

Messenger

News to the churches • 11 March 2016 • Volume 121 • 5

Is it all about water, food and shelter?

by Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK

If asked, most people will say that to survive people need water, food and a place to stay: the things that are often referred to as our 'basic needs'. We at ADRA think that the 'basic needs' of human beings are not *just* food, water and shelter, but also clothing, sanitation, education and healthcare. Of course there are other things that could be added, but in principle if all people had sufficient access to these 'basics for life' we would end poverty and misery for millions.

Sadly, we live in a disrupted world that is plagued by problems. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that the number of forcibly displaced populations is now at the highest level ever recorded, even surpassing those caused by World War II!

The three main groups are refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Taken altogether, the numbers have increased dramatically in the last couple of years, and have now reached over 60 million people! That is nearly as many as people who reside in Great Britain. Men, women and children who have lost the things we consider life's basic needs.

Sometimes the problem is caused by a natural disaster. Earthquakes, droughts, floods and typhoons destroy people's homes, animals and crops. They are then forced to live in emergency shelters, not knowing when they will be able to rebuild their homes, or when they will be able to replant their fields.

More tragic are the growing number of conflict-affected people – people having to flee their homes and livelihoods because of the violence of war and terror. ADRA is becoming more and more engaged in relieving the suffering of people who face such trauma in their lives.

Because we are a people of hope we believe that we need to help conflict-affected people wherever we can. With your help, this year, we will be providing aid in countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Chad, Thailand and Rwanda. Here is a story from Rwanda.

Hardest hit in any crisis are refugee children. Most of them are unable to attend school when they are forced to flee the threat of war, and such situations are at risk of creating a 'lost generation' of uneducated children. Conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi are dragging on with no end in sight. When these conflicts finally end and the refugees are able to return home, there will be tens of thousands of youth who will lack the education and skills necessary to support themselves and their families.

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Theogene is a 10-year-old boy from the Congo. He is one of the Congolese refugee children participating in the ADRA Rwanda Education Programme in refugee camps funded by UNHCR and ADRA-UK. Here is his story:

'I was at home with my mum and brothers when we heard gunshot sounds and we saw our neighbours running away. We quickly left and followed others up to Gisenyi, where we boarded a UNHCR vehicle that took us to Rwanda. The first camp we were at had no school and there was nothing to do.'

'We were relocated to the Kigeme camp where we are now. I miss my school at home and miss our cows – I milked them every day. I am very happy that in this refugee camp we have a school – it has given me a chance to continue with my studies.'

'I really like school and I would like to become a medical doctor. I missed school during the time we were fleeing and today I feel good to be at school. My favourite subject is English.'

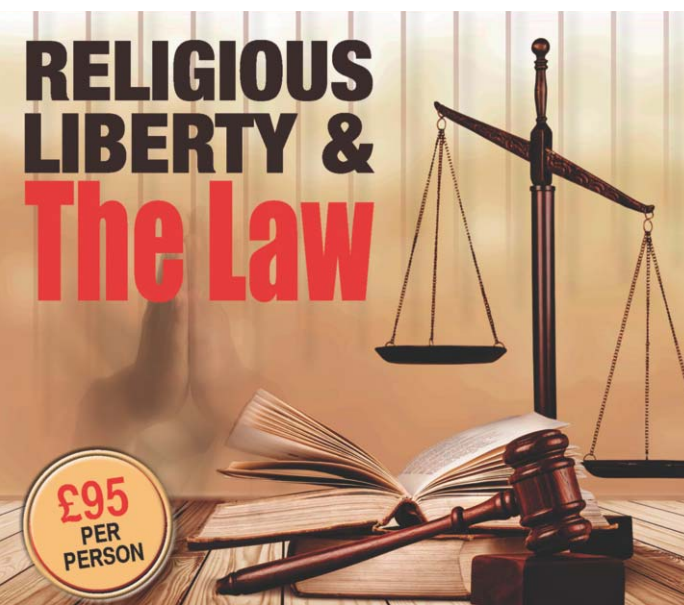
Together with ADRA Rwanda and the UNHCR we will help to provide basic education to 10,000 children living in refugee camps.

ADRA is all about changing lives for the better. Of all of the various types of projects that we have implemented over the years, the one that always brings about the most positive change in people is education. Education helps people break free from poverty in the long term.

We all want to live in a world that is peaceful, healthy, functional and prosperous – a world where children like Theogene can fulfil their dreams, where men and women can experience the dignity of self-sufficiency.

Reaching this goal calls for the participation of us all. With your help during the 2016 Annual Appeal we can all work together to lift people out of poverty and give people hope.

Please set some time aside to collect from door to door, organise a fund-raiser for us, or simply donate your own financial gift. Thank you for being an ADRA supporter as together we continue to impact people's lives around the world.



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editorial

In recent months, hardly a day has gone by without some media reference to the bombing of Syria's towns and villages. Bombs and shells of all shapes and sizes have rained down on that country's frightened civilians, claiming innocent lives and driving people from their homes in droves.

When the conflict there is finally over and the displaced Syrians are able to return to rebuild their homes, businesses and civic infrastructure, they will still face danger from the countless pieces of unexploded military ordnance that litter their land. This is part of the sad and deadly legacy of war.

The Western Front

To illustrate the point we need not travel further than the old battlefields of France and Belgium. There, during World War I, estimates are that *'one tonne of explosives was fired for every square metre of territory on the Western Front'*, with as many as one out of three shells not exploding on impact. That translates to around 300 million unexploded projectiles, and *'most of them have not been recovered.'* The problem is so big that our French and Belgian neighbours refer to the annual recovery of around 900 tons of unexploded munitions as their 'iron harvest'.¹

Their age notwithstanding, this unexploded ordnance is still highly dangerous. In fact, since the end of World War II around 630 French 'clearers' have died while handling it, not to mention hundreds of ordinary civilians.²

The Rotunda of Mosta

One of the most famous unexploded bombs was dropped over Malta on 9 April 1942. This huge 500kg munition fell through the dome of the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady – also known as the Rotunda of Mosta – and buried itself in the floor among *'a congregation of more than 300 people awaiting early evening mass'*! What if it had exploded?³

The Genoa Cathedral (*Cattedrale di San Lorenzo*) is another sacred building that escaped serious damage because of a dud. A misdirected armour-piercing 15-inch shell fired from the British battleship, HMS *Malaya*, landed in the main body of this church. The since-defused projectile now stands proudly in the cathedral next to an inscription, the translation of which reads:

*'This bomb, . . . fell here unexploded on 9 February, 1941. In perpetual gratitude, Genoa, the City of Mary, desired to engrave in stone, the memory of such grace.'*⁴

A perpetual danger

The real problem with these unexploded bombs and shells is that, until defused or removed, they pose a perpetual danger. Typically they lie buried deep in the substrata of the buildings or fields into which they fall, while their casings, inner compartments and detonators slowly rust away, until the slightest disturbance may cause them to explode.

The 'iron harvest'

During my experience as a minister I have frequently come across 'unexploded ordnance' buried deep in the churches under my care: buried not in the bricks and mortar, but in the hearts and minds of church members. These unexploded 'projectiles' have usually been fired at them by someone else – often with the deliberate intent to humiliate or discourage them. Then, as time passes, this explosive potential gradually works itself to the surface of their lives, just like the annual 'iron harvest' in those Flanders fields. At which point it only takes some innocent remark or benign act to detonate it!

