

Messenger

News to the churches • 20 May 2016 • Volume 121 • 10

Chiswick Church opened

based on a report by Onysha D. Collins

The opening of the new Chiswick Seventh-day Adventist Church took place on 12 March this year. The building is an impressive three-storey structure able to seat a large number of worshippers, as can be seen from the selection of photos supplied to *MESSENGER*.

The speaker for the morning was Dr Richard de Lisser, President of the South England Conference, who helped his audience grasp the purposes of the growing church: preach the Gospel; help God's people to praise; care for the poor; protect the youth; and prepare for the Kingdom.

In the afternoon, the programme took the form of a music concert that was enjoyed by all. The scripture for the day was taken from Psalm 127:1: 'Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain . . .' (NIV-UK).





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editorial

We are one month from the first of two very important church gatherings of the British Union. For those who may not yet have seen the official notices in *MESSENGER*, the first of these will be the British Union Conference Session (30 June-2 July), to be held at Newbold College. The second will be the North England Conference Session (21-24 July), which will be conducted at the Macron Stadium, Bolton.

Well, you may be asking, 'What is a session, and why are they so important?' The answer to both questions is found in our *Church Manual* (2010),* which reads like this on pages 109-110 under the heading, 'Delegates to Local Conference Session':

'Administrative authority in a conference originates with its constituency. The churches of a conference elect delegates to the conference session to represent them in the councils of the conference. The conference session elects conference personnel, grants credentials and licences (unless the conference constitution gives its executive committee this responsibility), amends its constitution and bylaws if necessary, and transacts other business. One of its most important acts is the election of the executive committee, which functions for the constituency between sessions. In this committee is vested the delegated power and authority of all the churches of the conference.'

You may find it informative to read the rest of this chapter, but I will concentrate our attention today on what is generally expected from the delegates we appoint to represent us at these business sessions.

General expectations

The *Church Manual* goes on to describe what



Microphones can be lethal!



Julian Hibbert
Editor

it calls the 'Duty of Delegates' as follows:

'Delegates to a conference session are not chosen to represent merely the church or conference. They should view the work as a whole, remembering their responsibility for the welfare of the worldwide work of the Church. It is not permissible for church or conference delegations to organise or attempt to direct their votes as a unit. Nor is it permissible for the delegates from a large church or the conference to claim pre-eminence in directing affairs in a conference session. Each delegate should be susceptible to the direction of the Holy Spirit and vote according to personal convictions. Any church or conference officer or leader attempting to control the votes of a group of delegates would be considered disqualified for holding office.'

This paragraph speaks for itself and should guide the delegates as they prepare to play a Spirit-led role, both prior to and during these events. There are, however, just three crucial words I would like to smuggle into this text for the first sentence to read like this: 'Delegates to a conference session are not chosen to represent merely the church or conference, **but God Himself.**'

Sometimes, during the robust discussions that are so typical of our business sessions, **we seem to forget that we are ultimately there as God's delegates – His representatives!** I wonder just how it would affect our conduct and comments if we remained constantly aware of this important responsibility?

For example, through the years I have noticed that delegates often skip the Plans Committee, where important discussion takes place regarding how the church may be better governed; more economically run; more successful in mission, etc. They prefer to caucus in the sun or at the local coffee shop with their friends; speculate about those appointments still to be made; and fulminate over results with which they disagree. (A prick of conscience just reminded me that I may have done a little of this myself!)

Is this really what God expects of His representatives?

Lethal in the wrong hands

During forty-two years of ministry you get to attend a lot of business sessions. You get to hear some really eloquent speeches and some courageous ones too. You also hear some that should never have been made, which supports the point that **the microphone is a lethal weapon when in the wrong hands!**

Sadly, some use this weapon to destroy good plans and fine people. Others use it to cast doubt upon the integrity of well-meaning leaders. Still others use the session microphones to promote their own agenda, obstruct progress, and generally waste precious session time.

On one occasion, during a critically important special session, I watched a charismatic speaker divert the discussion away from a well-considered workable proposal to a 'red herring' of his own design. Eventually he had the floor to himself as he 'lectured' the delegates on how he thought the complex problem could be solved. That day I saw the microphone used as a lethal weapon to hijack positive progress.

There is another strange thing that I have noticed at sessions, **that for some delegates it hasn't been said until they've said it themselves!** Such repetition is a simple waste of precious session time. It steals the time needed for other important matters further down the agenda.

Something else I have noticed about the use of the microphone at session is that some speakers **appear to have cultivated what we could call a 'declaration of war' tone of voice.** In posture and prose, these delegates ooze aggression. Their comments are calculated to spark conflict – and conflict stifles creativity!

The rudder is yours

James has a bit of sound advice for those of us who will be attending these sessions:

'When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.' (James 3:3, 4, NIV-UK.)

Be the pilot . . . control the rudder . . . and let your speeches (or your silence) bring glory to God!

*Copies of the *Church Manual* may be obtained from the Adventist Book Centre at 01476 591 700 or via sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk. Those who prefer a PDF copy may download it at <https://www.adventist.org/en/information/church-manual/> free of charge.

Enhancing Health

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

Going natural Part 11c – Longevity tips

Research continues to reveal the extensive benefits of exercise in helping us live longer and age better. The latest research highlights the impact of exercise that boosts circulation, helping to slow cognitive decline and reduce the risk of dementia. One example of such research, reported in *Health and Fitness*,¹ indicates that exercise directly affects an area of the brain called the hippocampus, which gives us the ability to form new memories. It is this area of the brain that is seen to shrink in individuals with Alzheimer's. However, when we exercise, the size of the hippocampus is increased through improved cerebral blood flow.

