and, sadder still, some are persecuted and exploited along the way.

### No easy solution

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to the complex problem of Mediterranean migration because the root causes actually lie beyond our jurisdiction. The best we can hope for is that the authorities find a way to control it firmly with as much compassion as is prudent under the circumstances.

Perhaps there is a personal lesson in all this, though. In reality the Bible is a story of migration: Noah 'migrates' to the antediluvian world in a boat; Abraham migrates to Canaan; Jacob to Egypt; Moses to the promised land; Daniel to Babylon; Jesus from Bethlehem to Egypt – and so the story goes until we all migrate to 'what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined' (1 Corinthians 2:9, ESV).

Our lives should also be a story of migration – from **bad to best!**

*'By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.'* (Hebrews 11:8-10, NIV-UK.)



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<sup>1</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-33144575> <sup>2</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/16/uk-continue-med-migrant-rescue-operation-hms-bulwark> <sup>3</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24583286> <sup>4</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-33144575> <sup>5</sup><http://news.sky.com/story/1447832/where-do-we-come-from-britains-dna-map>



## Enhancing Health

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

### Going natural Part 2 – Informed choices

To utilise nature's remedies to maintain good health and, where appropriate, to treat certain illnesses, it is important to be aware of the current legislation, such as the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation.<sup>1</sup>

### Health claims

Health claims refer to statements that are made about a particular food item or health product by manufacturers to inform consumers about the health benefits of that product.

The EU's Register on Nutrition and Health Claims has stipulated which health claims have been authorised. These can be found at: <http://ec.europa.eu/nuhclaims>.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) requires proof of cause and effect before health claims are authorised EU-wide. However, the Alliance for Natural Health has identified some of the challenges that have arisen with the restrictions imposed by these regulations – for example, when the EFSA initially rejected around 97% of botanical health claims.<sup>2</sup>

### Appropriate use of natural interventions

In 2011 the British Union Conference Health Ministries Department launched its Natural Medicine and Holistic Lifestyle Strategy in order to raise the importance of informed choice and assist in safeguarding individuals, health practices and health-related programmes within the BUC.

The following points from its guidelines on the use of natural products are helpful:<sup>3</sup>

- It is advisable to use only alternative or complementary treatment or therapy that has a scientific validation and is shown to be safe and effective for use.
- Individuals taking prescribed medication or undergoing medical treatment must consult their regular practitioner before undertaking any alternative or complementary medicine. This is to ensure that there are no contraindications, negative drug interactions or serious side effects as a result of additional non-medical treatments.
- We encourage members to seek medical help in terms of elective or emergency surgery and use of medication . . . for the treatment of serious or life-threatening conditions.

### Who and what to trust

Health practitioners with a recognised qualification in health, nutrition or natural therapy and evidence-based lifestyle intervention programmes are the safest choices to consider.

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nutrition-and-health-claims-guidance-to-compliance-with-regulation-ec-1924-2006-on-nutrition-and-health-claims-made-on-foods> <sup>2</sup>[http://anh-europe.org/sites/default/files/121030\\_ANH\\_A5\\_Health\\_Claims\\_Europe.pdf](http://anh-europe.org/sites/default/files/121030_ANH_A5_Health_Claims_Europe.pdf) <sup>3</sup>[http://adventist.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/38822/BUC-HEALTH-MINISTRIES-GUIDELINES-ON-NATURAL-MEDICINE.pdf](http://adventist.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/38822/BUC-HEALTH-MINISTRIES-GUIDELINES-ON-NATURAL-MEDICINE.pdf)

# reflections



## It's never too deep!

by Stephen Holden

We heard much from all the political parties leading up to the General Election concerning 'austerity' – of getting the deficit down and balancing the books.

Reports a week or so back in the national press told of a time during the Second World War when Her Majesty's treasury was even more severely challenged than it currently is.

The reports told of the voyage of a steamer named *SS City of Cairo*, which was dispatched on a desperate mission from across the empire. It steamed across the South Atlantic on a perilous journey that began in India and, ironically, took it around the Cape of Good Hope.

Whitehall had called in Britain's remaining reserves of wealth to fund a war that seemed – in November 1942 – a threat to its very existence. Part of those precious reserves were stowed aboard *SS City of Cairo* – 2,000 boxes of silver coins – 100 tons of silver to help pay for British food, arms and much-needed munitions. Unfortunately this 27-year-old merchant ship was travelling without escort and at only 12 knots (22km/h). To make matters even worse, she had an excessively smoky boiler, which dangerously increased her visibility.

Those coins were not to reach their destination. Sadly, she was spotted by a U-boat and torpedoed some 500 miles from the nearest land, and her crew and passengers had to take to the boats.

Strangely, the U-boat captain surfaced amid the lifeboats and pointed the survivors towards the nearest land – St Helena, some 500 miles away – apologised for sinking their vessel, and bade them 'Good night' before U-68 submerged to continue hunting for other prey.

The six lifeboats embarked on a weeks-long journey, led by Captain William Rogerson, that would become one of the epic tales of maritime survival. History tells us that 104 of the 311 crew died, and all but six of those who died did so after reaching the overcrowded lifeboats.

The *City of Cairo* sank, and for 70 years a significant chunk of taxpayers' money was gathering silt some three miles beneath the surface of the Atlantic. Fifty million pounds' worth of British silver has lain on the seabed since that fateful day. The means to help save



a nation: lost to the deep, never thought to be seen again! But thanks to the deepest salvage operation in history, the government has now got most of its silver back.

It has required some extraordinary advances in undersea exploration, but a salvage company led by John Kingsford, a British deep-sea diver, has retrieved the vast majority of it from a depth of one mile lower than *RMS Titanic's* final resting place – and, after signing a contract with the British Government, it has been allowed to keep an undisclosed proportion of the treasure.

The salvage operation started back in 2011 and the wreck proved extremely difficult to locate, having sunk to a depth of 5,000m. The spilt silver was also buried in the ocean floor because of the speed and angle of the ship's impact, owing to the weight of the cargo. Eventually, with sophisticated sonar, she was rediscovered and the silver coins were retrieved.

Reflecting on this event makes me think that there may be times in our lives when we, like the steamer, find ourselves under attack by an unseen enemy, even while we might be on a mission to bring relief to others.

We too can sustain damage and find ourselves badly holed and sinking to the depths, becoming overwhelmed and not able to see a way of escape from those 'deep, dark places'.

But God is also in the salvage business. He too can bring extraordinary measures to bear in any situation or circumstances – and without delay recover that which is precious to Him.

At such times we would do well to recall those wonderful words found in Romans 8:38, 39 (NKJV), where it is made clear that nothing can ever separate us from His love: 'For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor

things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

You'll remember the children's chorus by Charles A. Miles, based on this Scripture:

'Wide, wide as the ocean,  
high as the heavens above,  
Deep, deep as the deepest sea  
is my Saviour's love.  
I, though so unworthy,  
still am a child of His care,  
For His word teaches me  
that His love reaches me,  
Everywhere.'

Romans 8:38, 39 tells us: Death can't separate us; life can't; the angels can't; and the demons can't. Our fears for today, or worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away from us.

Whether we are high in the sky or in the deepest oceans, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. What an encouraging thought for today!