Perhaps you have seen something like this happen on a church committee:

Pastor: *'Three of the youth spoke to me yesterday after I preached on our mandate to witness. They were impressed to become more involved. Is there something we can do to help them?'*

Youth leader: *'There they go again; all they can do is moan and criticise! They don't appreciate anything I do for them. Nobody does! Why didn't they come and speak to me about their dissatisfaction? Why do they have to backbite like this?'*

Pastor: *'There was no criticism of you. They just felt impressed to become more engaged in witnessing.'*

Youth leader: *'That's not true! I know you want to get rid of me. Well, now you can have what you want. I resign. Right now! Immediately!'*

The 'iron harvest'

That is an example of the 'iron harvest' happening in the local church. Everything may appear fine until there is a new project; an evangelistic outreach; the reshuffling of leadership; the arrival of a new pastor; an attempt to revitalise the worship service; or the need to choose new carpets and curtains for the sanctuary. Such things cause a shift in the congregation's equilibrium, which in turn detonates that unstable bomb that lurks just beneath the surface in someone's heart.

But not all unexploded bombs will go bang! Five percent of the shells fired during World War I contained either phosgene or mustard gas, which have the potential to leak slowly into the environment, poisoning it as they do.⁵ These can be among the most dangerous items of 'unexploded ordnance' to deal with in the local church.

Whoever has this type of bomb buried within their heart can quickly contaminate the attitudes of those around them. They don't explode. They just leak character-corroding insinuations about fellow church members; doubts about the skills and abilities of pastors and local church leaders; concerns about conference and union governance; and suggestions that they have the 'present truth' which only the 'very elect' will be able to accept and appreciate!

Defuse it quickly

Chances are that if someone has a potentially destructive 'bomb' rusting away within their heart, they may be the last to spot it. With that in mind, don't take any chances. Join me in sincerely, and regularly, praying this prayer of King David:

'Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.'
(Psalm 139:23, 24, NIV-UK.)

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_harvest ²*ibid.* ³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotunda_of_Mosta ⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genoa_Cathedral ⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_harvest



Julian Hibbert
Editor



The unexploded shell, fired by HMS *Malaya*, in the nave of Genoa Cathedral



Enhancing Health

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

Going natural Part 10c – Winter wellness – winter woes (continued)

In this issue we examine how the winter months can influence the way we feel.

Winter tiredness

Have you noticed that you tend to feel more tired during the winter months? Or do you yearn for the warmth and comfort of your bed more readily than in the summer? Well, NHS Choices¹ gives the following explanation as to why this occurs:

- As the days become shorter, your sleep and waking cycles become disrupted, leading to fatigue.
- Less sunlight causes your brain to produce more of a hormone called melatonin, which makes you sleepy.
- Because the release of this sleep hormone is linked to light and dark, when the sun sets earlier your body also wants to go to bed earlier – hence you may feel sleepy in the early evening.

If you're feeling sluggish and find it hard to get out of bed when the mornings are darker and the temperature is low, getting more sunlight is one natural solution. It is a great booster for winter tiredness. NHS Choices lists the following tips:

- Open your blinds or curtains as soon as you get up to let more sunlight into your home.
- Get outdoors in natural daylight as much as possible.
- A brief lunchtime walk can be beneficial.
- Make your work and home environment as light and airy as possible.

Seasonal affective disorder

It is important to note that while you may feel more tired in the winter months, a constant feeling of lethargy may be indicative of a more serious type of winter depression known as seasonal affective disorder (SAD). This condition affects 1 in 15 of us and may require medical intervention.²

Experts suggest that SAD is related to the way the body responds to daylight. Spokesperson Alison Kerry, from MIND – a mental health charity – says: 'With SAD, one theory is that light entering the eye causes changes in hormone levels in the body. In our bodies, light functions to stop the production of the sleep hormone melatonin, making us wake up. . . . It's thought that SAD sufferers are affected by shorter daylight hours in the winter. They produce higher melatonin, causing lethargy and symptoms of depression.'³

For information on the recognition of, and treatment for, SAD – such as light therapy, diet, exercise and medication – visit: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Seasonal-affective-disorder/Pages/Introduction.aspx>.

The next and final segment of 'Winter wellness' will provide some health tips for well-being during the winter months.

Good health!

¹<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/tiredness-and-fatigue/Pages/winter-tiredness.aspx>

²*ibid.*

³<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/Pages/winter-blues-SAD.aspx>



'Take up thy bed' – a word to the men!

by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt

The man had come to accept that his life was ebbing slowly away from him. His paralysis had weakened him on every level: mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. His hope had bottomed out. His friends had forsaken him, except for a faithful few. His family was no longer within reach or even in touch because of his physical condition. His was a broken home. But at this point, when he was about to give up on life, hope presented him with one last chance.

With the support and care of his few faithful friends, he was stretchered to the little house in Capernaum in which the Teacher of Nazareth was preaching. As they arrived, he realised that there was no way for him to meet Jesus, as the house was filled to overflowing. His friends, however, were not deterred, and they decided to lift him onto the roof and then break up the thatched, wooden and mud roof and lower him down into the crowd who were listening to Jesus – which they did to the amazement of most and the consternation of some!

Once he was at Christ's feet the crowd fell silent, expecting Jesus to heal him of his physical condition. But Jesus, seeing the man's inner need, first declared his sins forgiven. Then, to drive home His divine authority to forgive sin and completely restore the man, Jesus said to him, 'Arise, and take up thy bed, and go

thy way into thine house.' (Mark 2:11, KJV.)

Now, this event is really quite remarkable. Allow me to share just a few ideas with you that will be of particular interest to the men among our readers.

Broken

This man was living with reams of guilt, shame and rejection pressing down upon him. He was in emotional turmoil. His inner world – through which he perceived himself and those around him – was distorted under the huge weight of condemnation and isolation caused by his former life choices. He saw in his life only the misery that he had brought upon himself, the pain he had caused others, and the distance he had created between himself and God. Sensing his brokenness and helplessness, he sought relief from the depth of his lonely despair. In this state the man had no pride or arrogance; he was not hiding behind a veil of excuses, but rather saw himself as a sinner in need of a Saviour; broken – and ready to be restored.

Forgiven

It is important to note that Jesus did not tell him to rise up first. Rather, He met the man's most pressing inner need first – the need to be forgiven. In Jesus' declaration that his sins were forgiven, the man saw that God no longer regarded his sin as an obstacle to separate him from Heaven's blessings; but rather that he was now forgiven. As a result the man's emotional burden was lifted and he felt the freedom that only salvation brings. Describing this scene under inspiration, Ellen White wrote: '... he accepted the words of Jesus as the boon of new life. He urged no further request, but lay in blissful silence, too happy for words. The light of heaven irradiated his countenance, and the people looked with awe upon the scene.' (*The Desire of Ages*, page 268.)

Emotionally healed

With his sins forgiven, the man also experienced emotional healing. He no longer saw himself as a reject, but as a son of God. His inner thoughts, which previously had been negative, self-condemning, void of faith and judgemental, were now reframed and shaped by God's grace and mercy. The restoration of his relationship with God brought with it an emotional peace that settled his troubled mind, thus enabling him to know the peace

of God and to be at peace with others. As a result he no longer harboured feelings of insecurity, shame, anger, bitterness or resentment, but was empowered to understand that God loved him and that he likewise should respectfully regard the needs of others. You could say that the reality of 2 Timothy 1:7 was at work now in his life: 'For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind' (KJV). Ultimately, in healing the man's emotional inner world, Jesus was preparing him for what was to come next.

Restored

It seems that the man, after having his sins forgiven, was satisfied and unconcerned whether he would walk again or not. However, the Lord Jesus had not finished with him yet, for there was more healing that needed to occur. It was then that Jesus said to the man, 'Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.' (Luke 5:24, KJV.)

Here the power of Jesus restores the man to walk in the strength of God's original creation: to walk tall, bearing the dignified image of God as one who has been restored by His loving kindness. Yes, he was restored from the physical degradation and humiliation that sin causes. Having been thus restored, he was to take up his mat as a living, walking testimony of the love of God to redeem, heal and restore.

