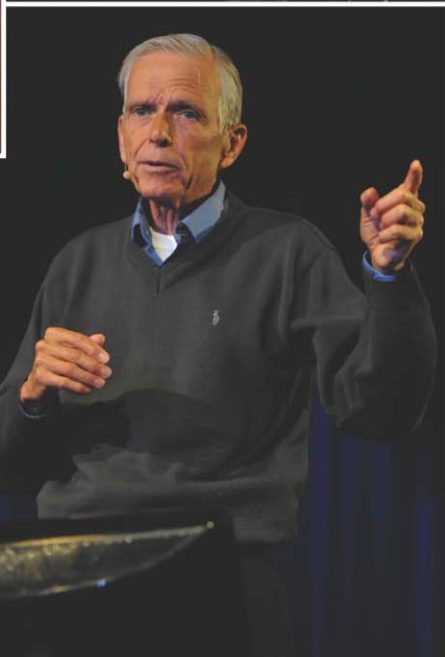


Messenger

News to the churches • 14 August 2015 • Volume 120 • 16

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'Knowing God's Heart': SEC Camp Meeting 2015

by Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist,
SEC Communication director

The South England Conference relocated to Camber Sands, East Sussex, for its annual camp meeting this year (15-21 June). 'Knowing God's Heart' was the theme under which 1,800 campers enjoyed a week of good weather, spiritual fellowship and programmes including a particular focus on health.

In the adult hall, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, a renowned lifestyle doctor and writer, endeared himself to campers with sound but challenging advice. 'Look after your heart!' was his charge to the adults during his Thursday morning presentation showing that heart disease is still the number-one killer in the UK.

Yet, while extolling natural and preventative remedies, Dr Chidi encouraged his audience to see their GPs first before looking at any complementary health treatments.

He shared simple yet effective recommendations for better health, such as lowering salt intake, eating lots of greens, drinking plenty of water and enjoying one hour of walking each day. Coupled with these physical tips, Dr Chidi equally encouraged a positive mental attitude to life.

A second health speaker, Dr James Horsley, shared natural approaches to healing. Since 1993, he has been associated with Uchee Pines, a not-for-profit health education and wellness facility in Alabama, USA. He gave practical advice including what he called a 'migraine cure', using a simple form of hydrotherapy!

The main spiritual messages were delivered by Pastor Royston Philbert and they appeared to touch many. On Thursday, he talked about the resurrection and looked at sorrow and death. This touched many a heart as he encouraged members to let go of their pain and fear.

Scott Ritsema, Bible teacher, author and founder of Belt of Truth Ministries, shared some of his research and concepts about global mass media. In particular he shared how media and music can influence people's lives.

Teens

The Teen meetings culminated in an exciting Friday Communion Service led by

Continued on p. 7



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editorial

Have you ever come across these names: S. Clifford Weinberg, Ethan Allen Weinberg, Rodney S. Wyman, Sterling C. Wyman, Stanley Clifford Weyman, Allen Stanley Weyman and C. Sterling Weinberg? They are some of the aliases of one of history's most colourful 'serial pretenders', Stephen Jacob Weinberg (1890-1960).¹

Today people would call Weinberg a scam artist, but others might describe him less harshly as 'a man who made a successful career of being many people other than himself'. Whatever you wish to call him, he was not the typical scammer or imposter of today, for he was definitely not in it for the money. He was driven by the passion to be what others were, to enjoy the prize of living fleetingly in their worlds. He wanted adventure, and stated it like this: 'One man's life is a boring thing. I lived many lives. I'm never bored.'²

Over a period of 50 years he pretended to be many different people, including: a lieutenant in the French Navy; several doctors of medicine; two psychiatrists; a number of officers in the US Navy, ranking from lieutenant to admiral; five or six US Army officers; a couple of lawyers; the US State Department's Naval Liaison Officer; an aviator; a sanitation expert; many consuls general; and a US expert on Balkan and Asian affairs.

Weinberg paid dearly for this pretence. He spent more than a third of his life behind bars, serving at least 13 separate sentences!

Believe it or not

Stanley Clifford Weyman, Weinberg's most popular alias, once disguised himself as the Consul General of Romania, hired a suitably impressive launch and came alongside the moored flagship of the US fleet. He announced who he was and requested to come aboard for a tour. The admiral was only too happy to host such a dignitary and personally showed him around. Then, upon his departure, the pretender received a tribute usually reserved for the brave and the noble – a twenty-one-gun salute!³

'I lived many lives'

Yes, Weinberg's story is fascinating, but his comment about life is also worth a second thought: 'One man's life is a boring thing. I lived many lives. I'm never bored.' It gives rise to questions we all ought to answer for ourselves: 'How many lives do I live? Do I practise only one authentic life, or am I also a pretender?'

I can't speak for women, but I think that most men will agree that there are times when we pretend . . . even if it's just a tiny bit, and very briefly. How can I be so sure of this? Well, **because I do** and here's an example. My wife comes to me, her lifeless hairdryer in her hand, and helplessly asks: 'Honey, can you fix this thing?'

How many lives do you live?



Julian Hibbert
Editor

What should my reaction be? Inwardly I groan, burdened with the painful memory of previous failures involving vacuum cleaners, toasters, bathroom scales, and so on. But outwardly I assume the pretender's pose, and calmly say, 'Oh, there is a problem with it. Well, give it here and I'll see what I can do.' Then out comes my *Leatherman Wave* and I begin to 'fiddle' – an activity that involves a poking, prodding, sightseeing tour of the device's innards. This usually confirms what I knew all along . . . that it's time to buy a new one! Then why do I pretend? Simply because it is hard to admit to my spouse that I am not a know-all hotshot handyman!

He had nothing to say!

But pretence has a more ominous side to it than that. Many years ago, one of my colleagues and I felt aggrieved about something one of our senior administrators had said. My colleague was particularly angry and made a few rash 'schoolboy' comments about what he would say and do if the man raised the matter again. We didn't have to wait long for that to happen. I had the chance to speak first in defence of how 'we' felt, but when it was his turn all he said . . . **was that he had nothing to say!**

I couldn't believe it. Where had all his conviction, indignation and bluster gone? Had he suddenly chosen to be a pretender? Or had he been pretending all along? Which brings us back to those earlier questions: 'How many lives do I live? Do I practise only one authentic life, or am I also a pretender?'

The *Sun* is not known to mince its words when taking on the rich and famous, especially those suspected of living a double life. This is how they broke a recent story: 'Married peer in charge of upholding standards in the House of Lords has been caught on video snorting cocaine with a pair of £200-a-night hookers'⁴ (emphasis supplied).

It is easy to sneer at those whose pretence is so publicly exposed, but what of us? Pretending is part of the baggage that sin dumped on our doorstep and simply being a 'believer' doesn't vaporise the temptation to pretend.

Take a few famous examples of pretending that are on sacred record. There were Abraham and Sarah pretending to be siblings. There was Jacob pretending to be Esau. There were pious priests who slid quickly into the temple shadows when Jesus chronicled their pretences in the dust at their feet. And there was Peter, pretending not to be a disciple of Jesus, even when his Galilean accent gave him away.

The authentic life

So reader, back to our questions: 'How many lives do you live? Do you practise only one authentic life, or are you also a pretender?' Christianity calls us to live one life – the new life 'in Christ'.

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!' (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV-UK.)

¹The Big Little Man From Brooklyn', *The New Yorker*, 16 November, 1968, p. 64, quoted in <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1968/11/16/the-big-little-man-from-brooklyn> ²<https://thefakespotter.wordpress.com/my-favourite-fakers/> ³<http://thefakespotter.com/2010/05/episode-30-nee-weinberg/> ⁴<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/6560352/Baron-John-Sewel-drug-binges-with-prostitutes.html>



Enhancing Health

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

Going natural Part 5 – Clean house – healthy house?

How did you get on with the household exercises set in the last issue? Were you able to identify a number of natural items in each room? In subsequent issues we will look at exchanging some potentially toxic household items for more health-enhancing ones.

But first, let's commence with a look at our cleaning habits.