## South England Conference Quadrennial Session

Notice is hereby given that a quadrennial session of the South England Conference will be held at Warwick University between Thursday 3 September and Sunday 6 September 2015. Registration of delegates will take place from 11am on Thursday and the business sessions are due to commence at 1.20pm.

Notice is also given that proposed changes to the South England Conference constitution will be considered and that these have been circulated to the delegates.

PASTOR TERRY MESSENGER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**Corrigendum:** In Pam Davies' letter, 'Swansea memories', *MESSENGER* 5 June, 'Pastor Neuland' should have been 'Pastor Warland'. *MESSENGER* staff apologise for any confusion.



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

'Christ is the second husband in the illustration of Romans 7:1-4. Help to identify the first husband, as I don't find the Adventist position very clear.'  
S. Kagunya

**A** Romans 7:4 suggests the identity of the first husband, to whom we have died: 'Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another . . .' (NKJV, emphasis supplied). The Seventh-day Adventist position on this is here summarised: 'In the illustration it was the death of the husband that freed the wife from the law. In the application it is the death of the old sinful self that releases the believer from the condemnation and dominion of the law and frees him to be joined to Christ.'<sup>1</sup> In other words, the Christian believer – who has 'died to sin' and vicariously been 'buried with Him [Christ] through baptism into death' (Romans 6:2, 4, NKJV) – has also died to that which condemns our sin: the law. We are therefore free from its condemnation (Romans 8:1), which otherwise would have pursued us to death (just as a marriage contract is binding until death), but which Christ received on our behalf (Romans 3:25).

A word of caution here: some Christians see that phrase, 'dead to the law', and use this very passage to try to 'prove the Ten Commandments are abolished', claiming that 'all Sabbatharians are guilty of adultery', also quoting Galatians 5:4 and calling us 'Judaizers' for daring to keep the Sabbath.<sup>2</sup> However, they fail not only to appreciate the blessing of keeping particular commandments, such as the Sabbath (Isaiah 58:13, 14; Mark 2:27), but also to notice the end of Romans 7:4, which suggests the consequence of our marriage to Christ is 'that we should bear fruit to God' (NKJV).

What is the significance of 'bearing fruit'? Well, God has always expected His people to bring forth a 'fruit' of worthy actions (Isaiah 5:1-7), and Jesus reaffirmed this expectation (Luke 13:6-9). Uniting with Christ will cause us to bear 'much fruit' (John 15:1-6). As Christ clearly said, 'He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me' (John 14:21, NKJV). Paul, right after proclaiming that we are not saved by works, immediately says that God has prepared them for us to do (Ephesians 2:8-10), and exhorts us to keep the fifth commandment, noting the blessing of so doing (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Therefore, although we are 'dead to the law' in Romans 7:4, that doesn't mean we should 'continue in sin that grace might abound', or 'sin because we are not under law but under grace' – 'Certainly not!' (Romans 6:1, 2, 15, NKJV). Rather, since the commandments are based on love (Matthew 22:37-40), and since our love is made perfect through our boldness as a result of Christ's sacrifice (1 John 4:9-19), those who accept this saving grace are enabled to keep the law even more completely than the legalists can (Matthew 5:20)! Because we have died to the condemnation of the law, we are free to practise it not in fear, but in love.

<sup>1</sup>Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 547

<sup>2</sup>www.bible.ca/7-10-commandments-abolished-Romans-7-1-7.htm

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.

## Aboubacar's story . . .

This story comes from Fred Coker, an Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) worker in Guinea, west Africa.

When Aboubacar became a disciple of Christ in 2007, his family rejected him because of his new faith. In most African cultures being rejected by one's family is a terrible thing. Entire villages and neighbourhoods are often made up of just a few extended families. This results in a very tight communal environment where everyone depends on family members for all kinds of help. The more in-laws, family members and children you have, the more aid you can get in times of need.

In desperation, Aboubacar repeatedly tried to connect with his family members, but no one would so much as talk to him. They just shut their doors in his face. He returned to the town of Fria utterly crushed and despondent. 'I am alone now in this world,' he told the AFM missionaries. 'I don't have a family anymore. I am finished.' The missionary family came to his rescue and adopted him into their family and the church family.

Early in 2011, Aboubacar wanted to marry a girl in his neighbourhood, and he made a proposal to her family. As part of Aboubacar's adopted family, I was part of the delegation that went to see the girl's family. We had put everything in place for the first step, called *kiramakiri*, which is when the family of the young man visits the young lady's family to tell them that their son would like their daughter's hand in marriage. We felt encouraged when the girl's family accepted the traditional gifts of money and cola nuts we brought as signs of Aboubacar's intentions, but then they asked Aboubacar to bring members of his biological family, too. The next day, he went to his village to invite his relatives, but none of them would come. The engagement was put on hold.

Not long after that, our family spent some months ministering elsewhere. During our absence, the girl's family pushed Aboubacar to complete the process, giving him hope that they would let him marry her. So, for several months, he spent all of his income on the girl and her family.

Shortly afterwards, Pastor Coleman and I went with Aboubacar to see the girl's family. They expressed their gratitude for our presence and affirmed that Aboubacar had good people behind him, but still they said they had doubts about his biological family, his job and his religion.

Pastor Coleman and I began to suspect that the family was playing games to keep Aboubacar's gifts coming and had no real intention of letting the wedding take place, but Aboubacar still wanted to press forward. Once again, he invited his brother to come from the village, and this time he agreed to do so. But when they went to see the girl's family, the family flatly refused to accept the engagement.

That evening Aboubacar showed up at our house with eyes red from weeping. 'I don't think I will ever get to marry,' he said. 'This is the second time I have tried and been refused. No Muslim parents will let me marry their daughter because of my faith. They took advantage of my love. I was feeding the entire family with my small income. This girl has been in all of my plans. Now I have to start all over again.'

I sat Aboubacar down and encouraged him, assuring him that Jesus Christ would take care of him and supply all his needs. In the days following, I prayed that God would show me what to do for Aboubacar. His hope of starting a family had been shattered. He was uneducated, and the only work he had been able to find was guarding homes. In fact,

at that time, he was working as our guard. One day, God impressed me with a possible solution. I asked Aboubacar, 'Have you ever learnt a trade?'

'Well,' he said, 'I started learning carpentry when I was young, but when my father died, nobody encouraged me to continue with it, so I abandoned it.'

