

# Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland Messenger

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## Stanborough Summer Camp 2016

by Wilfred Masih (Summer Camp Chaplain)

**F**orty students attended Stanborough Summer Camp 2016. They came from a wide variety of countries, including Austria, China, France, Italy, Poland and Vietnam. These teens, with their unique international flavour and excitement, made this camp truly unforgettable!

For over two decades now, Stanborough School has hosted summer camps for young people who wish to improve their English skills, make international friends, explore London and learn more about God. And yet, every year is a new adventure. We never cease to be amazed at the youngsters' bubblyness and eagerness to learn.

The students had the opportunity to improve their proficiency in spoken and written English by attending EFL classes taught by English teachers and engaged in a host of other activities.

Every day there were different outdoor and indoor games and sports activities designed to help the youngsters interact with each other so they could improve their spoken English and form strong friendships.

Sightseeing trips included visits to the London Eye and Madame Tussauds and a boat trip on the River Thames. There were also trips to Thorpe Park, Phasels Wood activity centre and Bricklet Wood paintball centre. All of these activities proved to be very enjoyable and kept everyone busy and involved every day.

One of the highlights of the camp was the Talent Show, which provided a platform to showcase their varied talents.

The morning and afternoon worships are always a very important part of the summer camp experience! As many students attending our camps come from non-Christian backgrounds, we believe we had both a great opportunity and a great responsibility. Thus, we organised captivating, teen-friendly worship sessions that included heartfelt singing by everyone, as well as special musical items. We used a proverb from the Native American culture each day as a springboard for discussion, and explored important life lessons and Bible teachings. We also had a special Sabbath programme, in which we taught them songs, played and laughed together.

A farewell banquet was organised to conclude the summer camp in which the young students were served a three-course meal by staff members. While enjoying the meal there were special performances by students, including the winners of the Talent Show. There were certificates and various awards presented to students and staff alike for their hard work in making this year's camp so successful.



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## Enhancing Health

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

### Childhood obesity – the issues

It was a favourite game of ours. On the way home from school my eldest brother and I would race to the high street bakery, press our faces up against the window and imagine what the luscious cakes inside would be like. That was as far as we got! Sugary foods and drinks were not part of our daily menu and, even if we were tempted, we did not have the pocket money to purchase such 'treats'.

For many families today, sugary foods and drinks are not special occasion 'treats' but part of a daily diet of junk foods. This diet and inadequate levels of physical activity are two of the factors blamed for the rising levels of childhood obesity today. Currently the UK ranks among the top five obese countries of Western Europe.<sup>1</sup>

Recent Government announcements to tackle obesity included the following actions:

- Requesting the food and drink industry to cut by 5% the sugar used in products popular with children over the next year;
- A 20% sugar cut over the next four years, with Public Health England monitoring voluntary progress;
- Calls on primary schools to deliver at least 30 minutes of physical activity a day and to help parents and carers ensure children get the same amount at home.

However, the Government's plans have come under attack from diverse quarters, including health experts, MPs, campaigners and food chain bosses.

The BBC health news of 18 August 2016<sup>2</sup> reported the following responses:

- 'The Obesity Health Alliance – a coalition of 33 charities, medical royal colleges and campaign groups – said the plan fell "disappointingly short of what is needed".'
- 'Councillor Izzi Seccombe, of the Local Government Association, said it was "disappointing" that a number of measures that it had called for – such as giving councils the power to ban junk food adverts near schools – had not been included.'
- 'Mike Coupe, chief executive of Sainsbury's, said the plan was a "welcome first step" but added, "We need a holistic approach to tackle childhood obesity, including compulsory measured targets across all nutrients – not just sugar – and mandatory traffic light labelling across all food and drink products, regardless of whether they are consumed inside or outside the home.'
- 'TV chef and food campaigner, Jamie Oliver, observed: "Look at the words used – "should, might, we encourage" – too much of it is voluntary . . . where are the mandatory points?'

In the next issue we examine the challenges and solutions.

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2014/may/29/how-obese-is-the-uk-obesity-rates-compare-other-countries>  
<sup>2</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-37108767>

# editorial

I am sure that you have recently seen your quota of elite athletes pounding, pedalling or paddling themselves to Olympic glory, for I certainly have. There is something, however, that I have had to remind myself about while watching them in action. What I regard as an hour or so of exciting entertainment has cost each one of them years of strenuous preparation. Yes, as ever, the Games provide much food for thought.

What has really fascinated me about some of these remarkable men and women is the way in which they crossed the line. Two of my favourites in this regard have been Usain Bolt and Mo Farah, both of whom won double gold at these games. Why? For the simple fact that both looked so energetic, confident and buoyant in those milliseconds before they rewrote athletic history. They looked like champions as they crossed the line.