In the recent television documentary, *How to Stay Young*, the BBC worked collaboratively with King's College London, undertaking a unique study looking at which exercise is best for enhancing brain health. A comparative analysis was made between two types of exercise – brisk walking and table tennis – where participants were tested, observed and evaluated after 10 weeks of exercise. The results revealed actual changes to the structure of the brain with both types of exercise.

The walkers were found to have better memory, better learning ability and increased blood flow to the cortex of the brain. The table tennis group also experienced better memory, greater attention, better motor learning and improved moods.²

So how does walking improve the brain? Well, the Mayo Clinic has found that when we walk we produce new cells in the

hippocampus, which helps to improve our spatial awareness. Walking also transforms short-term memories into long-term memories and affects brain size. The Mayo Clinic reports that the hippocampus of adults who undertook regular aerobic exercises over the course of a year grew larger.³

The hand-eye co-ordination in table tennis enables several parts of the brain to be stimulated simultaneously, keeps it constantly engaged and encourages strategic thinking. The mental and physical engagement involved is considered so beneficial that table tennis is now being used by the Sport and Art Educational Foundation (SAEF) as a therapeutic intervention for some Alzheimer's patients.⁴

Finding exercise a challenge? Harvard Health⁵ suggests the following:

- Choose an exercise you enjoy.
- Join a class or work out with a friend who'll hold you accountable.
- Track your progress, which encourages you to reach a goal.
- If you're able to, hire a personal trainer.

Good health!

¹<http://www.t3pingpong.com/t3-health-and-fitness/>

²<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/proginfo/2016/15/how-to-stay-young>

³<https://www.psychologies.co.uk/walk-your-way-better-brain-health>

⁴<http://www.t3pingpong.com/t3-health-and-fitness/>

⁵<http://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/regular-exercise-changes-brain-improve-memory-thinking-skills-201404097110>

Here is a little taste of the inspiration that changed lives are providing in our churches.

Norma's journey to Jesus

Yardley Church recently held a revival series led by guest speaker Pastor Abel Chekewa. The highlight of the week was the baptism of Norma Reid by local pastor, Pardon Chenjerai. She was supported by her husband, who had been baptised six months earlier.

This is her story. . . .
 'Five years ago I was not as close to Christ as I should have been, but I did know the Lord. As a child I attended Sunday School every Sunday morning and as an adult I worshipped regularly on the same day. My first real encounter with Christ was, however, when I started Bible studies with the Jehovah's Witnesses. After 11 years with that church I felt that I could not worship there any more. I was spiritually drained, exhausted and drifting from Christ. In November 2011 I left the Jehovah's Witnesses, and within just a couple of weeks met my soon-to-be-husband, Ransford Reid, who was a member of the Methodist Church at that point. I was not very keen on their beliefs and felt that I was not being fed spiritually. I knew something was missing. I needed the Lord back in my life.

'Ransford then met Gary Clarke, a member of Yardley Adventist Church, and they began to meet with a Bible study group. I had to wait six months before I was allowed to join the group, as it was a men's study group. When I did start going, I was the only woman there, but that did not bother me as I was happy to hear the word of God again. Since then I have been regularly studying the word. I now have my own personal Bible study group and I have attended the Adventist church



every Sabbath for 14 months. On Saturday, 16 April, I gave my life to the Lord, was baptised and now I am a full member of Yardley Church. Amen.'

PASTOR PARDON CHENJERAI

Romanians baptise ten new members

Life brings us in contact with the most unexpected people in the most unexpected ways. Every day we meet people for whom we are grateful, who inspire us, and who change the way we look at various events on life's journey. However, the most wonderful person we can meet is the One who can give us the living water that will become in us a 'fountain of water springing up into everlasting life' and change us forever.

On 16 April ten people from the London Romanian Seventh-day Adventist community had the honour of proclaiming their love for 'The One' who gave His life for our salvation. This happened at the East London Romanian church, where they were baptised before a full audience made up of members from all three Adventist Romanian churches in London.

Our assistant minister, Alex Mareniuc, spoke at this event, while music, provided by Watford Romanian Church Choir, East London Romanian Church Choir, various other groups, and instrumentalists and soloists from Harlesden Romanian Church, gave a special spark to proceedings.

LAURA M. STETCO



2016 NEC Session notification

Notice is hereby given that the 62nd Session of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from 10am Thursday, 21 July 2016 and conclude on Sunday, 24 July 2016. Registration begins at 7.30am on Thursday.

The venue is the Macron Stadium, De Havilland Way, Bolton, BL6 6SF. Sabbath, 23 July 2016 will be a Day of Fellowship and more details will follow later.

NEC Executive Secretary



Norwich baptism

On Sabbath 12 March Norwich Church gladly welcomed three young people into fellowship: Clemence Amba'a Engamba, originally from Cameroon; Nzinga Lawrence, a nursing student from the Republic of

Dominica; and Tobias 'Toby' Wright, a local lad studying at the nearby agricultural college, who had in many ways travelled the furthest. Not too many years ago Tobias was a self-confessed atheist. Now he, as are the two ladies baptised with him, is a living witness to the power of the Holy Spirit.

ADRIAN PECK



Baptism at Lewisham

In preparation for their upcoming evangelistic campaign in London, the SEC and 3ABN leadership have been visiting local London congregations to encourage their support and participation. On 26 March Lewisham Church welcomed Pastor John Lomacang (3ABN host, vocalist with The Heritage Singers and pastor of Thomsonville Seventh-day Adventist Church, USA), who roused members to 'preach every message with urgency' because Jesus is coming soon. At the end of the morning service, a number of new members were baptised as the result of a recent evangelistic campaign – a sure sign of great things to come in the very near future.

NIQUELLA SIMPSON-WEST

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Date: Sunday 5th June, 2016
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Cost: £55 including course materials or £60 for a couple sharing course materials. Lunch provided.
Email pasouth@hotmail.co.uk with your phone number to start the registration process.