In an online *Telegraph* article published 13 February 2014, entitled: 'Eco living: Clean your house the natural way',¹ journalist Sarah Lonsdale looks at some of the hazards of modern-day cleaning methods through the eyes of healthy-home expert Alan Berman, who suggests that the modern home has become 'a reservoir of a toxic "chemical soup" that can cause asthma, eczema, allergies and other autoimmune disorders'. He lists cleaning products, flame retardants, paints and stain repellents containing hazardous chemicals, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), formaldehyde, arsenic and perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) as the culprits.

He goes on to state: 'While a single spray of a cleaner won't cause harm, these chemicals build up in the home environment, particularly in carpet dust.' Berman is the author of *Green Design: a Healthy Home Handbook*. He observes that we use chemical cleaners in our home when compounds like bicarbonate of soda and lemon juice could do an equally effective job. According to him, 'It's also much cheaper to use vinegar, which is about £1 a bottle or less, rather than brands which cost up to five times as much.'

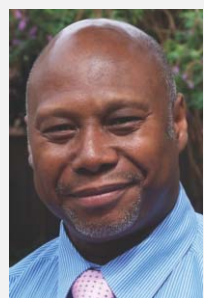
The article lists the following 'safe' home-cleaning tips:

- Vacuum carpets at least three times a week.
- Leave shoes by the front door to prevent bringing in hazards such as lead, dog excrement, car exhaust pollutants and pesticides.
- Have house plants like 'bamboo, spider plants, and cheese plants, which absorb pollutants'.
- Use olive oil instead of a spray-on wood polish.
- 'Replace PVC shower curtains with glass doors, and PVC tablecloths with washable ones.'
- Use water-based or organic paints wherever possible.
- 'Use vinegar and lemon juice as everyday surface cleaners', and add sodium bicarbonate where extra cleaning strength is required.
- 'If you have installed energy-saving measures, make sure your home is still well ventilated.'
- To kill house dust mites, place children's cuddly toys in the freezer once every six weeks.

In another article, 'Eco living: how to make natural spray cleaners', Lonsdale suggests natural cleaning products as safe options.² Why not try some of these home-made mixtures and save money in the process?

Good health!

¹<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/property/10634117/Eco-living-clean-your-house-the-natural-way.html> ²<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/property/advice/10673719/Eco-living-how-to-make-natural-spray-cleaners.html>



We are all builders!

by Pastor Cyril Sweeney, BUC Family, Children and Prayer Ministries director

Many of us will be familiar with Christ's story of the two builders. It is recorded in Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV-UK) as follows:

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

This parable, which Jesus shared with His listeners at the conclusion of His Sermon on the Mount, has profound relevance for all families in today's society. Many of us will be familiar with the story of the wise man building his house upon the rock and the foolish man building his house upon the sand. We know what happened to both houses in the end. It is a story that most of us grew up with in either Sunday or Sabbath school.

Of course we know that Jesus' main theme in the sermon was to introduce His audience to the principles of a kingdom in which He is the King and we are His subjects. He spoke of the requirements for this citizenship, and noted that the kingdom of God is not just a future concept, but that one can be a part of that kingdom right now. He also points out that not listening to the words previously

spoken and applying them to one's life would result in dire circumstances. But what has this got to do with today's families, you ask? Well, I believe that the parable highlights at least four similarities with the modern family.

All men are builders

Both men were builders. They had this in common. They both built houses to live in. If you were to ask most married couples – especially those who are parents – what they would like their homes to be like, they would generally say that they would like their homes to be safe havens for their families. Places that will offer both occupants and visitors the love, acceptance, security and protection they need in order to enjoy life to the full.

Sadly, however, not all homes experience these vital things. Some people, intentionally or unintentionally, are building homes that cause great distress, to both their occupants and the neighbourhood. Good, safe homes and dangerous, dysfunctional homes are being built all around us and, whether we are conscious of it or not, we are all builders of either one or the other.

All builders have a choice of foundations

Some homes are built on the foundation of selfishness, greed,

materialism, social achievement, status or anything else that can raise the family's profile. While other homes are simultaneously rising on a totally different foundation, as highlighted by Paul in his 'building instruction' to the Philippians:

"Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:1-5, NKJV.)

We all have decisions to make about the foundations we will use. These are decisions that God will never take on our behalf.

All foundations will be tested!

On this point I am reminded of the words of Matthew 5:45 (NKJV): *'... for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.'*

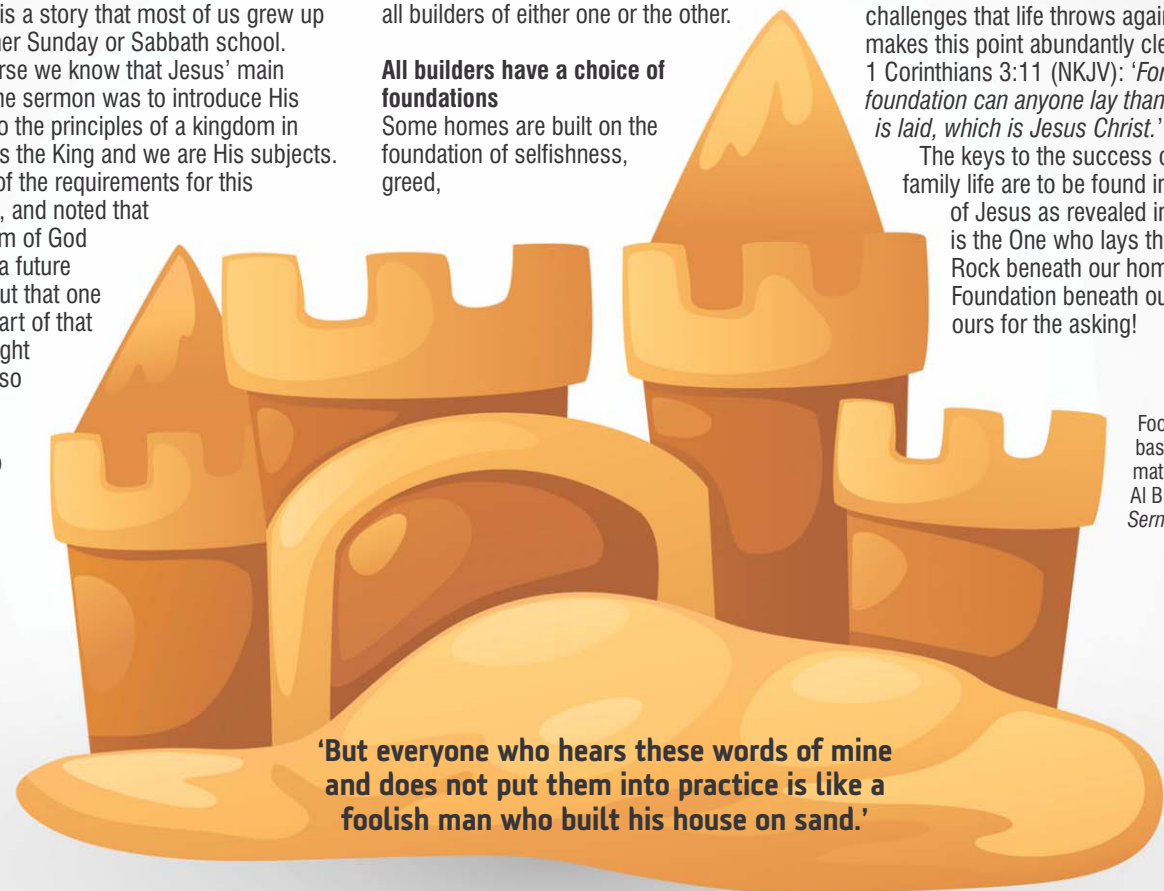
Do good, Christian homes experience difficulties? Do Christian marriages end in separation and divorce? Do good Christian children brought up in good Christian homes turn their backs on the faith and values their parents tried to instil in them? Just because you may be part of the household of faith does not mean that you will be immune from the wind and rain of chaos and calamity that batter individuals, marriages and family units. The storms of life will test all foundations, whether they are well laid or not.

Only one Foundation will stand

The Bible makes it clear that there is only one Foundation that will endure all the tests and challenges that life throws against it. Paul makes this point abundantly clear in 1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV): *'For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.'*

The keys to the success of marriage and family life are to be found in the teachings of Jesus as revealed in the Bible. He is the One who lays that immovable Rock beneath our homes, that Solid Foundation beneath our feet, and it is ours for the asking!

