

Messenger

News to the churches • 12 February 2016 • Volume 121 • 3

Evangelism affirmed at SEC expo

Over 1,600 people attended the South England Conference's 2016 Evangelism Expo at Newbold College on Sunday, 10 January. It was the best-attended expo in the history of the SEC.

SEC President, Dr Richard de Lisser, said that 'Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere' (EEE) was this quadrennium's vision. 'EEE should be at the heart of everything, starting with ourselves and those close to us, then our local community, and finally globally . . . I want to see everyone taking part in evangelism.' He then shared the plans of the big evangelistic campaign due to take place in September in collaboration with the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN). Those attending from 3ABN were President/CEO Danny Shelton, Pastor John Lomacang, Pastor C. A. Murray and Dr Yvonne Lewis.

'I am excited to be here, especially seeing the faces I normally just see on 3ABN. It is also good to see that they are here to encourage us and equip us on how to get the word of God to everyone,' said one attendee.

'We have a special message,' said Shelton as he told the story of how he started 3ABN. 'I wanted everyone to know the truth and spread the three angels' messages. God has called each one of us to do something great; we just have to ask the Lord for His leading. London has been impressed upon our hearts; that is why we are here.'

The expo was dedicated to empowering the members for evangelism.

'If God could use the twelve disciples to spread the good news, how much more can He do with all the Adventists in the SEC?' said Lomacang in his opening sermon. 'God is bound to do great things if His people are willing to preach His word.'

Antonio Belgrave, the SEC strategic co-ordinator, said, 'The churches will have to be responsible for creating the kind of church they want to see. The Conference is committed to giving all the support that is needed.'

Ashley Philip from Harlow Central Church enjoyed the Community Services and Children's Crèche training led by Malika Bediako. 'One of the things Ms Bediako encouraged is that we do not judge our children. . . . I am now leader of the Adventurers' club in my church. I will be using all the skills I have learnt!'

The 3ABN team closed the event with a concert, after which Dr de Lisser stood to give his closing challenge, during which he asked, 'Are you fired up?' To which the congregation called out, 'Ready to go!' This was truly an affirmation of the SEC's commitment to evangelism.

JUDITH MAKANIANKHONDO



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Enhancing Health

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

Going natural Part 10a – Winter wellness naturally

This issue of *Enhancing Health* commences a mini-series on keeping well *naturally* during the winter months.

Genesis 8:22 reminds us of the cyclical nature of life. It reads: 'While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.' (NKJV.)

Nature prepares itself for each season in the ongoing cycle of life. We see it in the transition of the landscape and the adaptations in the animal kingdom so that every living thing may survive in spite of the seasonal changes – even the harshness of winter. Yet as humans we often succumb to the 'winter chills – winter ills' existence, with 'winter pills' becoming part of the equation.

Each winter, pharmaceutical companies make millions in revenue from customers treating winter maladies with a variety of prescriptions and over-the-counter medicaments.

An online article by the Independent Community Pharmacist,¹ entitled, 'Brands warm up for winter', states: 'The cold and flu category is now valued at a hearty £142.5 million, benefiting from a 19 per cent year-on-year increase.'

Along with the expense come the concerns about some of the ingredients in these medications. One herbal practitioner, Betzy Bancroft,² has some suggestions for natural remedies that can help with some of the common cold symptoms:

- Echinacea – may help support the immune system to fight colds
- Elderberry – helpful for seasonal flus
- Elderflower – can induce sweating, which may help reduce fever

- Eucalyptus – antibacterial and expectorant properties; can loosen congestion for easier breathing
- Goldenseal – can help with bacterial infections
- Ginger – can help ease congestion and warm the body, and its anti-inflammatory properties work as a sore-throat remedy
- Licorice – has immune-boosting and throat-soothing properties, but avoid if hypertensive
- Sage – can help to ease sore throats and dry up sinuses
- Slippery elm – a sore-throat soother high in 'mucilage', a substance that coats the throat and helps relieve coughs
- Thyme – contains antibacterial compounds

As usual we advise that you speak with your doctor before trying any new remedies (including herbs) – especially if your symptoms are severe, if you are on medication or if you have a chronic health condition.

For more information on keeping well in winter visit NHS Choices at: <http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/winterhealth/Pages/Winterhealthhome.aspx>.

In the next instalment we look at some adverse health outcomes during the winter months and how to avoid them.

Good health!

¹<http://www.independentpharmacist.co.uk/brands-warm-up-for-winter>
²<http://www.wholeliving.com/136113/15-natural-remedies-winter-season>

editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Without a trace

During a night exercise on 16 October 1969, a South African Air Force Hawker Siddeley Buccaneer crashed mysteriously into the Indian Ocean just south of the busy port city of Durban.¹ Despite an extensive and protracted search, it took 46 years for a single piece of wreckage from Buccaneer 415 of 24 Squadron to be found.

Why am I telling you this? Well, I grew up just a few miles from where those two young pilots flew out to sea that fateful night. And just two months after the incident, while selling Adventist literature in that area, I met a woman whose story sent shivers down my spine on a bright sunny day. She told me that she was a spiritualist medium who was in contact with the 'spirits' of these missing men.

According to her, they had not been able to eject and were trapped in the aircraft as it sank. So convinced was she of her 'facts' that she had shared them with the local authorities, even giving them what she thought to be the approximate location of the wreckage!

This was my first face-to-face encounter with a medium and, despite my natural curiosity, I kept it as brief as possible. Everything about the situation was weird – the intimate detail of the accident; the alleged conversations with the dead pilots; her dress, hairstyle and demeanour; and the gloomy spiritualist shrine in her garden.

I don't but millions do . . .

I don't believe that she spoke to those missing pilots, or that she knew the location of the wreck. Like you – and the wisest man who ever lived – I believe that the dead are just what it says on the label, dead: 'For the living know that they will die, but the dead know

nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten.' (Ecclesiastes 9:5, NIV.) Unfortunately, though, millions would take her word against ours!

In fact, the most widely held religious belief today, across every continent and in all major world religions, is that the dead are not dead. This belief, that humans automatically retain some form of consciousness beyond the point at which they are considered clinically dead, is virtually universal. Religions may differ widely and acrimoniously over who the supreme deity is; how he or she 'saves' us; *how, when and where* we should worship; and every other nuance of faith – but all seem in general agreement with history's first recorded medium: 'And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.' (Genesis 3:4, KJV.)

An important change

Chapter 17 of our *Fundamental Beliefs* ('The Gift of Prophecy') comments on the 'rise of modern spiritualism', indicating that in 1850 Ellen White 'identified it as a last-day deception and predicted its growth. Although at that time the movement was decidedly anti-Christian, she foresaw that this hostility would change, and that it would become respectable among Christians.'²

Spiritualism's mediums and clairvoyants have certainly stepped out of the proverbial closet since those days. They no longer confine themselves to dark and dingy séance rooms. Now they have their own churches, hymns and services; but more than that, some of the boldest and most charismatic of them now appear under the bright studio lights of popular television talk shows.

Heard of E! yet?

I hadn't until very recently. *E!* Entertainment Television, commonly known as *E!*, is an 'American basic cable and satellite television channel that is owned by NBCUniversal'. It 'features entertainment-related programming, reality television, feature films', and as of February 2015 'it had an audience reach of approximately 94,296,000 American households (81.0% of households)'. It is also available in Canada and Australia, and various countries across Europe and Asia.³

E! is the kind of TV that entertains a lot of people. But it does more than that: **it is actively promoting contact with the so-called spirit world.** On Sunday 24 January they served up the series premiere of *Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry* to that vast potential audience of more than 80% of US households!