Homework!

Next he was to 'go into his house'. Here Jesus was suggesting that there was 'homework' to be done. The man was now to take his spiritual, emotional and physical healing with him and heal the broken relationships within his own household. He was to be a healing influence that the Lord desired to share with those who had been hurt by his attitudes and actions. He was to be the living example of the good news of how the love of God can heal and restore broken hearts and lives. In other words, Jesus wanted the man's experience of healing to promote further healing in the hearts of his wife, children, siblings, parents... in fact, of everyone in his house. Basically, Jesus was reminding the man that his stewardship responsibility was his home!

So what is all this saying to us men (and women)? I believe it is saying that if we recognise our broken helplessness and turn to Jesus then He can begin the work of restoration in us by the following:

- Forgiving our sins
- Providing emotional healing for us
- Providing strength for us to walk as sons of God made in His image
- Providing us with an eternal testimony of his grace and mercy
- Reminding us of our personal stewardship responsibility within our own homes
- Empowering us to help make the healing, nurturing and restoration of the hearts and relationships of those we live with possible

Point of warning!

We must never forget that unless we recognise our brokenness and seek restoration, none of the above will be achieved.

Whoever you may be and whatever your past story is, Jesus can restore your relationship with Him. He can then educate, empower, enlighten, equip and encourage you to go to your home, and to do your 'homework', thereby causing others to know the healing grace and mercy of our Lord through your actions, your words, your attitudes and your love. This may not be easy and you may need to read good books on emotional healing; seek appropriate counselling; and ask others you trust for help – but whatever you do, you will need to do your own personal work so that your 'homework' can be effective.

So why not start your homework now?

Suggested reading:

Wisdom for Men, by Andrew Rashford-Hewitt (available from the Stanborough Press)

Men of Power: Reclaiming your legacy, by Jim Hohnberger

Forgive to Live: How forgiveness can save your life, by Dr Dick Tibbits

52 Things Kids Need from a Dad, by Jay Payleitner

52 Things Kids Need from a Mom, by Angela Thomas

Families Where Grace Is In Place, by Jeff VanVonderen

Emotional Intelligence: 10 delightfully simple ways to master emotions, understand people, and win friends with emotional intelligence, by Sally Bennett

Stanborough Primary School

From time to time, vacancies arise at Stanborough Primary School, which make it necessary for us to recruit new staff. If you would like to receive an application pack, should such a vacancy arise, please contact us and register your details with:

Mrs L. Warwick at
Stanborough Primary School,
Appletree Walk, Watford, Herts WD25 0DQ
Tel: 01923 673291
Email: info@stanboroughprimary.org.uk

Stanborough Primary is a small, friendly school, situated within the idyllic surroundings of Stanborough Park. Through dedication and teamwork, we provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment in which every pupil is encouraged to achieve high standards in learning and conduct.

Successful applicants will:

- Have QTS and a relevant teaching qualification
- Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils
- Positively impact progress and learning for pupils
- Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge
- Plan and teach stimulating and well-structured lessons
- Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils
- Make accurate and productive use of assessment
- Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a safe learning environment
- Fulfil wider professional responsibilities
- Be committed to the school's Christian ethos and demonstrate high standards of personal and professional conduct

All prospective applicants are asked to note that the school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory Disclosure & Barring Service check and other safeguarding checks.

BOOKSALES

March
20 Southall 10am-2pm

April
3 Aberdeen 10am-2pm
23 New Life Church After sunset

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Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.
01923 893461

Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm.
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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SEAP



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

Andrew Puckering

'What is the meaning of the Third Commandment, particularly in relation to exclamations involving the name of God?'
Vicky Beamish

Thanks for your email, Vicky! You quoted the Third Commandment from the New International Version: 'You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name' (Exodus 20:7). Other versions use the expressions, 'take the name . . . in vain' (KJV); 'use the name . . . thoughtlessly' (NCV); or 'use my name for evil purposes' (GNB). This includes blasphemy, and God certainly didn't hold blasphemers guiltless (Leviticus 24:10-23). Consequently, devout Jews have said either *ha-Shem* (the Name) or *Adonai* (Lord) when reading out the Hebrew name of God (*YHWH* – printed in most English translations as 'LORD'), and the Masoretic scribes gave it the vowel points for *Adonai*, resulting in the name 'Jehovah'.¹ In English, Jews habitually write 'G D', intentionally omitting the middle letter, and I've known Adventists who do the same. This may, however, be taking things to the extreme – God doesn't command us never to use His name, only to avoid its misuse.

Misuse certainly includes applying it as a swear word, and while amended forms such as 'Egad' and 'Zounds' (God's wounds) have been applied in English, they contravene the spirit of the Third Commandment, if not the letter. More modern exclamations include 'Gosh!' 'Golly!' 'Good grief!' and 'Goodness!' However, Ellen White notes that the commandment 'not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful [awesome] significance', including 'thoughtless mention of God in common conversation', 'appeals to Him in trivial matters', and 'frequent and thoughtless repetition of His name'.² Thus, when using such expressions as 'God willing', 'by God's grace', or even 'Thank God', we must take care to do so appropriately.

We're not always able to judge when someone else is genuinely using God's name in reverence. 'Lord!' or 'Lord have mercy!' may sound like careless exclamations to us, but they may be contracted forms of a sincere, reverent prayer such as 'Lord, have mercy on those poor children', which would be acceptable to God. We can sometimes mistake people's genuine prayers for profanity, as Eli did (1 Samuel 1:12-18); but the Lord knows each person's heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

The prayer Jesus gave as an example for His followers asks that God's name be hallowed, or revered as holy (Matthew 6:9). 'Holy and awesome is His name' (Psalm 111:9, NKJV). Sister White comments, 'What faint views some have of the holiness of God, and how much they take His holy and reverend name in vain, without realising that it is God, the great and terrible God, of whom they are speaking. . . . Those who realise the greatness and majesty of God, will take His name on their lips with holy awe.'³

¹ <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11305-names-of-god>

² Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 306, 307

³ Ellen G. White, *Early Writings*, pp. 70, 122

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.

The 'Little Preacher' Festival



There are times during worship when it feels as though we are soaring high above the earth in pure spiritual ecstasy. Such was the experience of the members of Harlesden Romanian Church on 13 February this year. The reason? They were witnesses to a special Sabbath morning programme during which the church's children had the opportunity to preach, sing, and play instruments in a way that left the audience speechless. It was as if they were enjoying a foretaste of the church's bright future.

In the Bible God clearly shows us that He can use anyone and everyone for His ministry, despite their lack of experience, knowledge, skills or seniority. I. B. Singer captured the thought like this: 'Creation was no accident. God had an intention to breathe life into the world and to make man His masterpiece – so it is written in the Bible. . . . Therefore every living creature, as a child of God, is of the highest importance.'

That morning children of all ages, boys and girls, chose verses from the Bible and preached on them in front of more than 300 people who were present in the church. Every young soul in the church was involved, and God was praised through the talents of our children. Even the church choir was replaced by a teen choir for the day. The children's charm, their innocence, their natural charisma, their gestures, and the sweet tone of their voices all combined with their determination to show that not only adults can preach, but that the younger ones can be a



Turning a new page

Plaistow Church started this year off with a two-week revival series that concluded with the turning over of a new page by at least one of those who attended. The revival campaign, entitled 'Revival and Hope', was conducted by Pastor Hezron Otieno, and many members and visitors were blessed and glad that they had started the new year in this way. The campaign concluded with the baptism of Jason Lennon Oliver, who had been doing Bible studies with Maxine Scott and the pastoral team in preparation for baptism.