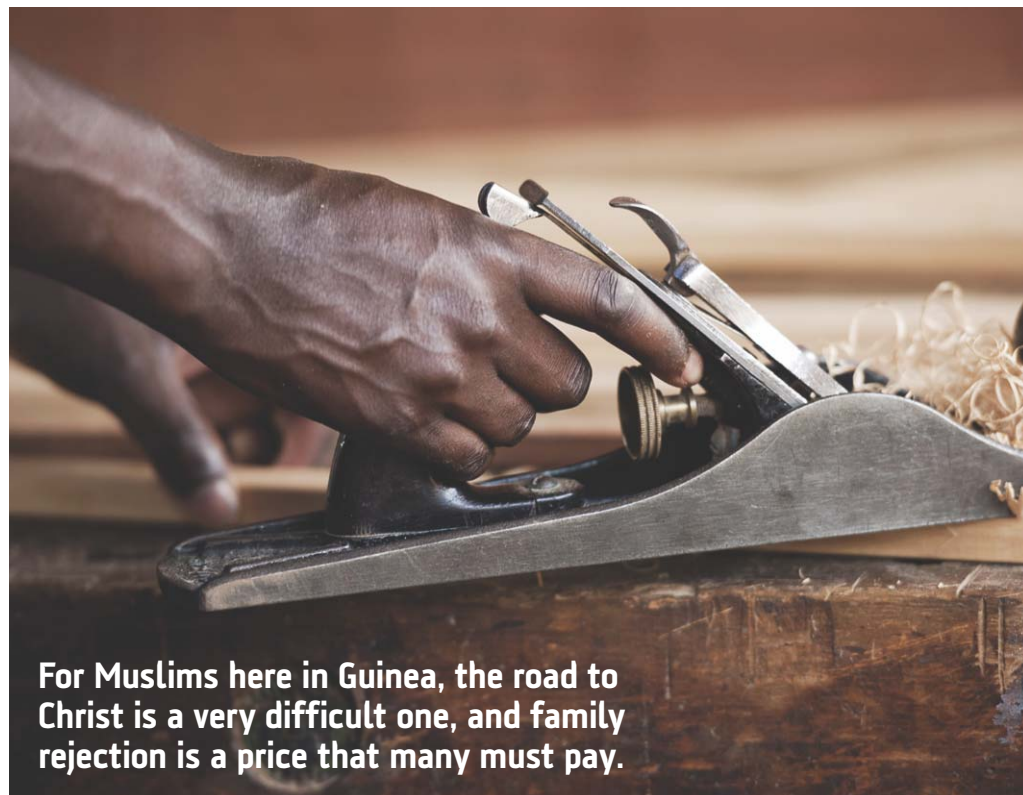
'Over the next few weeks,' I said, 'perhaps you should look for a carpenter who will teach you the trade.'

Two weeks later, Aboubacar asked me to go with him to talk with a carpenter. We met and arranged everything. Aboubacar was excited about the opportunity, but one thing worried him: 'What about my job as your guard?' he asked. 'How will I support myself while I learn carpentry?'

I had been anticipating this question. 'You know, Aboubacar,' I said, 'Jesus loves you so much that He wants me to support you as you are learning your trade. Don't worry about your salary; it will come every month as long as you are learning.' Three weeks later, Aboubacar brought two beautiful stools to my wife as a gift. Aboubacar now had new hope in a God who will never leave him nor forsake him, hope in his church family, hope that all is not lost.

For Muslims here in Guinea, the road to Christ is a very difficult one, and family rejection is a price that many must pay. We have to be there for them as their spiritual and physical family, with all the practical aspects that entails. We have to take part in Christ's work of transforming their lives and finding a place for them in society.

Aboubacar has since decided to fully commit his life to Christ and be baptised. Please join us in praying for God's wisdom as we continue to be Aboubacar's family and help shape him into a labourer in God's vineyard here in Guinea.



**For Muslims here in Guinea, the road to Christ is a very difficult one, and family rejection is a price that many must pay.**



## Is Intelligent Design an 'intelligent' option?

Pastor Victor Hulbert

According to the independent news service, Newsmax, Seventh-day Adventists are among the top five Christian denominations that hold to a positive view of biblical Creation. But is it still logical to support this position in the face of what appears to be an overwhelming barrage of current scientific evidence?

The answer is a clear 'Yes' for two scientists, Dr Alastair Noble and Professor John Walton, who discussed the issue with some forty Adventist ministers who wanted to face the facts at the BUC offices in Watford on Tuesday, 19 May.

John Walton, a research professor of chemistry at St Andrews University, Scotland, started the day with a series of definitions and explanations. He noted the difference between 'micro-evolution' within species – something that happens all the time and that perhaps could be better described as adaptation, and 'macro-evolution', the concept of natural development from microbe to man. He pointed out that trying to merge macro-evolution with Christian belief caused problems, and then went on to explain that there were also major factual problems to explain on the side of the macro-evolutionists. These included inconsistencies in the fossil record, some challenges with carbon dating, and perhaps a simple thought: if the earth were millions of years old, erosion would have reduced mountains to mounds, ocean sedimentation would be miles thick, and river deltas would look quite different.

Professor Walton then discussed the very basis of life, and the ministers were awed by the complexity of the human genome's design and the make-up of DNA and RNA – among

the most complex structures in the known universe. Even the make-up of a single cell is now known to be far more complex than biologists originally thought. 'The spontaneous generation of life is an astonishing improbability,' he declared.

The ministers had their belief in a Creator God revitalised, and, as Pastor Geert Tap stated, 'It was positively eye-opening . . . even if you don't understand it all!' He had been tempted not to attend, but stated, 'I'm glad I decided differently! What great presentations, and brought by bright minds! Mind-blowing facts, pointing to an Intelligent Designer.'

Dr Alastair Noble noted that between 50 and 70% of young Christians lose their faith when they go to university, and that part of this is due to the strong influence of Darwinian evolution. How can we tackle this, he asked, when, according to a US statistic, only 1% of youth pastors see it as important to include anything on the subject in their curriculum?

He then demonstrated that it is perfectly possible to show the need for intelligent design (ID) in nature without any recourse to a biblical text. He asked, 'Can we see design in nature even before we come to theology? If we can then Darwinism falls apart.'

As a chemist he pointed out how hard he has to work to synthesise relatively simple substances. 'How then,' he asked, 'without any thought, design, and so on, could evolution provide DNA?' He maintains that 'certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection.'

There are those who challenge Christians who go down the ID route, asking why we

should not be more open in using the biblical account of Genesis. His response is, 'I happen to believe that you can't be a Christian without being a Creationist.' However, he can understand the hesitation of bringing Scripture into science lessons; therefore, arguing ID using only the scientific data can lead people in a direction that even the apostle Paul commended: 'For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.' (Romans 1:20, NIV.)

The Word of God then needs to be placed against the statements of some top evolutionary scientists. For instance, Dr George Wald, a Nobel Prize winner in the area of Physiology or Medicine (1967), wrote, 'There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose: spontaneous generation arising to evolution or a supernatural creative act of God . . . there is no other possibility. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that just leaves us with only one other possibility . . . that life came as a supernatural act of creation by God. I can't accept that philosophy because I do not want to believe in God.'

Tihomir Zestic summed up the feeling of the many pastors who attended: 'Today's Creationism presentation brings some important answers. I find it important from my personal perspective and also to be equipped to give answers in church and in my own family.'

*More on the subject of Creation versus Evolution can be found on the Adventist Church website: [adventist.org.uk](http://adventist.org.uk), including lectures, documents and links to resources. The programme was part of the BUTREC continuing education for ministers, run by the BUC Evangelism and Ministerial Association departments.*





## Mission workers support 'Core of Adventism'

Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

From 9 to 16 May Cardiff Church hosted a major 'Core of Adventism' evangelistic series. Although primarily an in-reach event, the Welsh Mission took the opportunity to invite members of the public to attend.

The event was planned to coincide with the 'Three Missions' workers' meetings, a three-day ministerial training event that was held in the Copthorne Hotel, just a few miles from the church. The 28 attendees came to four of the evening evangelistic meetings in the Cardiff church, helping to swell the crowd and also being on hand to give counselling and general support to the local members and visitors.

The main speaker for the evangelistic meetings was Dr Errol McLean, associate director of the North

American Division Evangelism Institute.

