

## God was at work . . .

by Pastor Peter Jaynes (Interim Communication Secretary, NEC)

News, as a good communication secretary knows, is full of truth, topical, relevant, unusual, perhaps troublesome and always of human interest.

The recent 62<sup>nd</sup> North England Conference session held at Bolton's Macron Stadium produced one item of unusual news that bears mentioning.

It relates to the marked working of the Holy Spirit on the Sunday morning, to which there was a distinct background.

Thursday was the day the session opened. Pastor Jerry Page from the General Conference Ministerial Association highlighted a theme that would continue through the session. He called on all present to practise a heartfelt walk with God – and experience a renewal of faith. However, during the weekend, as reports were presented and the day progressed, it became clear that there were deep undercurrents which gave rise to mounting frustration among the delegates. All was not well in the camp!

Several people frankly expressed, often with strong emotion, that they had never been to a session like this. They

were not impressed.

Despite this, the Sabbath was a wonderful day. The messages and the worship brought people to God with a craving for healing. The evening brought a full house of delegates to the floor for what was hoped would be a report from the Nominating Committee announcing the new president.

The report never came.

Bolton's connection between earth and heaven was busy that night. Frustrated pastors were working on how to call the Conference to account in the best possible way. Motions were afoot. Prayers were said and few people slept.

Sunday morning found a full hall and an early-morning prayer meeting still on the go. Sister Frederica Reid from the prayer team led out, inspiring prayer like never before. 'Someone' had been speaking to her through the night season.

God then acted. There were underlying issues that many had come to sense. We didn't 'know' what had happened, but we knew that God's will and way had to be done, and be seen to be done!

It was just after this prayer meeting that our president, Pastor Johnson; our secretary, Pastor Ferguson; and our former treasurer, Rejoice Kampengele, came to the floor. It was obvious that words had been said and that God was at work. The party sank to their knees and were soon surrounded by pastors and members, praising God that the Holy Spirit had intervened.

There are times when, even in a conservative congregation, emotions are fully revealed. On this occasion it was the Author of emotions who was revealing Himself. With great relief we watched as God revealed Himself and began the change of hearts that the whole Conference needed to experience.

Soon thereafter, report after report came in from the Nominating Committee in quick succession. A new president, Pastor Jackson, was approved. The executive secretary, Pastor Alan Hush, soon followed. We were then able to appoint a treasurer, Charles Bramble, former head of finance at the Stanborough Press. Directors soon followed: Personal Ministries, Health, Sabbath School, Youth, Children's Ministries and Pathfinders.

The new executive was also appointed and tasked with the role of appointing further directors and sponsors in due course. There are still obvious issues to overcome – but delegates had discovered that God is truly alive and well through His Agency, the Holy Spirit.





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## Enhancing Health

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

### Are you in pain? Part 3 – Chronic pain: a closer look

The *British Journal of Pain* (2013 Nov; 7[4]: 209-217) published a paper entitled, 'Chronic pain epidemiology – where do lifestyle factors fit in?'<sup>1</sup> It referenced many studies on pain, and highlighted the following:

#### Generalised pain

• 'The more severe the acute pain, and the greater the number of pain sites, the more likely it is that severe chronic pain will develop.'

#### Chronic pain and mortality

• There appears to be a link between chronic pain, poor health, and increased mortality.

#### Chronic pain and cardiovascular health

• Those with severe chronic pain 'are up to three times more likely to die from ischaemic heart disease or respiratory disease than those with no chronic pain'.

#### Chronic pain and mental wellbeing

• 'Anxiety, depression and catastrophising beliefs about pain have been shown to be associated with the presence of chronic pain and with a poor prognosis in people with various pain conditions.'

#### Chronic pain and physical wellbeing

• 'Several chronic physical conditions may increase the risk of chronic pain.'

#### Chronic pain and obesity

• The impact of pain and poorer life quality is greater in individuals who are obese. • 'In older adults a higher BMI was clearly associated with an increased incidence and prevalence of pain.'

#### Sleep problems

• Disrupted sleep is 'a risk factor for the onset of chronic pain and predictive for pain persistence'.

#### Employment

• 'Individuals who are not able to work because of illness or disability are . . . more likely to report chronic pain than those who are employed.'  
• 'Poor job control, expectations for return to work and fear of re-injury all contribute to occupational risk factors for the onset or persistence of pain.'

#### Gender

• 'Chronic pain syndromes generally have a higher prevalence in women.'  
• 'Women are over-represented . . . in the proportion of those seeking treatment for pain.'  
• 'There is some evidence [though by no means conclusive] to suggest that these gender-related differences are associated with [the] age-related hormonal changes of puberty and menopause involving oestrogen.'

#### Socioeconomic background

• 'People living in adverse socioeconomic circumstances not only experience more pain; they also experience more severe pain.'

The Department of Health's document entitled 'Essence of Care: 2010: Benchmarks for the Prevention and Management of Pain'<sup>2</sup> gives comprehensive guidelines and advice for health professionals and carers, and self-management tips for pain sufferers.

#### Good health!

<sup>1</sup>[bjp.sagepub.com/content/7/4/209.full](http://bjp.sagepub.com/content/7/4/209.full) <sup>2</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/216698/dh\\_119977.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/216698/dh_119977.pdf)

# editorial

Freedom of religion and worship: when did you last spare a thought for these privileges? If I am to be brutally honest with you, I very seldom do. Shamefully, I take this blessing for granted, even though millions of Christians don't share this freedom with me.

Open Doors, a 'watchdog' organisation that tracks the persecution of Christians, annually produces a World Watch List, which showed last year 'that approximately 100 million Christians' were being persecuted worldwide. According to their list, 'the type of persecution analysed ranged from government-inflicted, to violence carried out by terror groups.'<sup>1</sup>

Frankly, besides serious illness or injury, there is little that could threaten my weekly worship. Not even a flat battery would scupper my attendance – I can walk there in thirty minutes!

### Some are dying for their faith

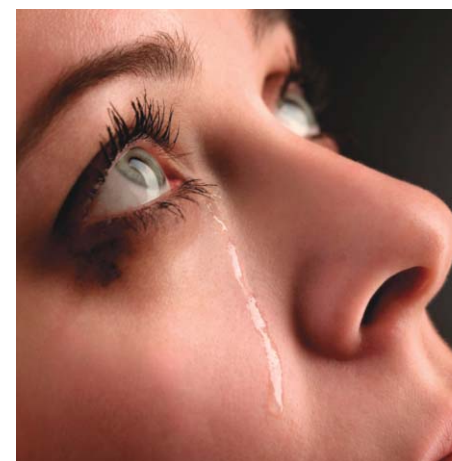
Although it's impossible to track just how many Christians are actually killed because of their commitment to Christ, 'Open Doors records show that worldwide there were over 7,000 Christians killed for faith-related reasons in the year [2015] – almost 3,000 more than the previous year.' This is by no means the full picture, however, as it excludes countries where accurate records do not exist: North Korea, Syria and Iraq.<sup>2</sup>

Those who hate Christians also have similar feelings about their places of worship. Last year this resulted in a surge of attacks against churches, with the number of reported incidents doubling to 'around 2,400'.<sup>3</sup>

### It doesn't exist

Theoretically there are some countries in the world where Christianity doesn't 'officially' exist, the prime example being North Korea. This is how the World Watch List describes the situation for the 300,000-odd 'invisible' Christians who are thought to live there:

*'North Korea is the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian for the 14th year in a row. Christians face arrest, torture, imprisonment and death for daring to believe there is a higher authority than the nation's'*



## Tears and prayers are our weapons



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

*leader, Kim Jong-un. Many follow Jesus in secret; parents often don't even tell their children about their faith for fear they will be revealed. Thousands of other Christians are trapped in horrific labour camps and isolated closed villages. But despite the risks, North Koreans are still choosing to follow Christ.'*<sup>4</sup>

There are 50 countries on that watch list. Why not log on to [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org) and see the descriptions they provide of the conditions under which our fellow believers are forced to live out their faith in these countries? It is a sobering exercise. Perhaps it will challenge you to join me in praying more faithfully for the millions who live daily with persecution in one or other of its many forms.