Upon deciding to get baptised, Jason, who for a long time had worn long dreadlocks, made a bold decision to take them off and keep his hair short in the future. He explained that he was 'turning a new page' in his life. The new hairstyle is going to be a constant reminder to him and everyone else that he is a new person, and that the old Jason no longer exists. What a wonderful way to begin a new year!

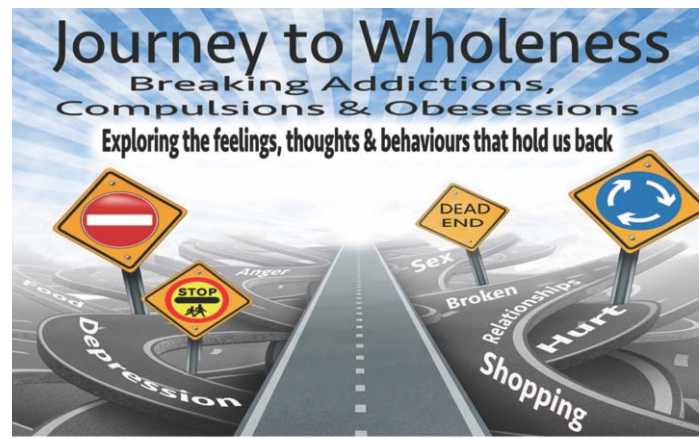
THABANI BHEBE – COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY



bleeding too! Surely, all those present at the event better understood the words of Jesus from Mathew 18:3 (NKJV) after this uplifting service: ' . . . unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.'

The event ended with the first elder of the church giving thanks for the blessings received and presenting the gift of a beautiful wooden plaque to every child who preached.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



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Further information please call 07904107368
Email Enquiries: yourjourneytowholeness@gmail.com

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



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;
 - Is willing to uphold the Christian Seventh-day Adventist ethos of the school;
 - Has experience in the UK school system and has the right to work in the UK.

Depending on qualifications and experience, gross salary will be up to £36,816.00 per annum.

A relocation package is also available for the successful candidate.

If you feel called to join the team in this successful school please request an application form, job description and person specification by either emailing: jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk or writing to Mrs Jacqui Crawford at South England Conference, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts. WD17 1PZ.

Application deadline: 31 March 2016.

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.

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)
• Teaching the Adult and Youth Sabbath School (Sunday 1 May)
• Adventist Family Resources Exhibition (Sunday 3 July)

Diversity seminars 2016

Spring semester

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

Tuesday 12 April 2016

Lecturer: Andy Walton
Communications Officer at the Centre for Theology and Community
Title: 'Credit, Debt, Usury – A Christian Response'

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music and worship

The Worship Leaders' Conference 2016

The SEC Music and Worship Academy (MWA) is hosting its first event at Balham on the weekend of 18-20 March, 2016. This Worship Leaders' Conference will bring together pastors, elders, praise teams, singers, musicians, and worship leaders for the purpose of enhancing the Sabbath worship experience of their congregations. The lead facilitator is Victor Masondo from South Africa, a well-respected Adventist music producer, music director, and worship leader. He will be supported by some of the key music personnel in the SEC.

The conference will bring together a variety of musical styles to demonstrate how we set the atmosphere for worship through music and the engagement of the worshippers. Mike Johnson, the SEC Music Director, says, 'We chose to host the conference in a church setting because the lessons being taught are

best delivered in the context of an active worshipping community, and the Sabbath worship service is an integral part of that.'

Registration for the three days is £50 and this covers meals and materials. Options are available for day delegates. The sessions will include the following: The spiritual life of a music minister; Keys to a life of worship; Basic theology for music and worship ministers; Setting the atmosphere; Rhythm section skills and musicianship; The role of music that unlocks worship; Integrated musicianship for instrumentalists and singers; and Engaging the worshippers. Attendees will also take part in the 'Christ In Songs' worship service. Singers and musicians will have a showcase opportunity in the 'Open Praise' session on Sabbath evening.

About the MWA

The Music and Worship Academy (MWA) is a virtual centre of excellence that will provide a wide range of practical and theoretical learning opportunities across the core disciplines

involved in delivering music for worship, evangelism, and enterprise. The academy will deliver training events for worship leaders, ministers, elders, praise teams, musicians, singers, technicians, songwriters and congregations, with content presented by outstanding practitioners based in both the UK and overseas, from within the Adventist Church – as well as other recognised specialists from the wider (Bible-believing) Christian community.

The Principal of the MWA is Alexander Douglas, a longstanding church member, a professional musician and music educator. He is also a theologian-in-training with specialist knowledge in liturgical theology and related areas.

For further information, please contact:

Mike Johnson: mjohnson@secadventist.org.uk or call 07757 816316

Alexander Douglas: theomusicology@gmail.com

Cathy Boldeau: catherine.visionsolutions@googlemail.com



Essential worship

by Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, Part-time Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute

One of the main elements of our mission is to call the world to worship God (Rev. 14:7). In a search for guidelines relevant for us today I will deal with a few of the main elements of biblical worship and its expressions.

1. God is the Centre: Worship is delimited by the personal and collective acknowledgement of believers that God is exclusively worthy of supreme honour. In the Bible God is the only legitimate and exclusive object of worship (Ex. 20:2, 3; Luke 24:53), which is grounded in His creative and redemptive power (Rev. 4:11; 5:12). Worship is the response of the inner being to the awareness of the majesty, mystery, and uniqueness of God revealed in His work of creation and redemption. Confronted by Him, our lives find their place of origin and vibrate with joy, thanksgiving, and the reverent fear that only God can inspire. Since everything else in the universe belongs to the category of the created, it is reprehensible, even an abomination, to replace God as the centre of worship with any other object. This fundamental

view of biblical worship should inform the appropriateness of any activity that will be part of it.

2. The role of emotion: Worship is more than an attitude; it is also an act. Since we are emotional beings, it is impossible to separate our emotion from the practice of worship. In that holy act we praise and give thanks to God (Ps. 118:28), and express our joy and gratitude through offerings (1 Chron. 16:29) and songs (Ps. 147:1). We even cry to Him for deliverance, forgiveness, and guidance (Ps. 139:23, 24; 142) as a response to His presence in our lives. The temptation is to use worship as a sociopsychological avenue to 'feel good' about ourselves and accepted by others. When that happens we have imperceptibly shifted the centre and focus of worship away from the Creator and Redeemer to ourselves, at the risk of falling into the realm of idolatry. We bring to Him our gratitude, needs, fears, and concerns in order to praise Him for what He has done and will do for us.

3. The role of the body: We

cannot separate the expression of our emotion from our physicality. In worship we come before the Lord as emotional and bodily creatures. The act of worship involves our bodies as vehicles through which our emotions express themselves. In the Bible worshippers lifted up their hands to offer the Lord their petitions (Ps. 141:2; 1 Tim. 2:8); they stood up (Mark 11:25), knelt down (1 Kings 8:54), or bowed down with their faces to the ground to worship (Neh. 8:6). They used their tongues and lips to sing to the Lord (Col. 3:16) and their ears to capture the beauty of musical instruments (Ps. 150:3-5) and the reading of Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13). Worshippers joined processions that went to the temple praising the Lord (Ps. 68:24, 25), and at times joy was expressed through ritual dancing (Ps. 30:11).

The extent that the body is used to express emotion varies from culture to culture. What is appropriate in one culture may be offensive in another. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind that the purpose of worship is not to

stimulate our emotions and their bodily expression (as is sometimes done through loud music) in order to create a feeling of well-being in the worshipper. That again would dislodge God from the exclusive centre of adoration, placing there the satisfaction of our psychological needs. The moderate involvement of our emotions and body in corporate adoration should not distract us or others from what is probably more important: listening to the Word of the Lord and its proclamation.