Who is this Tyler Henry? He is the twenty-year-old 'poster boy' of twenty-first century celebrity clairvoyants (spiritualist mediums) and they describe him as a 'medium extraordinaire' to some of Los Angeles' brightest stars! He is popularising that original misconception: the one that Adam and Eve fell for in the Garden of Eden. Yes, it seems that Tyler is the fresh and innocent face of the ancient art of necromancy.⁴

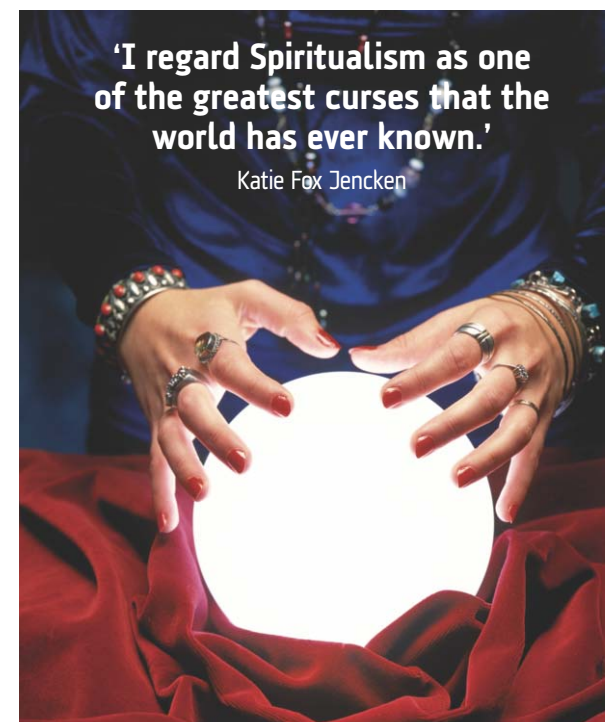
A word from the founders . . .

It is common knowledge that the three Fox sisters of Hydesville, New York, were prominent among the founders of modern spiritualism. It was they who began that famous dialogue of 'rappings' with 'Old Splitfoot' (the devil) in 1848, and it was their activities that Ellen White saw growing into a last-day deception of immense proportions. What is not so well known is that two of the sisters, Margaret and Katie, went on to make the following signed confessions:

'That I have been chiefly instrumental in perpetrating the fraud of Spiritualism upon a too-confiding public, most of you doubtless know. The greatest sorrow in my life has been that this is true, and though it has come late in my day, . . . I am here tonight as one of the founders of Spiritualism to denounce it as an absolute falsehood from beginning to end, as the flimsiest of superstitions, the most wicked blasphemy known to the world.' (Margaretta Fox Kane.)⁵

'I regard Spiritualism as one of the greatest curses that the world has ever known.' (Katie Fox Jencken.)⁶

I guess that Margaret and Katie knew what they were talking about!



'I regard Spiritualism as one of the greatest curses that the world has ever known.'

Katie Fox Jencken

¹<http://www.saairforce.co.za/the-airforce/history/saaf/attrition-summaries/17> ²<http://www.sdanet.org/atissue/books/27/27-17.htm> ³<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E!> ⁴<http://www.eonline.com/uk/news/716213/meet-celebrity-clairvoyant-tyler-henry-the-star-of-e-s-latest-reality-series-hollywood-medium> ⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fox_sisters ⁶*ibid.*

The stalls came alive to the sound of music

by the Editor

During October last year Mary Philip, the Health/Community and Disability Ministries leader of Bristol Central Church, visited the local fruit and vegetable market in St Phillips, Bristol. While there one of the market workers expressed surprise at the quantity of produce she was buying. She told him that it was for a forthcoming event her church was taking part in.

The man's curiosity got the better of him and he asked what church she attended, to which she confidently replied, 'The Seventh-day Adventist Church.'

Then the market chairman, David Rogers, who had overheard the conversation, asked Mary if she could sing. She responded immediately by singing 'Amazing Grace' and David joined in too!

Then David said something to surprise her even further. He said that he would love to have the Adventists come down to the market and sing Christmas carols and other gospel songs.

And that is briefly how the market's stalls came alive with the sound of gospel music between 10 and 11am on Friday 11 December. Mary brought 15 other Bristol members with her and they sang their hearts out, while David Rogers sang along and clapped his hands to the tunes. He even sent videos of the carol singing to some of his co-workers, one of whom said, 'I was in



hospital recovering after surgery when I received the video. It was like watching a big screen. That really made my day.' Another said, 'You all were great. I really enjoyed the singing.' Dave gave everyone who took part a free box of fruit and a specially printed

visibility jacket, and requested that the group come again another time. He also promised to visit the church one day. The group were also able to give away some *Steps to Christ* books and other literature to those who listened to the joyful tunes.

Youthful courage is rewarded

At times, when we stand up for our beliefs we may feel that we are on our own. For this reason we would like to relate our son's story so others can be encouraged by it.

Robin is 17 and in his second year at Cirencester sixth form college. Initially he had no classes on a Friday afternoon, but this past year he was scheduled to have a class until 4pm. (This was not an issue we ever had to face when we were at school as the day finished earlier.) As a family we discussed this and felt that it would be best to finish at 3.30pm after the October half term, and up until a couple of weeks into the New Year. In this way Robin would be able to be well away from the college and at home before Sabbath began.

Robin spoke to his tutor, Keith, to ask if he was happy for Robin to leave early for those few Fridays. Keith said he was happy if it was for religious reasons, but he would need to speak to the head of department about it. Upon hearing this, we asked our church to pray that Robin would be able to live out his faith without causing upset to others.

It turned out that Keith took the issue to a departmental meeting where all the tutors were present. They were all asked for their opinions; about half said Keith should grant Robin's request, while the rest said he should not. Keith was left to make the final decision, which he made in Robin's favour. Interestingly, more people than we initially expected have now come to know about Robin's faith.

Robin and Keith have agreed between them that if students ask Keith or Robin during class about Robin's early departure, they will tell them that it is for religious reasons, and if they want to know any more they can ask Robin during free time. Maybe this will provide a chance for yet more to know of Robin's faith.

We have since discovered that friends of ours have made similar arrangements with their secondary schools, and this has helped us to feel bolstered in our faith.

We want to thank our God for making the way so easy for Robin (it could have been harder if his tutor and others had not been so understanding), and for the chance for him to share a little about his faith with others.

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

Q
'When will Jesus come to judge all people (Matthew 25:31-34) – surely before He comes in glory (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17), suggesting a second coming to judge, a third to receive the saved, and a fourth after the millennium?' *Joyce Yates*

A I can see the logic there, Joyce – usually recompense is disbursed *after* judgement, not before it; and it would be peculiar for the saved to be told to come and receive their inheritance after having already been taken to heaven. However, there are strong indications that the judgement of Matthew 25 won't take place before the second coming. Jesus Himself, in Matthew 25:31, says clearly that the saved will be separated from the lost when He 'comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him',¹ which seems a close parallel to 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Matthew 24:30, 31. Ellen White certainly thought so, as she identified these passages with each other multiple times in *The Great Controversy* and *The Desire of Ages*.²

There is, of course, a judgement before Christ's second coming – Daniel 7:9-12 says that this pre-advent, 'investigative' judgement commences in heaven, and that life on earth continues 'for a season and a time' (NKJV), after which the Son of Man comes (Daniel 9:13, 14). The first angel's message in Revelation 14:7 says that already, in the last days of history, 'the hour of His judgment has come' (NKJV, emphasis supplied), implying that it has already started – as we believe, in 1844, at the culmination of the 2,300 days of Daniel 8:14. Afterwards, when Christ comes the second time, the saved will be given a thousand years to review the proceedings of the pre-advent judgement (Revelation 20:4-6).

However, after the millennium, when Christ comes for a third time, is when the *final* judgement takes place. That's when sentence is passed on all those not taken to heaven at Jesus' second coming, and this seems to be the judgement of the lost mentioned in Matthew 25:41-46 (see Revelation 20:11-15). This surely doesn't take place before Jesus comes the second time, because at that point the lost have not yet been committed to the flames, but rather are still alive, being consumed upon His appearance (Revelation 19:21). It's only after the millennium that the lost are raised to receive their final sentence (Revelation 20:5, 13).