### Displacement

In many of the countries on that watch list Christians experience pariah status. This takes many forms: such as restrictions on their political and civil rights, educational and employment opportunities, and where they can live or to where they can travel. For many, their only option is to leave behind what they cannot carry and join the world's rising tide of displaced people. How high has that tide risen?

*'The U.N.'s refugee agency reports that the number of displaced people is at its highest ever – surpassing even post-World War II numbers, when the world was struggling to come to terms with the most devastating event in history.'*

*'The total at the end of 2015 reached 65.3 million – or one out of every 113 people on Earth, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The number represents a 5.8 million increase on the year before.'*<sup>5</sup>

These are mind-numbing statistics. But we must not forget that each one of them is a fellow human being, each with his or her own story. These are people whose natural aspirations have intentionally been crushed by the privation, cruelty and suffering forced on them by others. The Word tells us that 'Jesus wept' outside the tomb of His friend Lazarus (John 11:35, KJV), and that on His approach to Jerusalem, 'when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it,' knowing what lay ahead (Luke 19:41, ESV). How must He feel today?

### Tears are the only weapons

Like Jesus, there are times when tears are our only weapons. We cannot retaliate. We can only weep and pray!

Persecution is a form of asymmetrical warfare. Warfare in which the only power we often have is our powerlessness! Let it never be said, however, that such powerlessness in the face of persecution is synonymous with weakness or cowardice. John the Baptist was powerless as he faced Herod's executioner, but not cowardly. Stephen was powerless against the hail of stones that crushed life from his body, but we dare not call him weak.

*'Stop! What are you doing?'* were the last words of Father Jacques Hamel, 86, before his throat was cut in his Normandy church the other week. At that gruesome moment, his nineteen-year-old killers, Adel Kermiche and Abdel Malik Petitjean, were elated, fuelled by the thought that they held the destiny of the frail, powerless priest in their hands.<sup>6</sup>

Just minutes later, though, both lay dead in the street outside the church. At which point the power shifted to the martyred priest. His stunned parishioners in St-Étienne-du-Rouvray were quick to heap honour and respect upon him for his beautiful life. The Rouen Cathedral was packed with those who came to lay him to rest, including local Muslims horrified by his death, and the archbishop said this:

*'Our world has proven united from one side of the planet to the other. Injustices between people have become intolerable. Faced with the horrible and unjust death of a simple priest, messages have come from around the world. Hope is on the march.'*<sup>7</sup>

Perhaps it is time to take Paul seriously:

**'Think constantly of those in prison as if you were prisoners at their side. Think too of all who suffer as if you shared their pain.'** (Hebrews 13:3, J.B. Phillips New Testament.)

<sup>1</sup><http://www.christianpost.com/news/over-100-million-christians-are-being-persecuted-for-their-faith-in-jesus-christ-says-christian-charity-report-142144/> <sup>2</sup><http://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/trends.php> <sup>3</sup>ibid. <sup>4</sup>[www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/worldwatch/north\\_korea.php](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/worldwatch/north_korea.php) <sup>5</sup><http://edition.cnn.com/2016/06/20/world/unhcr-displaced-peoples-report/> <sup>6</sup><http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/terrified-nun-reveals-last-words-8531148> <sup>7</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/31/police-in-jacques-hamel-case-investigate-telegram-messaging-app-link>

# Car boot sale for Jesus!

Here is what some of our members from the island of Jersey are doing to witness.

Our members on Jersey have long debated just how to intentionally reach out to our fellow islanders. Among the many ideas discussed was one raised by Richard one Sabbath afternoon – ‘Why not distribute books for free at a car boot sale?’

We decided to try this. Fortunately we had a number of books in stock and the only challenge was finding a portable table that would be suitable for a car boot setting. Instead of procrastinating, it was decided to prayerfully take up the challenge the next day!

A table was found that Sabbath evening and two catchphrases were later suggested for marketing

purposes. The intention was to write the phrases on large pieces of paper and stick them in front of the table with the hope of drawing the attention of as many people as possible to our little store. The phrases were:

- The most important things in life are free; everything else is not really free.
- There is nothing like a free lunch: only for today you can grab a free book!

The titles available for distribution included *The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, *Health and Wellness* and *Dr Arnett's 24 Realistic Ways to Improve Your Health*.

We arrived at the boot sale location early the next morning



and were finished setting up the table by about 8.20am. The catchphrases were attached onto the front of the table. On the sides, two large A4 cards were inscribed with the words, ‘Free Books’ in bold print. It took quite a long time before someone accepted a free book.

Many would pass by, read the two phrases, give us a half-mast smile and move on. We took comfort in the fact that although no one had as yet picked a book, at least we had managed to ignite an early-morning smile on the

faces of some of them. We comforted ourselves with the thought that it was a unique form of evangelism!

Then we decided that, instead of waiting for the customers to come to us, we would go from car to car and give the books to our fellow car boot sellers.

The hand of the Lord was apparent in that almost every other seller was willing to accept a copy of one or other book. Some even accepted more than one copy. Some were kind enough to engage us in conversation, asking questions about our African heritage, while others even got to discuss ‘light’ spiritual issues with us. A large number of the books were handed out this way.

Now that almost every car owner in the field had a book or two, there was no choice but to patiently wait for other interested people to come to the table and collect a free copy.

Among the first to come was a man named Jim. He was a school builder by profession and had spent a considerable time in Kenya. After a long chat about African heritage and politics, he left the table having accepted two books and given us his contact details. Apparently he has connections to the donor community who assist with the building of schools in African countries. I quickly suggested Zimbabwe as a possible beneficiary!

As the crowds grew larger, a lot more faces began to approach the table, taking a book or two. Some were interested in our

religion and our motives. Others asked why the books were being given away free and yet this was a car boot ‘sale’.

One young fellow came and picked a copy of *Steps to Christ*; then before leaving he grabbed a thick copy of *The Great Controversy* for his dad. Since it was Father’s Day, we all marvelled at the little boy’s ingenuity. What better gift to bless your father with than eternity.

One of our longest conversations was with a lady who was visiting from Poland. We later discovered that she was a Christian and she gratefully took a copy of the *Health and Wellness* book before leaving.

David, a member of the Jehovah’s Witnesses, provided some delightful company, during which he used his multilingual skills in an attempt to learn a few Bantu words. He told us about the countries he had visited, as well as sharing a JW pamphlet on unclean and clean foods with us.

The most pleasant aspect of

the day was that most people who passed by the table were very kind and nice to us. This felt good.

They were also interested in knowing about topics that were covered in the books. In many cases we had to quickly share a short summary of each book with them: more like what doorstep salespeople do!

The best relationship of the day was developed with the gentleman who was selling automotive paint next to our table. He was such a free-spirited person who showed great delight after we expressed admiration of his Mercedes Benz. This opened up the way for more conversation and we were later able to give him two of our books that are linked to the health message.