We go to church to worship God, to praise, adore, and thank Him for all His blessings, to be instructed through His Word, to celebrate the Lord's Supper, to be equipped to proclaim the Gospel, and for fellowship with other believers. Worship is not a form of entertainment that needs to be adjusted to the taste of the individuals using marketing practices. The music we bring, the songs we sing, the prayers we offer, are our feeble attempts to praise the Lord and express our love and thankfulness to the one who has done so much for us through Christ.

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General Conference of Seventh-day
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2016

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Adventist Family Resources Exhibition

at the BUC Session

30 June - 3 July, 2016

The Adventist Family Resource exhibition is an opportunity for Seventh-day Adventist businesses and ministries operating within the UK to showcase their goods and services, or to promote their message.

The exhibition will operate throughout the BUC Session (30 June - 02 July) for delegates and guests, and will be open to the wider Church community in a special day of resources and workshops, hosted by Newbold's Centre for Christian Leadership on Sunday 03 July.

It is anticipated that hundreds of visitors will attend the exhibition.



Information for Exhibitors

EXHIBITION HOURS:

- Thursday 30 June: 12:00pm - 1 19:00pm
- Friday 01 July: 09:00am - 19:00pm
- Saturday 02 July: 13:00pm - 19:00pm (ministries only)
- Sunday 3 July: 9:00am - 17:00pm

EXHIBITION SPACE

Stands are available in two sizes, and include a six foot trestle table with tablecloth and two chairs:

- 3m x 2m: £150 / 3m x 4m: £200

Power is available for an additional £25 per stand, for the duration of the exhibition.

Prices are exclusive of VAT.

HOW TO BOOK

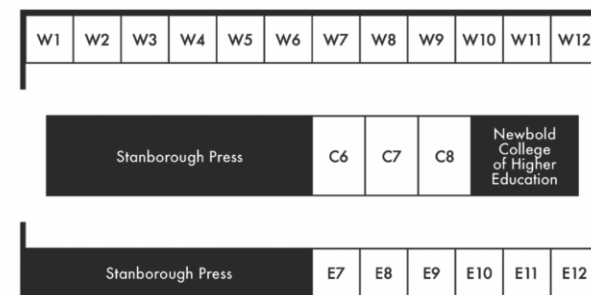
Complete the Exhibitor Booking Form (available at www.newbold.ac.uk/buc-session), ensuring that you:

1. Choose your three preferred positions on the

exhibition floor plan by indicating the relevant code/s on the booking form. Booths will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

2. Enter your email address and phone number clearly, so that we can contact you to confirm your booking once payment is received.
3. Return your completed form to bdavison@newbold.ac.uk or Attention to Brian Davison, Newbold College of Higher Education, St Marks Road, Binfield, Bracknell, RG424AN. Call 07957856715 for further information.

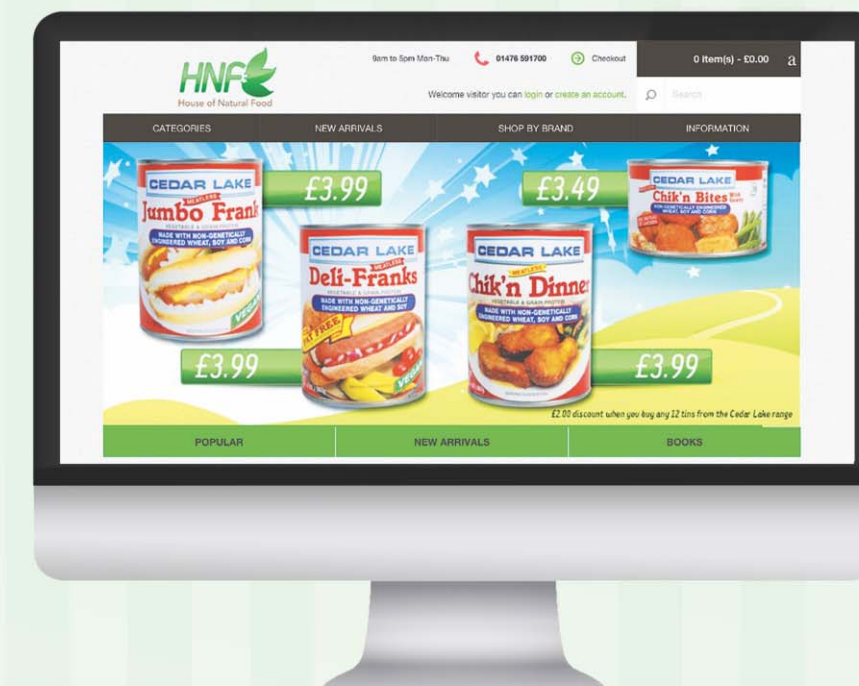
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Harlestone Road's journey: plant to church

On Sabbath 30 January the Northampton Harlestone Road company achieved 'church status'. Eight and a half years had passed since the decision was made by members of the Central church to start a new branch within Northampton.

It was a joyous occasion and it was great to see so many visitors there to celebrate the day with us, from near and far.

Pastor Lorange Johnson (NEC President) officiated, alongside Pastor John Ferguson (NEC Executive Secretary), Pastor Cyril Sweeney (BUC Children's Ministries Director), Rejoice Kampengele (NEC Treasurer), Pastor Michael Simpson (NEC Church Plant Director) and Pastor Dhanaraj (Northampton District pastor), along with our church elders, Lloyd Sterling and Murray Fuller.

We were told the story of how the group had grown since Sabbath 1 September 2007. From just eight regulars, the congregation now

regularly exceeds 75 people in attendance, which includes more than eighteen different nationalities.

Our achievements include prayer breakfasts, community outreach (including a food bank), World Sabbath and fun days, all with the focus on community.

Once formalities had been completed, Pastor Johnson delivered a timely message, reminding us that we must not rest on our laurels, but strive on in our proclamation of the three angels' messages.

We were then treated to a fellowship lunch, before the day concluded with a praise and worship concert.

May God continue to bless us with His Holy Spirit and enable us to have a united church. To God be the glory for the things He hath done!

DAVID WELLS (COMMUNICATIONS TEAM ASSISTANT)

UHAS is relaunched

The University of Hertfordshire's Adventist Society (UHAS) relaunched itself by hosting an 'open mic' night on Friday 22 January, at which students from different religious backgrounds were able to attend and express their worship to God through song and poetry. The event was hosted by current president, Nathalie Boakye, and her able team, and held in a comfortable classroom on the campus with around 20 students and non-students in attendance. After an AYS-style song service they held a discussion on the theme of the night, 'Create in me a pure heart'.

Jermaine Wong's creative sermonette on the same theme followed and was well received by all.

At the moment the society is trying to push up its membership, in order for it to continue to run on campus. Therefore, we urge any UH students to join via the Student Union, through our £5 membership fee.

Overall, the aim of the society is to provide regular biweekly meetings for any students and staff who would like to attend, and also to minister to those who have yet to hear about the word of the Lord. There will be an emphasis on Adventist beliefs and the style of worship will vary from theme to theme each week. The themes will be chosen so as to address the concerns of the students across the university and discussions will be led by visiting guest speakers and preachers from within the SEC. In future we aim to host a large campus ministries event with Area 7 and other campus ministries taking place at other universities. Watch this space!

If you are a student attending the University of Hertfordshire please feel free to contact the society at: uhadventistsociety@gmail.com or via Facebook (UHADventistSociety) or Twitter (@UHAdventists). We'd be glad to meet you.