However, if the judgement takes place after the thousand years, how do we explain the surprise of the saved (Matthew 25:37-39)? Surely they would know by then that they have been saved, and why? I would suggest that they ask these questions when they first enter heaven, and that Jesus speaks to the wicked a thousand years later. Overall, then, the judgement scene in Matthew 25 spans the millennium – starting when Christ comes in glory, dividing the saved from the lost; and ending, after the saved have had all their questions answered, with the destruction of the lost taking place after He comes for the third and final time.

¹See also Matthew 13:24-30; Luke 17:34-36

²*The Desire of Ages*, p. 832; *The Great Controversy*, pp. 301, 322, 347

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.



Evangelism! Everyone! Everywhere! It's personal

by Dr Richard de Lisser, SEC President

Do you know what the designation EEE means? No? Well, it is the evangelistic mantra of the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: **Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere!** This is not just a



Fletewood School, Plymouth Head Teacher vacancy:

Due to the retirement of our successful and much-loved teaching head teacher, the governors of Fletewood School invite applications for the position of Teaching Head Teacher, starting with immediate effect.

This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and ambitious leader with a passionate interest in curriculum development, who will be willing to build on the school's achievements. The new head teacher will take over a vibrant school offering a well-rounded education.

The governors are keen to appoint someone who will continue to enhance and develop the school and promote its academic results, market it effectively and ensure that the highest standards are achieved in every aspect of school life. At the same time, the new head teacher will need to develop his or her own vision and plans for the future and inspire and engage with pupils, staff, parents, alumni and other members of the school community.

The Head Teacher will be responsible to the Governing Body.

The governors are aware of the challenges which face all independent schools, and are looking for an individual who displays exceptional leadership and staff management qualities as well as an ability to recruit pupils with the highest academic potential in a marketplace that is subject to increasing pressures.

The governors are keen to appoint a person with the ability to work as leader of the school but who will be excited by their role in defining the strategic plan for the future.

Fletewood School prepares students for the 11+ examination and is highly regarded in the local community and by inspectors for its Christian ethos and high academic standards.

Our aim is to provide a holistic education and develop the talents and abilities of every child.

Our school community is looking for someone who:

- Has a clear vision and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist ethos and the inclusion of all learners;
- Is a practising Seventh-day Adventist;
- Has a strong personal faith which will enrich the life of the school;
- Has proven leadership skills that encourage, support and challenge the work of the school and bring innovative ideas to further improve our practice;
- Is an effective communicator with good interpersonal skills who will support and inspire pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers;
- Has evidence of excellent classroom practice across the curriculum;
- Has experience of working with both pupils who are gifted and talented and those who have additional needs;
- Has a clear philosophy and the ability to put it into practice;
- Is hard-working with a good sense of humour;
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Application deadline: 31 March 2016.

flowery phrase; it is call for every Seventh-day Adventist man, woman, boy and girl living in the SEC territory to become involved in the work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yes friends, 'Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere' just got personal!

Acts 1:8 (KJV) says, 'But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.' The highest concentration of the disciples' kith and kin lived in Jerusalem and Judaea, and they were to reach them first; while Samaria represents the area where the Gentiles lived, along with the uttermost part of the earth.

Evangelism begins at home with the people who are nearest, dearest and closest to us. They fall within the sphere of our personal influence, and if we can win those who know all about us to Christ then we stand a good chance of winning anyone to Him!

Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere: it's personal. It begins with your story, just as it began with the Samaritan woman's story and ended up in the greatest evangelistic campaign in Samaria's history: 'Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?' (John 4:29, KJV.)

Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere, is first personal, then local and ultimately global! Having reached out to family and friends our next evangelistic destination is found in our local communities. Are we known for making God known in the location where our churches are situated? If our church were to close down tomorrow would anybody miss us? Are we just a nuisance in our communities or do we provide a life-changing presence? Is my church closed more than it is open? Is my church inward-facing rather than outward-facing?

Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere, is first personal, next local and then global. Matthew 24:14 (KJV) says, 'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.' For the end to come it is going to take a worldwide movement of like-minded people doing evangelism, every day in every way, telling their story for God's glory. The General Conference calls it: **Total Member Involvement!**

What does Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere, mean to you and how can you make it personal?

- Pray that God will equip you and then send you at least one family member and/or a close friend whom you can intentionally lead to Jesus Christ.
- Covenant to spend at least one hour every day in Bible study and prayer.
- Commit to spend at least three hours a week in giving out Christian literature.
- Undertake to attend weekly prayer meetings and Sabbath School.
- Pledge to begin a house group in your home with the intention of leading people to Christ.
- Promise to return a faithful tithe and give a generous freewill offering.
- Endeavour to volunteer your services to a local community initiative such as the Food Bank.

Evangelism! Everyone! Everywhere! (EEE.)

It's personal!

It begins with you!

It begins with me!



European Refugee Summit report

by Bert Smit (ADRA-UK CEO)

ADRA's Balkan offices are hard at work trying to provide support for the thousands of migrants trekking through their countries en route to Germany or Sweden. This work, mostly supported by volunteers, is both difficult and ongoing. Baby carriers, water bottles, blankets and female hygiene kits – these are some of the things provided by ADRA for these often weary and exhausted migrants. In Croatia ADRA has also set up 18 mobile phone charging stations where migrants may charge their phones before moving on.

On 18 and 19 January church and ADRA leaders from both the Trans-European Division and the Inter-European Division met in Zagreb, only an hour's drive away from Slavonski Brod, the largest refugee reception centre in Croatia. During the meetings plans were made to improve the co-ordination of our emergency response in the Balkans and to plan for the immediate future. It is expected that the numbers of people arriving will increase again once spring sets in. During 2015 we witnessed a record 1.2 million refugees transiting through Europe, but it is expected that this number could well be higher in 2016.

Although plans were laid during this summit to improve the co-ordination of the Balkan ADRA activities, provide a coherent communication strategy and draw up plans to encourage greater involvement by the Church on World Refugee Day – 18 June – it was hard to find additional financial support for all the planned activities.

ADRA normally attracts governmental funding for its medium-term overseas projects, but funding for the response to this protracted emergency situation facing Europe is more challenging, as it has to come predominantly from donations. Some ADRA offices, like ADRA Macedonia, are run by volunteers, while there is currently no ADRA office in Greece. This situation faces ADRA and the Church with a new set of challenges, and all the summit participants have been tasked with finding practical ways to solve these problems.

Many countries in Europe are now facing a rapidly changing society due to the influx of large numbers of conflict-affected people. This can open up opportunities for our churches to demonstrate a sense of compassion in the ways they find for helping people. A new curriculum was commissioned to help churches to better understand what their role could be in helping the displaced in their own communities.

However, while plans were made for a better and more resilient response, the funding of these initiatives is not secured. The raising of funds to meet the increasing demands of the migrant crisis is proving to be a challenge in most European countries. This means that we are depending on every penny and every pound that God impresses you to give.



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Global Youth Day

by Janos Kovacs-Biro, TED Youth Director

The worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church is planning its fourth Global Youth Day on 19 March this year, an event that will mobilise millions of our youth to 'be the sermon' to those around them. Although witnessing means constantly representing Jesus in the most natural way possible – not only once a year – Global Youth Day provides an opportunity for our worldwide family to do it together.

Many grown-up Christians have a hard time witnessing about Christ. Telling the Truth is much easier sometimes than *representing* and *doing the Truth*, but it is the *doing* part that adds relevance to the *telling* part! Global Youth Day is our chance to get involved in the *doing* together, which is always easier than doing it alone.

How can you get involved?

1. Start by talking to God, and telling Him: 'Lord, I am available to You today. Please use me for Your glory, and make me a representative of Your Kingdom. Let me meet those people who need exactly the type of representation I am for You.'
2. Know your goal: to genuinely love friends, family members, and even strangers into a more intimate and life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ – without being pushy, manipulative, or obnoxious.
3. Be genuine – naturally be the person God created you to be. We just need to be 'normal', everyday people rather than 'strange religious nuts'. As the candle gives light by nature, the salt gives a salty taste to food by nature, and the yeast makes the dough rise by nature, so

Christians should impact their community by their natural participation in its daily life.