At some point he tried to sell me a soft brown cashmere jacket. Although it was a perfect fit, I told him that a jacket of this style would be more suited to my elderly father. Surprisingly, before we left, he called out and gave me the jacket for free. At least I

was not the only lad who got a free gift to give to my dad on that Father’s Day.

One of the ladies we met explained that she had multiple sclerosis. After learning of her illness, I rushed back to the table and got her another book. I thought the recommendations in Dr Arnett’s book would be more suited to her situation.

She was really glad and thanked us for the effort. On meeting my colleague later, she reiterated that she would definitely read the books.

I observed that most of the people who took up *The Great Controversy* were intrigued by the historical element of the book. This became a successful selling point as we mentioned the rise and fall of popes, the Reformation and the counter-Reformation, and the way in which the Bible has stood the test of time.

Without a doubt, the best ‘seller’ of the day was Dr Arnett’s book. It appears that the health message has the power to create endless opportunities to meet people (that we otherwise would

not have met) at their point of greatest need.

Indeed Ellen White couldn’t have expressed it better when she described this aspect of our message as the ‘right hand’ of the Gospel.

More than just being an opportunity to hand out books, we saw doors opening before us. Many people were willing to talk, share life stories, crack our ribs with well-timed laughter, and, as mentioned earlier, be nice to us.

The fact that we were sellers made it easier to connect with those in similar circumstances, and God sent us a clear message about the relevance of the Gospel in our time. He showed us that the health message is by far one of the most efficient methods to transport the Gospel. This inspired us with the thought that we should never underestimate the power of the book.

This was a wonderful way to mix and mingle with the community around us. We need to do it more often!

TAPIWA MUNYAWIRI

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## A colossal shock to the tune of £90,000!

Dr Victor Samwinga and Pastor Peter Jeynes

It sometimes takes a shock to bring a person to their senses! How about a £90,000 shock? Well, that's what five adults and their six children got when they independently discovered that their financial futures looked really bleak due to crippling debt.

The first was the Andrada family. After years of work, Joey and Girlie realised that the financial hole they were in would only get deeper unless they took serious action. Meanwhile, on the other bank of the Tyne, Steven Katebe discovered that the hole in his pockets was ruining his spiritual life and lowering his chances of future financial stability. Thankfully, Stephen found a guide in American Christian financial author and radio show host, Dave Ramsey. The third family to become aware of the seriousness of their financial situation was the Samwinga family. Although their plight may have been partly due to an honourable cause – helping family – Victor and Lynne realised that they were building their financial house on a sandy shore as their credit card and overdraft debts began to mount, leaving

them with more month left at the end of the money!

That all this happened in one church should help us realise that there are undoubtedly many similar issues with families in churches the world over. The fact that the individuals involved are well-educated Christians with professional careers also shows that getting out of financial control can happen to anyone.

### Where does this fit in the timeline?

It takes courage to reveal one's financial instability, especially when you are an elder who is about to preach on Sabbath morning. Thankfully, Joey Andrada had the courage and the tact to share his family's financial problems with the congregation during his sermon. Provisionally, the three groups mentioned above met and started to talk about their situations. Feelings of shame, guilt and anger lead many to refuse to talk about money problems. It was no different for the group – at first, opening up was a little awkward, but with time the discussions became therapeutic and a source of

encouragement. They each acknowledged that, while they were all sensible people, good Christians and intelligent professionals, things had gone wrong with their attitude to money and their approach to its management.

Stephen was quick to reveal that he was beginning to see progress in his personal finances through following Dave Ramsey's simple but sensible financial guidance. The individuals soon began to experiment with these new ideas on personal finance. The first stage had been the realisation that something had to be done or else things would only get worse. The second stage was realising that something could be done. Learning to establish and live on a budget was the most significant skill they all learnt, followed by a seven-step process towards financial solvency.

### Money is at the heart of stewardship

Each person in the group began to recognise that there was light at the end of their very dark tunnel. It was at this point that the word 'stewardship' cropped

up. Stewardship leaders over the years have tried to encourage members to think that stewardship isn't just about money. An article in *adventiststewardship.com* has the following quote:

'We work together with God. We are stewards of our lives. Since we live within time and space, we are also stewards of our time and our environment. We were created in God's image. This image is what we are and finds expression in every aspect of our being. We are, therefore, stewards of our bodies, of our spiritual life, of our mental and intellectual capacities, and of our social being,' writes Paoring L. Ragui, quoting Dr Angel Rodriguez.

That said, if your monetary situation is a mess, your spiritual life, mental and intellectual capacities and social relationships may become affected too. Stewardship really can come back to how we look after money. No wonder Billy Graham once said, 'If a person gets his attitude towards money straightened out, then almost all other areas of his life will be straightened out.' When God's people start to put their financial houses in order, they also tend to straighten up spiritually because both areas require acknowledging God's sovereignty and ownership of it all. When this happens, they start to give more consistently. Consistent giving in turn makes them less selfish. Less selfish individuals tend to become better husbands, wives, sons, church members or employees! Ultimately, improving one's financial stewardship can result in healthier marriages, families, churches and societies, and overall God's kingdom and His work will prosper!

Tithes and offerings came down to the bottom of the list at one time. The paying of bills was prioritised, but the spiritual cost of doing that can be very high as the guilt of withholding money from God grows from week to week. However, as our friends' plans developed, so their spiritual confidence to return tithes and give healthy regular offerings grew. Their Christian stewardship was also improving as they learnt some practical money-management skills, based on biblical principles.

### The plan (baby steps)

What of the plans? Was the whole developing success story

down to having a budget? Dave Ramsey in his seminars and books advises 7 baby steps to financial fitness. The first step is to set aside £1,000 in an emergency fund; the second is paying off all non-mortgage debt with a debt snowball approach; while the third baby step is to establish a fully funded emergency fund by saving the equivalent of 3 to 6 months of expenses.

At this point the questions arise. How on earth can I do this? It is so drastic! The answer is quite simple: accept this by faith, as countless listeners to Dave Ramsey's American radio show regularly do with success. The human response to such advice is to question why things should be done in such a way. However, when all you have is a track record of financial mess, it is better to try doing things differently for a chance to get different results. By faith, these baby steps work as a very spiritual action to develop financial security.

The next of the steps is to invest 15% of your monthly income sensibly and conservatively to ensure a dignified retirement. The smart person would then create a college fund for their children. The next is to pay off your home early. The final step, and the ultimate purpose of the whole exercise, is to build wealth in order to maximise giving.

Such a plan isn't just theory – with God's help it works. On the last day of December 2015, fizzy drink corks popped as those families announced that their combined indebtedness of £90,000 had all been repaid – months ahead of schedule!

### A ministry is born

As a result, the group started a ministry in September 2015 called the SmartStewards, with the sole aim of transforming lives by helping families to become more intentional in managing their personal finances. On the last day of April 2016 this ministry's team used the Sabbath to promote sensible monetary care as a spiritual ministry. Practical lessons included budgeting – the process, challenges and benefits. The listeners heard that budgets were not a once-a-year chore but a monthly enjoyable experience used to decide on priorities and what's worth spending one's money on. It is easier to give when there's a plan – goals and

priorities are set – and when there's no debt! It makes it so much easier to praise God when His care for us can be easily reported.

Jan, who is the eldest of the children in the group, about to enter university and himself a SmartSteward, recounted during the event that the experience of dealing with debt over the past couple of years had drawn the family closer together.

Indeed, the process the group had embarked upon also brought them closer together as Christians. They now have freedom from guilt, healthier finances – and a life-changing ministry God has given them to help others avoid similar mistakes or work their way out of their own financial difficulties.