DEJAN STOJKOVIC



Pastors John Surridge and Llew Edwards at the House of Lords

Adventists attend Welsh consultation at House of Lords

On Thursday 21 January Pastors Llew Edwards and John Surridge attended a Welsh Language reception and consultation at the House of Lords. Focusing on the role of the Welsh language in the third sector, the event was organised by Welsh Language Commissioner Meri Huws, together with Ruth Marks, Chief Executive of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). Sponsoring the event, and giving a lively and engaging keynote address, was Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, former gold medal-winning wheelchair athlete, now parliamentarian and television presenter.

Baroness Grey-Thompson was introduced to the House of Lords on 29 March 2010 and made headlines by swearing the oath of allegiance in both English and Welsh. She is passionate about developing the use of Welsh and encouraged all of the charity leaders present at the event to integrate the language into all of their activities. 'The biggest growth in Welsh speakers is among children and young people of school age,' she said. 'Many doors will open to young people as they practise and develop their Welsh through taking part in third-sector activities – socially, culturally and in developing skills for future employment.'

There are also legal implications for organisations which operate in Wales. Welsh Language Commissioner Meri Huws said, 'For the first time ever, the Welsh language has official status in Wales. People, regardless of their age, background or area, have rights to expect they can live their lives through the medium of Welsh.'

Ruth Marks, Chief Executive of the WCVA, said, 'Through volunteering, organisations can offer an opportunity for people to socialise through the medium of Welsh, or practise their language skills to improve their confidence and proficiency in an informal setting.'

The writer was delighted to have been invited to the event. 'I spent several years learning Welsh but, like so many others, I have been less than diligent in using it. This consultation helped me to realise that we could be missing opportunities. There are over 500,000 Welsh speakers in Wales, many of them school children. Some of these attend our churches. We need to celebrate and make use of their skills.'

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE, WELSH MISSION PRESIDENT

AGES 13-17

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Barbara Lawrence on 07940 007331, Andre Best on 07956 264980 or Toyin Aworinde on 07533 793253

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Camp Hill prays itself into the new year

Many launched 2016 with a mixture of partying, alcohol, fireworks and so on, but the members of Camp Hill saw in the new year with socialising, food, drink and new commitments being made to important aspects of the Christian life.

In January Camp Hill members, under the spiritual guidance of Dr Patrick Herbert, commenced thirty-one days of prayer and fasting with the focus being on commitment to God, His church and His work.¹

During the month there were various speakers for both the prayer meetings and worship services, including Pastors Sweeney (BUC President), Herbert, Grosvenor and Jackson, to name a few. All helped us have a fresh look at our commitment to God and His cause. Each Sabbath specific prayer sessions were held whereby members prayed for each other.

The climax of the thirty-one days was the last worship service in January, when our pastor preached a sermon entitled, 'When We Pray',² after which the elders lined up at the front of the church to anoint each member who came forward for individual prayer. This was a very moving service during which many tears were shed.



On 31 January the members gathered in the morning to share their testimonies and give thanks to God for all He had done for them.

Everyone then enjoyed the breakfast prepared for them by Gloria Sewell (Head Deaconess) and her capable team. A blessed time was had by all!

NATAILE SUTHERLAND

¹For more information on the guide booklet they used see: http://camphill.adventistchurch.org.uk/uploaded_assets/238040-31_days_of_Fasting_Prayer_2016.pdf?thumbnail=original&1452119472 ²<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00nhGHEPrKk>



encouraged church members and visitors to begin 2016 with a NEW START – the health acronym for a lifestyle that promotes improvement in the following areas in order to live healthier lives: Nutrition, Energy, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God.

As part of this emphasis they held a health emphasis day and invited health advocate Alvin McQueen to speak on the theme, 'The battle for your mind: who's got your attention?' during which he warned the audience of the potential dangers that can come as a result of persistent use of social networking platforms. This is how he paraphrased Ellen G. White on the issue: 'The unseen battle is the battle for our minds. The enemy cannot read our minds but he is a keen

observer of our actions and words, from which he can skilfully adapt his temptations to our particular cases or struggles.'

To conclude the day, McQueen gave a presentation of his team's successful health evangelism in India, before ending with a presentation of certificates to Hackney members who had participated in Golden Palms – a programme of learning which promotes healthy vegan cooking and leads to the creation of cookery schools within churches.

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

¹www.theguardian.com/society/2015/oct/26/bacon-ham-sausages-processed-meats-cancer-risk-smoking-says-who

A new year: a NEW START!

When, in October last year, the media ran with the latest scientific findings that processed meats such as bacon, ham and sausages are as likely to cause cancer as is smoking,¹ it came as no surprise to Seventh-day Adventists. For over a century, through the study of God's Word, the Spirit of Prophecy, and a growing body of corroborating medical research, we have become the advocates of a health message that the rest of the world is only now beginning to appreciate.

With this in mind, the Hackney Health Ministries Department

3ABN at Croydon

Danny Shelton, founder of the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) recently encouraged the Croydon members to take personal 'responsibility and take the Gospel to a lost and dying world'. This was part of his effort to rally support for soul-winning in preparation for the 3ABN-SEC outreach scheduled for September this year.

He shared stories of how he and his TV ministry had made inroads in areas once considered too tough to evangelise. He encouraged the audience not to be discouraged by remarks that London is too tough an area to evangelise, as everybody needs the Gospel: 'Some just don't know it yet.'

Mr Shelton was accompanied by singers from The Gaithers, who warmed hearts with the high quality of their singing.

NEIL NUNES (ELDER)



An active ASC society at UCLan

The Adventist Students on Campus (ASC) society at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) was established in 2014 and is now in its second academic year. During this time it has continued to hold weekly meetings where members are able to open Sabbath with prayer, praise and Bible study. The society is currently led by Daniella Holder with the help of Charity Jacob and Djamila De Oliveira Nauana, who all work hard to ensure that the society meetings are both spiritual and interactive.

This semester Daniella proposed that the first Friday of the month be devoted to helping the homeless rather than Bible study. The first homeless outreach took place on 4 February with nine society members hitting the cold and wet streets of Preston to distribute food and clothing to those in need. Laura Jeffers described the experience as 'eye opening', and her sister, Natalie Jeffers, mentioned that 'it was an amazing experience which made me remember why God put me here.' Coincidentally one of the homeless men said that his grandmother had attended Preston Seventh-day Adventist Church for a long time, and the group were happy to let him know that he too was always welcome. After starting the academic year with a fun-filled and

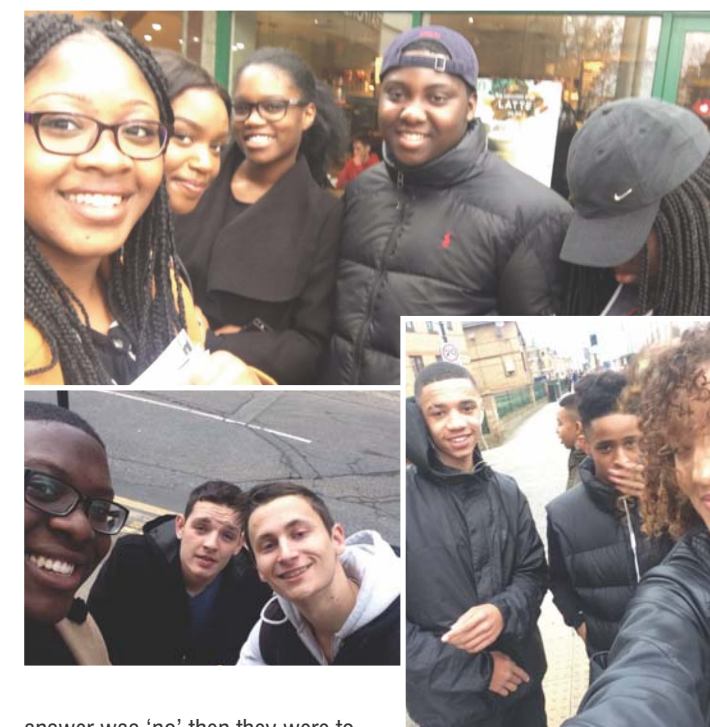


engaging games night for both old and new members to interact, the society has held weekly Friday evening meetings both on campus and in the comfort of the houses/student flats of members. Those wishing to join the society, or the weekly meeting, can find the relevant details on the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/UCLanASC).