Footnote: Author has based the article on materials drawn from Al Bryant's 'Outline Sermons on Families'.



'But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.'



Job vacancy at ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK is looking for an experienced Accountant to join its team in Watford. Key responsibilities include preparing all financial statements and reports, accounts payable and receivable, reconciliation of accounts, general ledger work and procurement. The accountant will also provide project budget analyses and reporting support to the Programmes Team. We would expect you to have ACCA accreditation (or equivalent).

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A full application pack, including a detailed description and application form, is available on the ADRA-UK website at adra.org.uk/contact/work-adra.

Applications deadline for this post: **15 September 2015.**

Scottish Mission Session notice

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PASTOR PAUL LOCKHAM,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



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adventistvolunteers.org



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

'During the recent Sabbath School lesson on Jonah, we read that Nineveh was "an exceeding great city of three days' journey" (Jonah 3:3, KJV). How big is that, exactly?'

A If by 'three days' journey' we understand 'the distance one could cover in three days of walking', then – assuming one covers maybe 15 miles in a day – we might be thinking of a distance of roughly 45 miles, almost the distance across London from Abbots Langley to Sevenoaks. That would have been an unfathomably vast extent for any ancient city. Was ancient Nineveh really that big?

Actually, we have a pretty good idea of just how big Nineveh really was, because its ruined walls still exist. The Encyclopedia Britannica informs us: 'From the ruins it has been established that the perimeter of the great Assyrian city wall was about 7.5 miles (12km) long and in places up to 148 feet (45 metres) wide. . . . The long eastern sector, about 3 miles (5km), contained six gates; the southern sector, 2,624 feet (800 metres), contained only one, the Ashur Gate; the western sector, about 2.5 miles (4km), had five gates; the northern sector, about 1.2 miles (1.9km), three gates, Adad, Nergal, and Sin.' This is what we'd expect for a city of 120,000 people (Jonah 4:11) – it was a massive city for ancient times, comparable only with Babylon for size. However, it's not London. Why, then, is it called a 'city of three days' journey'?

There's one explanation we can probably discount: it's unlikely that a journey of three Sabbath days was meant. Even though a single Sabbath day's journey of 2,000 cubits, up to three quarters of a mile,² would have allowed Jonah to travel a third of the way across Nineveh, the absence of the word 'Sabbath' would then need explaining, and there's no evidence that the practice of travelling only a 'Sabbath day's journey' had been instituted in Jonah's time, as it had in the time of Christ (Acts 1:12). However, 'If the noun "Nineveh" is taken to designate the district of Nineveh, which covered anywhere from 30 to 60 miles, a journey of three days would be correct,' according to Ángel Manuel Rodríguez of the Biblical Research Institute.³ Also, the *Bible Commentary* suggests that 'it would take a man three days to cover its whole territory by going up and down its streets, if he wanted to reach all the people who lived within its walls'⁴ – such was the understanding of Martin Luther.⁵ Finally, Charles Halton, a Baptist commentator who published a paper on the topic, recommends a figurative interpretation, similar to the British phrase 'a couple of days', where 'couple' can be an imprecise amount⁶ – parallels exist in Genesis 30:36; Exodus 5:3; 8:27.

We can't say for sure which of these interpretations is the right one – but we do know that the very facts of Nineveh's existence and its immense size for its era testify to the reliability of Scripture. Jesus affirmed the historical accuracy of the book of Jonah (Matthew 12:39-41), and its author was divinely inspired (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Maybe that's all we need to know.

¹www.britannica.com/place/Nineveh-ancient-city-Iraq ²http://oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/article/opr/t94/e2168?hi=0&_pos=12 ³<https://adventistbiblicalresearch.org/materials/bible-inspiration-and-history/jonah-more-fish-tale> ⁴Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 4, p. 1001 – an excellent map of Nineveh can be found overleaf ⁵Quoted in James Limburg, *Jonah: A Commentary*, Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 78 (footnote 124) ⁶Charles Halton, 'How Big Was Nineveh? Literal versus Figurative Interpretation of City Size', *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 18.2 (2008) 193-207

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.



What now?

This is the edited transcript of a video interview held with Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference president, by Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

Victor Hulbert: Pastor Ian Sweeney, you have just arrived back from the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas. There were a lot of people looking to that session with expectation, particularly to the debate over the role of women and whether divisions could ordain women if appropriate in their territories. What exactly happened there?

Ian Sweeney: There was a lot of discussion, obviously. On personal reflection, I felt that it was much like what happened with the TOSC meetings – the Theology of Ordination Study Committee – people already had their opinions and their views. And even though we devoted a whole day to the discussion of women's ordination, I don't think anybody's view was changed by it. I would submit that maybe people felt better for just airing what they believed, but the truth is that nobody changed their opinion. . . . Permit me to suggest that when people arrived in San Antonio their minds were already made up.

Victor Hulbert: And, as you know, it was an open vote. There was no directive from GC leadership to vote 'yes' or 'no', and we know the results. It was a 'no' vote, which means that divisions have not been given the authority to decide whether it is appropriate or not to ordain women in their areas. I guess that floats down in our division, in the Trans-European Division, to the unions and to where you sit as the union president. What do you see as the repercussions, if any, from the vote that was taken?

Ian Sweeney: For some people, they think that we're reversing – going back on something. I mean,

the position where we're at right now is that we have female elders who are ordained as elders in local churches. This was an action from the 1970s that we affirmed in 1984. I believe that female elders can be ordained in the church. That hasn't been touched; that has not been reversed; that will still continue to be the case. In the British Isles right now, as far as we know some 45% of our congregations have female elders, and I would assume that many of them have been ordained. So nothing changes there. We also have female pastors working in the British Union Conference and all around the Trans-European Division territory. They are still serving as female pastors; nothing has changed there; they are not ordained, of course, but they are commissioned pastors. Commissioning, however, is not only or exclusively for females as we also have males who are commissioned to the Gospel ministry. And being commissioned is actually the recognition by the church of a male or female's call to the Gospel ministry for a lifelong commitment.

Victor Hulbert: The whole issue and all the study over the last five years has raised the profile of the debate and perhaps, in a sense, you are now the leader of a church that is more divided than it was a couple of years ago. There are those who are very much in favour of the ordination of women pastors, and those who say that's not something we should be doing. How do you lead a church that's got those two diverse views, with, as you say, 45% of its elders as female, and a considerable number of female pastors? Is there a way forward?

Ian Sweeney: I believe there is.

If we are looking for uniformity, then we are never going to have that. We hardly have . . . we don't have uniformity on many things. Take our variety of worship styles and expressions. Potentially people can fall out on such things as that, and yet we can both say – depending on where we are on the spectrum of worship – we are all worshipping God. I think we have to be realistic. In many parts of our life and experience we do not experience uniformity . . . but we still have unity. In our marriage relationship, I don't agree with my spouse Jennifer on many, many things, and she doesn't agree with me on many, many things, but we are still in a loving, unified and united marriage. And I think the same can exist within the church as well. It's not that everything has to be uniform to express unity, and I think we can express that within the church too. For example, 45% of churches, as I said, have female elders. On the other hand there are churches – congregations – who honestly do not desire or wish to have female elders. And we have to respect the wishes of the congregation. We shouldn't be seen to be imposing upon a congregation that which they are not willing to accept, or that they are not prepared to accept at this time.

Victor Hulbert: If your daughter chose to go and study theology at Newbold College, and train for ministry, what advice would you be giving her today?

Ian Sweeney: I would encourage her to study, if that is where she feels God is leading and calling her. In the British Union, across the Division and I believe across the world, we are encouraging women in this way and we want to keep doing so – when I say

'we' I mean the Church. We want to affirm those whom God has called, and clearly God has called many men as well as many women. And let's not forget that to leave a life's career, or to change careers, or to send your life in a direction of ministry, is not something that is taken lightly. It is not done for the money; it is not done for the prestige; and clearly, if God has placed upon somebody's heart the impression that they want to enter into full-time ministry, we encourage such persons to do that, whether they be male or female.