The team developed the SmartStewards concept, which gave birth to a Facebook-based group that currently has 730 members. Daily posts encourage spiritual but highly practical financial stewardship – personal money management – beyond just giving tithes and offerings. Along with local pastor, Peter Jeynes, as an occasional contributor, our once financially hapless individuals can now proudly say they are Smart Stewards and recognise that God has brought them to freedom from the slavery of consumer debt in order for them to serve others.

### Lessons learnt

What do we learn from all this? It isn't just the 'hopeless' layabout who gets into financial trouble. Even those who love the Lord and serve their church can still mess up their personal finances.

Rare personal and family disasters are not always the cause of debt and financial ruin. A wrong mindset and the failure to actively plan and manage one's finances based on sound spiritual principles is more likely to be the cause of debt and financial problems.

For the two couples in the story, personal finance and planning has now become a family affair and not just the responsibility of one guiding hand. The result is increased communication on money matters and family priorities, resulting in less conflict and disharmony.

The seven baby steps really do work; seeing them in action develops faith. However, there is no magic wand to healthier

finances. This approach will not work if no effort and discipline is exerted. It takes time to learn to discipline yourself to care effectively for your money. Patience is learned and this is only one of the great bonuses.

Simply saving money is not the real issue. A plan and an aim to develop the lives of others is the key to the whole process. Anybody can become debt-free but only smart stewards sort out their financial affairs so that they can give to enhance the lives of others while giving the glory to God.

The resulting spiritual benefits are enormous. Three families now happily return tithes and

offerings, and have a good Samaritan fund in their budgets. They are also well able to detail numerous times when God really has opened the windows of heaven in blessing.

The children in each family have learned principles and skills that will have long-lasting benefits. They are being equipped for life.

Of course the reader may well say, 'But I'm happy with my life as it is.' True, we can choose to spend, spend, spend with no thought for tomorrow – but think of the legacies we then leave our children and the opportunity we lose to make a difference in God's work and the lives of others around us.

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## A 'strong constitution' is required

by Pastor John Surridge, BUC Executive Secretary

When I first heard that my name was being considered to serve the church as Executive Secretary of the British Union Conference, I started to do a bit of research. What kind of skills would I need? What kind of help would I get? How much actual work would be involved?

Among the numerous pieces of advice that I received was one which particularly stuck in my mind and which may be the most important among my new responsibilities: 'You'll need a strong constitution!'

Now my initial understanding was that the person was referring to the long office hours, tedious committees and extensive travel involved. 'A strong constitution' is something you need when faced with an onerous task, a plate of unpalatable food, or a particularly malodorous cleaning job. So, yes, I could see that the requirement made sense.

However, I later realised that the advice carried a much more important meaning. My very first assignment as Executive Secretary, on the second day of this year's BUC Session at Newbold College, was to chair the business session dealing with 'the constitution'. This kind of 'constitution' is a totally different kettle of fish. It is the set of principles which define

who we are and how we operate as a church.

Until recently I hadn't given it much thought. I'm a fourth-generation Seventh-day Adventist and I love and care deeply for my church. The church has always been there for me and I assumed that it always would be. But the church does not exist by chance. The fact that we are here, still together despite our diversity, and growing faster than most churches in the world, is at least partly due to the painstaking work of those who, over the last hundred years or so, have carefully crafted our constitution.

We are not Seventh-day Adventists just because we believe in the Sabbath and the second coming of Jesus. We are not Seventh-day Adventists because we watch a particular Adventist television channel. We are Seventh-day Adventists because all of us, from the humblest administrative office to the largest megachurch, adhere to the principles which define us in the *Church Manual*, the General Conference's *Working Policy*, and, as we work this out in our local fields, our own constitution documents.

Is this really important? Well, yes, I'm afraid it is. There are forces within our own church which are, right now, trying to divide

us. 'We don't need the church structure,' they say. 'We don't need a set of documents to tell us what to do!'

These damaging forces have been with us right from the start, and they led to the production of the first *Church Manual* in 1932. As far back as 1875 Ellen White wrote this: 'The church of Christ is in constant peril. Satan is seeking to destroy the people of God, and one man's mind, one man's judgement, is not sufficient to be trusted. Christ would have His followers brought together in church capacity, observing order, having rules and discipline, and all subject one to another, esteeming others better than themselves.' *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 445.

As a church we actually do have a strong constitution. At the BUC Session we voted to strengthen ours still further by bringing it more closely into harmony with the world church. But we need to be vigilant. On your local church boards, and on the various other committees which keep the church operating, listen out for the negative and divisive voices. When you hear them, challenge them! It won't be easy. You may need to be assertive. In fact you may need 'a strong constitution' to defend who we are and what we have as a church.

## Constitutional reform at BUC Session

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb? It's one of those perennial jokes. For Charismatics, apparently, it's only one – as their hands are already in the air. For the Baptists, it's at least 15: one to change the light bulb, and the rest to approve the change and arrange the food for the potluck lunch. The list can go on – just google it.

For Seventh-day Adventists at the British Union Session on Friday, 1 July 2016, it took 241: this being the number of delegates who sat through more than four hours of constitutional minutiae in order to bring the present constitution in line with the General Conference's present model and the UK Charity Commission requirements.

Most changes were fairly academic, though time-consuming, as a two-thirds majority is needed for any change. With electronic voting, that takes roughly 90 seconds per item.

The longest section of discussion related to Article 9, and involved a suggestion to move back to an earlier model for the timing and functioning of the Nominating Committee for Union Sessions. In the current system the Recommendations Committee and the Nominating Committee meet some weeks prior to Session. Some felt that this was unwieldy and potentially unfair, and that holding these meetings during Session was preferable. Alternatively, some of those who sat on this year's Nominating Committee preferred the system as it gave much more time for the consideration of names and didn't compete with the main meetings and reports in the Session.

There was genuine passion and concern expressed by both those who wanted to go back to the old system, and those who wanted to work to modify and improve the current system.

With the need for a two-thirds majority for change the choice for change was defeated: 61% for, 38% against. The BUC will continue with the present system while seeking ways to improve it.

Full details of the recommended changes can be found in the supplementary handbook available online at the bottom of the following web page: [adventist.org.uk/news/2016/buc/constitutional-reform](http://adventist.org.uk/news/2016/buc/constitutional-reform).

ADAPTED FROM THE BUC NEWS



BUC SESSION PHOTO: VICTOR HULBERT

## Three ministers ordained at NEC Session

Sabbath was especially welcome on 23 July at the Macron Stadium, providing a 'regime of calm' amid the deliberations of a lively North England Conference session. An estimated 1,700 day visitors joined the 300 or so church delegates for that Sabbath's Day of Fellowship, with many staying for the afternoon to see Pastors Noel Apugan, Obinnaya Genbrite Iheoma and Roman Smejkal being ordained to the Gospel ministry.

Noel hails from the Philippines, and supported his college studies with the 'Publishing Student Programme', selling literature every summer for seven years until his graduation in 1992. He found this so rewarding that he then became a credentialed literature evangelist, and subsequently an assistant publishing director, before moving to the UK in 2003 and attending the Stockport church as a lay member. Although humble about his qualities, he was persuaded to join the NEC pastoral team in 2008 by Stockport's pastor, Geoff Smith, who introduced him to the session congregation. Since then he's been serving on the Isle of Man, and, according to Pastor Smith, Noel's sense of humour is proving to be a great asset.

Pastor Iheoma has a different background. His degrees are in Petroleum Engineering, and Leadership and Management in Education, but in 2007 he started studying for the ministry at Newbold, and after his graduation in 2010 he served in Scotland until 2013. Pastor Bernie Holford, then Scottish Mission President, recalled during his introduction that he took great pleasure in reviewing the statistics for Pastor Iheoma's church, and discovered that the secret to his success was his remarkable kindness – particularly in baking bread for his neighbours.