GRACE NKESHIMANA

'Please join us for a selfie!'

On Sabbath 6 February the Training and Community Church (TCC) met for one of their regular monthly services. These meetings are held on the first Sabbath of each month at the Bryant Street Methodist church in Stratford (E15 4RU). After a series of activities based around identity and how each of us should discover our identity through God's eyes and not base it on anyone else's views or perceptions, a group of more than thirty young people whose ages ranged from 6 to 46 went out into the Stratford and Stratford Westfield areas. Their brief was to ask each person whether they had 'ever heard of Seventh-day Adventism'. If the



answer was 'no' then they were to explain who we are. If the answer was 'yes' then they were to ask them what they knew and take a selfie with them.

Their task was to find out how the people in those local communities viewed Seventh-day Adventists. As expected, a range of responses were given, from people who had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists to those who had and knew quite a bit.

The young people found it very enlightening. For some, this was the first time that they had ever been involved in going out and talking to strangers about their faith. For others it was the first time they had felt comfortable to do so. At the end of the day it seemed that they were excited and geared up to do it again.

In total 73 members of the community had their selfies taken, and approximately 150 people were spoken to. Not a bad result, and certainly a way to get the community to remember that Adventists are friendly and approachable people.

SACHA GILLIN

Women's Virtue

ONE is a WHOLE NUMBER
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DATE: Sunday, 24 April 2016
VENUE: Stratford Manor, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0PY
COST: £30
REGISTRATION: 9.15am
PROGRAMME: 10.00am – 5.00pm

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Contact Dawn Tompkins at the British Union Conference,
Tel: 01923 672251, Email: dtompkins@adventist.org.uk

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Newbold rebrands its School of English



Newbold College of Higher Education's programmes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) have been rebranded and launched as the English Language Centre (ELC) under a new interim head, Kärt Lazić.

Kärt has a decade of experience teaching ESOL, holds a Master of Arts degree in English Language and Literature, and is currently completing a doctorate on 'contemporary Anglo-Irish poetry and death' through the University of Tartu (Estonia) where she also taught English Language, Academic Writing and Phonetics, and Phonology to students for whom English was a foreign language. 'I am truly excited to now be able to take my experience from both fields and make it work to the benefit of the ELC,' said Kärt.

According to Kärt, the ELC aims to serve as a centre of excellence in the English language while also creating an organic environment for diverse cultural discoveries; for uplifting social encounters; and for contacts, discussions, and events that are spiritually inspiring. 'The rebranding and restructure highlight our readiness to adapt to what our students as well as our college need,' she said. 'This readiness has always been there, but we are looking to implement increased flexibility in what we are doing and how we are doing it.'

Newbold's new staff



Dr Ivan Milanov



Tihomir Lazić

Dr Ivan Milanov and Tihomir Lazić, who commenced last semester, are two of the newest members of the academic community at Newbold.

Dr Milanov has been appointed as Lecturer in Old Testament Studies and holds a doctorate in the same area (awarded by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and completed at Newbold under the supervision of the recently retired Dr Laurence Turner). He specialises in the Book of Daniel in particular. Dr Milanov says that he found Newbold to be far more relaxing as a student than as a lecturer. 'I have a much greater feeling of responsibility now. When I was a student someone else had to provide the quality teaching and demonstrate to the students how a biblical scholar should teach, hold a tutorial and publish. Now I am responsible for providing this for the students I teach!'

Tihomir Lazić, who has been appointed as Lecturer in Systematic Theology, specialises in Adventist ecclesiology, and is currently

completing a Doctor of Philosophy in Theology degree at the University of Oxford. He was also appointed Director of the Adventist Ministry to College and University Students (AMiCUS) – also known as Public Campus Ministry (PCM) – for the Trans-European Division at the recent General Conference session in July 2015. This role aims to reduce the ever-increasing number of Adventist students who leave the Church during the period of their university or college studies, and he sees this dual role as a bonus. 'Newbold can play an important role in the TED's effort to reach Adventist students on the secular campuses all around Europe and the world,' Tihomir said.

Both Tihomir and Dr Milanov have spent time guest lecturing at Newbold and other educational institutions, and have a passion for Adventist education. 'I feel called to serve as a lecturer,' said Dr Milanov, who admits that although he now sees education as his ministry, it took him some time to recognise the call. 'Serving God as a lecturer is not so different from serving Him as a pastor,' said Dr Milanov. 'Lecturers, like pastors, must always be on top of their game, whether academically or spiritually.'

From September, students will find studying English at Newbold a more flexible experience. The semester will be divided into two six-week segments of study and classroom work (instead of one thirteen-week semester), which will be complemented by two weeks of cultural experiences: the British Culture Week, which will help students make the most of England's history and heritage; and a trip to one of the great cities in Europe.

The ELC will benefit the wider student body by also offering classes in study skills, elocution and pronunciation for the college's degree students who wish to polish their English language and communication skills.

'We have a lot of different exciting projects in the pipeline, so expect to hear more soon! If you have ideas about how we could be of help to you, do not hesitate to share your vision with us. Let's see what we can do,' said Kärt. 'The ELC will need a lot of care and attention over the coming year – as any intentional organisational reshaping does – and we appreciate the prayers and support from the church community. I believe that the ELC has the potential to take care of its students in so many ways, and to be a really great tool in the hands of God.'

For more information on Newbold's ESOL programmes, visit the college's website (www.newbold.ac.uk/english).

KIRSTY WATKINS, PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Learn more about both Tihomir and Dr Milanov by visiting the News section of the college's website (www.newbold.ac.uk), and hear them speak along with other colleagues from the Department of Theological Studies at Newbold's free annual all-day Bible conference, 'The Church of Our Dreams', on Sabbath 16 April. Register now, at newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference.

KIRSTY WATKINS, PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Written & Directed by Jermaine Wong

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Colchester investiture

On 5 December last year the Colchester church held its first Pathfinder/Adventurer investiture (see photo above), in which all the club members received their pins and badges from Trevor Harewood, the Area 6 Co-ordinator. All the members have moved up to their next level and are as eager to do well this year.

THE PATHFINDER TEAM



Ordained officers showing their certificates.

The buck stops here

The responsibility for revival and evangelism cannot be passed to someone else: this was the challenge to the church elders, deacons and deaconesses of Rochdale and Piccadilly Churches by Pastor Frederick Mapp during a combined ordination service on 16 January. He inspired, encouraged and charged the officers to make it their priority to care for God's people.

These churches are under the care of Pastor Isaac Amofa. Four officers from Piccadilly Church and seven officers from Rochdale Church were ordained.

NKOSIKONA TSHABANGU (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, ROCHDALE)

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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Dr Brian Philips celebrates

Last December Dr Brian Philips celebrated his 80th birthday. He is well known throughout Wales and beyond, and for six years he was President of the Adventist Church in Wales.

Brian's life was not always spent working within the church. He actually began work at the age of 11 as a newspaper boy. From fifteen and a half until he was 21 he worked with British Rail, then trained as a nurse for three years before settling for a career in engineering at Renold Engineering in Cardiff, in quality control.

Brian's love of preaching has been evident for many years and he has been asked to preach in about 25 churches of different denominations throughout Wales. His preaching continued over the years and eventually he decided to study theology at the University of Glamorgan. This was quite surprising as school and Brian had never really mixed! 'I hated school,' he reminisces. 'I would do anything to avoid it – but later I did study at night school.'