The same cannot be said, however, for all who took part in the Rio Games. Some were obviously shocked at their results; others were clearly crestfallen; a few sobbed or lay crumpled on the track, utterly dejected. I felt sympathy for them – for nobody bothers to take photographs of the 'also-rans' or mob them for their signatures. Their only podium, a change room bench; their only prize, the ticket home!

### The winning look

In my previous editorial I mentioned that there are scholars who believe that Paul was well acquainted with the Panhellenic Games of ancient Greece, and that he may have intentionally attended the Isthmian Games at Corinth – on at least one occasion (AD 51) – in order to share the Gospel with the vast crowds that were drawn to such events.

His familiarity with the Games is clear from the various passages in which he makes reference to them to illustrate aspects of the Christian life. As I ponder those texts it seems likely that he may even have watched them from a privileged seat near the finishing line, especially when I hear him say:

*'Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13-14, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

He must have been close enough to see the rhythmically pounding thighs; the thrusting arms; the bulging neck veins . . . and the utterly focused eyes as those Greek super-athletes swept across the finishing line.

He knew that top athletes didn't just run to make up numbers. They knew they could win. They were always in with a shout. He also knew that those top athletes had an all-consuming passion to win their chosen events. For them, as he says below, theirs was the only race worth running.



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## How will you cross the line?

He must have been in a stadium before to know how the urging of enthusiastic spectators explodes into cheers of adulation at the crossing of the line. Hence these words to the young Timothy:

*'You take over. I'm about to die, my life an offering on God's altar. This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting – God's applause! Depend on it, he's an honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming.'* (2 Timothy 4:6-8, The Message, emphasis supplied.)

Paul knew the winning look. He had it too!

### Do you?

Paul makes this observation, which is so applicable to all of us who have watched the BBC coverage of the Rio Olympics:

*'You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally.'* (1 Corinthians 9:24-25, The Message, emphasis supplied.)

Now that we have seen how it's done, up close and personal, he exhorts each of us to make the transition from *spectator* to *sportsperson* – in the race of life. It is now our turn to 'Run to win'.

### It's not all thrills

There are spills too! The race of life isn't for the faint-hearted. Mo Farah took a tumble during the 10,000m final and almost repeated it in the 5,000m heat, but winners don't stay down. After that first fall, Mo was up like a flash, regained his focus and composure, and then powered on to win the event in style. For me this is one of the hard-to-forget moments of the recent Olympics: a symbol of the sheer courage and determination top athletics requires.

I have seen such courage – and more – as a church pastor. Years ago I had the 'honour' of watching one of God's saints fade slowly away over many months. With each visit I could see how the race of life was taking it out of her. Her body was deteriorating around her, and yet she 'ran' on, a silent echo of Paul's own words: *'This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting – God's applause!'*

### How will you cross the line?

Back in 1923, on 4 June, Frank Hayes made sports history at Belmont Park, New York State, USA, during a steeplechase – a horse race using ditches and hedges for jumps. Frank, just 35, suffered a fatal heart attack around the middle of the race, but somehow his body remained in the saddle for at least another mile of jumps before it crossed the line to win at 20-1. Bizarre as it may sound, 'Hayes' death was not discovered until Miss Frayling [the owner] and race officials came to congratulate him shortly after the race.<sup>1</sup>

Believe it or not, Frank's 'record' still stands.<sup>2</sup> How are you planning to cross the line in *'the only race worth running'*? I trust that you will have *'run hard right to the finish, [and] believed all the way.'*

<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank\\_Hayes\\_\(jockey\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Hayes_(jockey))

<sup>2</sup><http://www.neatorama.com/2012/10/29/Frank-Hayes-The-Only-Dead-Man-to-Win-a-Horse-Race/>





## Miracles and witnessing at BUC Camporee

by Pastor Nathan Stickland

The British Union Conference (BUC) Pathfinder Camporee which finished on Saturday evening, 6 August, was preceded by a week of adventurous and varied activities, including a day trip to some caves which produced witnessing opportunities, and worship services that led hundreds to come forward to commit their lives to Jesus – all at Pembrey Country Park, Wales.

In the months running up to the event some people had even raised the question of whether there would be enough Pathfinders to attend the camporee due to other events happening this summer. However, after an eleventh-hour rush on registrations which tested even experienced leaders' nerves, we ended up with about 800 Pathfinders and staff. Seemingly there were other attempts at scuttling the plans for the camporee, which included certain suppliers pulling out in the weeks before the camp, until a miracle of timing on the Friday before it started signified that the purposes of God cannot be thwarted.

The marquee company, who hadn't yet finished erecting the main marquee due to delays in their other projects earlier in the week, submitted a final bill with the demand of immediate payment. This impossible request came after lunch on Friday when the BUC office had closed for the weekend. After prayer by the advance camp party, who had been informed of the situation, it became clear that all things are down to God's timing.