Victor Hulbert: Two very short final questions: Firstly, what do you say to those within your sphere of influence who are absolutely opposed to women in ministry, to elders in ministry – what message do you have for them?

Ian Sweeney: The message I have for them is that while I worked as a local pastor many years ago – I won't identify the church – I worked with an elder who was very much opposed to female elders. In fact, he left the congregation where he was, as a point of principle, as a point of conscientious objection, you might say, to worship in the congregation of which I was the pastor because it did not have female elders. And I have to say, he was one of the best elders I have ever worked with. He respected the decision of the congregation which he left, and he didn't leave in the midst of a whole lot of warfare and contention. He just said, 'In my heart of hearts, I cannot do this,' and I think we need to have a greater understanding of and respect for people who differ with us like this. Whether we are pro or anti the ordination of female pastors, we should listen to each other and treat one another with

respect. And understand that we can be united, as I've said, in our diversity.

Victor Hulbert: Secondly and last of all then: what words do you have for our female pastors, some of whom are feeling discouraged at the moment – and to female elders, who, again, may be feeling under some pressure because of this vote?

Ian Sweeney: I can't find the quotation right now, but I've read Ellen White's own testimony that she believed she had been ordained of God.* What I would like to affirm to our female pastors is that what God has called you to is the real thing. What we do as a church is recognise what God has called an individual to do or to be. And I would hope that in time – and sometimes these things do take time – we may be able to do just that! I believe that our female colleagues should ever remember that their call came from God, and to whomever God calls He will give strength and equip to do the ministry. It's never going to be easy, even for our male colleagues, as we see in the lives of the prophets. They were called to a prophetic ministry and it wasn't easy. But God equipped them along the road. And I think that God will today equip our ministers, our male and female pastors, who have been called to ministry.

Victor Hulbert: Pastor Sweeney, thank you very much.

*In her later years, while recalling her experience in the Millerite movement and her first vision, she declared, 'In the city of Portland, the Lord ordained me as His messenger, and here my first labours were given to the cause of present truth' (Letter 138, 1909 in 6Bio 211).
<http://www.andrews.edu/~fortind/EGWOrdination.htm>

Scottish Mission Session notice

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PASTOR PAUL LOCKHAM,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



Pastors Maslin Holness and Nerine Barrett – exciting because 19 teens gave their hearts to Jesus and five more committed to baptism for the very next morning. The others are to be baptised in their home churches. Sharing speakers with the Youth programme, the teens were blessed by the relevant topics and dynamic sermons by Pastor Rebecca Davis, associate pastor at the Berean church in Atlanta, USA, and Pastor Michael Kelly, senior pastor at Rubidix in California, USA. Pastor Kelly spoke on how to develop youth and teens to be outstanding leaders in their communities.

Children

Our juniors had a special week as Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick encouraged them to learn more about each other, and about God. But probably the most exciting programme at Camp Meeting was the 5-8-year-olds' Holiday Bible Club. Organisers brought back the popular Space Academy and the room was packed with enthusiastic children who 'moonwalked', pretending to venture into space.

Pastors Wayne Erasmus, Cliff Herman and Jacques Venter led out, supported by several SEC staff dressed in space suits. The focus for the week was on Daniel, looking at how he was an 'alien' in a strange land.

Friday Communion

Friday evening is always special, and as Pastor Venter, senior pastor at Stanborough Park Church, led the adult Communion Service, he brought the theme of 'Knowing God's Heart' into the sermon through everyday illustrations. He skilfully introduced the taking of the bread

and wine by describing a Jewish ceremony where the future bride and groom declare their commitment to each other. 'If the groom felt the bride met his intentions with enthusiasm, he would drink from a cup and then pass the cup to her,' said Pastor Venter. 'If the bride took the cup and drank from it, it symbolised that she accepted his proposal and signalled a permanent commitment to the relationship.' Pastor Venter made the point that 'Jesus is inviting us to get back into this relationship; He's asking us to recommit and drink from the cup that He drank.'

Sabbath

On Sabbath the site filled with day visitors, and the focus fell on mission. Pastors Kirk Thomas (SEC Personal Ministries director) and Aris Vontzalidis (SEC Evangelism and Church Growth director) shared stories and testimonies from people involved in church planting and evangelistic outreach. In the afternoon a joyful graduation service celebrated those who had completed the School of Evangelism training. With caps and gowns and a Pathfinder parade, it was a ceremony filled with pomp and circumstance.

This was followed by a commissioning service in which

Trans-European Division executive secretary, Pastor Audrey Andersson, affirmed the calling in Pastor Maureen Rock's life and commissioned her to stand firm for the Lord. Pastor Andersson explained that the service 'represents an affirmation of your calling and His blessings and leading in your life, a setting aside to a deeper and more meaningful service and a commitment on your part to the Gospel ministry'.

Pastor Rock was introduced by Dr Brighton Kavaloh, who had supervised her internship at Brixton Church. Pastor Rock was baptised along with her husband, Andrew, and youngest daughter, Ionna, back in 1995.

Camp Meeting ended with the usual popular concert, this time under the leadership of Mike Johnson, SEC Music director. It saw an outpouring of talent, from the children's space academy theme song, 'I see the world God can see and just how much He cares for me', to Croydon Gospel Choir with their renowned 'Far from home'. It concluded with the Golden Chords, who have been ministering for 40 years, singing, 'Make it to the Promised Land'.

For more from the SEC Camp Meeting, see adventist.org.uk/news/2015/sec/knowning-gods-heart-sec-camp-meeting-2015.

across the desk



Dr John Baidam, principal of Newbold College of Higher Education, shares a little of his life and work with our MESSENGER readers.

Glasgow, before moving to live near Newbold College, where my mother still lives. Sadly, my father passed away some seven years ago.

Editor: John, many of our readers will be interested in your educational and professional background. Please tell us a bit about that.

JB: Julian, I went to the University of London, where I completed my first degree in German (French subsidiary) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education with a view to teaching in secondary education. After completing a Teacher's Supplementary Certificate at Newbold College, I taught in Hamburg, Germany, before being appointed Preceptor and teacher at Stanborough Secondary School, Watford. During that period I completed an MA in German from the University of London, specialising in Enlightenment literature with special reference to 'education' – whether pedagogic, scientific or aesthetic.

Editor: Where are you from?

JB: I was born just outside Glasgow of English parents, who served the Church in Scotland; then we moved to Cardiff in Wales, then to Birmingham and Leeds in England. After I had left home, my parents subsequently moved to Manchester, and then back up to Edinburgh and

I moved to Newbold College in 1982, becoming Director of what was known as the School of English & Modern Languages. I became Director of Admissions & Records in 1990, subsequently completing my PhD from the University of London. My thesis explored Johann Gottfried Herder's translations of the Song of Songs between 1772 and 1778 – essentially the degree is in eighteenth-century German

poetry, but there is a clear Biblical Studies thrust and my work was published by the former Sheffield Academic Press in their *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplementary Series*. In 1997 I moved to the position of Director of Academic Affairs at Newbold College, subsequently completing a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Management through the University of Twente, Netherlands. My role was combined in 2011 with the far wider brief of Deputy Principal at the college, and in May 2014 the Newbold College Board of Governors invited me to become Principal.

Editor: I notice that on your business card you include the letters CIEA and FAUA. Why are those important?

JB: These signify peer-awarded professional as opposed to academic recognition for my work not only within Newbold College, but also externally in areas such as assessment, management, administration, quality assurance and quality enhancement. The first denotes Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors, and the most recent, awarded in 2014, recognises me as a Fellow of the Association of University Administrators.

Editor: John, you have spent 40 years of your life in the service of Adventist education, no fewer than 33 of them in the same institution. Why?

JB: Well, Julian, when I was 11, I decided I wanted to teach. At the same age I attended my first graduation ceremony at Newbold College (in a marquee!) and was immeasurably impressed by what I experienced. When I was asked in 1975 to move from my teaching post in Hamburg, Germany, to work at Stanborough School, I was more than happy to do so. It is always a joy working with young people, and a move to Newbold 33 years ago cemented the excitement of working with students from so many different backgrounds, cultures and nationalities. Where else could I work with Christian colleagues and students from up to 60 countries, all on one relatively small campus? Newbold is family, where I look forward to the joys and challenges that each day brings.