Presenter: Pastor Les Ackle
SEC Family Life Director & Registered Prepare Enrich Trainer

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ARM's historic Angola trip

by Giles Barham, ARM Account Executive for Africa

Adventist Risk Management (ARM) representatives from St Albans, United Kingdom, recently arrived in Huambo, Angola to meet church leaders in the South-Western Angola Union Mission. This was part of a week-long emphasis on safety and risk management for churches that commenced on Sunday, 13 March 2016.

There were more than two dozen attendees from the Central Association Mission, the South Association Mission, the Bongo Adventist Seminary, and the Adventist Book and Bible Centre.

George Siamuzoka, Union Treasurer, noted that this was an 'historic event' as ARM had never before provided training and guidance on risk management protocols and the importance of insurance in Angola.

Graham Barham, Regional Manager for Europe and Africa, and Giles Barham, Account Executive for Africa, provided training on property, health and safety practices, international survivor benefits, short-term travel, and other important safety topics.

At the end of the second day attendees were able to 'put into practice' what they had learned during the seminar when they visited the newly built Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church. They were tasked with valuing the property and its contents, along with carrying out a risk assessment, and were surprised by what they found. 'If a newly constructed building can have so many health and safety considerations, we must be concerned for our older buildings,' one attendee commented.

Graham Barham was pleased that the attendees understood the importance of the information being shared. 'I'm absolutely delighted. We came with a mission to educate and I feel this has been done to great effect,' said Barham. 'The fact that the attendees are now wise to safety issues means they can take this knowledge back to their respective institutions and pass on the baton.'

The last day spent in South Angola was one of great honour for the attendees from ARM. General Eugene Figueiredo, Army Commander of the Central Angola Region, invited the ARM representatives to his quarters. Figueiredo oversees command of five of the eight provinces in the region. The general paid for the construction of the Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He told the group the story of how he had promised God that one day he would build a church for Him. His career kept him busy and in time he forgot. It was only after he had a change of heart that Figueiredo fulfilled the promise he had made. The entire visiting group found the experience to be a great honour and particularly beneficial for the church administration in attendance.

Later in the week, the ARM team travelled from Huambo to Luanda to carry out a more condensed version of their presentations to

those in the North-Eastern Angola Union Mission. Union Treasurer Burns Sibanda welcomed the ARM team and over 40 attendees, who found great value in the information provided.

'I didn't fully understand the value of insurance before this,' said one attendee. 'I now feel far better equipped to advise my colleagues and staff as to the policies that are available to us. I better understand the various risks that face the Lord's assets, which include us, His people.'

'I'm really happy with what has been achieved here,' said Giles Barham. 'We understood that Angola was uncharted territory from an ARM perspective and we know there is a great work to be done. This is only the start, and we look forward to continuing our relationship and working with these unions to continue improving their methods of risk assessment in order to ensure the safety of the church membership and its assets!'

The value of the visit was summed up by George Siamuzoka, the South-Western Union Mission Treasurer: 'It is our pleasure to have been with you. We appreciate so much your coming. Your presence and presentations will leave long-lasting memories. Now our people know what they are supposed to do to be good stewards of God's assets.'

Adventist Risk Management is the insurance ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and aims to provide solutions to reduce the risks to Adventist institutions and membership. 'Our ministry is to protect your ministry.' If you feel your organisation would gain value from such presentations, please visit our website: www.adventistrisk.org.



Celebrating excellence in Peckham

by Conchita Henry and Karen Satchwell

Peckham Church celebrated its members' 2015 successes on Sabbath 26 December, both academically and professionally. The speakers were Dr Daynea Richards, who recently completed her doctorate in Bio-Chemistry while pregnant with her first child; Jessie Ngizwenayo, a 10-year-old budding evangelist; and Caleb Mapoma and Migisha Uwiragiye, two teenagers who creatively expressed that no odds are too stacked for God!

The celebrations continued on the afternoon of Sabbath, 9 January, with a ceremony where 28 celebrants were presented with awards by Pastor Steve Thomas, including 64-year-old Olive Morris, who completed a



Pheleasha Robinson receiving her recognition award from Pastor Steve Thomas and Eugenie Burton

nursing practitioner's degree; a carpentry student; BSL graduates; and GCSE, A level and degree students. The speakers, entrepreneur Eugenie Burton and playwright Alan Charles, inspired the congregation to step out in faith and aim high – whatever their age!

This was followed by a symposium of five local business

founders who shared their journey and joined in the 'Career Speed Dating' during which people had a chance to grab a few minutes to speak with invited professionals.

The attendees were tremendously blessed, and want to thank God for His faithfulness in all aspects of their lives.

inbox

Dear Editor

Christian greetings to you and your readers from my sunny outpost here in Spain, where I am now pursuing my studies in Naturopathy after taking early retirement from ministry. Many have asked me why we made this change? Well, here is the answer.

In September last year, while on a sabbatical, we decided to visit the Bayside health centre in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The basic philosophy of Drs Rudy and Jeanie Davis is that 'the life of the animal is in the blood': a good biblical quote from Leviticus 17:11. When we arrived at the centre the first thing that they did was to take a sample of our blood, which was analysed right there by Dr Rudy, who then told us what was wrong with us just by looking at the magnified blood samples. What was impressive was that, as he told us what was wrong, it fitted perfectly with what we knew was taking place in our bodies, which, if nothing else, was a confidence booster even if the news wasn't great!

We were then placed on a detox programme for the following week. Throughout that week we were regaled with story after story of people who had wonderful healings after they had been given just weeks to live by their medical consultants. What was most appealing to me, however, was the fact that many of those who were healed were not

Christians, but as a result of their encounter with the healing ministry they gave their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

As I went through the week I found myself attracted to this ministry. Dr Rudy is actually a pastor who has now combined his ministerial calling with the healing ministry. Perfect!