At 21, Roman Smejkal, having been first an atheist and then a Buddhist, finally had his questions answered through Adventist missionaries in his home town, and accepted his Creator as Lord. He studied for ministry in the Czech Republic and came to the North England Conference, where he has served in many churches. According to Pastor Llew Edwards, who introduced him, he's aflame

with passion to share the joy he's found with those still trapped in unbelief.

The Advent Singers offered meditational music and Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President, gave a sobering message to the candidates about Jeremiah's assistant, Baruch: after which the pastors all laid on their hands; Pastor Lorance Johnson read the candidates their charge; and Pastor Richard

Jackson welcomed them to the ministry. Following wonderful singing from the Handsworth Trio, Pastor Patricia Douglas prayed for Noel's wife, Susan; Obinnaya's wife, Elizabeth; and Roman's wife, Miroslava, and Roman gave the candidates' response. The closing hymn – 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah' – couldn't have been more apt.

ANDREW PUCKERING



Pastor Roman Smejkal

Pastor Noel Apugan

Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma



NEC SESSION PHOTOS: LUNGANI SIBANDA AND BETHANY BAKER

## The South England Conference welcomes expressions of interest for the post of Conference Treasurer

Reporting to the President and Board of Trustees, the Treasurer will be required to serve in this elected role until September 2019.

We are currently seeking an experienced treasurer to lead out in the continuing transformation of the South England Conference's treasury functions. The treasurer will ensure the efficiency of the treasury team, and be responsible for implementation of the financial strategic direction of the Conference; along with the management and execution of all treasury transactions, reporting, cash flow, projections, accounting, the maintaining and reviewing of treasury policies and procedures and the management of security.

To be successful, you should:

- Be a fully qualified chartered accountant
- Have at least 5 years' relevant and proven management experience

We are looking for someone:

- With the ability to develop good working relationships, along with the skills to communicate and manage our treasury team
- With the experience of working within the charitable sector
- With the ability to develop good working relationships with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders
- Willing to adhere to the values and ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

If you have the right skills and level of commitment to be successful in this role, we would like to hear from you. Please send your CV and supporting statement to: Mrs Jacqui Crawford, Human Resources Manager of the South England Conference, [jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk) (telephone: 01923 232 728). If you require a job description it may be obtained from the same source.

All appointments are subject to satisfactory references, a medical, and a successful Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Applicants are required to have the right to work within the United Kingdom.

The decision to elect will rest with the Executive Committee of the South England Conference.

**The closing date for applications will be 31 August 2016.**

**WELSH MISSION TRIENNIAL SESSION**  
Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 16 October in the Swansea Seventh-day Adventist church. Registration will take place in the church from 8.30 to 9.30am, and delegates must register before participating in the proceedings of the Session.

E. Bran (President) and P. Lockham  
(Interim Mission Secretary)

HEALTH WEEKEND FOR LONDON

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

*the best you can be: body mind spirit***HEALTH** *fest*

27 &amp; 28 AUGUST 2016

LONDON

with TV's Dr Chidi  
as seen on BBC, ITV & Sky**Ruach** 27 August from 10.00am**THE BIBLE'S HEALTH MESSAGE***Why it Matters More Than Ever*

- ★ *Back to Eden* drama
- ★ *Hymns for Healing*
- ★ *Ask the Expert with Dr Chidi*
- ★ *Pastor Ian Sweeney - Why Health Matters*

*Ruach*, Gaumont State Theatre  
197-199 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 7HY

[www.healthfest.org.uk](http://www.healthfest.org.uk)**Premier.**

Leaders in Christian Communications

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

**Troxy** 28 August from 1.00pm**HEALTH, HEALING & HOPE***Taking Health to the Community*

- ★ *Beat Diabetes with Dr Chidi*
- ★ *Free Health Checks & seminars*
- ★ *Healthy Weight Loss demo*
- ★ *Stressbusters for Londoners*

Premiere of  
Mervyn Weir's  
musical drama  
6.00-8.00pm

*Troxy*, 490 Commercial Rd  
London, E1 0HX

*Rhythm  
of Life*

INSPIRATIONAL PRESENTATIONS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE | FREE EVENT

**ONE LIFE***The Best You Can Be: Body Mind Spirit*"I have come so that people may **LIVE** and  
that they may enjoy **LIFE** to the full"

JOHN 10:10 - © Worldwide English

[www.1life.org.uk](http://www.1life.org.uk)**3-17 SEPTEMBER 2016**

At the following venues: Brixton • Central London • Chiswick • Croydon  
London Ghana • Greenwich • Hampstead • Lewisham • North Wembley  
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As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

## What a jump!

by Sylvonie Noel of West Bletchley Community Church

One Sabbath morning an advert on the back page of a January MESSENGER arrested my attention – *Why not start the year with a free parachute jump?* The caption was accompanied by the image of a previous fund-raiser in full flight during a tandem skydive! *Is this something I could do?* I asked myself. That same week I enquired from ADRA about what it would take for me to be involved in such an event. I then contacted the company who arrange charity skydives for them and booked myself in for Sunday 22 May.

Having been declared fit enough by my GP, I began thinking about the target amount I would like to raise for ADRA by jumping from an aircraft strapped to a strange man! The figure that came to mind was £800. I challenged this figure, thinking it to be too high, but it kept coming back to mind. I concluded that God intended to take me on a journey of faith; and that He wanted me to trust Him on this one.

Once I had decided on a strategy, I calculated that I would need to average donations of £100 per week to reach my target. The first step was to let all my contacts know about the event and I spent one Sunday morning doing just that. I personalised my web page accordingly, waiting for the online sponsorships to pour in. At the end of the day, I had received . . . zero donations! Raising funds was going to be harder than I expected, but I told myself to be patient and give it a week. By the end of that week, as grateful as I was for the donations, I had only raised £15.

Things clearly weren't going according to my plans, and doubts quickly began to set in: 'Maybe the target is unrealistically high,' I questioned. God, however, was about to reveal Himself and His plans for this process to me. He then impressed me that if I lowered my target I would be limiting what He could do through me, and for me. This conviction served to lift my faith during those low points in the fund-raising adventure. I knew that for every person who didn't give, God had lined up someone who would. And this was true, even to the point of my receiving donations from people I had not even personally contacted! God is faithful. It was also an opportunity to raise awareness of ADRA, who a number of my sponsors had not heard of before. By the date of my skydive, 8 weeks after registering, over £500 had been received in sponsorship!

So what of the skydive itself? It was an absolutely incredible experience that I can recommend; and what better way than to couple it up with raising funds for charity? Thanks, ADRA, for giving me the opportunity to do this!

Although my fund-raising fell a bit short of my target of £800, I feel that it was all worthwhile. The final amount was £706 but ADRA will gladly welcome any late donations ([www.doitforcharity.com/Sylvonie](http://www.doitforcharity.com/Sylvonie)). You might also like to consider doing a jump for ADRA yourself. Why not? It is an unforgettable experience for a really good cause!



NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

# Parenting Weekend

**'The ABC of Parenting' with Pastor Keith Beau**

**CANCELLED**

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and with all your strength [your entire being] and with all your strength [your entire being] These words, which I am commanding you today, will be with you on your heart and on your mind. You shall teach them diligently to your children, [impressing God's promises on their minds and penetrating their hearts with His truths] and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up.' (Deuteronomy 10:1-6)

<b>FRI. 21st Oct.</b> 7pm Leicester Central SDA Church (Robert Hall) Baptist Church) 147 Narborough Rd, LE2 1EF	<b>SAT. 22nd Oct.</b> 9:30am - 6:30pm Leicester West SDA Church (Robert Hall Baptist Church) 147 Narborough Rd, LE2 1EP	<b>SUN. 23rd Oct.</b> 10am - 4pm Leicester Central SDA Church, London Road (Corner of University Road), LE2 1EF
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Please bring your packed lunch. Contact 0115 9606 312 or visit [www.necadventist.org.uk](http://www.necadventist.org.uk)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



## Hackney's evangelism

During last quarter, members of the Hackney church answered the call by Sabbath School leader, Maria Vinas, to 'go out and evangelise to everyone, everywhere'.

For the past few Sabbaths each Sabbath School class has taken turns to go out and witness to the local community. One class went street witnessing while another class visited housebound members. Church members also visited the local Mary Seacole Nursing Home. During each of these witnessing initiatives members sang hymns, read passages of Scripture and, upon request, offered prayers for those who needed them. Fruit baskets were also given to housebound members to let them know that they are still loved by God and the church.

Maria has been overjoyed with the church's response to the call: 'So far we have given out over 200 pieces of literature. Everyone involved in the programme has said how blessed they were to share the love of Jesus to both the community and housebound church members. This is our evangelism to everyone, everywhere.'

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT)



## Aberdeen International Day

On Sabbath 11 June the Aberdeen church held its second International Day. The children sang songs in Spanish, French, Cantonese and other languages. They also rendered the same Scripture reading in seven different languages, including English. In addition, the congregation was awash with a beautiful display of different national costumes. Beautiful, too, was the diverse array of world foods to be sampled – and tasty!

Our guest speaker was Pastor Simon Siew, a former president from the Southeast Asia Union Mission. He is the developer of the DIT (Discipleship In Training) programme, which he shared with the Aberdeen congregation on the Friday evening and Sabbath morning. The programme mainly focuses on mentoring, nurturing and retaining the newest members of the church.

JANICE SAVIZON



## Langley fired up for health expo

On 28 May Langley Church (Birmingham) had Grace Walsh (Health/Community Services and Disability Ministries Director) and her team present for the launch of their health expo project. The Sabbath's programme consisted of Grace's morning sermon; a selection of testimonies by people whose lives had benefited from adopting a more healthy lifestyle; a question-and-answer period on health; and a talk on the NEWSTART programme presented by Jennifer from the Handsworth church.

As a result of this motivational Sabbath, and under the leadership of Grace Masih of

Langley, the congregation is planning to run their own health expo this month (August).

ROHEET SUBRAI (COMMUNICATION OFFICER)

## Open Day transport

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

# Prepare Enrich

## One Day Facilitator Workshop

Are you a Church Leader, Family Ministries Leader or church member who would like to be involved in marriage preparation, building couple relationships or supporting couples in crisis? Prepare Enrich can enable you to do just that whilst providing appropriate spiritual support. The Prepare Enrich approach utilises assessment tools that you will be able to use with couples to help them identify their strengths and weaknesses, and provides supporting activities to help them improve their relationship.

**During the day you will cover:**

- Background of Prepare Enrich and the research base for the programme
- A detailed run through assessments and the facilitator report
- An understanding of how to use elements of the report, covering personality, couple agreement and family of origin
- An opportunity to experience using the materials including relevant Bible verses
- Practical guidance in implementing the Prepare Enrich programme
- Awareness of the supporting exercises which help couples apply their learning

**Presenter:** Pastor Les Ackie  
BUC Family Life Director & Registered Prepare Enrich Trainer

**Date:** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2016  
**Time:** 10am-4pm  
**Venue:** Pendeford SDA Church, Ryefield, Dovecotes, Wolverhampton, WV8 1UD  
**Cost:** £55 including course materials or £60 for a couple sharing course materials. Lunch provided.

Contact Paul South on 07846972313 or [pasouth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pasouth@hotmail.co.uk) to book your place or for more info. Pre-booking essential.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



## Brecon Camp celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Warm spring sunshine greeted the 70 or so campers at this year's Brecon Camp, which was held over the bank holiday weekend of 27 to 30 May. The speaker was Pastor Daniel Thompson, originally from Stanborough Park, but now serving the Bournemouth and Winchester churches. Daniel's theme was, 'Experiencing God in the Real World', and in his six talks he pointed out, as did the apostle Paul at the Areopagus in Athens, that God 'is not far from any one of us'. Quoting Hosea 14:7, Daniel explained that we can experience God simply by living in His shadow.

A perfect illustration of this principle is Andy Newell, who started attending the Brecon Camps a few years ago, just to accompany his wife, Liz. However, as Andy himself explains, spending time in the beautiful countryside, in the presence of God and those who believe in Him, he was gradually drawn into the community. At this year's Brecon Camp, immediately after the Sabbath morning service, surrounded by his friends and family, Andy was baptised in the river by Pastor Jeremy Tremeer.

Daniel also spoke about the need to renew and refresh our experience with God. Using a wind-up radio as an illustration he

demonstrated that while some stations are clear and strong, others are full of static and noise. 'Sometimes we don't receive God on the same frequency as we have received Him before,' he said, 'and so we need to retune.'

This retuning has been taking place at our Brecon Camps for fifty years – a fact revealed during the Sabbath service by Ray Morris, who was a young attender at the very first camp in 1966. 'We remember the year because the Severn Bridge had just opened and we crossed it for the first time,' he said. Also present at those early camps were Ray's wife Lyn, and David and Erica Cameron. All testified to the positive influence of Brecon Camp over the years.

Although the camp takes place in Wales it attracts visitors from much further afield, with the majority coming from the South England Conference. This year we were particularly pleased to have a good group from the Cheltenham church, including their pastor, James Shepley, and his family.

Next year's camp will take place, as usual, over the spring bank holiday weekend, from 26 to 29 May 2017. Perhaps you should put it in your diary now.

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE

## Hereford churches working together

The Hereford church took Refugee Weekend very seriously and, despite being a rather small church, managed to collect £220. The money was then used to purchase tinned fish for the refugees in Calais and Dunkirk, as this is what was needed at the time. David Bland (pictured) from the Leominster Priory uses the Baptist Church minibus to travel to France on a regular basis to deliver goods to the refugees. He and his volunteers had just returned when another visit was planned for July.

Volunteers are always needed to help sort clothes, assist with cooking and provide basic support in the makeshift schools. Many local churches are involved in this project, and through our association with 'Churches Together' the Seventh-day Adventist Church is proud to be able to add their name to the list. Let us remember that Jesus Himself was a refugee. May we continue to pray for all refugees and the success of this project.

JENNIFER ROWELL (CHURCHES TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVE)



## Croydon Family Seminar

During the period 23-30 April the Croydon church hosted a family ministries programme presented by Doctors Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, Directors of the North American Division's Family and Single Adult Ministries Department.

They presented a wide range of subjects in a seminar style with sincerity, sensitivity and 'tactically placed' humour.

In order to attract people from the local community the Thursday evening seminar meeting was held in the local Jurys Inn Hotel. Special music for the evening was provided by Croydon SDA Gospel Choir under the leadership of Ken Burton and Doriel Benjamin.

DAVID BILLET



## Norwich's cultural events

The Norwich church celebrated their second Cultural Day on Sabbath 11 June. This was part of a series of cultural days planned for the year. We had our first one on 23 April, hosted by the Americas community. Fernando Targas from Brazil was the speaker, with the topic being 'Angels'. In the afternoon there was a discussion about diversity. The food prepared by the group was excellent and quite different from our daily meals in Britain.