Topics included what many consider to be the core doctrines of Adventism: the state of the dead, the sanctuary, the investigative judgement, and the second coming. However, Dr McLean was careful to wrap each subject in the language of grace, the grace of God as revealed through His Son Jesus, which is the true core of Adventism.

As the week progressed, word got around that something special was happening in the Cardiff church and people brought their friends to enjoy the inspiring singing, receptive atmosphere and good preaching. At the close of each meeting Dr McLean gave an appeal and people responded by standing, raising their hands and even coming to the front.



Dr Errol McLean with Dr David Penno

From Monday 11 to Wednesday 13 May the ministerial workers from Wales, Scotland and Ireland had a daily programme that included excellent morning devotionals by Jovan Adamović, Njay Ndlovu, and Curtis Samuel, followed by more academic presentations. The main speaker for these was Dr David Penno, Professor of Christian Ministries at Andrews University. 'Our role as Christian leaders,' said Dr Penno, 'is moving people on to God's agenda. In order to do that, we need to be people of character, integrity and obedience. This is the most important aspect of leadership,' he continued. 'Being comes before doing.'

Despite being considerably younger than the sprightly-looking seventy- and eighty-year-olds draped in CND T-shirts, some with the slogan, 'Fly kites, not drones', Pastor Sweeney discovered a warm and open fellowship in a group of people that he might otherwise have simply walked past. He was even more delighted to discover that the picnic was totally vegetarian or vegan and that all beverages were non-alcoholic. He started to feel more at home, stating, 'They welcomed me with open arms and were appreciative that we as a Church should be supportive of

A highlight of the ministerial meetings was a visit to the National Museum of Wales in St Fagans. Here, in the 250-year-old reconstructed Pen-rhiw chapel, former Welsh Mission president, Dr Brian Phillips, gave a fascinating presentation on the history and influence of Welsh Adventists over the last hundred years or so.

We are particularly grateful to Pastors Eglan Brooks and Llew Edwards of the BUC for their help and support in the organisation and running of these meetings.



## Behind the scenes . . .

by Howa Avan-Nomayo

In the early 1990s my father worked for the World Bank as procurement adviser on a poverty-reduction programme in Lagos, Nigeria. I was about 8 years old at the time and simply couldn't comprehend the concept of a 'world bank'. 'Surely there is way too much money in the

world to keep it all in one bank,' I said innocently to my dad. He took the time to explain to me about the World Bank and, specifically, the poverty-reduction programme that he was working on.

That conversation with his confused 8-year-old, plus many more as I got older, sparked an interest that led to a career in the humanitarian aid sector working for ADRA. I joined ADRA-UK in 2007 as a programmes trainee on a one-year internship, which was my introduction into the humanitarian aid/development sector. In my current role as ADRA-UK's chief programmes officer, I am responsible for co-ordinating the work of our programmes team – setting strategic priorities, designing programmes and ensuring the successful implementation of our portfolio of projects.

My journey with ADRA has been an amazing one thus far. I have had the opportunity to work with some truly wonderful and talented individuals and to do some great work that has had a tangible impact on the lives of thousands of people in the poorest parts of the world.

However, it isn't all plain sailing. There are demanding deadlines to meet and a host of other challenges, but the hardest part of this job, by far, is that we are often confronted by the harsh realities of this broken world! We see and feel, at first hand, the human impact of poverty, war, hunger and disaster – both natural and man-made.

I have seen the difference that our work makes. While working on projects with thousands of subsistence farmers in northern Ghana – who could barely produce enough food to feed their families and were reliant on the UN for food aid – I have seen them transformed in two years with ADRA's help. Now they are producing so much food that they can sell it back to the UN. In Nepal, where ADRA has supported communities affected by civil war – helping children back into school and providing vital vocational skills training to young people – I have seen the positive difference ADRA makes. I have travelled to many of these projects – meeting and connecting with people; hearing their stories and their hopes and dreams for the future. It all serves to reinforce my own hopes that, together, we can achieve something better!

# Dancing for peace

by Pastor Victor Hulbert and based on a BUC devotional by Pastor Cyril Sweeney

Church members might have been surprised by a dancing pastor had they passed by Jubilee Park, Leicester on Friday, 15 May. Pastor Cyril Sweeney was surprised himself. He had been invited to attend a 'Peace Picnic' under the Celtic cross in the park, part of the commemorations on International Conscientious Objectors' Day. Since two Leicester Adventists, C. E. Bartlett and Walter Marson, were conscientious objectors during WWI, Pastor Sweeney cautiously accepted the invitation to represent our Church at the event. He could not have been made more welcome.

Such an initiative.' The group was small but, according to Pastor Sweeney, 'showed a commitment to the cause of world peace that perhaps put us to shame as a Church'. Adventists were one of only two denominations represented at the event, the other being the Quakers. The group spontaneously decided to dance a 'peace dance', and, despite confessing to having two left feet, Pastor Sweeney felt compelled to join in. 'They were so sincere, and so motivated, I couldn't let them down,' he stated. Thus, for the first (and possibly the last) time in his life, he found himself dancing in public.



Taking a stand for peace does take courage. Mel Gibson is currently working on next year's Hollywood blockbuster, *Hacksaw Ridge*, the story of WWII conscientious objector, Desmond Doss. Doss was an Adventist who refused to bear arms but who, as a medic, courageously saved the lives of hundreds of US troops in the heat of battle. He is the only non-combatant to have ever received the Congressional Medal of Honour. Leicester CO, Walter Marson, was equally courageous in his own way, spending WWI in Wormwood Scrubs and Winchester Prisons, rather than breaking with principle.

As the Leicester Peace Collective sought ways to involve young people in a living memorial to peace, Pastor Sweeney's mind turned to another young man who, just before the greatest act of self-sacrifice, stated, 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give

unto you' (John 14:27, KJV). Jesus' peace efforts went far beyond the recent historic handshake of Prince Charles and Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, or the peaceful revolution of Ghandi. For Jesus, peace meant a total opportunity to reconcile God and man. It meant dying on a cross so that all men might be saved (John 3:17). It means a final victory as portrayed in the Book of Revelation – and a world without pain, suffering and death (Revelation 21:4).

And if, for Pastor Sweeney, it means a peace dance with some apparently eccentric senior citizens in a Leicester park, that is a small price for sharing the good news and fellowship of the Son of God, who calls Himself 'The

Prince of Peace'. Building bridges that Friday lunchtime was important for Pastor Sweeney – and yes, he says, he would do it again.

To discover more of the peace movement in the Leicester area visit *Memories in Conflict* at: <https://memoriesinconflict.wordpress.com/>. Their fascinating book, *Uncovering Resistance*, includes two sections on Seventh-day Adventists. More on the specifically Adventist story can be found on the Adventist Church website: <http://adventist.org.uk/www/ww1>.

### South England Conference Quadrennial Session

Notice is hereby given that a quadrennial session of the South England Conference will be held at Warwick University between Thursday 3 September and Sunday 6 September 2015. Registration of delegates will take place from 11am on Thursday and the business sessions are due to commence at 1.20pm.

Notice is also given that proposed changes to the South England Conference constitution will be considered and that these have been circulated to the delegates.

PASTOR TERRY MESSENGER  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



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For info contact: 0115 9606 312  
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## This was no coincidence!