At university Brian gained a BA (Hons) and a PhD in Theology. He was called to the ministry in 1989 and cared for five churches in Wales until he became President of the Welsh Mission in 2000. He retired in 2006 but continued to preach all over Wales until a few months ago.

Brian married Joyce in 1968 and they have shared many happy years of life and ministry together. Their daughter Jane was born in 1970. At Brian's birthday party 75 relatives and friends gathered for a buffet lunch in a hotel overlooking Cardiff. Pictures and scenes from Brian's life were shown and Jane (his daughter) and Jean (his sister) related interesting tales from his life.

It was a particularly joyful event as Brian had, for the first time in his life, spent some time in hospital in recent months.

We praise God that he has recovered and that he will hopefully take up preaching again – but not as often as in the past.

MIRIAM WOOD



PHOTO: DIANA BALMER



Mitzie Walfall and Aldray Barwise

Brixton's banquet

On 29 November last year the Brixton Church Community Services Department hosted their banquet in the church's youth hall.

It was attended by the Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu; Pastor Cecil Perry, former BUC president; Brixton's senior pastor, Ebenezer Jones-Lartey; and the Ferndale Safer Neighbourhood Team sergeant and his team.

The mayor spoke warmly of the contribution the church has made in Lambeth over the years. He was particularly appreciative of the church's role in caring for the elderly.

The banquet was held to recognise the diligent work of the Community Services Department, which has sent aid to the less fortunate in the local community and as far afield as Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Jamaica – wherever there is a need. It was also an opportunity to celebrate Mitzie Walfall's final year as Community Services leader.

In her report she mentioned that the Community Services at Brixton have worked closely with Oxfam, the British Heart Foundation, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Food Bank and UNICEF UK on different projects, all with the church's full support.

KELLEE HALLIBURTON (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)

obituaries



Christine Hooson (1936-2015) d. 25 November. It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Christine Hooson,

who was a stalwart member of the Hull Seventh-day Adventist church for many years.

Christine Hooson, a beloved wife, mother and grandmother, was born on 3 November 1936 to the late Sidney and Edith Coulman. At the age of four her father brought her to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. At the time her mother was not too pleased about her attending church on Saturday, but over the years she was won over, and became an active member of the church.

Christine was baptised at 16 in 1952 at the Ulceby church, and has served her church faithfully for more than 75 years. She has held a number of posts, but for a good number of years faithfully served both as the church clerk and as a deaconess.

At 79, Christine was one of the longest-living members of the Hull church.

Former BUC president, John Arthur, recalled how he met Christine and Ben during a visit to Hull many years ago and how, in the early nineties at a time when ADRA was heavily involved with relief operations in Albania and former Yugoslavia, Christine was an active supporter. The vast amount of help and support given by Christine and Ben, along with many other volunteers, greatly benefited the project.

The Adventist community in Humberside are also greatly indebted to Christine and Ben for their joint input, in so many different ways, to the life and witness of the local church.

When Christine met Ben (on a blind date) she was surprised to find out a few weeks later that, while he worked as a signalman during the day on the Hull-to-Withernsea Railway, he also held down another two jobs in the evenings!

Christine was determined to bring Ben to the Lord, and he was baptised at age 29. They were married in 1965 at St Augustine's church in Heddon and 2015 was the year of their golden wedding anniversary.

It was a joyous day for Christine and Ben when their first and only grandchild, Jacob, was born in 1996, as was the day of the marriage of Darren

and Melanie in 2005.

Sadly Melanie died two years ago on Christine's birthday, which has since marred the celebration of this special day.

Christine was always passionate about her faith, and despite health problems for many years has remained committed to both church and family. She loved taking an interest in everyone that she came into contact with.

Christine will be greatly missed and leaves behind her beloved husband, Ben; her son, Darren; her grandson, Jacob; Ben's sister, Mary, and her husband, Bernard; Ben's sister-in-law, Dorothy; and Darren's mother- and father-in-law, Barbara and Dave.

Sleep well, Christine, until we meet again when Jesus comes.

PASTOR JOHN FRANCIS



Elizabeth (Betty) Cooper (1928-2016) d. 10 January. Betty Ponder entered the world on 2 July 1928 in the city of

Dublin, Ireland. Her parents had accepted the Adventist faith and became founder members of the Dublin church. She was the youngest of a family of three. Her brother Jimmy and sister Rita also became church members. Life was difficult in the 1920s, especially for Sabbath-keepers, as employment with Sabbath privileges was not available. Consequently Betty's family endured material and financial difficulties. Being a Seventh-day Adventist did not guarantee acceptance by the Protestant community in Dublin, but among the Roman Catholics it was doubly difficult. She often endured taunts and other verbal abuse on the way to school and in the classroom.

Being highly intelligent – excelling in maths, literature and music – Betty left Ireland in 1950 to train as a Bible worker at Newbold College, where she met her future husband, Arthur Cooper, a ministerial student. They both graduated in 1952, Betty to work in Norwich and Arthur to serve in Scotland as a minister. In stricter times a minister was required to serve two years in the work before being allowed to marry, so they were married in Dublin in 1954.

Three children were born into the family: James in 1956 (Wimbledon); John in 1960 (Dunfermline); and Sharon in

1962 (Edinburgh).

Betty filled the roles of pastor's wife, mother and devout Christian with distinction. She and Arthur are the remnants of a ministry characterised by home visitation, during which members were taught the health message, how to cook, and how to run a household economically.

As a pastor's wife she served in various churches as Sabbath School leader, Missionary Volunteer leader and church organist. Betty was a constant companion to Arthur in the visitation and caring for members in practical, social and spiritual matters. She 'invented' the idea of the fellowship lunch when they were pastoring the Bournemouth church.

Her care for her children was outstanding, which was testified to by their tributes to her: 'She was always at home when we were little.' 'She taught me to sew and cook, and helped with my homework.' 'She taught me to play the piano and other instruments and gave us a love for music.' 'She cooked the most delicious meals. Her rissoles were special.' 'She was a disciplinarian when necessary.' 'Mum had a strong Christian faith, which she shared with everyone with whom she came in contact.' 'She taught us by precept and example to be good Christians.' 'She truly demonstrated the gifts of the Spirit, caring for others in their hour of need.' 'A more caring and loving mother you couldn't find.'

After retirement in Bournemouth they moved to Watford, where they were compassionately cared for by Charles Fletcher and his wife in Fairhaven, their old people's home.

When the Ponder family threw their lot in with the Seventh-day Adventist Church there were about half a million members worldwide. They embraced no small degree of hardship. They took up their cross, followed Jesus, and by faith have gained eternal life. Betty, her husband Arthur and their family exemplify the beautiful graces and virtues of the Christian life and faith. Betty now rests having placed her faith in the promise of her Saviour to come again. May the fulfilment of that promise be speedily fulfilled.

The funeral service took place at Stanborough Park Church, where a significant number of their contemporaries were present. Interment followed at West Watford Cemetery. The service was conducted by Pastors Paul Clee, Jacques Venter and the writer.

PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE



An achievement

Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell recently completed a doctoral degree with Birmingham University, School of Health and Population Sciences. Her research focused on pregnancy outcomes for women in three specific careers, examining if they were more at risk of delivering smaller babies, preterm delivery and so on.

She presently works as a consultant occupational physician and out-of-hours GP. She also serves as the head of the Health Ministries Department of her local church and has contributed to health expos all over the Midlands area and beyond, promoting the NEWSTART health programme to members of the community.

We wish her well as she puts her newly acquired expertise to the service of humanity.

JAMES AND THEODORE BELL

Messenger

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Mar 11	5.59	6.11	6.02	6.09	6.21
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25	6.23	6.35	6.28	6.38	6.48
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