4. Use the Master's approach: 'The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."¹
5. Observe: many times we have sent out young people during Relay Youth Training sessions to the centre of a city to simply watch where most people are at, what activities they are involved in, and what needs they have so that we could meet them.
6. Discuss: after these observation exercises young people form groups and discuss the most relevant real needs. By using their own spiritual gifts and abilities, they brainstorm about possible ministries that can meet some of the needs detected.

As we prepare for the witnessing activities we need to follow these four 'Ahas':

- Aha: make it simple enough for simple people.
- Aha: make it an ongoing process.
- Aha: make it a really friendly, non-offensive approach.
- Aha: make it immediate.

7. Prepare: as soon as the group has come up with a practical ministry idea, they need to prepare the tools and supplies which are necessary to meet people's needs. One very important ingredient of this is that the approach be attractive to

people. They should come and ask questions of us, rather than for us to be trying to 'sell' them something.

8. Do it: go out and serve. Be a blessing – be the sermon to the people around. Be ready to answer the questions: 'Who are you?' 'Why are you doing this?' and, 'How can I join you?'
9. Evaluate and re-think: as soon as you have served, and experienced the response of people, assess the attractiveness of the approach used by answering these two questions: 'What went well?' and, 'How could we do it differently next time?'
10. Do it again: evaluate, rethink, and do it again, and again – but without it becoming routine. It is important to keep our activities ongoing and relevant: serving, blessing people, answering their questions, letting them get involved and leading them to follow the Master.

This approach makes it much easier to naturally represent the values of God's Kingdom in our community.

The Global Youth Day marks the start of the Youth Week of Prayer (19-26 March 2016). The readings will be sent to your church via the Stanborough Press and are also available online at www.adventistyouth.org.uk.

More information and ideas for preparing and participating in the Global Youth Day event can be found at: [http://gcyouthministries.org/EventsProjects/GlobalYouthDay\(GYD\)](http://gcyouthministries.org/EventsProjects/GlobalYouthDay(GYD)).

¹Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143

Stanborough School vacancies

Stanborough School, an independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and family atmosphere, is looking to fill the following vacancy:

Volunteer Marketing/PR Assistant
Commencement: August 2016
Stipend: £175 per month plus all meals

General responsibilities:

- Handle all marketing-related enquiries.
- Liaise with local businesses and newspapers regarding advertising and PR-related activities.
- Work closely with the Head Teacher to ensure that marketing activities are in the interest of the school.
- Keep the webpage content updated.
- Develop brochures, prospectuses and informative publications.
- Develop close relationships with parents and heads of feeder primary schools in the area.
- Organise events and activities related to Public Relations (Year 6 days, Speech Night, College Day, days of fellowship).
- Prepare promotional materials for visits to local and international schools (flyers, posters, leaflets).
- Publish the half-termly Stanborough School newsletter.

Closing date: 28 February 2016.

Interested applicants for the above vacancies should contact the PA to the Head Teacher for the application package.
Email: mmumbo@spsch.org. Tel: 01923 673268.

Journey to Wholeness

Breaking Addictions, Compulsions & Obsessions
Exploring the feelings, thoughts & behaviours that hold us back



Wolverhampton Central SDA Church
Warwick Street, Horseley Fields
Wolverhampton WV1 3SD
Further information please call 07904107368
Email Enquiries: yourjourneytowholeness@gmail.com

Over the past two years six members from within the Wolverhampton district have been facilitating the *Journey to Wholeness Programme*, which was developed by the North American Division Adventist Recovery Ministry to equip church leaders and churches to assist those struggling with addictions, compulsions or obsessions. This *Journey to Wholeness Programme* is the only consistently running project within the British Union Conference designed to assist those who have such needs.

The programme is based on the Christian faith-derived twelve-step model, which takes the participant on a journey whereby they admit their powerlessness in the face of addiction; take stock of their personal failings and past wrongs; and then hand over their decisions to a power greater than themselves – God.

The group offers a tight-knit supportive community based on confidentiality and the opportunity to share within a non-judgemental environment.

There is increasing recognition that there is an increasing need in the church for a 'recovery ministry' that focuses on prevention as well as healing.

If you require further information about the delivery of this programme please contact Sharon Platt-McDonald at the BUC office or ring 07904107368. Alternatively, use yourjourneytowholeness@gmail.com.

DONNA PALMER (WOLVERHAMPTON DISTRICT OF CHURCHES)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Sabbath worship transport

Regular coach transport is now available for Sabbath services across two parts of the country. For the Birmingham and Wolverhampton area, call 07926553722. For the London area, call 02085959470 or 07533743916. For either of these areas, call 07868288310, 07576036574 or 01384213803, or email: hubert.smiley18@gmail.com.



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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & The Law



RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND

SPEAKERS INCLUDE: NECLU BURCEA (GC Associate PARL Director), SIMON MCCROSSAN - Head of Public Affairs (Evangelical Alliance), DR BRIGHTON KAVALOH (SEC PARL Director), IAN SWEENEY (BUC President), DR RICHARD DE LISSER (SEC President) & CECIL PERRY (Former SEC & BUC President)

Info & Registration | Tanya Grant | tgrant@secadventist.org.uk | 01923 232728

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18-20 MARCH 2016

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'Every member an evangelist'

This is the Sutton-in-Ashfield church motto and it has led to the founding of a number of interesting outreach projects.

Their **Bread of Life Café** started out in March 2011 as a soup kitchen, specifically targeting the lonely and the needy. It runs on the third Sabbath of each month, and those who attend are treated to soup, bread, toasted cheese, biscuits, hot drinks and lots of kindness. Free toiletries are available to the visitors, and birthdays are celebrated with either flowers or cake. More recently some of the lonely and elderly church members have also been invited to attend because some people do not get to visit or eat with others except on these occasions. This outreach has been driven largely by the compassionate enthusiasm of Vanessa Stewart, Vera Skocgny and Janet Stewart.

The **Sutton Strollers** began around five years ago under the leadership of Bill Beamish. A number of people from the community joined and Bill asked other church members to do the same. This walking group has a number of complementary objectives: to make friends in the community and break down prejudice, while encouraging as many as possible to enjoy good outdoor exercise.

Is it working as an outreach tool? Most certainly, with a fair number of 'strollers' having attended cooking schools and other health lectures at the church. Some have also come to baby showers, film shows, even to one of the evangelism programmes. In fact, some of the non-members even refer to the Adventist church as 'their' church.

On 26 January this year there were a total of 16 people and two dogs on the walk – despite the wet and windy conditions. On 15 March the walkers will be going to Aberdaron Camp in Wales, where they will spend time walking and getting to know each other better (a repeat of last year's trip).

It was about three years ago that Moray Stewart – one of Sutton's members – suggested that an **Adventist literature stand** be on display in the local shopping precinct on the first Sabbath afternoon of each month. Moray made all the arrangements and our literature was soon on display. It was then decided to do it twice a month (on the first and third Saturday). Now, thanks to Moray Stewart and Mervyn Mason, the people of Sutton are able to receive free copies of our literature – books of their choice! Many come back to tell how much they have enjoyed their book and ask for another one. There are children's books as well and the excitement on the children's faces is priceless. God has been good, providing the financial means for the continuation of the project through various donors. One of the regular recipients of this literature is a Methodist lady whose husband is a lay-preacher. She comes back again and again for new titles. The NEC president and other church employees have visited the stand and been impressed by the programme. The members pray that someone will choose to follow Jesus as a result of this outreach programme.

The Sutton-in-Ashfield church also works closely with a local charity called **'People In Need' (PIN)** that collects knitted and crocheted blankets, jerseys, hats, scarves, etc, for the needy in



Romania. The church has kept running out of wool since it asked members of the community to join them in the project. They use double knitting wool and would dearly love people to donate their leftover wool to them so they can keep the project going. Interestingly, one of the project's star knitters is a visitor who has joined the strollers' group and also attends other church events!