Pastor Richard Jackson's recent Manchester South revival series led to a rich harvest of new members. Here are the experiences of two of them:

**Tinashe:** She testified about her struggle to convince some of her church family that she was ready to make such a life 'altaring' decision at the tender age of 16. Despite her shyness, her Bible instructor, Rose Gomez, encouraged her to give an inspiring, eloquent public address that really impressed her school friends who turned up in support! They said they 'had never experienced such an event and were really touched



by everything that was going on'. In fact, they were even in tears during Pastor Jackson's sermon.

**Fabian and Trevor:** As Pastor Mapp was about to close the event in prayer, he received a request from Fabian Best to allow him to testify. Fabian was on a trip from London to Leeds, but the bus driver had inexplicably diverted through Humberbridge, ending up in Manchester near the Manchester South church. Little did he know that there was a baptism taking place and that his best friend was among those getting baptised. Fabian hadn't seen Trevor Clarke for years. Both Barbados-born men, they met in England as nurses more than 30 years ago.

Seventy-six-year-old Trevor had left church when he was young and here he was being baptised, to his friend's great delight. Trevor agreed with Fabian's declaration that God had intervened to get them both to the same place with perfect timing, and added: 'I'm back home!'

*DEL CHAMBERS, MANCHESTER SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS TEAM*



The candidates were EdMicael Pires, only 12 years old; Jared and Hayley Kinnear, a South African-British couple whose family spent eight hours fighting through the traffic to support them; and EdMicael's parents, Emanuel and Dihauara Pires from São Tomé.

The candidates were warmly welcomed to the Taunton Seventh-day Adventist family, led by Pastor Sam Gungaloo, assisted by Pastor Wayne Erasmus.

The pastors involved in the event were Sam Gungaloo, Wayne Erasmus and Julian Thompson.

*PASTOR SAM GUNGALOO*



## Taunton expands

Five new members were added to the Taunton church on Sabbath 23 May. Three were baptised and the other two accepted on profession of faith, which drew a supportive audience to the Weston-super-Mare church where the service took place.



## Vicar attends baptism

On 9 May the Sheffield Manor church was privileged to baptise four new members: Sibongile Ngwarati, Lathdo Htoo, and brothers Joshua and Nathan Clarke.

Pastor Victor Marshall officiated with the baptism, but was not the only member of the clergy present. The Vicar of St Swithun's, Julie Upton, was also present to witness her first baptism by immersion, and seemed moved by the service and its powerful symbolism.

*SHEFFIELD MANOR COMMUNICATIONS*

## Wakefield baptism

A small, intimate and touching baptismal service took place at the Wakefield church on Sabbath, 30 May. Members from the Barnsley, Wakefield and Doncaster churches gathered to celebrate with the two candidates, Eddisson Munoz and Onanefe Adjenughure and their families. Both young men have interesting and encouraging stories behind their decisions to be baptised.

Eddisson (15) is a keen national-level swimmer and a talented rugby player who was in the news recently for refusing to play rugby on the Sabbath, even though it meant he would miss out on playing in the national schools final at Twickenham Stadium. After discussion with his father it was agreed with the coach that Eddisson would concentrate on midweek games only and thereby remain on the team. As it happened, the big match was unexpectedly moved because of a scheduling conflict with the Six Nations Championship, the major rugby union tournament, and Eddisson was able to play. His team won and claimed the Natwest Schools Cup for under-fifteens for the first time. It was this experience that caused him to think more deeply about his relationship with Christ and his decision to be baptised was the result.

David Patrick, an elder from Barnsley, who studied with Eddisson, thanked him for 'teaching him an awful lot' as they explored the Scriptures together. His mum, Dolores, is thrilled that her son has taken a stand for Christ at the age of fifteen. She explained that 'Eddisson decided on his own to take his relationship with the Lord to the next level. He has even got his teammates praying with him, and his coaches are very happy that he is still on the team.'

Pastor Stokes, who conducted the baptism, said, 'I admire him as a conscientious and talented young man who was prepared to give up his coveted sports career in order to put God first. It's such a good witness when a young man does this.'

Proud dad, Eddie, summed up his role as follows: 'My job here is just to look after Eddisson and Edwin as a father. I'm really doing God's work.'

Eddisson added, 'Today I'm getting baptised. I have been preparing for three months with David and Angela and enjoyed the Bible studies. This is setting me up for life in the church. I am very excited and happy to be here. I can apply all this stuff in my daily life. It has inspired me to be better.' He is looking forward to continuing his study of the Gospel of John with David.

Twelve-year-old Onanefe, one of the six children of Bernard and Mabel Adjenughure, suffers from sickle-cell disease and is no stranger to pain and hospitalisation. His father praised him for his faith and the encouragement he brings to the household, even when things are bad. He related how, about three years ago, during a particularly severe sickle-cell crisis he heard his son cry out to God, 'Why do You allow me to have this pain? Don't You know it is too much for me? God, take



away this pain.' From where he sat in his room while his wife tended to Onanefe, Bernard cried too, touched by his son's suffering but feeling reassured that God would answer his prayer. That time he was hospitalised for a week. Consultants have since then been baffled as Onanefe has gone from having a sickle-cell crisis about every six months to none in the last three years!

Onanefe may be small in stature but he is big in faith and often reminds his family to pray. He declared in a very clear tone, 'I felt like a newborn baby when I came out of the water.' When asked about his relationship with Jesus, he said, 'My relationship with Jesus is really good and I like my mum to come and pray with me, but I'm getting used to praying by myself too.'

Pastors Victor Hulbert and Barry Stokes conducted the service, with special music, a violin solo, by Eddisson's younger brother, Edwin.

*GERALDENE FARMER*

## 'High day' at Carter Knowle

Sabbath 16 May was a 'high day' at Sheffield Carter Knowle (CK) Church. They held a joint Sabbath School Visitors' Day and Community Services Appreciation Day, at which members of the community who have played a significant role in the life of the church were publicly thanked for their contributions.

Over the years the congregation has developed positive links with the St Oswald's Church of England congregation, a neighbouring



church. This time its caretaker, Len Hanley, and his wife were invited to attend the visitors' day event. They both attended and stayed for the whole service, which included a wonderful mix of items and a good sermon from Sindi Mabena, a Theology student from Newbold College. This was followed by a good fellowship lunch served to members, visitors and friends.

The day concluded with a baptismal service in which five precious souls made a public declaration of their faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour. They were: Kelly Franks; three members of one family –

siblings Nothando and Joyful Ncube, and their father Sonosiphi; and Ciro Rocha Fuentes, a Spanish-speaking candidate.

The baptismal candidates 'glowed' as they were presented to the church after the baptismal service and welcomed into church membership and fellowship by elders from the three Sheffield churches and the surrounding district.

*CK COMMUNICATIONS TEAM*



## Here's one for the record books!

Stanborough Park – both church and primary school – were involved in the opening of a new supermarket of The Co-operative Group in Leavesden on 15 May – surely a first for any church or school in the BUC!

How did this come about? Well, that organisation's area co-ordinator, Enoch Kanagaraj, who is a member of Stanborough Park Church, was responsible for the invitation, which was aimed at raising the church's profile in the area. During the opening ceremony, Watford's mayor, Mrs Dorothy Thornhill, was accompanied by a group of children from Stanborough Primary School, and Stanborough Park's senior minister, Pastor Jacques Venter, had the opportunity to speak a few words prior to her speech. For her part the mayor warmly praised the work that people from Stanborough Park Church and School do for the local community.