As Rudy talked about some of the 'incurable' diseases that were being healed at his clinic we were truly amazed. MS, for example, is a degenerative autoimmune disease, with no known cure, yet Rudy claimed to be able to reverse this process. We were privileged one day, while out walking, to bump into a young lady by the name of Jasmine. We told her that we were staying at the Bayside health centre: upon which she told us that she had been a patient there suffering with MS and was now completely 'cured'. Not only that, but she was now a naturopathic practitioner with her own patients. Amazing!

There was one other surprise in store for me. For the past four years or so I had been suffering with sleep apnoea, and had to sleep with a CPAP mask. Four days into our detox programme Rowena informed me that my apnoea had stopped. I have not slept with the mask since. This was later verified by my sleep consultant in the UK.

At the end of the week we were invited back into Rudy's office for a final consultation which included another blood analysis. The results showed a vast improvement! The challenge for us was to continue with the new improved lifestyle and maintain optimal health. I am pleased to say that I have been able to shed over three stone in weight since then. Praise God!

My time at the Bayside health centre was a turning point. God has called us to the medical missionary work, which is still ministry. Taking early retirement from the ministry now gives us the opportunity to focus on preparation for the healing ministry that we would like to pursue.

Why Spain? Spain gives us the opportunity to pursue God's call on our lives in a more temperate climate where we intend to buy land and be able to grow our own foods, while at the same time not being too far away from family and friends. We are currently living in a small flat as we look for the place God has in mind for us.

Life is so busy here. As a retiree/student I am pursuing my studies and learning a new language (Spanish), as well as renewing my love for the piano. There just isn't enough time in the day!

We love the local Spanish markets and look forward to our weekly shop where we source our fruits and veg. If you're into olives then this is the place. They are absolutely delicious!

We are enjoying our time here, and we are getting to know the church members. No, I've not started preaching in Spanish yet, but I am praying for the gift of tongues!

We are excited about what God is doing in us, and what He will do through us and for us. Please continue to remember us in your prayers.



PASTOR SAM DAVIS



Kilkenny

Irish Mission President, Pastor David Neal, reports on the positive assimilation of Sudanese refugees in the Republic of Ireland.

Eight years ago, 75 South-Sudanese refugees settled in Kilkenny at the invitation of the Irish government from an ADRA-run refugee camp in Uganda. Although they were cold and afraid, warmth and love appeared: Evelyn Wilson devoted six years to caring for their spiritual and physical needs. How would they adjust to Irish life? Would they easily learn English and integrate well? Would they remain faithful Adventists?

As I visited the church recently I saw their fear had gone; they don't just survive in Ireland, but thrive! The parents deserve a medal for adapting quickly to a culture in every sense thousands of miles away from their own.

With 60 worshippers, they are nearly the largest congregation in the Republic of Ireland (outside of Dublin), and, although currently organised as a company, in reality they could soon become a church. They are very well organised, thanks to Evelyn, and have now outgrown the pre-fab community centre in which they worship.

Their income base is the lowest per head in the Irish Mission, but it's the demographic and potential of the church that really inspires. Almost all worshippers live within the city of Kilkenny, with a population

Stronger together

The 15th and largest ASNA Respite and Training Weekend took place during the weekend of 8-10 April at Sunningdale Park Hotel, Ascot, with more than 150 delegates enjoying excellent workshops, good food and fresh air!

For the children, the puppet ministry from the Watering Hole church (Southampton) was led by Pastor Rosemary Lethbridge, with creative art and music. Parent carers attended worship and peer support sessions, while children and young people enjoyed a parallel programme led by Caroline Kamara, ASNA Children and Young People Co-ordinator.

The programme for adults with learning disabilities and special needs was co-ordinated by members from Camp Hill, Birmingham; and support workers from local independent living group MENCAP, based in Milton Keynes, commented on the positive impact.

Adults with additional needs led worship and took part in the annual evening concert, giving all a chance to share talents and gifts, causing Natasha Mirilov and the team from SECmedia to be 'blown away' by their energy and experiences!

The afternoon walk provided a healthy challenge. Various workshops were presented: one, by SEC Pathfinder Director, Pastor Kevin Johns, and Margaret Johns, provided insights into disability awareness in the Pathfinder ministry; 'Dental Hygiene' was presented by Margaret Johns; and 'Understanding the Carer's Bill' was presented by Sonia Munroe. The annual ASNA AGM highlighted the work of the charity in 2015, and members discussed how to move the charity forwards.

of just 25,000 – a very high ratio of Adventists to the population (has to be the highest in Ireland). They are mostly young, and the teens and young adults are 'switched on' and cohesive, running Sabbath School, singing together, and demonstrating high 'faith maturity' levels, not least due to their life experience.

Kilkenny is the 'youngest' Irish Mission church in every sense, and requires solid leadership over the next few years to grow stronger: not an easy task, with most Irish pastoral districts concentrated around coastal areas.

I am nervous that because of their location Kilkenny will get left behind. Because they are so well organised – a shining example of a lay-led church – we will encourage and care for them from a distance, but we need to think about how to help Kilkenny maintain its current level of growth: by developing a clear plan; and by ensuring that our Kilkenny 'army of youth' is 'rightly trained' to be a worshipping community that serves the needs of the surrounding community with excellence and love.

'Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. . . . There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.' (Philippians 1:3-6, The Message.)



We continue to thank all our supporters, donors, contacts and members for their support – especially our volunteer carers, without whom the charity could not function. Thanks, finally, to God for His leading and direction.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS

BUC initiatives go global

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Director for Health, Women's Ministries and Disability Awareness

The BUC Women's Ministries Director recently attended the General Conference Women's Ministries advisory and here is her report.

These General Conference advisories are held every five years and provide an opportunity for church departmental leaders to meet and reflect on core programmes, share ideas, implement new initiatives and receive training on key programmes and resources for the quinquennium ahead.