The second in the series was by the Europeans. The topic was 'Trials and Triumph of the Remnant Church in Europe'. Katie Titchiner and Richard King were the main organisers of the day. Highlights of the day were the singing of Martin Luther's song, 'A mighty fortress is our God', in four European languages by as many soloists; and three sermons on the history of Christianity and Sabbath-keeping in Europe, including the present conditions for witnessing on the Continent.

The afternoon discussion was mainly about what we would do if challenged like the Christians were in the Middle Ages.

The Europeans represented people from Poland, Holland, Romania, Bulgaria and Italy, and their food was fantastic. We were happy to have about ten visitors and are looking forward to seeing them again soon at the African and Asian days.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Left to right: Pastor Njabulo Ndlovu, Devon Searchwell (Elder), Garry Bowie, Rose and Pastor Dan Augsburg

## 'Core of Adventism' in Aberdeen

'In the sweet by and by' was the theme song sung by the Aberdeen members who attended the Core of Adventism nightly meetings which ran from 15 to 21 May. Our guest speakers were Pastor Dan Augsburg and his wife Rose. Presently, Pastor Dan is a lecturer on the subject of History of Spirituality at the Theological Seminary, Andrews University.

We were blessed each night by Rose's practical health talks that gave familiar subjects a new perspective. We also listened to a variety of special items that were sung by the Aberdeen members. Pastor Dan followed with his timely talks on a variety of spiritual subjects. Speaking about our Christian duty, Pastor Dan stated: 'Everyone born a Christian is a missionary. You either go or support someone else who is to go.' He also said that we should think of the word 'Christian' not as a noun, but as a verb, whereby we are continually working.

On the Sabbath, Pastor Dan gave his last talk to a packed and waiting congregation and they were not disappointed. The afternoon was then filled with more joy as we witnessed the baptism of Garry Bowie, who currently attends our branch congregation in Elgin.

JANICE SAVIZON



## Balham's Disability Day

On 4 June, Balham Church held their Disability Day, the very first in a very long time, and it was well worth the wait. The worship service was conducted by first-year seminary placement at the church, Garfield McIntosh, who himself is hearing-impaired. He presented a moving sermon about how he became a Christian.

In the afternoon meeting, which was very well attended, we tackled disability in a different way by inviting people with disabilities to talk on how they became disabled; how it has affected their lifestyle, families, relationships, jobs and interaction with people; and what special equipment and modifications they have had to make at work and home.

Among those invited was a man who was only diagnosed as dyslexic in his early thirties; a woman with lupus and rheumatoid arthritis; and a manager working in an institution for teenagers with hearing and learning difficulties. There was feedback from the congregation and a short YouTube video on Nick Vujicic, who was born with no limbs and is an evangelist spreading hope to the disabled.

Michele Gordon from the Lewisham church provided signing for the deaf who were in attendance throughout the day, and she conducted the Lewisham Sign Choir during the worship service.

GARFIELD MCINTOSH

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted





### Rejoicing at Watford Town

It was with great anticipation that the members and friends of Watford Town Church gathered to witness the baptism of two of its young people, Dennis Wanguirubi and Yaniel Williams.

Both candidates had made a firm decision for baptism in November when we had our last baptism. Supported by family and friends, each undertook Bible studies to prepare for the event that took place on 25 June.



### Wimbledon International welcomes four to its family

Sabbath 4 June was truly a special day at Wimbledon International as four people gave their lives to Christ. Many family and friends joined the congregation in welcoming Jason Lai, Camilla Nee-Owoo, Christine Nanayakara and her son Theo De Fransz into the family. The service was led by Pastor Hart. Each testimony spoke of the love they had, not only for Christ, but also for serving the church. Between them, they are actively serving in the children's, media and hospitality departments. The moving service ended with a Wimbledon favourite, 'Because He Lives'.

MIYANDA NAMAKANDO



The Pathfinders were fully involved in this joyous service by leading out in praise and worship, providing a guard of honour for both candidates, and hosting lunch prior to the baptism service and a reception after the baptism for the family and friends of the two candidates.

Both candidates are spiritually mature beyond their years, and their desire and joy were palpable in the church. There was no hesitation when they made their affirmation of beliefs before the congregation, with both answering with confidence.

Pastor Andrei Balan preached the sermon and conducted the baptism.

Dennis's favourite text is Psalm 119:105, which was read by his younger brother, Terrance; Yaniel's favourite text is Matthew 28:16-20, which was read by her mother.

Dennis was baptised first, followed by Yaniel, and at the appeal for those who desired baptism in the near future, several Pathfinders responded. There were also two other young people in the congregation and Dennis's father, who also indicated his desire for baptism.

When the candidates returned to be greeted by the church and welcomed into fellowship they were asked how they felt at this moment: 'Reborn,' was the response from Dennis, while Yaniel replied, 'Joyous.'

PAMELA COLEMAN

### Dignitary visits Handsworth Church

The Handsworth church had a surprise visit from the Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica, recently. He was in England on official duties related to the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. On the Sabbath morning he and his entourage made an extra-special visit to the Handsworth church in Birmingham, where he briefly addressed the congregation on the reasons why he was in Birmingham. He also spoke of our mission as Christians in this world. The service was enhanced by musical items by Pauline Samuels, Marie Rattray, Melissa Rattray-Wray and Kalita Syder-Spence. A powerful message by Pastor Richard Jackson, the former Ministerial Director of the North England Conference, followed. It was entitled, 'Cast Your Net', focusing on the sinner's struggle in the Christian life.

The congregation was blessed by the visit and prays that God will continue to sustain Sir Patrick Allen.

HANDSWORTH COMMUNICATIONS



### Open Day transport

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

### Father's Day at Hackney

While homes across the UK celebrated Father's Day during the weekend of 18 June, Hackney's Sabbath School Director, Maria Vinas, paid her own tribute to fathers, recognising the important role they play both in their homes and in the church. 'A father is a leader and shepherd of the flock; a priest in the home and someone children should admire and look up to for Godly instruction,' said Maria. Then, after a song of dedication, the fathers each received a special gospel music CD as a token of appreciation.

Some of the challenges fathers face along their spiritual journey were demonstrated in a play entitled, *Scoring for Jesus*, by Maria Vinas. It took the form of a football match where the *righteous fathers* took on the *family destroyers*. As the *righteous fathers* tried to raise up the family altar by incorporating prayer, praise and the study of God's holy words, the family destroyers would block, tackle and pull down the father, placing obstacles in the way such as stresses at home and work, which lead to a gradual dismantling of the family altar. However, as a righteous father looks to Jesus as his strength, he pulls himself up and against all odds overcomes his adversary, swivels and shoots to score a goal for Jesus.

During the sermon, John Mathieu (elder) emphasised the extreme value of every soul in the eyes of God. 'Something is only worth what someone is prepared to pay for it. So, Jesus has to be the most worthy individual on the planet and we human beings the most valuable, because Jesus paid for us with His own life and our circumstances do not affect our value in His eyes.'

There was no other way to demonstrate the worth of Jesus and our value to Him than by the fitting baptism of three young people – Dijon Lee (19), Deanna Lee (16) and Dillon Lee (12), who decided to give their hearts to the Lord in front of their very proud parents, as well as a very excited and happy church congregation.