JUNE COOMBS



## Disability awareness at Wallington

On Sabbath 25 April, the Wallington Community church held their first ever disability day, where 85% of those taking part had some form of disability. From the Sabbath School, through the worship service and AYS, the whole day was presented by them. Garfield McIntosh preached a sermon entitled 'Trading Places', which was based on 2 Samuel 4:4 and 9:1-10.

We had three visitors from the community in the audience, along with disabled members from Lewisham, Wimbledon, Beckenham and Willesden churches. The afternoon programme was all about testimonies, praises in song and presentations on understanding the deaf, disabled and blind in our churches. We were then commissioned to go out into our communities and invite the disabled to our churches.

Please contact the SEC/ASNA (Mrs Sophia Nicholls) and BUC Disability leader (Mrs Sharon Platt-McDonald) for further information on the disabled and training.

GARFIELD MCINTOSH (DISABILITY CO-ORDINATOR)

## The Munro challenge

The Scots call any of their mountains that reach over 3,000 ft (914.4m) a Munro, based on a list compiled by Sir Hugh Munro in 1891 (and modified periodically). This year the Adventist youth of the Scottish Mission have chosen to climb two of the Munros in what they have dubbed the 'Munro challenge'. Their objective in doing so is to raise £5,000 for the ADRA-UK-organised mission trip to Nepal in September. So far the sponsored climb by ten youth to the top of Ben Lomond (990m) has helped to raise £2,618 towards their goal. The second Munro to be conquered will be Ben Nevis (1,342m), the highest peak in the British Isles.

The funds raised will be used specifically towards the renovation of a library at the Shree Bal Kumari Secondary School in Nepal, which will benefit 455 children.

If you would like to learn more about the 'Munro challenge', please visit [www.justgiving.com/teams/Youth4Nepal](http://www.justgiving.com/teams/Youth4Nepal).

AUDREY MUTONGI (A SCOTTISH MISSION YOUTH SPONSOR)



Front row, left: Dr Judith Antwi

## Eight weeks to wellness

The 'Eight weeks to wellness' programme was presented by Dr Judith Antwi from 28 February to 17 April at the Fartown Village Hall in Huddersfield. Dr Antwi, who has completed the HEALTH (Health Evangelism And Leadership Training for Him) programme at Weimar Institute of Health, California, has a passion for sharing the health message with the church and community. Health practices well-known in Adventism and supported by evidence-based research were presented on eight consecutive Friday evenings.

Participants were encouraged to set goals throughout, and incentive prizes were given out each night. Participants were also given the opportunity each week to testify about the lifestyle changes they were making.

Feedback on the sessions included:

'I have totally enjoyed this programme . . . I have lost weight and have a new-found energy due to obeying the principles of healthy eating, exercising and resting.' *Sara Shakes.*

'I have been richly blessed by learning about the benefits of healthy living while attending the 'Eight weeks to wellness' course. I understand that we have a fantastic message as Adventists and I am putting into practice all the principles I have learnt. I no longer eat meat and look closely at what I consume, by which I mean reading labels, particularly watching for salt, sugar and additives. I now eat a large amount of fruit and vegetables and drink mainly water. Exercise is an integral part of my life and I am walking daily. I want to continue looking after my body in a way that is pleasing to God.' *Lucy Donaldson.*

The programme has seen an increase in attendance at the church's weekly exercise class and two healthy cook-and-eat sessions have been held so far, one during and one after the event.

VERONICA WHITTLE (FARTOWN)



## Leicester on the march

On 21 March over 150 youth, Pathfinders and members of the Leicester district of churches (Leicester Central, Leicester West and St Matthews) took to the city's streets to celebrate Global Youth and Pathfinder Day.

The young people 'were the sermon' through their activities in the town centre, which included a march by their Pathfinder club (joined by clubs from Lewisham and Chatham) from Leicester Central Church to the town centre. Once there the clubs demonstrated their drumming and drilling skills, while the youth, Pathfinders and other members gave out literature and spoke to all who would listen. There was also a rousing praise and worship time as the young people sang a number of their favourite songs. While this was happening other youth visited the



## ADRA benefits from bake sale

On Sunday 3 May, a bake sale was held at Clapton Community Church in aid of ADRA. A number of the cakes on offer were baked by the church's youth and children: the youngest being Kacia (11), whose beautiful rainbow cake was one of the first to sell. Together the 'bakers' raised £312 for ADRA, but some visitors from the local community who bought cakes also took a tour of the church's historic building, which is currently undergoing restoration works. Some of the visitors even expressed an eagerness to bake for the next fund-raiser!

LORI SKERRITT (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)

## Ringway's ADRA fund-raiser

On Sunday afternoon, 10 May, Ringway Life Building was the venue for a concert by local professional pianist Jean Braddock. She attracted more than 50 people, many of whom were visiting the church for the first time.

They were impressed not only by her superb playing on the beautiful grand piano, but also by the beautiful building, which always leads to questions about our beliefs and what we do at the church: opportunities and contacts we would normally wait years to make.

Cakes and drinks were served by the members, and just short of £250 was raised for ADRA Nepal from donations.

PHILIP EMM



local Pilgrims Old People's Home and our shut-in members.

At around 12.30pm the group returned to church, where they had lunch and a thorough debriefing. Mayaba, who was part of the literature distribution team, said: 'It was a really great experience. I met some people who were genuinely interested in having a relationship with Jesus Christ. I think it has taught me a lesson that I should always let God use me, because there is always someone willing to hear about Jesus.'

Nadene, a university student who visited one of the shut-in members, said: 'She was 94 years old and she had so much courage. She was just telling us to trust in God and to always have faith. We also sang a few songs with her, prayed and shared our testimonies. She didn't want us to leave! It was a really good day.'

There was much enthusiasm and excitement on the day as youth and church members experienced what it meant to serve God in such a practical way.

CARLONE LEWIS (AYS LEADER)

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**Ministries** THE BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE DEAF MINISTRY DIRECTORY

The British Union Conference (BUC) is launching a NEW ministry – the BUC Deaf Ministry. This ministry aims to support and address the needs of our deaf members and deaf visitors who attend our churches. We are encouraging Adventist members to get involved. How? We are compiling our first ever BUC Deaf Ministry Directory of Advocates and Communication Professionals (deaf and hearing) and we would like your skills and experience to help us support the needs of our deaf family. If you have skills that can benefit deaf people, volunteer or work specifically with deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind people or deaf people with additional needs – WE NEED YOU!