Editor: You mentioned external involvement – can you give me some examples?

JB: Over the last several decades I have been involved at various times as a member of external accreditation and validation panels; as an external member of boards at other higher education providers; as Chair of Examiners for one of the UK's major examination boards; and for the past 16 years as Chair of the Board of Governors of the local secondary school. These external involvements have greatly enhanced the work I do for the college, and undoubtedly have helped to keep me fresh and working in the same place for so long.



Editor: After 40 years of working for the Church, have you no plans to retire?

JB: Interestingly I had great plans to retire, with a long list of retirement projects – but all that was put on hold when the Newbold Board of Governors invited me to become Principal. It would have been unfair for me to accept this responsibility for just a year or two, so as long as I am fit and healthy I will continue to give my best to the college and the Church – at least until I get a gentle tap on the shoulder from the board chair suggesting that I might want to spend a little more time with my golf clubs!

Editor: What excites you most about your role?

JB: I learn something new every day. I am regularly asked questions which I have never heard before and to which I need to give an appropriate response. And no two days are remotely similar! I go to work thinking I know what committees lie ahead that day, which people I have appointments with, and what administrative tasks I need to accomplish – but there will still be surprises (mostly pleasant ones).

Editor: What are your greatest daily challenges?

JB: Having so little time when there is so much to accomplish. And of course making decisions which please some and distress others, though I like to think I've always been good at separating the personal from the professional when it comes to relationships with my colleagues.

Editor: John, you probably don't

get a lot of time for hobbies, so how do you relax?

JB: Yes, you're right! I don't think I have taken enough time to relax over the last year or so, so I need to indulge my passion for opera more and get a few more rounds of golf under my belt . . . which is becoming rather too tight! However, I manage to read a lot (mainly on trains and in airports) and have recently read the whole Thomas Hardy canon. And I go to as many of Reading Football Club's mid-week home games as possible.

Editor: Your passion for opera – tell us a bit more about that.

JB: My undergraduate studies included a spell at the University of Vienna in Austria, during which I went against my better judgement to a Mozart performance in the magnificent State Opera House. I was hooked, and have enjoyed almost half a century of opera in various countries. I adore anything from Handel to Wagner to Britten and Berg! And for years I have shared my interest with students in our

Fine Arts classes at Newbold.

Editor: I have heard it whispered that you pursue an unusual pastime – care to share it with our readers?

JB: I used to play a lot of cricket until I was lured by the role of the umpire – I joined my wife in qualifying as a cricket scorer before going on to complete my umpiring qualifications, for which I am a member of the England & Wales Cricket Board's Association of Cricket Officials.

Editor: What do you feel you have accomplished as you enter your second year as Principal?

JB: I believe I have already brought a measure of healing to colleagues after a number of turbulent and painful years; I have overseen successful reviews by the Adventist Accrediting Association and the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education; I have worked hard with colleagues to bring back a partnership with a UK university, namely the University of Wales Trinity Saint David; I am encouraging greater fiscal responsibility on campus, to which our balanced budgets testify; and I continue to work hard with colleagues to fulfil as far as possible all the recommendations made through the Board of Governors by the Regeneration Planning Group in February 2014. And I was so pleased to see that in a recent student survey, Newbold's opportunities for spiritual growth came out on top.

Editor: John, how about a few thoughts on San Antonio?

JB: I loved the time I was able to spend interacting with Newbold

alumni, and was delighted that our alumni event was so well attended and has attracted so many positive comments. Each decade going back to the 1950s was represented, and it drove home the point to me that Newbold is more than a Division institution. We actually are a global college, punching well above our weight right round the world. Newbold is clearly so dear to so many people.

Apart from that, it was interesting to hear speeches and even sermons which blurred the borders between spiritual nourishment and political diatribe. And, disappointing as the vote on women's ordination was to so many, particularly in Europe, at least the 'yes' option polled over 40% of the vote – no mean achievement in the face of swathes of opposition.

Editor: What would you like your college legacy to be?

JB: I would like my legacy to be that I helped to move the college from potential closure to a thriving, healthy provider of Adventist education; that I oversaw a large increase in student enrolment; that I supported colleagues in ensuring a financially healthy institution; and that I was successful in encouraging our young people in the BUC to attend Newbold, even if for one semester, to prepare them for a life of mission and evangelism. It is my dream that my sisters and brothers throughout Britain will all regard Newbold as their college, rather than just an irrelevant Division entity which happens to be less than an hour from central London.

Editor: John, thank you for joining us for our first 'across the desk' interview.



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NEWBOLD COLLEGE
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the second mile



Fund-raising in Ballymoney

by Pastor Weiers Coetser

A father-and-daughter duo who persistently go the second mile to raise both funds and awareness for good causes.

The printed booklet that was handed out at the event tells David's story. 'David has been a dedicated volunteer with BHF Northern Ireland for three years. He was struck by a heart attack five years ago and since his remarkable recovery he has dedicated his time to giving something back. He has singlehandedly raised an incredible £6,000, and his passion and relentless determination are a great asset as well as a great inspiration to the volunteer team in Northern Ireland.'

In March this year, one of David's fund-raising

performer Allistair Coyles, and Elvis tribute singer Andy Rodgers. On the evening of the concert, David was pacing up and down in the venue, wondering if people would come for the concert. Securing the hall and the



Ask anybody in Ballymoney, 'What happens when David Dickie walks into a bar?' and the inevitable answer is, 'He's lookin' for ye' money!' So it came as no surprise when on 16 June the effort of this veteran fund-raiser was recognised at a supporters' conference of the British Heart Foundation, Northern Ireland. David, who is also a member of the Coleraine church, received the 'fund-raiser of the year' award at a gala event held at the Dunsilly hotel in Antrim.

'There were several people listed on the programme to receive recognition for various contributions to the work of the British Heart Foundation. At least three were in the category of fund-raising,' says David. 'As the presentations were made, my eye fell on a promotional poster with a photo of a bloke who looked very much like myself. I had not seen it before, and I thought that something must be coming up. A few minutes later I was called to the stage.'



campaigns caught the imagination of people in Ballymoney and further afield. Together with a team of friends he pushed a balloon-filled bath, mounted on wheels, around the town. That effort raised more than £1,000.

In April, David, supported by his wife, Irene, staged a variety music concert in the Ballymoney town hall, featuring a line-up of performers including a Mid-Ulster favourite, country

performers required a significant financial commitment. The people of Ballymoney did not disappoint. On the evening there was not an empty seat in the facility and the evening of maudlin tunes and Northern Irish humour by compère, Gary Wilson, was a huge success.

Commenting on Facebook, Stacey Dickie, daughter of David and Irene, said, 'So proud of my dad today. . . I think it's well deserved, 'cause he has worked his wee socks off over the past few years to raise a massive amount of money. . . Well done Dad.'

The Dickies are no strangers to fund-raising for good causes. David takes several days' leave each year in March/April to raise money for ADRA. Stacey has followed in her parent's footsteps. In April she participated in a nine-day Big Cycle around Ireland with a team that raised £11,000 for Cancer Focus NI, and on 14 June she abseiled down the Europa Hotel to raise money for Lighthouse, a suicide prevention charity in Belfast.

'It's all about making a difference,' says David, for whom faith is much more about practical living than simply focusing on doctrine. 'We have been blessed with so much. We are always grateful, and it is a privilege to share the joy.' Such an approach to life is certainly worthy of recognition . . . and perhaps a wee donation when you see David again.



The Stanborough Press

Open Day

Sunday 13 September



GUEST SPEAKER:

Pastor Mark Finley

Evangelist and Author

Pastor Mark Finley and his wife Ernestine have been involved in Christian ministry for more than 40 years – preaching, teaching, offering spiritual

growth workshops and presenting healthful lifestyle lectures. Pastor Finley served as 'It is Written's speaker/director from 1991 to 2004. In 2005, he was appointed as Vice President for Global Evangelism until July 2010, when he became the Assistant to the President of the General Conference. He kept this position until the recent GC session in San Antonio.