Heather-Dawn Small – General Conference Women's Ministries Director – invited the writer to attend her advisory and share some of the key programmes and initiatives that have been developed during her term of office in the British Union. The directive was for her to train division leaders in these programmes with an eye to making them accessible for global rollout across the 15 divisions and attached fields.

The training delivered by the BUC Director included exposure to the materials used in the Women of Virtue (WOV) programme; the Forgiveness as Healing course, which facilitates recovery from painful life experiences; and Ministry Boxes, which is a reflective toolkit for building faith and hope through turbulent life experiences.

The Women of Virtue programme was well received, eliciting this comment from the Associate GC Director for Women's Ministries, Raquel Arrais: 'The WOVM training presented during the GCWM global advisory brought ideas, inspiration and ways to empower and reach women where they are. This programme will be instrumental in helping our women to expand their full potential in all areas of their lives.'

The Forgiveness as Healing course, which addresses the psychological, physical, spiritual and social impact of forgiveness and the negative repercussions on these aspects of life when unforgiveness persists, was also well received. Directors at the World Advisory saw the potential of the course as an effective tool in conflict resolution and



Camp Hill's Children's Retreat

From 25 to 27 March, Camp Hill's Children's Ministries Department, led by Clifton Hayden, took 19 children, aged 7-13, to the Frank Chapman Centre, Worcester, with three committee members, four adult helpers and two cooks, for a weekend retreat on the theme, 'Creation'.

Team-building and problem-solving activities started off the retreat, and over the weekend the children learned about each day of Creation Week in turn. Each session was carefully planned to involve both teaching and child participation. The children became particularly excited as they participated in bushcraft activities led by the centre staff, including fire lighting, shelter building and cooking.

When considering Day 4 of Creation, two of the children, Daniel Hazel and Isaiah Hayden, shared a lesson on the different moon phases.

Then it was social time with games, lots of fun and laughter. One memorable moment was the nature walk, where the children got very dirty and even stuck in the mud! After getting muddy they later got their hands caked in clay as they looked at Day 6, making clay models representing themselves, remembering how God made mankind from clay.

Pastor Herbert, speaking about Day 7, illustrated how good Sabbath was by using a chocolate cake. He taught the kids a theme song, learned as a boy in Leeds Junior Sabbath School and sung to the *Match of the Day* theme tune, and engaged the children in a quiz game with Bible questions, texts, songs and names. Forfeits for incorrect answers added excitement to the game!

All agreed that the children's talents will bless God's Church, and that they'd all had a challenging, exciting, and excellent time.

SHARON PRYCE



to help people address their personal challenges with forgiveness.

The third initiative presented was the Ministry Boxes. These were developed by the BUC Director to reflect the issues women face globally. Each box contains a toolkit for leaders: resources on how to minister to women affected by specific challenges. These included objects representing each area of challenge, prayers for those facing those challenges, and resources to help address them. These are carefully packaged to deal with sensitive issues in a way that appeals to the senses. A demonstration was given on how to assemble each box as an intervention and ministry tool. According to Heather-Dawn the ministry boxes are 'a wonderful tool to nurture those in pain and help in the healing process'.

We pray that God will bless the global roll-out of these initiatives as they are used to empower and restore lives and deepen their relationship with God.

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Plymouth family camp at Chapel Porth



Fifty members of Plymouth Church headed to Chapel Porth Caravan Site for the second year running, from 15 to 17 April, to worship and fellowship together.

To get the camp started, after a delicious meal and worship songs, Clifford Herman, pastor of Plymouth Church, shared a message on Bartimaeus; then on Sabbath morning 20 others joined them in praise and worship. Pastor Chris Peake took the Sabbath School lesson while the children had their own creative class, and the guest speaker was Pastor Emmanuel Osei, who emphasised that there will be some people in God's Kingdom we weren't expecting to see.

The rest of the weekend was filled with walks, worships, a concert and games, and, according to Lisia Matos: 'Camping has brought us closer as a church and as friends; it was great to see boundaries being taken down when we worshipped together and learned more about God and each other!'

JENNIE HALL



'Behold the Man'

On 27 March the Weston-super-Mare church held a special Easter service, which included a dedication and a wedding anniversary for three couples.

The theme for the service was 'Behold the Man' – an Easter reflection. Pastor Wayne Erasmus preached on Jesus and the cross. Beautiful Easter hymns were sung with the backing of two young violinists, Johanna and Molly, with Martin playing the trumpet, Maureen the organ and Pastor Erasmus the piano.

Rinati Hannah Mutanga, daughter of Thula and Watson Mutanga, was dedicated and blessed, after which congratulations were offered to three couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries: Islwyn and Maureen Reese (53 years), Roger and Jennie Gallaher (50 years), and Margaret and Derek Clothier (60 years the following week).

May God bless this beautiful little girl and may the couples enjoy many more happy years together.

YVONNE AND ROGER HILL



Money – a Christian response

Money was the subject of the last Newbold Diversity Lecture for this academic year. Andy Walton, Communications Officer from the Centre for Theology and Community, spoke about the Christian response to a global financial system built on credit and debt, where alcoholism, drug-taking and domestic violence are just some of the knock-on effects. He showed four video clips from half-a-dozen Bible scholars and economists who asked thought-provoking questions, between which he offered opportunities for discussion.

First, regarding the Exodus: What were Israelites liberated from, if not from debt and forced labour? They were reminded not to repeat the sins of the Egyptians by making others debtors. 'God liberates, and we are expected to participate in the liberating activity of God,' we were reminded.

The story of Zacchaeus suggests Jesus' recognition of the tax collector's involvement in a politically exploitative revenue system. Zacchaeus's repentance was seen as 'money doing relational work'.