If YOU ARE INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS INNOVATIVE AND REWARDING NEW MINISTRY THEN STATE YOUR PROFESSION/VOLUNTARY WORK OR SKILLS IN THE RELEVANT SECTION. FOR EXAMPLE ARE YOU A:

- Sign Language Interpreter
- BSL Signer Level 1 – 6
- Learning Support Worker
- Christian Counsellor
- Deaf Blind Communicator
- Communication Support Worker
- Social Worker for the Deaf
- Prison Ministry Leader
- Teacher of the Deaf
- Deaf or Hearing Bible Worker
- Welfare Officer
- Youth Worker
- Mental Health Specialist
- Care Worker
- Learning Disability Support Worker
- SEN Teaching Assistant
- Nurse
- Teacher
- Audiologist
- Psychologist
- Play Worker
- Psychiatrist

Please complete the form and send it to the address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please state your profession/voluntary work or skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree for your details to be included in the BUC Deaf Ministry Directory? (please tick)

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ I need more information \_\_\_

For more information and the criteria needed to join the BUC Deaf Ministry Directory, please contact us at this address: Mrs Dawn Tompkins, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ or email: [sign\\_ministries@gmail.com](mailto:sign_ministries@gmail.com)

**CLOSING DATE 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

A helping hand

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Seventh-day Adventist Church

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1955-2015

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at the  
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240 - 244 Lozells Road, Lozells, Birmingham, B19 1NP

Sabbath School: 9.30am 'The Journey' Divine Service: 11.20am  
Afternoon Programme: 4:30pm with an Evening of Praise at 7:00pm

**Guest Speaker: Pastor Greg Nelson from  
Maddison Mission Adventist Church Huntsville  
USA**

For more information please contact:  
Elder David Brooks: 07949574601 or Elder Vivio Salgado: 07774857098  
[www.camphill.adventistchurch.org.uk](http://www.camphill.adventistchurch.org.uk)



## Middlesbrough's men

Middlesbrough's Men's Ministry ran a challenging programme on the theme, 'Men under construction; God is not finished with me yet!' on Sabbath 16 May. They involved young and old in a programme that spanned the Sabbath School and the worship service. Although their speaker, Emeka Nwaojigba, was from Durham Church, the children's story was told by one of their own lads.

The various men's groups of the congregation also provided some excellent gospel music throughout the event. This is part of their effort to be more active in both the church and the community. COLIN WOODFORD

## Good deeds remembered

A plaque commemorating the efforts of the late Alf Kelly MBE, a Stanborough Park Church member, in establishing the Watford Council for Voluntary Service and his voluntary work for the people of the town – which resulted in his award from the Queen – was presented to his daughter, Pat Walton, last week.

Alf's concern for the local community started with his joining the St John Ambulance in the 1930s. After the war he became involved with Stanborough Park Church's hospital visiting group, which led to him being asked to join a newly-formed group looking after the needs of the physically disabled. This group was eventually incorporated into the Hertfordshire Association for the Disabled, with Alf being a member of the management committee.

He also established an annual toy service at his Garston church in the early 1960s to provide toys for needy local children at Christmas, delivering the toys himself.

He set up the Emergency Furniture Unit in 1971 and was subsequently invited to join the steering committee to set up the Watford Council for Voluntary Services, and became a member of its management committee. He spent four years as its chairman until standing down in 1984, when he became its vice president. During his time on the committee he started a 'good neighbours' scheme, which grew into the CARE scheme, and established the first hostel for the homeless in Watford.

Alf died just weeks after receiving his MBE from the Queen, and his efforts to help the people of Watford and in setting up the CVS were recognised in a plaque on the organisation's walls. Now it has been renamed the Watford and Three Rivers Trust, and the chief executive officer, Bob Jones, contacted Alf's daughter Pat Walton with an offer she couldn't refuse.

Pat has followed in her father's footsteps, and her own work for the local community has resulted in her receiving the mayor's own 'Audentior Award'. Following her father's death in 1996 she has taken on many of his roles, including the annual toy service, held at Stanborough Park Church, and ran the Emergency Furniture Unit for many years. She oversees the much-appreciated welfare service run by the church, providing food, clothing and everyday items for local families in need, and has run a weekly 'Soup Run' for the homeless in London for more than a quarter of a century. She is a tireless fund-raiser for good causes. JUNE COOMBS



# obituaries

## Rupert Michael Wilton Watts (1929-2015) d. 24 February.

Brother Watts, as he was lovingly known in the Carter Knowle (CK) church, came to England from St Thomas, Jamaica, in 1957, and settled in Sheffield.

He had eight children – four boys and four girls – who were all very precious and close to him, as were his grandchildren.

He worked as a carpenter in Sheffield for some of the largest and best-known contractors, which involved him in projects like The Royal Hallamshire Hospital and The Crucible Theatre.

He later worked for the Sheffield Works Department, which involved him in many other major projects.

Rupert had promised that upon his retirement he would give his life to God. He had attended the Seventh-day Adventist church as a young man while in Jamaica in the company of his aunts, so when the time came for him to keep his promise he attended the church on Carter Knowle Road only to find the doors locked. There was, however, a note on the door stating that the congregation was worshipping across the city at Burngreave that day.

After visiting Carter Knowle for some time, he told the local Bible worker – at that time it was Sister Blackburn – of his desire to commence Bible studies with the aim of being baptised. Both she and Brother Bussue obliged, and on 29 February 1994 Rupert was baptised into the CK church, where he remained faithful until his death on 24 February this year.

Brother Watts served as a deacon and head deacon for a number of years. He had a beautiful voice and often enhanced the worship services with his lovely solos. He was also an active member of the CK Community Health and Craft Club and joined in with all their activities.

He loved gardening and the harvest festivals were always enhanced with produce from his allotment. Many of his church family also benefited from gifts of his produce – such as tomatoes, onions, spinach, pumpkins, and so on.

He was a gentle, approachable man who always had a twinkle in his eye and time for a word with everyone, who often gave other senior members a lift home rather than letting them wait for the bus.



Rupert suffered a stroke and was hospitalised on 2 January 2015. He made good progress until his release on 22 February. Sadly, however, he suffered a major stroke that same night and passed to his rest on Tuesday 24 February.

His funeral was held at Burngreave Church, the same church where he spent his first Sabbath. The funeral was a beautiful celebration of a beautiful man's life and was conducted by Pastors Victor Marshall and Andrew Rashford-Hewitt. Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president, who had actually had the privilege of baptising Rupert, preached the sermon.

Since Brother Watts' death, several members of his family have attended church in his honour. Some weeks after the funeral, some of them were there again and asked to say a few words after the service.

They told us that while they were going through his effects they had come across a jar marked 'Church Building Fund', and on opening it they had found £120 that he had been saving towards the Building Fund. They then presented this to the church, along with an envelope with his title that he had not had the chance to bring to church before his illness. They also returned a donation that the church had given the family towards funeral costs – as an offering – further testament to the man and the example that Brother Watts was to his relatives and church family. CARTER KNOWLE COMMUNICATION TEAM

## Marjorie Winifred Davison (1921-2015) d. 13 March.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Marjorie Davison on 13 March 2015 in a Watford residential home. She was 93 years old. Marjorie was the widow of Lionel Davison, who had been manager of the Churches Travel Service (ESDA) between 1954 and 1973.

Marjorie was born at home in Hornsey, North London: one of three children, having two older brothers, Frank and Stan. When she was about three, Marjorie became critically ill with diphtheria and double pneumonia. She miraculously recovered and throughout her life she saw this event as a divine intervention by God, believing that He had a special purpose for her life.

Marjorie had a happy



childhood, even though the Ashton family were relatively poor. Her mother joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church when she was young. Their nearest church was at Holloway, so, without a car and with no money for public transport, the three children walked with their mother to church every week – two hours each way, come rain or shine. Marjorie's faith gradually developed during those years and she was baptised in the same year she left school, at the age of 14.