EUNICE MASON/MORAY STEWART

New BUC News editor

The *MESSENGER* team officially welcomes the newly appointed editor of *BUC News*, Pastor Andrew Willis, as Pastor Victor Hulbert's replacement. We wish both him and his secretary, Mary Kapon, well as they work together during 2016.

MESSENGER TEAM



Stanborough hosts award ceremony

Excited children along with their parents and teachers attended a prize-giving event at the Stanborough Centre on Monday, 14 December last year, each one hoping that his or her entry had been selected as a winner in the Co-operative Food Stores Annual Christmas Theme Picture Competition for local schools.

Children from four primary schools and one secondary school, stretching from Watford to Hemel Hempstead, entered their designs of a Christmas scene in any medium – paint/crayon/poster/collage – not including computer work or enhancement.

Competition entries were displayed on the walls and one of the three judges was a retired Stanborough School art teacher, John Butters.

The prizes were awarded by Councillor Kareen Hastrick, Chairman of Watford Borough Council, and those schools attended by the main prize-winners also received a cheque from Pastor Paul Clee, Stanborough Park Church's previous minister, who was standing in for the current senior pastor, Jacques Venter.

The prize-giving event was organised and sponsored by a team of staff from Co-operative Food, who provided a buffet of Co-op 'goodies' for those attending. Enoch Kanagaraj, an employee of Co-operative Food Stores, is the chairman of the church's Community Chaplaincy Service and has been the driving force behind this event.

JUNE COOMBS



Photo: Nelson Khorje

Christmas witness in Bristol

On Sunday, 6 December 2015, the first Christmas witness event took place in The Galleries Shopping Centre at the centre of Bristol.

A number of adults and children from the Bristol churches brought the true meaning of Christmas to the people of this city through the singing of well-known Christmas carols and other Christian songs. Special performances were given by the children, various singing groups, and individuals.

It was a real joy to see people stop and listen to these simple messages of hope and peace, which brought smiles to many faces.

The event was also an opportunity to give out goodie bags filled with a variety of Adventist literature, a pen, a bookmark and a clementine. In all, over 200 goodie bags and 150 copies of the new *Steps to Christ* (Bristol edition) were given out. The children were an inspiration and example to the adults as they gave out the majority of the goodie bags, charming the shoppers with their big smiles and happy faces. The bags were very well received and we pray that the material they contained will be too.

One passer-by was interested to know more and it turned out that she was only visiting Bristol to do some shopping, but actually lived in Weston-super-Mare. When invited to attend our church there, she was surprised to discover that she lived on the same road!

The event has led to a renewed sense of purpose and commitment as the church prepares itself for its second year of Mission to the Cities: Bristol.

IAN SABADIN (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, BRISTOL JOINT EVANGELISM COMMITTEE)

Diversity seminars 2016

Spring semester

All lectures will be held in the Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College RG42 4AN

Tuesday 8 March (International Women's Day) 2016

Lecturer: Ian Ridley

Senior Director, Humanitarian External Relations and Resource Development, World Vision International

Title: 'The Impact of Disasters on Women'

Tuesday 12 April 2016

Lecturer: Andy Walton

Communications Officer at the Centre for Theology and Community

Title: 'Credit, Debt, Usury – A Christian Response'

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 or email ccl@newbold.ac.uk.

Complete Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) BASECAMP

Sharon Stevenson (Regional Co-ordinator UK/Europe) – Sunday 21 February

This is a lifestyle-enrichment programme designed to reduce disease risk factors through the adoption of better health habits and appropriate lifestyle modifications. It will include a mixture of educational, informational, and motivational seminars for those who are actively engaged in community health programmes or who wish to be involved.

Everyday Ethics: How to Make Difficult Moral Decisions (Large or Small)

Dr Michael Pearson (Professor Emeritus, Newbold College of Higher Education) – Sunday 6 March

This workshop will help you understand how we make our daily moral decisions and explore ways of improving your judgement. It is ideal for anyone who has ever struggled with knowing whether or not they are doing the right thing.

Disability Awareness: Breaking Down the Barriers

Sophia Nicholls (Disability and Diversity Director for the South England Conference) – Sunday 13 March

Research shows that people with disabilities are said to be the least evangelised and least involved group in church life. This workshop will identify the causes of this situation and help you discover ways to change it.

Stress, Brains, and Gender

Dr Arlene Taylor (leading speaker on brain function) – Monday 21 March

Most people instinctively know that male and female brains are different – and that's part of the fun as well as the challenge – but new DTI brain scanning techniques are showing just how differently they are wired. With increased knowledge you can choose to avoid frustration, as Dr Taylor will point out.

Save the date

Save the date, or register now on our website, for the following workshops:

- Introduction to Dispute Resolution (Sunday 10 April)
- FREE Annual Bible Conference: The Church of Our Dreams (Saturday 16 April)
- Teaching the Adult and Youth Sabbath School (Sunday 1 May)
- Adventist Family Resources Exhibition (Sunday 3 July)

NEWBOLD COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

THE CHURCH OF OUR DREAMS

FREE All-Day Bible Conference
Saturday, 16 April 2016

Find out more, and register at:
www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference

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Fartown's official church status

On Sabbath, 28 November 2015, the Fartown group received its official church status during a service at the Fartown village hall, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

This new North England Conference church falls under the leadership of Pastor B. Stokes and his assistant, Pastor A. Karbah. In attendance as NEC special guests were: Pastor L. Johnson (President), Pastor J. Ferguson (Executive Secretary) and Mr R. Kampengele (Treasurer). Former intern at Fartown, Pastor J. Francis, was also a welcome guest.

Pastor Ferguson supervised the signing of the official register of Fartown church members, prior to the commencement of the service. Towards the end of the service further signatures were required from the church elders, Pastors Stokes, Karbah, Johnson and Ferguson, and Mr Kampengele, after which Pastor Karbah moved that Fartown Church be voted into the sisterhood of NEC churches at the 2016 session.

Appropriately selected congregational hymns led by the praise team – 'To God Be the Glory' and 'The Church Has One Foundation' – reminded all present of God's active involvement in the establishment, development and preservation of the Fartown church.

During the programme the church clerk, Cheryl Mowoe, provided an overview of the history of Fartown Church. The vision for a church plant to be established in another area of Huddersfield began in 2007 when Courtney Robinson, George Matheson and Dexter Roberts selected Fartown as a key location for outreach. Courtney was present as a guest to witness the fulfilment of this joint vision eight years later.

On 1 December 2007, Pastor B. Stokes and 22 former members of Huddersfield Church made the decision to form the Fartown group, who at first were known as Fartown Mission but later adopted the name Fartown Community Church.

In 2010, Fartown members began to hire the Fartown village hall regularly for outreach programmes and church services.

Pastor M. Simpson, NEC Church Planting Director, was instrumental in helping Fartown members with training and evangelism grants. Unfortunately, he could not be present on the day and his congratulatory message was read out by Pastor J. Ferguson.

As a result of the leadership of Andrew and Veronica Whittle, evangelistic area co-ordinators, every church project or event had the objective of planting seeds in the community. This diligence led to various contacts, Bible studies and baptisms.

The Fartown members have organised and delivered a variety of well-attended and appreciated community-based activities, including health expos; a quit-smoking programme; a cooking school; a football team known as 'The Gospel Boys'; and, more recently, a women's keep-fit class on Monday evenings with a qualified instructor, Beverley Henderson-Fleary. There is also an over-50s Tuesday social group, for which funding is received from Kirklees Council.

Besides the special prayers of dedication for the members and the church officers, gifts were given to Pastors Stokes and Karbah as an expression of appreciation for their dedicated ministerial service. Also, as a gesture of goodwill from the mother church in Crosland Moor, a gift was formally accepted by the Fartown church elder, John Mowoe.

The main address was presented by Pastor L. Johnson, who expressed how thankful they were as conference officials to celebrate this long-awaited day with the Fartown members.

The way in which the great commission can be achieved was made clear by Pastor Johnson, with the following reference: 'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." ' – Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143.