As a profound writer, Pastor Mark Finley draws from his years of experience in pastoral work to reach people from all walks of life. His books touch and change lives by tackling today's issues in an easily understood manner, highlighting the plan of redemption that is available to each of us. His wife has also most recently written a cookbook presenting fantastic ideas for healthy meals.

Both Mark Finley and his wife have conducted more than 150 evangelistic series that have spanned the globe. His sermons have been translated into 80 languages. In his efforts to reach people all over the world, Pastor Finley became a pioneer of satellite evangelism technology.

Stanborough Press is pleased to have Pastor Mark Finley as our keynote speaker for our Open Day.

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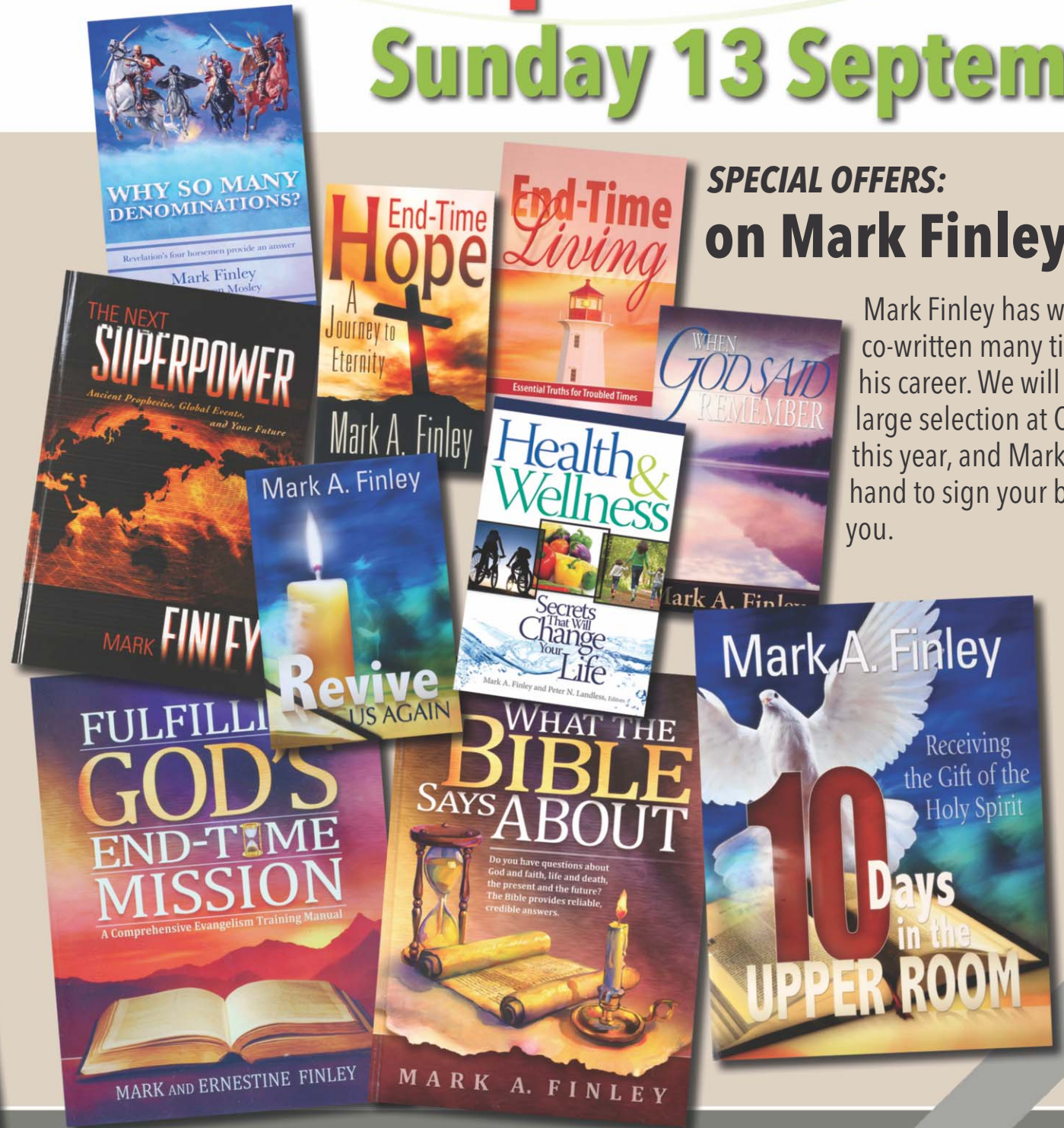
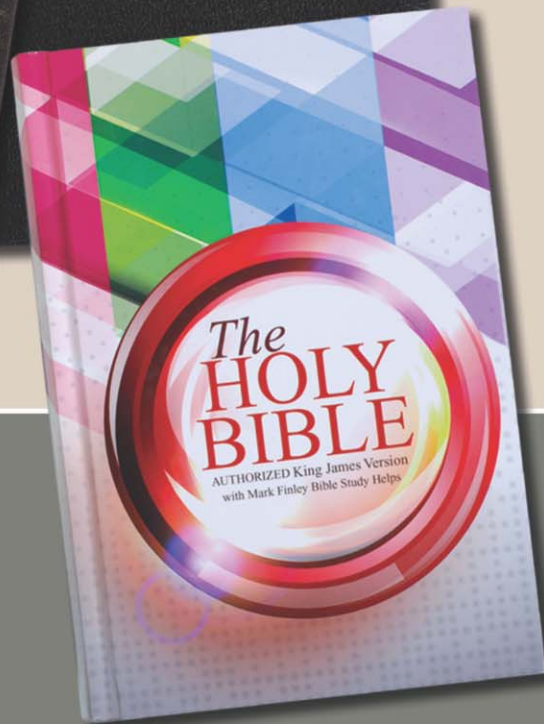
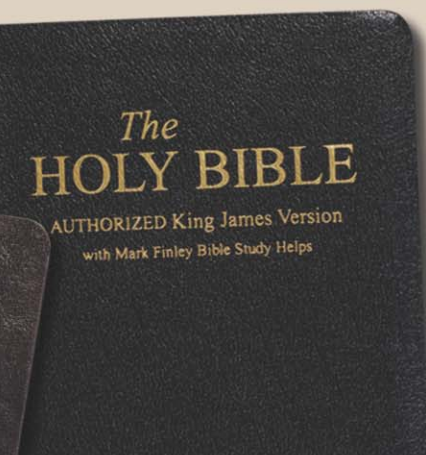
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Sunday 13 September



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Open Day transport

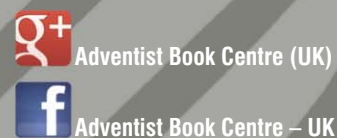
Brother Hubert Smiley is arranging the usual coach transport to the Stanborough Press Open Day, 13 September, from both London (Croydon, Brixton, Battersea and Fulham) and the West Midlands (Pendeford, Wolverhampton, Great Brickkiln, Walsall, Handsworth and Camp Hill). For details, including fares, please phone 07868288310 or 01384213803, or email hubert.smiley18@gmail.com. Failing those methods, dial 07831958114 or 07736509625.

Plan to enjoy this very special day with us; we look forward to seeing you all!

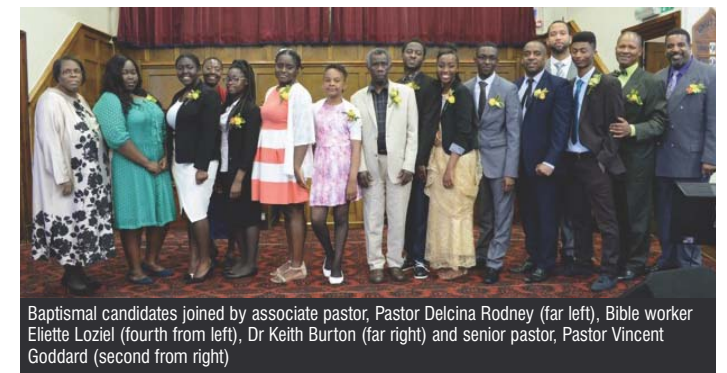
Sunday 13 September

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baptisms



Baptismal candidates joined by associate pastor, Pastor Delcina Rodney (far left), Bible worker Eliette Loziel (fourth from left), Dr Keith Burton (far right) and senior pastor, Pastor Vincent Goddard (second from right)

Brixton 'harvest'

During May the Brixton church hosted an evangelistic series presided over by the senior pastor, Ebenezer Jones-Lartey. The programme was well-attended and the topics covered by his sermons were attention-gripping and inspiring: so much so that five new members were 'harvested' for Christ's kingdom at the close of the series. They are pictured above with Pastor Jones-Lartey and some of his team.