Marjorie always had a desire to become a nurse, so when the Second World War began she started nursing at a hospital in Uxbridge, and later registered as an SEN. By then the family were living in Wembley, and they started attending a newly formed group in Ealing. It was there that she met Lionel Davison, and they married at the Chiswick church on 1 July 1945.

The family home was now based in South Harrow. Being a totally selfless woman, Marjorie gave up nursing and devoted all her energies to caring for her husband and the two children: Barbara and Brian. She returned to her profession in 1960 and worked at it until her retirement.

In their retirement, Lionel and Marjorie moved to Norfolk, where they attended the Norwich church. Following Lionel's death in 1988 Marjorie moved to Poole in Dorset, then on to Eastbourne, followed by Seaford in East Sussex.

Throughout her life Marjorie was totally committed to her Lord and His Church. She was active in the Ealing, Norwich, Bournemouth and Cornerstone Polegate churches, holding many offices, such as head deaconess, Sabbath School superintendent, Welfare leader and Ingathering agent. Finally, when she was 90 years of age, she told her pastor that it was time for her to retire!

Suffering from deteriorating health, Marjorie moved to a retirement home in Watford and enjoyed being part of the Stanborough Park church family.

Her granddaughter's husband – Pastor Nathan Stickland – led a private funeral service for her at West Herts Crematorium on 1 April, followed by a service of celebration of her life at Stanborough Park Church, which was led by Pastor Jacques Venter.

Marjorie leaves a brother, son and daughter, four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. She was a woman of great faith and died in the confidence that Jesus will soon return and take her to be with her Lord. She will be greatly missed. Come Lord Jesus, quickly come. BRIAN DAVISON

## Violet Irene Gridley (née Hermitage) (1924-2014) d. 6 September.

Family members, friends and members of Canterbury Church gathered on 26 September to say a fond farewell to one of the best-loved members of the congregation. Violet Gridley, known to all as 'Aunty Vi', had passed away peacefully on 6 September.

Vi Gridley was born in north London, the third of four daughters. She enjoyed a happy childhood in a loving and caring family household. Leaving school not long after the outbreak of World War II, Vi determined to train as a fever nurse, TB still being a major disease among London's population at the time. Eventually she fulfilled her ambition to qualify both as a nurse and then later as a midwife. In the course of her career, she brought many new lives into the world.

It was during the late 1950s that Vi met Bill Gridley, whom she later married. Bill was an ardent student of the Bible and both of them attended an evangelistic series held at the New Gallery Centre, were baptised and joined the Edmonton church.

Vi and Bill settled in Edmonton, then later became founding members of the Tottenham church, before moving to Kent in the late 1960s. At that time the Canterbury church met in hired halls and was raising funds to acquire its own building. Eventually, a small mission chapel was acquired and the church began worshipping at its present site in 1975.

Bill passed away in January 1980, leaving Vi to carry on. She continued her work as a midwife, then took on a new role as a matron in the new girls' dormitory at Canterbury's world-renowned King's School. She continued to be active in the Canterbury church, serving as head deaconess, church clerk, treasurer, Sabbath School superintendent and Children's Sabbath School leader. In some ways, it's easier to list the offices that Vi hasn't held over the years, such as her dedication to the Lord's work.

Vi suffered increasing illness during the last year of her life but was able to celebrate her 90th birthday on 22 June last year. A few weeks later she passed away, and the church gathered to pay tribute to her in a fitting and uplifting service led by Pastors Israel Williams and Vasyly Vartsaba.

JOHN WILSON





## Reading the Bible for all its worth

Four theologians from Newbold College of Higher Education tackled the question of 'How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth' at the college's free annual Bible conference on Sabbath 18 April.

The conference, which was hosted by the college's new Centre for Christian Leadership, attracted record numbers of attendees, with almost 200 people coming from as far as Birmingham, Bristol, Wales and Greece for the event.

Dr Laurence Turner opened the conference with a session that taught attendees 'How to Read Old Testament Stories'. 'The Bible does more than entertain us,' he said. 'It explores the most significant matters of life. We need to take them seriously, but first we have to understand how they operate.' Dr Turner went on to compare the characteristics of modern texts (such as Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*) with stories such as those of Elijah, Absalom and Jacob, to demonstrate the way that we should read the two types of narratives.

Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia spoke about reading the Bible – the book of Hebrews in particular. 'The Bible is the only book in the world for which you need to read not only with your eyes but also with your ears,' he explained. 'Reading the text is necessary, but we need to do something else – we need to train ourselves to be ready to hear the text.'

He went on to explain that Hebrews should be considered as a sermon rather than a letter. 'A sermon needs to have devices to facilitate the memorisation of the text. The most prominent device used in Hebrews is the use of refrains such as we see in hymns. Looking at the refrains is key for understanding the sermon of Hebrews.'

Dr Cedric Vine began his presentation on 'How to Read the Gospel of Matthew' by reviewing some basic reading techniques. These included summarising content and identifying significant themes. He then emphasised the significance of the Gospel as a collection of Jesus' words and deeds. The implication for reading the Gospel is that we should read the discourses of Jesus (that is, His 'words') in light of miracle and conflict stories (that is, His 'deeds') and vice versa. To read the Gospel of Matthew, the reader should identify why the evangelist has ordered the material in the manner he has – each passage should be read in the light of its context.

The final session was held by all three speakers, and tackled 'The ABCs of Reading the Bible'.

Dr Verrecchia began by explaining the importance of using a good translation because, in part, many translations were completed prior to



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the discovery of 90% of the manuscripts upon which the Bible is based. Dr Verrecchia's advice to attendees was to use a verbal translation as a study Bible, and to choose a version that was completed after the 1950s. We don't travel with old maps, but rather we update our SatNav. Therefore, readers should use recent, up-to-date translations. Dr Turner focused on the way to study, recommending to focus on a single biblical book and to study one book and one chapter at a time. He suggested starting with the first epistle of John. He also made the point that the reader should try to understand each book in terms of its main themes. He also advised that the book then be read in another translation to gain a different perspective on the text.

Dr Vine closed the session by providing attendees with a selection of books and other printed and online resources to aid Bible study.

The conference closed with a lively 'question and answer' session, hosted by Dr John Baidam, the college's principal.

Videos of the talks from the day will be made available online at [www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference).

Sign up to receive news about the 2016 Bible Conference, and other workshops available through the Centre for Christian Leadership, at: [www.newbold.ac.uk/centre-christian-leadership](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/centre-christian-leadership), and keep in touch with the centre on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/centrechristian-leadership](http://www.facebook.com/centrechristian-leadership).

KIRSTY WATKINS, CO-ORDINATOR, CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP



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# 1990s REUNION

7-9 August 2015

[www.newbold.ac.uk/1990s-reunion](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/1990s-reunion)  
[alumni@newbold.ac.uk](mailto: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>

## Messenger

Volume 120 • 13 – 3 July 2015

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

COPY FOR No. 15 – 9 July 2015

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *Messenger*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: [Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk)

Send high-resolution pictures to:

[dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk)

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700

Mon-Thurs only, 8am–5.30pm.

[www.stanboroughpress.com](http://www.stanboroughpress.com)

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For general enquiries, email:

[info@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:info@stanboroughpress.org.uk)

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)

ISSN 0309-3654

## Sunset

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| 24     | 9.01 | 9.13 | 9.12 | 9.36  | 9.39  |

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