The Christian response to Exodus 22:25 (which prohibits usury, or making a profit through lending money) has been mixed throughout history: exploitative lending to the poor has always been anathema.

What about our individual financial responsibilities? How will I honour God with my wealth, power and influence – in giving, tithing, my marketplace behaviour, my whole human experience? The challenge for Christians is to recognise that we can't serve God and →

mammon. Spending money on local enterprises extends its value. With each transaction we should ask, 'How have I built the Kingdom with this transaction?'

Some people have been taught not to talk socially about money, politics or religion – yet Christian stewardship demands that we talk about all three in gratitude and mutual accountability. We must not allow money to shape our reality, but rather, before we ask, 'What's to be done?' we must ask, 'What's going on?'

Money is never the church's final solution. Debt advisories, food banks and credit unions are not ends in themselves, but can be valuable forms of pastoral care where people can touch and see what liberation feels like, where the good news speaks to our bodies, our relationships, and our whole lives as part of the Kingdom of God.

HELEN PEARSON

Evangelism through music

The Involve Community, working in partnership with Bracknell Forest Council, organised a Cultural Festival Day on 19 March at the Bracknell and Wokingham College, demonstrating art, dance, food, drink and culture to celebrate the diversity of cultures and communities in Bracknell Forest.

The Bracknell Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Youth Choir represented the Bracknell church, and used the occasion to express their faith by singing Gospel songs.

At the end of the event the Mayor of Bracknell Forest Council, Dee Hamilton, posed for pictures with the youth choir.

ELDER OPPONG



Picture quality as supplied



Camp Hill's barefooted preacher

During Camp Hill Church's most recent Family Life Day the congregation was blessed with guests from the BUC, Pastors Llew Edwards and Cyril Sweeney, and a special international speaker, Dr Arlene Taylor. Dr Taylor is one of the world's leading speakers on brain function. She also is a writer, having published titles such as *Your Brain Has a Bent (Not a Dent)* and *Brain Benders*.

Dr Taylor's manner was engaging, and sometimes amusing. She spoke barefooted, something she has done for decades. The congregation laughed when she explained how she awoke one morning

and called her father and told him, if Moses took off his shoes because he was on holy ground, she should do the same.

Her sermon was on 'The Physiology of Forgiveness', and maybe readers would like to listen to it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gav6kCRsWfY>.

She was charismatic and engaging and managed to present scientific knowledge in a way that was understandable and captivating, and drew spontaneous applause from the audience.

As a church we learnt about the benefits of forgiveness, not just for our hearts and minds but for our health too.

With the message over, Pastor Patrick Herbert closed the service with a most relevant appeal for those who needed to apply forgiveness to others who had shown them ill, to turn the situation over to God for His help.

In the afternoon service, Dr Taylor talked about love and the danger of being carried away by our emotions. She warned about being swept away by those chemical reactions we have to other human beings, which feel like intense love but are not. She also highlighted how, when thinking of a partner, we need to think about whether this is the person we want to raise our children with, an important point to consider when it comes to love, marriage and family.

The day then ended with an evening of fun and games for the congregation.

GIFT RUREMESH



'Wise like an owl' in conflict

An introductory workshop on dispute resolution held at Newbold College on Sunday, 10 April, taught how to better manage conflict as Christians.

Facilitated by Cathy Boldeau of VisionSolutions and hosted by Newbold's Centre for Christian Leadership, the workshop had a particular focus on conflict in church environments; how it can be resolved; and how it can form the basis of transformation.

Cathy explained that people respond to conflict with different styles: 'Turtles tend to hide away rather than face conflict; sharks are aggressive and self-focused; teddy bears are overly-conciliatory and want to smooth things over rather than deal with the issue at hand; foxes are sly; and owls are wise and ultimately seek a mutually beneficial resolution.' Competent mediators practise the 'owl' style of resolution management.

Participants learnt what events or attitudes are likely to trigger an escalation – such as the inference of blame and the tendency to be biased, make assumptions, or demonstrate prejudice or discrimination.

The workshop also covered active listening; following fair processes that preserve common interests; and seeking future-focused solutions that ensure mutual gain.

Feedback from participants was positive. Newbold's Centre for Christian Leadership wants to know if you'd like further workshops on dispute resolution and conflict management. For more information, contact ccl@newbold.ac.uk.

KIRSTY WATKINS



East Kilbride's choir this Easter

Members of the Rainbow Singers, East Kilbride Church's choir, sang at Rosaburn Nursing Home on Easter Sabbath. Choir leader Carole, Stephen and his dad Peter, and Margaret sang old favourites like 'The Old Rugged Cross' and 'There Is a Green Hill Far Away', as well as newer songs.

The residents and nurses enjoyed the singing, and the chatting over tea and biscuits after.

MAGGIE ROBERTSON (ELDER)



Coventry Central youth celebrate Global Youth Day in style

With permission from the local council, more than 50 young people 'stormed' the city centre to awaken the spiritually indifferent city from its sleep' on Global Youth Day, setting up tables in the open air and giving out 500 pre-prepared goody bags containing a Coventry Central Church pen, a bottle of water, a cereal bar and *Signs of the Times* tracts and other small leaflets.

Initially just a few curious individuals walked up, but in no time queues started forming around the tables. Around the square all the young people spoke to passers-by in the mid-morning rush. A sticker on each bag enabled the recipients to get in touch with the local pastor or come to the local church.

Balloons proved very popular with the young boys and girls, who literally dragged their parents to the table where the young people were eagerly waiting to talk to them. Most parents expressed interest in the Pathfinder club, and the books and magazines, including *The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, the magazine *How to Save Your Marriage*, and other books.

Three tables were set up facing the three entrances into the city square. The middle table contained all the literature, while the two flanking tables were loaded with goody bags.