As amplified by Pastor Johnson, the church is not a secluded club for members only. 'If we are going to make an impact upon the community we have to mingle.' However, as a preface, he added a word of caution: 'Don't mingle if you don't know who you are. If we don't know who we are as believers, we will get in trouble' by not adhering to God's principles. He advised of the necessity of studying the Bible, building a personal relationship with God and making ourselves available to God.

JENNY FRAY

Liverpool's meal to remember

On Sunday 20 December last year, the Liverpool churches invited people from the local community for a Christmas meal at the Liverpool Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Although this was initiated by their Community Services Director, Ms Sitshengiso Masina, members of the Stoneycroft church enthusiastically offered their support too. The resulting co-operation allowed them to lay on a memorable feast, although they had never done anything on this scale before.

On the day there was an impressive turnout of thirty guests, including a family of nine who were facing financial hardship, some homeless people, young men away from home and a few curious visitors from a nearby Pentecostal congregation. The hosting Adventists took the opportunity to make friends with the guests and, as opportunities arose, to share their personal testimonies with them or answer any questions about the Adventist Church.

After the meal, each guest received a gift bag containing a pair of gloves, a scarf and a selection of Adventist books. They also received an open invitation to the church services.

MERLVIN MOYO

Guest at the Liverpool Central community Christmas meal
Below: Liverpool Central first elder, Titus Iudean (in glasses),
converses with visiting young men



Teens and children's service at Hemel Hempstead

On Sabbath, 5 December last year, we were blessed to have a service run by the teens and children of the church without any adult input, and the result was amazing.

The theme was about giving. Joanne read Matthew 6:3 (NIV): 'When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.' Anastasia, Tatyana and Melissa told the children's story, after which Tyla led us in prayer.

Next we had a video made by the teens in which they talked about giving, followed by Hannah's reading of Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV): 'Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.'

Tatyana then spoke about us



all having gifts that we can use in God's service. The junior and primary classes sang 'Jesus loves me', and Ingabelle (piano) and Anastasia (violin) provided special music too. Jade's contribution was the reading of Psalm 112:9 (NIV 1984): 'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures for ever; his horn will be lifted high in honour.'

Matthew then spoke about his own life experience: how he had drifted away from the church, then rediscovered Jesus. He



explained the difference between knowing 'about Jesus' and actually 'knowing Jesus'. He told of how, in his dark moments, he read the Bible and began to pray

– and his life was changed!

We sang 'Lord of All' and then Craig closed with prayer.

A truly uplifting service . . . and without any adult input!

JOHN BUTTERS

Hope Channel update

by Pastor Sam Davies (SEC Communication Director)

At the 24 January South England Conference Executive Committee the way was paved for SECmedia and the BUC to increase the number of British-based programmes for Hope Channel UK.

This follows a similar decision by the BUC last December. Trans-European Division Communication Director, Victor Hulbert, stated: 'This has now given you a clear mandate for outward-looking, mission-focused programme-making.' He added, 'We look forward to SECmedia programme-making beginning within the next few weeks. In the meantime, the BUC team will now liaise with the Hope Channel team at the General Conference to start the process of developing the channel.'

The SEC committee also voted to purchase a warehouse close to the SEC office, with a floor space of 2,025 square feet, for use as a production studio.

Among the anticipated productions is *Women Unwrapped*, for women, by women; SEC's *60SEC News*; a weekly magazine show; the *Sabbath Sofa* talk show; and *The Hot Topic* – a dialogue with the conference president and the youth on issues not usually discussed in church. This will all be in addition to departmental videos, training resources, and event coverage.

BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, was delighted at the co-operation: 'SECmedia participating more fully in the Hope Channel UK ministry, and joining with other entities across the UK and Ireland, will, I'm sure, make

an impact on the public that we are trying to reach.'

Hope Channel UK is available on the internet at www.hopetv.org.uk, on IPTV platforms such as Roku and Samsung Smart TVs, and will shortly be available on Apple TV and Amazon Fire. It is

also available on Apple and Android apps for your smartphone or tablet.



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NECYOUTH

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Gilbert Cangy with Lydia Hamblin of the SEC

'Dare to Dream'

Over a thousand teens attended the South England Conference's Teens Day of Fellowship on 12 December 2015 at the Emmanuel Centre in London. It was filled with teens from far and wide, all across the country – not just from the south.

The General Conference Youth Director, Gilbert Cangy, was there to encourage the teens to go forth and live their dreams, and he was pleasantly surprised that the SEC had a department specifically for this important age group.

In his sermon he spoke of his dream to be a football player, but at his big debut his shorts split and his boots were too small. Embarrassed and humiliated, he gave up, but God had other plans to show him that his failure didn't have to be the end. He quoted Thomas Edison, who said: 'I have not failed; I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.'

Pastor Cangy walked us through the life of Moses, showing that God had a plan to free the Israelites but Moses acted too soon, and because of this he failed. As a result, he was forced to flee into the desert in humiliation and fear for his own life.

He drew a comparison between Acts 7:22 (NIV), which says that 'Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action', and Exodus 4:10 (NIV), which paints a different picture: 'Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have

spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." ' From this he concluded that by the time God met Moses at the burning bush, he had gone from being this amazing prince of Egypt to being an isolated shepherd in the desert. Even though Moses knew everything there was to know about Egypt, he had momentarily forgotten how God had prepared him for this seemingly impossible task. Moses had forgotten that he was already qualified for the job!

So we learned that even though we may fail, we should not let that stop us from reaching our dreams. Our own impatience can lead us to failure – yet we must remember that God's timing is perfect. God allows us to fail sometimes so that we can learn to wait on Him. Failing does not mean we are worthless or incapable, so let us not be dragged into the desert, but stand up strong and try again.

The talent among our church youth was showcased at the evening concert. From mimes to instrumental performances, God truly was glorified through these amazing teens. Let's keep praying for these children of God, so that they may flourish and continue to grow in faith and hope.

LYDIA HAMLIN AND NITHA PUVENTHIRANATHAN

Wimbledon braves the waves again!

During September last year Wimbledon's Men's Ministry undertook their second annual fishing trip in Eastbourne with 12 in attendance – some of whom were young lads who were new members.

We started fishing at about 8am and finished around noon with a good catch. The fishing trip was scheduled for a full eight hours, but, due to the adverse weather conditions and our inexperience, we decided to cut the outing short.

We had a great time, not just fishing but also getting to know each other better. The experience was absolutely memorable, and it gave the men of the church the experience of doing something different outside the church, in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

We give thanks to the Lord for giving us a wonderful time and a safe and fun adventure.

BARRY ORDANZA AND INA CHAPMAN



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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING

SUN, 20th March, 10am - 5PM
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Contact NEC Children's Ministries
 on 0115 9606 312
 www.necadventist.org.uk

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"Among the Jews the twelfth year was the dividing line between childhood and youth..."
 [Desire of Ages p.75]

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Contact NEC Children's Ministries or Pathfinders on 0115 9606 312

Saturday 4th June 2016 (at your local church)

www.necadventist.org.uk

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Blessed Hope reconsecration service

On Sabbath, 12 December 2015, the Blessed Hope church in Dartford was reconsecrated following extensive building work that included a basement hall and refurbished toilets.

South England Conference president, Dr Richard de Lisser, was joined by Dartford mayor, Councillor Ian Armit, 3ABN president, Danny Shelton, and other distinguished guests to witness the event.

Blessed Hope church pastor, Ayodeji Adesina, is quoted as saying, 'Today you see us worshipping God, as we dance and sing; we raise our voices to the Most High because great things He hath done.' The whole congregation joined in singing praise songs, including some in the native Nigerian languages.

Blessed Hope's 'reconstructive journey' was told in a series of photographs that illustrated the amazing transformation that had occurred to the building. Much credit was given to the pastor, whom the members referred to as a 'visionary'. 'When our pastor chose the building he saw beyond its state, but believed in the potential it had, and today we can all see it,' said one of the elders, Kenny Jegede.