*PASTOR EBENEZER JONES-LARTEY
(UNFORTUNATELY THE CANDIDATES' NAMES WERE NOT SUPPLIED, BUT WE WISH THEM WELL IN THEIR NEW WALK WITH JESUS. EDITOR)*



Les wins workmate

A few years ago a member of the South Cumbria church, Les Shaw, an electrician at the Sellafield atomic energy plant, was given a new workmate. Les, a hardy but diminutive character with a dry sense of humour, was suddenly overshadowed by a young 6' 7" rugby player, Nick Murray.

Les, unperturbed by some scoffing workmates, used to read his Bible during break times. This intrigued Nick, who had spent many years as a missionary's son in some rather remote places, and had later attended a Baptist seminary for four years. They started to talk 'Jesus', ignoring many of our doctrines – they would come later.

Then one day Nick was moved to a different part of this huge atomic plant and, needless to say, Les was rather disappointed.

Some years later Nick rang and said that he would like to see him. He had been watching Doug Batchelor on the internet. They talked, and this time they talked 'doctrine'. Nick was on fire, he couldn't get enough, the Holy Spirit had gripped him. The pastor visited and presented him with our set of doctrines. He read them through, agreed with each and every one of them, and asked to be baptised.

This worried his parents, who told him that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was a cult religion. He studied their points of concern and saw that we stand for truth.

He was baptised by Pastor Roman Smejkal, assisted by the writer, on 23 May.

KEITH HAMILTON

PHOTO: LISA LUISI

Holloway baptises 11

Does the Bible contain a curse against the dark-skinned children of Ham? Where does Islam fit into Bible prophecy? And what difference does the Sabbath really make? Anyone who watched online or who attended Holloway Church between 23 May and 6 June would have received answers and an assurance that God holds the present and the future in His hands.

The speaker for our Prophecy Unleashed series was Dr Keith Augustus Burton, a well-known author who currently serves as director of the Centre for Adventist-Muslim Relations at Oakwood University. With his warm laugh, charisma and wealth of knowledge, he opened our eyes to relevant world events and highlighted the soon coming of Christ.

Between 100 and 150 people filled the church each night, including many guests. There were also many online viewers. The sermons made an impact in the Holloway community, which includes the Finsbury Park Mosque and several major colleges and high-ranked universities. As part of the church's preparation for the campaign a health fair was held in Finsbury Park; some church members dropped leaflets in the community; while others donated flowers to help make the church more presentable; or welcomed guests each night.

The concerted efforts of the church members and Dr Burton's sermons met the needs of our community, resulting in one of Holloway's largest baptisms in recent years, with 11 people dedicating their lives to Christ and three requesting further Bible studies.

HOLLOWAY COMMUNICATIONS



Student baptised in Exeter

Kerigma David, from Angola, came to Exeter University as a student of mining engineering after having been 'strongly influenced' by her Adventist mother back home. Soon after arriving in Exeter she requested Bible studies, and Pastor Ian Lorek and his wife, Romola, were happy to oblige.

On 20 June she was baptised by Pastor Lorek in the presence of the church members and a number of her university friends. After this Kerigma (whose name means 'preaching' in Greek) was formally welcomed into the Exeter fellowship by Stella Jeffery and the pastor. Tabitha Sonneveld, who had been on an internship in Exeter for a few months, was also presented with a card and a gift, as she is planning to be baptised in her native Holland in the autumn.

After the service, at the fellowship lunch, the members and visitors were able to welcome the newest member of the church family, while Kerigma cut a cake which she had made for this special occasion.

STELLA JEFFERY



Newmarket health expo

On 27 June Cambridge Church and Haverhill Fellowship conducted a professionally run Health MOT venture in Newmarket, Suffolk.

Although it was a perfect summer's day and the town was crowded with those attending the popular Newmarket racecourse, the bright yellow T-shirts of our 'street runners' made them conspicuous as they invited people in for a check-up.

The response to their warm invitations was excellent and those manning the various expo stations were under pressure for more than four hours with hardly a breather.

The attendees were smilingly treated to advice and health screenings that included Body Mass Index assessments; blood pressure and peak flow checks; health age screening; physical fitness tests; massages; counselling; and the opportunity to taste some healthy smoothies. The Lord blessed the event with between 40 and 50 receiving check-ups, some accompanied by family members. Hopefully all had a special and unforgettable experience with this little-known group of Adventists in town.

The expo comes in support of an ongoing series of health talks being run under the title of 'The Body Temple'.

Many of our visitors expressed heartfelt appreciation for the services provided by the team and some have shown an interest in attending church services. All praise be to God, great things He hath done!

HENRY MAKUYANA

Happy birthday Brenda!

Brenda James celebrated her eightieth birthday on Sabbath, 27 June, and was presented with a flower arrangement at Birmingham Camp Hill Church to mark the occasion!

JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Children's health expo at Leeds Central

Adult health expos have been held in Leeds before, but on 14 June, for the first time, one was aimed at children of 8-12 years. It was organised by the Children's Ministries leader, Paula Morris, and her enthusiastic team, and prior training was provided for participating stallholders.

The stalls were based on NEWSTART: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God. Interactive activities at each stall took the form of games, songs (which the children enjoyed) and the learning of key messages. Every child received a goody bag containing information for each stall, as well as a certificate of attendance.

About thirty children and parents attended the expos, and spare goody bags were also distributed in the city centre, where they were well received.

V. MAYNARD



Kasia's kindness

Darlington's Rotary Young Citizen of the Year, Kasia Polkoszek, a student at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, chose to donate the £100 cheque she received as part of her award to the Special Needs Camp of the North England Conference. This project is important to Kasia as she cares for a Down's Syndrome lady who attends the camp.

In the above photo she is seen presenting the donation to Colin Woodford of the Special Needs Camp. If you would like to follow Kasia's unselfish example contact Joy at js.bussey@ntlworld.com.

JOY BUSSEY



A dream comes true

It was in 2014 that Brother V. Maxwell of Tottenham Church felt inspired to organise a week-long health programme for the Haringey community. This was achieved with the help of a small team. The Awotwi family designed the logo, flyers and volunteer T-shirts. Over 10,000 flyers were distributed and the programme was well advertised through local radio, posters in local libraries and supermarkets, and even via a dedicated Facebook page. On 16 May our Pathfinders marched through Tottenham along with other church members to further advertise the programme, which ran from 24 to 31 May with the support of the members and the SEC (Pastors Sam Davis and Kirk Thomas in particular).

The programme was opened by Councillor Griffith, SEC president Pastor Sam Davis, and Roger Charles (elder), accompanied by Tottenham's Pathfinders. Councillor Griffith was so impressed with the health programme that he returned for his own health check and to take a closer look at the activities on offer. We offered our visitors free health checks, supported by a small team who work for Tottenham Hotspur Football Association, Elsie Staple (SEC Health Ministries director) and Sister Kirwan (Area 6a Health co-ordinator). We also provided health presentations, which took place every day. The presenters were from local organisations and they freely volunteered their time to cover topics such as diabetes, stress, Alzheimer's, sexual health and high blood pressure.

Stallholders from the community were given the opportunity to sell their goods. During the week the cookery school proved to be a hit with the community as well as our members. The cooking classes were filled to capacity as chef Alvin McQueen charismatically showed the participants how to cook tasty vegan meals, which they were then able to take home. Alvin was also our speaker for the evening evangelistic programme.

During the programme we gave out hundreds of books and leaflets, made contact with members of the public who otherwise would never have visited our local church, and were able to pray with a number of our visitors. We have received an invitation to put on a programme in our local library and to work with various local organisations. Our visitors received a thank-you card for attending the health programme and further follow-up has since begun. A dream has certainly come true!