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)



The writer defends his goals

### Starting with NEWSTART

What started as a little food demonstration in April 2014, as part of an ADRA clothes sale, has now become a full-fledged NEWSTART health expo. The forecast for Sunday 1 May was heavy rain. Instead the Lord answered the prayers of Handsworth members and held the rain in check to enable the launching of a NEWSTART expo. Area 5 Advisory had asked that, collectively, its churches hold a minimum of 7 health expos in the month of May as preparation for the launching of Mission to the Cities in Birmingham. Handsworth opted to be one of the first churches to take up the challenge.

Training was arranged by the Area 5 Health Committee and Handsworth was represented by 14 of the around 90 attendees taking advantage of the event. The volunteers were fired up, and by 8.30am the stations were being readied for the onslaught of community members who streamed through the doors from 11am. The queues were long as people waited patiently to attend each station and find out their 'health age'.

Some even went home to bring other family members and friends to receive their Health MOT. Advice was on hand at the 'Trust' station for those who wanted to know what to do with the information they had found. The healthy food sold out and the 100 glucose strips provided were not enough to meet the demand. The two health talks (blood pressure and diabetes) were well received, and attendees watched the simple health food demonstration attentively, then left their details so as to receive the simple vegan recipes.

Approximately 100 people left their contact details to receive



more information about how to improve their lifestyle, including 5 people who wanted to know more about prophecy. At 4.15pm the gates had to be closed to the community in order to bring the expo to a close.

Volunteers stated that they had not had a break all day, but were exhilarated by the interest shown by the community. Comments such as these were heard: 'A fantastic event. Staff were friendly, sensitive and knowledgeable. Definitely meeting the needs of our community. Thank you and well done!'

The NEWSTART model seems to be working for us over in Area 5 (NEC).

LORRAINE McDONALD (ASSISTANT PM LEADER)



# The Stanborough Press

# Open Day

Sunday 4 September



## Guest speakers

**Dr and Mrs Jan Paulsen.** Dr Paulsen, who is the keynote speaker for the event, is a former president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (March 1999 to June 2010). His messages are always deeply stimulating and not to be missed.

**Dr Chidi Ngwaba.** Dr Chidi is one of the world's premier 'Lifestyle Doctors', and holds degrees in both science and medicine from Cambridge and University College London (UK), and Johns Hopkins (USA). Many have already benefited from his life-changing medical ministry. He will conduct a set of interactive seminars on how to prevent and reverse chronic illnesses like diabetes.



## Live music

Vadè will be at Open Day to provide top-class Gospel music that you won't want to miss.

## Fun for the kids

Fun activities will be available for your children.

## Exhibition marquee

There will be space in an exhibition/vendors marquee for those who respond early and meet our terms and conditions. Official permits may be obtained from Elisabeth Parkinson (01476 591700 or [eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk)) by not later than 30 August, and are subject to availability. They will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis. No displays or vending will be permitted on The Stanborough Press property without an official permit obtained in the above manner.

## Catering

Provision has been made for an authorised caterer to supply a variety of tasty meal options at reasonable prices. No other food or refreshment vending will be permitted.

**See you there . . . with your family and friends!**



# obituary



**Leithie 'Dottie' Swaby (1928-2016) d. 13 June.** Mrs Leithie Swaby, known affectionately as 'Dottie', was born

on 26 June 1928 in the parish of St Mary, Jamaica, and was the only child of Hannah Batten. Leithie attended West Indies College, previously known as Mandeville College. It was here that she formulated her Adventist lifestyle while taking courses in Human Physiology and Mathematics. She was also a great cook and was well-renowned for her cooking prowess, which was evident while she attended the college.

Leithie travelled to the UK on the ship *Irpinia* and docked in Southampton on 2 October 1956. Prior to training as a nurse, she

worked for London Transport and the Home Office, Croydon. Leithie qualified as a State Enrolled Nurse (SEN) in 1966, and the bulk of her work was in the maternity wards where she received many accolades for her work.

Following her decision to be baptised at the New Gallery Centre, London, in the late 1960s, Leithie became part of the Hampstead church, Chalk Farm, when it moved from Regent Street in 1971. She loyally supported this church and was active in various posts and programmes. She particularly liked attending the South England Conference camp meetings and these became her favourite annual break. In fact, she attended the first one and did so annually for more than 20 years!

Singing was an activity that Leithie greatly enjoyed and did so

regularly with the Hampstead church choir, singing the alto part. The choir rendered prestigious performances, which included Handel's *Messiah*, Stainer's *Crucifixion* and Maunder's *Olivet to Calvary*, under the direction of father-and-son team, Livingstone and Edison Weekes. Leithie enjoyed a full church life and the friendships it brought her. She also had a good sense of humour. She had good hand skills too, such as knitting, crocheting, and embroidery. She taught her daughters to knit too.

Sadly, Leithie passed away on 13 June, two days after being admitted to hospital suffering with unsuspected pneumonia.

The funeral of Leithie Swaby took place at Hampstead Church on Thursday 14 July, and it was well attended by many well-wishers. The white coffin with a side carving of the Last Supper was covered with a spray of flowers including pink roses, her favourite. The officiating

ministers were Pastors Stephen McKenzie, the resident minister; Lorance Johnson; Felix McPherson; David Burnett; and Humphrey Walters. There were tributes, poems, songs, pictorial presentations and Scripture readings through which the mourners were able to express their sentiments.

She was interred at the Paddington Old Cemetery in the same plot as her late husband, Rufus Swaby. She is survived by four daughters: Sonia, Janice, Jennifer and Christine; one son-in-law, Jimmy; along with five grandchildren: Danielle, Jasmine, Seán, Ciarán, and Catriona. The Swaby family would like to extend their thanks to all who have supported the family at this sad time, and for the friends and family who attended the funeral. We look forward with the great hope, with the promise that the dead in Christ shall rise to life everlasting.

JANICE SAVIZON AND JENNIFER SWABY



## Wood Green ordains its youngest deacon

Seventeen-year-old Nathaniel DaBreo became the youngest ordained deacon at Wood Green Church. After three years in training Nathaniel was finally dedicated in service as a deacon on 2 July.

During his apprenticeship, and in addition to his normal duties, Nathaniel has stepped up to the pulpit and delivered several powerful sermons. Nathaniel has been guided to this point in his life by his mother Annette, who looked on with pride as her son was ordained. After his ordination Nathaniel stepped down from the rostrum and took up his place at the piano as he is also one of Wood Green's very talented and gifted musicians.

The ordination was conducted by Pastor Everett Picart, with the rest of his pastoral team looking on: the elders Tristan Cuniah, Elvin Prince, and Albert MacFarquhar.

Wood Green also dedicated three young souls to the Father: baby Isaiah Eli King and brothers Shabaka and Haru Nembaware. All were blessed by Pastor Picart and the pastoral team, watched by proud parents. To God be the glory.

BARBARA SOMMERS



## Special Needs emphasis

It was a blessing for the congregation of Manchester Southern Asia Church to have Pastor Larry R. Evans (Assistant to the President for Special Needs Ministries, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists) preach to us on 11 June, accompanied by his wife, Carolyn.

He opened our eyes to the amount of work that needs to be done for a special and significant group of people who are so often neglected in our outreach and evangelism – those who are hearing- and speech-impaired. Just as Jesus ministered to the physically challenged among the masses in His day, so we are called to do the same. Let us integrate the Special Needs Ministries into our personal and church evangelism so Jesus can truly be shared with all mankind.

DIAMOND SATHE (COMMUNICATION)

## Messenger

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## Sunset




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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Aug 12	8.28	8.40	8.37	8.55	9.01
19	8.14	8.26	8.22	8.39	8.46
26	7.59	8.12	8.06	8.22	8.29
Sept 2	7.44	7.56	7.50	8.04	8.12

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