Dr de Lisser also expressed his gratitude for the pastor's vision and passion, especially as he is a non-stipendiary pastor. As he re-dedicated Blessed Hope Church, he reminded the church of its mission to evangelise: not to stay in the comfort of the building, but



Women's Ministry Weekend

The Sheffield Burngreave church held their Women's Ministry Weekend from 4 to 6 December 2015, starting on the Friday evening with a praise service and ending on Sunday with a prayer breakfast. The Sabbath theme was 'Women of Courage: For Such a Time as This'.

During the Sabbath School programme, six women took turns to lead group discussions based on a number of women of courage, including Deborah, Huldah, Esther and Ruth. This encouraged the women present to see themselves as having a role to play in doing God's work.

Valerie Grossett was the main speaker for the worship service. Her sermon, entitled, 'For Such a Time as This', focused on the story of Esther and was well received by all present. It reminded us that God has a plan for our lives that Satan wants to divert us from, but that we will be victorious if we continue to trust and follow the Lord.

Shelene, a member of the Burngreave church, felt that it was 'beautiful, spiritual and an uplifting weekend. It touched the core of my soul. Everyone, including the children, could take the message with them. . . . Even the food was good. The day was perfect.'

Christine, a non-member who is a regular visitor of Burngreave Church, said that the sermon was 'good, moving and touching'.

Yes, the Lord certainly had us all present 'for such a time as this', and we are praying that the Holy Spirit will convict the non-members who were present to make a decision to serve the Lord. *VERONICA EDWARDS*



to continue to impact its community and make Jesus known.

Councillor Armit commended the church's success in making its facilities a community-friendly place, adding that it has something that the council is not able to offer: 'The message of your faith for people who are sad, afraid, and lonely can indeed bring hope.'

During the service, church members who had worked tirelessly throughout the project were honoured. Mrs Angela Olatunde recalled the church's journey, which started with worshipping in classrooms, then school halls, and always being time-restricted. With a smile she said, 'Now we can stay in church for as long as we want and fellowship with one another after the church service!' *JUDITH MAKANIANKHONDO*



Ron Waldron



Romola Lorek

Photo quality as supplied

Two birthday milestones in Exeter

Ron Waldron of the Exeter church and the pastor's wife, Romola Lorek, both had special birthdays at the end of November 2015 and the plan was to hold a fellowship lunch in their honour. Ron and his wife had become members of the church in the early eighties, when they attended meetings in the city. Since then Ron has been a deacon and the safety officer in the church. He also acts as an assistant to the ADRA agent and is very adept at counting the money!

Ron turned 80 on 21 November last year but the fellowship lunch was for 28 November. Unfortunately, he became ill the day before and was unable to attend. He was bitterly disappointed but the members were still able to light some candles on the birthday cake for Romola, who was marking the beginning of a new decade in her life on 30 November. She was presented with an Amazon voucher and some flowers while the writer thanked her for all the work she does for the Exeter church. It was particularly poignant to celebrate this important milestone, as Romola had been seriously ill in the Exeter hospital when Pastor Ian Lorek was the minister here in the eighties. The writer recalled how her husband and Pastor Ian had gone together to anoint Romola and pray for her. This special birthday was truly a time for thanksgiving.

Ron was not forgotten and a special gift and some birthday cake were delivered to him at home!

STELLA JEFFERY



Building monuments in St Austell

On 5 December last year the Adventist youth of Area 1 (SEC) gathered in St Austell for a special day of fellowship organised by LIVE St Austell's frontier evangelist, Steven Hulbert, with the purpose of bringing Christians in the community closer together. Sue, youth leader of St Austell Baptist Church and host for the day's events, welcomed those present, and the LIVE St Austell praise team led the congregation in lively, heartfelt and enthusiastic worship – which is the main reason most of the youth are drawn to these events.

The main speaker for the day was Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, head of the SEC Teens Ministries team. His witty and enthusiastic message on monuments kept everyone engrossed.

Pastor Dejan pointed out that many people want to forget the past and move on rather than learn from it and embrace it for the future. He used the story of the Israelites crossing the River Jordan as an example of a positive monument. The Lord didn't want His people to forget about what He had done for them so He instructed them to lift stones from the riverbed and leave them in the centre of the camp as a reminder. God uses our experiences as monuments to remind and encourage us.

After lunch we gathered together in worship before hearing about the local events in the area from Sue, John, Steven and Sarah (Creation Fest Event Organiser).

Next Griselda, a volunteer with LIVE St Austell, encouraged the congregation to join her in making an impromptu music video of 'Awesome God', which she later edited and played, much to everyone's delight.

We were then blessed with two special musical items: sisters Gemma and Jackie Hall, who performed 'Dream' by Priscilla Ahn; and the LIVE St Austell team, who performed Bethal Music's song, 'It Is Well'.

Pastor Dejan's afternoon message challenged us to re-establish our connection with God and make the most of every opportunity the Lord presents us with.

The first act of the night was singer and songwriter Arianne Haran, who studies Popular Music at Falmouth University and is an inspiration and blessing to the area. She has performed at many LIVE events over the short time she has been in the area and feels they have helped her to grow a lot. 'It's such an inspiring opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians. From watching the way they interact with a crowd to seeing their dedication to honing their talents in their music, it's incredible.'

The second act, Daughters of Davis, are also well known to the group, with sisters Fern and Adrienne Davis, who write and perform music with an acoustic soul/folk vibe. (See www.notplayingthegame.com.)

The final act of the evening were 'Speak, Brother', and their passionate performance did not disappoint: a fantastic end to an exciting day!

But the witness in St Austell doesn't begin or end with events like this, because Sue, Steven and Jon (Methodist church youth leader) have been working closely over the past few months teaching Christianity in a local secondary school.

JENNIE HALL

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Annual Toy Service at Stanborough Park

Stanborough Park Church began the Christmas celebrations with its customary Toy Service, the first in the refurbished building.

Although it has been run for more than half a century, Pat Walton, who has organised it for the last 20 years, was delighted that so many toys were going to deserving homes. 'They will go into homes that need them, I can assure you of that,' she said. She was particularly pleased that people had responded to her request to provide toys and games suitable for older children this year.

Representatives from local good causes such as the Berrygrove Children's Centre and the Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership (WTRRP) attended the service ready to collect toys and take them away. The WTRRP volunteers who attended the service were particularly pleased with the quality of toys on offer as they quickly filled several bin liners with items from the display, explaining how so many of their clients normally felt left out at Christmas. They were also very impressed with the quality of music provided, especially by teenager Amy Cornwall, who is currently studying Grade 8 singing and violin. Another impressive singing performance also came from a group of Japanese students from Hiroshima SDA High School, who had been studying English at Stanborough School.

Mayor of Watford, Baroness Dorothy Thornhill, performed her



customary task of accepting the toys on behalf of the citizens of Watford, stating as usual that for her the Christmas season always began with the church's Toy Service. The Chairman of Christians Across Watford attended for the first time and gave the Scripture reading, while Senior Pastor Jacques Venter gave the sermon, stressing how we need to be an example to the children in encouraging them to live Christ-centred lives. In keeping with this theme the children and young people of the church played a very active role in the service.

At the end of the service the unclaimed toys were bundled up to await collection by representatives from other local good causes.

JUNE COOMBS



Glasgow Central Toy Service

'Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.' (Ecclesiastes 11:1, ESV.) Glasgow Central Church hosted a toy service 'for children, by children' in which the church children handed over toys to others who are less fortunate. The event was held on 12 December 2015 in conjunction with a local organisation in the Govan family centre. Pastor Ivana Mendez presented a sermon about the joy of giving during the event, and it was an opportunity for both children and adults to learn about giving and the joy it brings to those who receive our gifts. The service was concluded with a baby dedication of four children.

BEVERLEY MAKWAKWA



Bournemouth children spread the joy of Jesus

During 2015 the Bournemouth church has been visiting local nursing homes – at least one a month – on Sabbath afternoons. Their most recent visit was to Avoncliff, where the church children, dressed up in their costumes, brought tears to the eyes of a number of residents through their beautiful singing.

One thing has led to another, with the nursing home's event organiser, Iveta, booking the children's choir for a carol singing event for 19 December. She is the lady in the red uniform on the left of the photo, who, although an atheist, seems to enjoy the programmes too!