The plan was to chat with the interested member of the public, give out a goody bag and refer them to the literature table in the middle. At least 15 copies of *The Great Controversy* were given out, and a greater number of *Steps to Christ* and the magazines. Raoul and Chido, who were manning this table, had interesting discussions: some members of the public asked to make donations in response to the acts of



Elder Maggie, Steven Vlad in Mum Alina's arms, Dan with Bogdan, deaconess Carole, and Andrea.

New baby at East Kilbride

Steven Vlad Calistrat was born on 29 February 2016 to Alina and Dan, a little brother for Andrea (16) and Bogdan (10).

MAGGIE ROBERTSON (ELDER)

kindness that the young people had shown to their community.

A team of five drummers compelled passers-by to draw nearer, and, although the event was scheduled to take two-and-a-half hours, all the bags were gone within an hour. The young people continued to sing hymns and choruses while Chris played the guitar.

The afternoon was spent in a local care home where the residents were treated to an hour-and-a-half of non-stop music. The wonderful singing was punctuated by 'amens' from the residents.

This youth day has built on lessons learned from previous days. There is power when the church works together.

EDITH P. MUKADA (NEC APLA CANDIDATE)



Yardley Youth Week of Prayer

Yardley Church took part in the Youth Week of Prayer and the Global Youth Day from 19 to 26 March, deciding to be the sermon by helping the poor and showing God's love.

On the Friday evening, members collected the food from De Vere Venues, Colmore Gate – a conference and events company who were happy to donate. Young people, including mother and daughter Monique and Maya, prepared the food bags on Friday evening, and on Sabbath morning everyone met at 8am to search for homeless people, to give them food and pray with them before they got removed by shop owners or the police. They went out with 40-45 bags and came back with about 7, which they dropped off at the Salvation Army.

The smiles on recipients' faces were heart-warming; they might not have to beg for the morning or eat from the garbage that day. This is something we have to do more often. Most of them responded, 'God bless you'; they knew this was of godliness and love.

During the week the Youth Week of Prayer speakers included Elder Pfende, Jonathan McCool, Kia Chisholm, Keiran McKenzie, Michael →

Dantzie, Tashana Samuels and Pastor Pardon Chenjerai. A small group of adults prayed continually for the sessions the whole week.

We ended our evenings with snacks and drinks while having a small social. To God be the glory!

KENYA MCFARLANE



Children's Ministries Day at Camp Hill

Children's ministries took over the Sabbath programme at the Camp Hill church on 9 April, with the church's children taking the day's services. During Sabbath School they welcomed visitors, sang and told the mission story; and during the worship service they led the congregation in praise.

The Young Hope choir sang beautifully, to instrumental accompaniment played by the children, and during the 'Adult Story' adults came forward to the front of church, and were very attentive as they were taught about the feeding of the five thousand and the importance of sharing.

Pastor Patricia Douglas preached a sermon that was directed at the children in the congregation, getting them involved and showing that Jesus is always on time, but sometimes He asks us to wait. The children responded to her questions; one of which was, 'When you are sick what do your parents do?' – to which one innocent child replied, 'They call 999!'

Pastor Douglas also talked about the love of God, and how we should praise God for the children we are blessed with.

The afternoon programme taught the children how to remain safe in this dangerous world. Kid Smartz was the programme used – see kidsmartz.org.

The evening ended with creative and Bible-centred activities, and the children all learned from it.

PATRICK HERBERT



Forging friendships through food

Leicester Central Church first started its foodbank ministry as a short-term way of helping those experiencing economic hardship. The church's Community Services Department opened up the church to the community twice a month, offering food produce to those who need it: tinned food, pasta and cereal, fresh fruit and vegetables. Community members are treated to a sandwich and snack buffet and encouraged to

socialise with one another. A brief biblical thought for the day and word of encouragement are then shared, as well as a prayer before people load up their bags with food.

According to Community Services leader Grace Belgrave, the ministry has been perfect for connecting with Leicester's diverse community: 'We serve everyone – from those who are asylum seekers to those who have fallen upon hard economic times.'

Friendships have been made: most of the recipients are now regular attendees, and Leicester's Community Services team now know most of them on a first-name basis. Forging these friendships has made it easier to invite foodbank users to attend church on Sabbath. 'One of the women who comes to the foodbank asked if her baby could be blessed at church on a Sabbath,' explained Grace Belgrave. 'We also had a man who told his friend about the foodbank, and when we had a church campaign they both came along. His friend then got baptised at the end of the campaign!'

The feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, and some service users walk long distances to get there. Leicester Central's Community Services team has now extended the ministry to distributing second-hand clothes. News of the foodbank has spread by word of mouth and the ministry continues to grow. Thanks be to God!

COMMUNICATION TEAM



Natasha, Desiree, Maellys, Joshua, Jancy, Jacey, Takunda

God can use anyone

On 12 March, the children of Rainham Church took the worship service for the first time. It was a day to remember and the congregation was taken by surprise to see the dynamism and maturity with which they conducted everything. They confidently presented the sermonette on the topic, 'God Can Use Anyone', based on 2 Timothy 2:20, 21.

Under the guidance of the duty elder, Claudia Thomas, each child played a specific role: prayers, welcome, tithe and offerings, and the sermonette (conducted by Maellys, Joshua, Desiree and Natasha).

The children who preached performed their roles with passion. Each one knew exactly what to do and when to do it. That was cool! They demonstrated that God can use anyone, irrespective of their circumstances, to preach the gospel.

The children certainly deserved the praise that was heaped upon them by their appreciative parents and all the rest of the members. Each child was given a present and a group photograph was taken for the church records.

CHRISTOPHER OCHING (COMMUNICATION TEAM)

2016 NEC Session notification

Notice is hereby given that the 62nd Session of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from 10am Thursday, 21 July 2016 and conclude on Sunday, 24 July 2016. Registration begins at 7.30am on Thursday.