SONIA MUNROE (ELDER AT TOTTENHAM CHURCH)

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PARENTING EMPHASIS

WEEKEND (Area 6)

WHEN: Saturday, 19th Sept. 2015
9:30am - 6:15pm

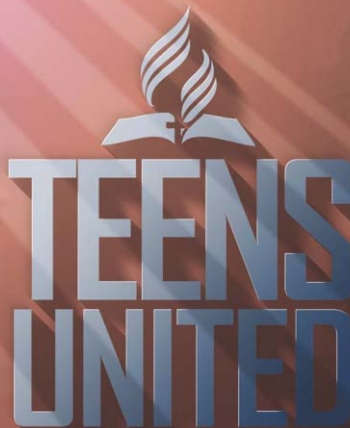
Sunday, 20th Sept. 2015
10am - 3pm

WHERE: Wolverhampton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church
Warwick Street, Horsley Fields
Wolverhampton WV1 3SD

GUEST SPEAKERS:
Clair Sanches (TED Children's & Family Ministries Director) & **Dr. John Sanches**

Contact NEC Children's Ministries Dept. on 0115 9606 312 or visit www.necadventist.org.uk.

TRAIN ...up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6



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Welcome home

On 4 July Leamington Mission members were delighted to welcome James Watson back from Nepal, where he has been assisting with humanitarian work in the wake of that country's devastating earthquake (and aftershocks). James, who had set off to travel around India, immediately put his travels on hold and devoted the next few weeks to helping with relief work.

Part of that work involved the raising of a substantial sum of money, £5,154, that was channelled directly to where it was needed: over 7 tons of rice, along with other food supplies; tools and building materials; transportation and fuel costs; tarpaulins; and, later, educational supplies.

During his report he spoke movingly of the great loss many people had suffered. Particularly painful was the loss of loved ones, but many had also lost their homes and all their possessions too. *LORRAINE GLINTON*

Editor's comment: I wish to commend the efforts of James and his informal 'team' for the work they did in Nepal. It will not be listed among the efforts of the great relief organisations but it serves as a real inspiration to each of us.



Nealsen sings heart out for God

The Halesowen church plant was organised in February of 2012 with around 40 in attendance, including children. Since then they have been renting a building for their worship and fellowship activities. They know that their influence in the community and their success in outreach would improve if they had a 'home' of their own. To achieve this they recently held a 'Proclaim the glory of the Lord' concert to raise urgently needed funds. The Advent Melodies were joined by 10-year-old Nealsen Clifford to present an inspiring programme that was well-attended by many.

The church plant has made a recording of the concert and these DVDs are available from <https://nealsenmircklifford.wordpress.com/nealsenmircklifford-live-in-concert-2015-halesowen/>.

Please support this special group where you can.

DIANA R. SINCLAIR (CAMP HILL)


BOOKSALES

August
16 Rye Summer Festival

September
6 Hyland House (formerly John Loughborough) 10am-2pm
13 Stanborough Press Open Day

ABC Shops
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Sunday - 11am-3pm.
0121 3286380
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm.
Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset.
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100 years of Adventism in Montserrat – UK celebration

On 15 November 1915, the Adventist church was started on the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat, in the home of Narna Jane Greaves of Flemings, Salem, under the ministry of Pastor J. J. Smith.

On Sabbath 23 May this year over 600 Montserratians and their friends gathered at the Mount Zion Conference Centre in Birmingham for the 15th Annual Montserrat Day of Fellowship and the centennial of this wonderful beginning. This worship experience was also witnessed by 624 online viewers.

For the day's gathering, we adopted the theme, 'Embracing Our Past with Hope for the Future – Heaven at Last', which is the theme for the year-long centenary celebrations in Montserrat.

During the morning's programme, we took an historical journey from the birth of the church in 1915 till the present day, including how the island's five churches were established. It also incorporated the history of music, Pathfindering and education on the island. The afternoon session included updates on the programmes currently taking place in Montserrat and the testimonies of those members who have relocated to the UK since the volcanic activity began in 1995.

In attendance was Pastor Ian Sweeney, President of the British



Grantham investiture

Grantham Church has not held an Adventurers/Pathfinders investiture day for many years, which made the event on 27 June so memorable. Supported by the Nottingham Central Pathfinders and three of their very capable drummers, the combined clubs marched proudly into church to conduct a worship service of their very own.

Robert Hughes (Pathfinder director) and Chim Nuka (Adventurer director) were ably assisted by Levon Johns (Area 4 co-ordinator) and Pastor Alan Hush (NEC Pathfinder director) throughout the programme. Pastor Hush presented a sermon that held the attention of all ages, after which the awards were handed out. Thank God for our precious children and those who look after them each Sabbath.

SHEBA M. HUGHES

Erdington's top collector

During this year's Ingathering, Don Parker increased his door-to-door collection tally, as he does every year.

Don celebrated his eightieth birthday in June this year, but was still



unforgiving spirit, untruthful practices and sexual immorality. He left us with the secure hope that as long as we endure, we will inherit the Kingdom of God.

The Lord has allowed the church in Montserrat to endure and grow for the past 100 years as a result of its willingness to carry out His great commission, in spite of the challenges placed on it by various factors, including mother nature.

MARCELLE RILEY

able to collect £2,665.75 for ADRA's good causes. In percentage terms, his share represented 57 percent of the church's total of £4,673.13.

Don finds joy in collecting for ADRA every year. He does so many things for the church, but Ingathering is definitely his special gift.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



Centre for Christian Leadership

Newbold's Centre for Christian Leadership aims to provide an opportunity for church members and those in leadership positions to enhance their skills and knowledge in spiritual, educational and social ministry through the practical and theoretical short and intensive courses it offers. Register for workshops and find out more at www.newbold.ac.uk/centre-christian-leadership.

Flowers for Worship

Sunday 13 September 2015 – from £31

This is a half-day workshop on flower arranging for ministry, taught by Audrey Balderstone, recent winner of a gold medal at the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show. Flowers are a reminder of God's creative power and should be as much a part of the worship experience as hymns and prayers. They can set the mood or tell a story, and enhance the place of worship. This workshop is designed to help flower arrangers make the most of their limited budgets while producing arrangements which are powerful witnesses to the beauty of creation.

Sabbath School Teacher Training Certificate

Sunday 6 September, 27 September, and 1 November 2015 – from £98 for all three parts

This workshop will be offered over three Sundays in 2015. It is designed to help participants to plan and teach Adult Sabbath School lessons that are interesting, interactive, and spiritually uplifting. The certificate is offered in three parts, with participants able to complete Part 1, Parts 1 and 2, or Parts 1, 2 and 3. All three parts must be completed to be awarded the certificate.



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To find out more about our ADRA Connections trips visit us online at: adra.org.uk/get-involved.




'They're fantastic!'

These were the words of a visitor to the Cotgrave Annual Festival on Sabbath, 20 June as she watched the drum and drill display put on by Nottingham Central Pathfinders. Another person commented on how good it was to see young people engaged in such activities. The crowd were invited to take part in the drill, and four members of the community successfully completed the 'automatic drill' routine, cheered on by the crowd. Retired colonel, John Ludlam (OBE) of the British Legion took part and reported that he found the Pathfinders an inspiration and a credit to our community. He was so moved that he invited the Pathfinders to take part in the Remembrance Sunday service later this year. Leaflets about Pathfinding were distributed, answering those frequent questions of 'Who are they?' 'Where do they come from?' and 'What do they stand for?'

The Pathfinders were joined by the Health and Temperance team of Nottingham Central Church, who registered thirty people with the NEWSTART health expo. Six participants requested Bible studies and many commented on how wonderful it was to have all this information in one place. They took part in all the activities, from finding out how much water they should drink, to having a back massage to aid relaxation.

This was a wonderful opportunity for all involved to draw the community's attention to Pathfinders and our wonderful health message, and to share the the Spirit of God's love with them.

IRIS JOHNS, AREA CO-ORDINATOR (NEC AREA 4)

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Aug 14	8.26	8.38	8.34	8.53	8.59
21	8.12	8.24	8.19	8.36	8.43
28	7.57	8.09	8.04	8.18	8.26
Sept 4	7.41	7.53	7.47	8.00	8.09

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