ALZBETA KUCERAKOVA

obituaries



Patricia Maybery (née Wallis) (1923-2015). Patricia Wallis was born in Weymouth four years after her

mother had accepted the Adventist message. She was pre-deceased by her older siblings: Norah Gulley, Ted Wallis and Ruth Rose.

Patricia was baptised in 1938 by Pastor G. D. King. In 1941, she lost her home in a bombing raid. Soon after this, Patricia was 'called up' and moved to London, where she worked as an inspector of Hurricane aircraft parts.

In 1944, Patricia married Malcolm (Peter) Maybery at Stanborough Park Church. They lived in Southall and Patricia worked as a receptionist in a shoe shop managed by Malcolm in Putney. They attended the Ealing church. To escape the flying bombs they moved back to Weymouth, where their first two children, Clive and Ann, were born.

In 1946 the family moved to Bricket Wood so the children could attend Stanborough Park School. They lived there for 27 years, during which time Paula and Elisabeth were born.

Patricia gained City and Guilds qualifications, enabling her to work as Cook at the Stanborough Hydro and then Bedmond Junior School as Cook Supervisor. At the same time, she acted as Secretary/Driver for Malcolm's painting and decorating business.

At Stanborough Park Church, Patricia sang in the church choir and especially enjoyed singing in the big campaign choirs in London during the 1950s.

In 1973, the family moved to Swanwick, Derbyshire. Patricia was very active in the Sutton-in-Ashfield church, holding several offices over the years, culminating in being the first female elder in Sutton Church, ordained by Pastor Eric Lowe.

Patricia was a creative person and an accomplished needlewoman. She learnt a number of craft and art skills and loved gardening. She enjoyed watching sport and listening to music.

In January 2000, Malcolm died and Patricia moved to Grantham. Here, too, she took an active role in the church. She loved to study her Bible. During

her brief illness she looked forward to the resurrection, when she will meet her Saviour and be reunited with her family and friends.

ELISABETH CARNELL



Viola Rosetta Mullings (1933-2015) d. 17 August. Viola took her first breath on 6 April 1933 in Rose

Hall, St Elizabeth, Jamaica. She was the first of Hilda and Lindsay Mullings' seven children.

Viola attended Rose Hall All Age School, which she left at age 14 to pursue the craft of dressmaking.

Viola met her future husband in the early 1950s, but Stanford left for England in 1955 in search of a better life. In 1957 Viola joined the love of her life in Birmingham and soon they were married.

She found the lifestyle in England quite challenging, particularly being restricted to a rented family room in a multiple-occupancy house. But with great determination and sacrifice she and Stanford acquired their own house in Kings Heath, to accommodate their expanding family of six children.

Viola searched for job satisfaction until she found Money Hull Hospital – an institution that provided complete care for people who were physically and educationally challenged – and discovered her vocation as a health care assistant. Viola remained at Money Hull until her retirement.

In the summer of 1961, after receiving Bible studies conducted by the late Harold Chisholm at Camp Hill, Viola was baptised: a decision she never regretted.

Viola was never without a set of tracts or small books in her bag, which she gave to anyone whom she felt would make good use of them.

She was devoted to the work of ADRA and was saddened when failing health prevented her from doing the annual door-to-door collection. But she never missed a shoebox appeal, so much so that in passing she left behind two shoeboxes, already packed and sealed, for the next ADRA appeal. She was faithful in paying her tithes in support of the church and also left two sealed tithe envelopes, written up,



Clapton: final stop of a European tour

Eric and Monique ended their four-month 2015 European tour in London at the Clapton Community church on Saturday, 28 November.

They are married 'musicianaries' from Australia, involved in a full-time self-funded music ministry, travelling the world to share their deep love of our Saviour. The couple have now been married for eight years, singing and working together since giving up their jobs three years ago. All along God has been providing for their ministry.

Their voices blend together with such fluidity, accompanied by Eric's melodious keyboard skills. During the evening Monique spoke to some extent of the life-changing experiences that led her to music and inspired her to write some of the words of their songs.

This comment was typical of many heard that evening: 'I appreciated the voices and music, and was touched by their experiences.'

If you wish to learn more about the ministry of Eric and Monique in any way, visit them online at ericandmonique.com.

D. BROWN (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)

ready to be dropped in the offering plate.

Over the years, Viola developed a number of hobbies. Her favourites were gardening and knitting, especially for various family members including children, grandchildren and even in-laws. Her garden was always colourful. A few weeks before she went into hospital for the last time, she was in Homebase, buying plants for new hanging baskets. She loved sitting at a pivotal spot in her garden where she could take in a broad view of its colourful blooms.

Viola was a private person who tried not to burden others with her problems. Instead, she sought to be positive, always giving encouraging words and thanking God for His goodness towards her and for the love of her children.

It was about sunset two Fridays before she passed, as we worshipped with her in the hospital room, that she sat up and calmly said: 'Don't let them hold me back. I'm ready.' Viola knew her destiny; she was prepared and not afraid of the inevitable. After her passing, I sent the following message to some family members and associates:

'[Erselen's] mum passed away, Monday 17 August at 8.50pm, in an atmosphere of solitude and togetherness, created by her six children encircling her in prayer – just what she wanted. She was at peace, exhaling her last breath

with a quiet sigh. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.'

One of the responses speaks volumes: 'I'd like to go like that.' What a wonderful tribute to a much-loved woman.

Viola Rosetta Mullings is no longer with us, but our memory of her lives on.

DR ALBERT A. C. WAITE (SON-IN-LAW)

Messenger

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Feb 12	5.09	5.21	5.09	5.09	5.24
19	5.22	5.34	5.23	5.24	5.38
26	5.35	5.47	5.36	5.39	5.53
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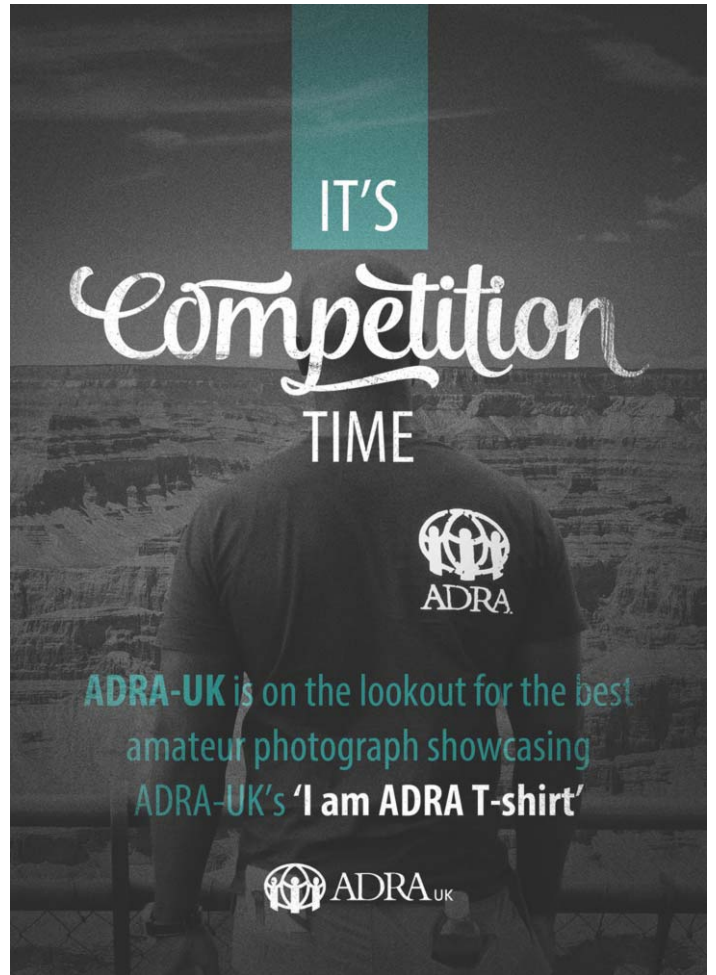
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