The venue is the Macron Stadium, De Havilland Way, Bolton, BL6 6SF. Sabbath, 23 July 2016 will be a Day of Fellowship and more details will follow later.

NEC Executive Secretary

See back page for Booking Form

Revival

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Pauline Mitchell - Tel: 07539383817
Email: sign.ministries@gmail.com

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obituary

Patricia Angela Goyder (1928-2015) d. 31 December. Pat was born in Leeds, and in her early years was a regular member of the Leeds church, taking on some responsibilities of helping with the children. She attended Leeds Girls High School and went on to graduate in Medicine at Trinity College Dublin.

After meeting another young doctor, John Goyder, a romance developed, leading to their marriage in 1956. Children started to arrive, the first being Liz, who followed Ma and Pa into medicine, becoming a consultant psychiatrist. Then there was David, who gained a PhD in Botany and presently is a herbarium scientist in Kew Gardens. Last, but not least, was Peter, who also followed his parents into medicine, presently

serving as a GP in Bristol. The family attended the Bradford church; the children regularly attended and were part of the youth family in Aberdaron. On retirement in the year 2000 Pat and John uprooted from their precious Yorkshire to Lowick Bridge in the Lake District, moving next to their daughter, Liz. They became regular members of South Cumbria Church. Jon died in 2005. Pat still supported the church until, because of age, it became too far for her to drive. Active until the

end, she enjoyed her garden and handicraft. She also adopted rescued dogs, which took her for her daily walks around the beautiful countryside. Arranging her own funeral, she highlighted the second coming of Jesus and the Resurrection. It was held in the local Church of England building, filled by local villagers and friends, including a number who travelled from Yorkshire to attend.

KEITH HAMILTON



The Master Guide Challenge

Inclement weather at Beaudesert Park in Staffordshire tested 53 newly enrolled Master Guide candidates of the North England Conference over the weekend of 4-6 March, gathered for the 'PhD' of the Adventurer and Pathfinder programme of the church.



The candidates, including Pastor Dan Majaducon (Newcastle), Pastor Derek Simon (Birmingham), Pastor Ian Philpott (Southport) and Pastor Samuel Appiah (Wolverhampton) were challenged to continue, improve or begin a three-month fitness regime of their choice to ensure leaders lead by example by leading a healthy lifestyle. "If I expect a Pathfinder to trek 8 miles in the forest, I ought to be fit enough to lead from the front or at least complete the trek with them," said Nigel Manunure, as he encouraged the trainees while leading the two-hour session.

As well as developing one's spiritual life, the course also helps develop outdoor skills. The candidates chopped and cut wood using the felling axe, hand axe and bow saw, and then used their logs to practise fire lighting.

Week 2 of the course will take place in June and will be even more challenging, including the art of story telling, precision drilling and marching, the church heritage exam and church doctrine coursework, among other activities. The demand for enrolment into the programme from local clubs is at an all-time high, meaning the future looks promising as people line up to lead the children into eternity with Jesus Christ.

For more information about joining a club at your church or enrolling into the Master Guide programme, speak to your local church leadership or contact the NEC Pathfinder/Youth Secretary, Voahangy, at: vbouhoussou@necadventist.org.uk.

NIGEL MANUNURE (AREA CO-ORDINATOR - AREA 7)

What if?

The potential of a child in Christ is inestimable: what if every child in our church were able to experience His love through the warm welcome they receive; the smiles; the songs; the prayers; the Bible stories; the Sabbath School; and an intergenerational worship service?

What if each child left church with a warm feeling in their heart as they reflect on the great love of God experienced in so many ways? What if they couldn't help sharing with their family and friends about this really special place?

What if children's ministry were taken seriously? In God's hands, children's ministry is an opportunity to influence little lives for the good!

The NEC Children's Ministries Department set out to inspire, train, equip and challenge the local churches to do more. On Sunday 20 March, children's teams from around the conference, together with elders and a couple from the South England Conference, met at Pendeford Church for training.

Praise and worship were BUC Children's Ministries Director, Pastor Cyril Sweeney's themes in a devotional based on Psalm 91. A dramatisation followed, reminding attendees that although we are no match for Satan, our Heavenly Father is. This was followed by a special time of prayer.

Ayo-Ola McKenzie spoke of the importance of ministering to all children, especially those with special needs: she urged us not to see a 'disabled child', but a 'child that happens to have a disability'. Only two percent of deaf people attend church as we do not cater for their needs. Ayo-Ola concluded by teaching the group how to sign 'Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world...'

This was followed by a number of workshops, which ranged from fun and creative 'arts and crafts' to the more uncomfortable topics such as relationships and the challenge of pornography. The Children's Ministries Department is determined to engage in difficult dialogue due to God's directive recorded in Deuteronomy 6:1-7.

Pastor Patricia Douglas praises God for the positive feedback from this training event and would like to thank all the presenters and attendees. We pray that the effects will reap a mighty harvest for eternity.

PASTOR PATRICIA DOUGLAS (NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR)

Messenger

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
May 20	8.54	9.06	9.05	9.29	9.32
27	9.03	9.15	9.15	9.40	9.43
Jun 03	9.11	9.23	9.23	9.50	9.52
10	9.17	9.29	9.29	9.57	9.59

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Arrival date <u>6 June 2016</u>		Departure date <u>12 June 2016</u>		Club: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>						
No. of nights <input type="checkbox"/>		Total persons <input type="checkbox"/>		Total no. apartments/rooms <input type="checkbox"/>						
				Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>						
				(K) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm						
Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday)						Self Catering: X				
Total	60+	45-59	26-44	18-25	12-17		8-11	5-7	2-4	Under 2
										(P) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm
										Beds: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
										Single Double Twin

Prices	C1 Club	C2 Club	K1 Classic	K2 Classic	B1 Budget	B2 Budget
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