The BUC associate treasurer had, for some unknown reason, delayed his departure from Watford to attend the Swansea Church opening. He was phoned as he was about to reverse out of his drive to make the westerly journey, and that four-hour delay meant he could go to the office and authorise the payment. But



BUC Pathfinder Camporee, Pembrey Park 2016



BUC Pathfinder Camporee, Pembrey Park 2016

we were unable to make contact with the cashier who had to make the payment. Then, remarkably, the cashier sauntered into the office because he had lost his house keys and wanted to check if there was a spare key at the office! There is more to the story, but it was a magnificent sequence of timing, and we thank God that the transaction was made and the marquee construction completed in time for the opening ceremony.

It shows that what God intends to take place cannot be prevented.

After that miracle of timing, there was a sense that nothing could stop the Spirit of God caring for the camp. There was some disappointing weather but the Pathfinders got on with camp life. Their activities included



honours such as Electricity, Shells, ADRA, Horse Husbandry and a new Ghanaian-based Adinkra badge.

Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma, commenting on the Sanctuary honour he led out in, said, 'I have delivered the honour at many camporees. . . . The attitudes of the campers in attendance, especially at the Sanctuary honour booth, was exemplary and I believe it to be a reflection of the message delivered by the two emotive speakers, Jonathan and Richard. If all camporees were like this, I would do [it] again and again and encourage more people to attend.'

The adventure activities included a climbing tower, skiing and 'doughnutting' on the dry ski slope, scooters at the skate park, canoeing, and horse riding. A

community service project meant a team cleaned, painted and weeded around two anchors near the main entrance to the eight-mile sandy beach.

On the Friday of camp, 742 visited the Dan-Yr-Ogof show caves: a chance to view from underground the results of the Flood and natural erosion. With so many visiting the caves it could easily have put off other visitors. What the Pathfinders did not know was the influence they were having on one visiting family. We have received an email from a member of the public who expressed their praise for the good nature and commendable behaviour of the different groups he spoke to. He went as far as saying, 'I am not at all religious but the sound of some of your groups singing in the caves was a

highlight of our holiday. It was beautiful.' We never know the influence we have on others, when we are 'courteous and obedient' and 'keep a song in our heart'.

On Thursday evening the newly elected Trans-European Division (TED) Pathfinder director, Peter-Bo Bohsen, ran an incident hike, and on Sabbath afternoon offered the opportunity for a Bible Beach Art activity while the sea was out.

Thank you to the wonderful BUC staff, new and old, and to the two speakers, Pastors Richie Read and Jonathan Burnett, who between them made appeals which produced commitments from Pathfinders and staff to be 'Anchored' in their faith in Jesus Christ.

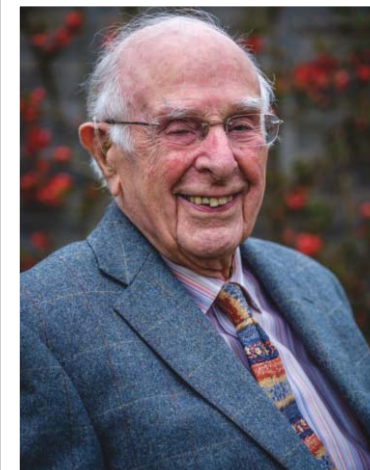
## inbox

### Re: Pastor Jeff Couzins' tithe article

Dear Editor  
Permit me to introduce myself. My name is Tom Miller and I worked in the British Union in various capacities from 1961 to 1970. In that year I was called to the General Conference as a director of the Auditing Department. I retired in 2004 and am now resident in California. I am writing to comment on Pastor Couzins' excellent article on tithing (*MESSENGER* 15 July, pp. 6, 7). He correctly emphasises the duty we have, out of love, to pay an honest tithe. Nobody knows, except God, how many are following this admonition. The last 'guesstimate' was 45%. That means 55% of God's people are not receiving the Lord's financial blessing. Pastor Couzins quotes Malachi 3:8-11.

I wish he had spent longer on the theme that we are to 'test' or 'prove' God by this means. When I became an Adventist at the age of 20 I was as poor as a church mouse and decided to prove Him as invited. I used to walk one mile in order to save one penny and calculated that I could not afford to pay tithe. As I was a trainee chartered accountant I had somewhat above-average skill with numbers. I could not afford to, but took advantage of the promise of Malachi. And it worked! How? I don't know, but since then I've had numerous financial blessings.

TOM MILLER



John Woodfield with his wife, Anne-Marie.

## Dr John Woodfield – centenarian

In the middle of World War I, a boy was born in the cathedral town of Hereford and christened Arthur John. His parents, Walter and Edith Woodfield, lived over the grocer's shop which his father Walter managed while his mother looked after her young son. Her interest in health and herbal remedies led her to a health food store in the town market which she was disappointed to find closed on Saturdays. When she asked why, the owner told her that she would get the answer from meetings being held in the city. So she attended those Adventist meetings and was so convinced that she should keep the Sabbath that she persuaded her husband and young son to follow suit. The decision meant that Walter had to give up his job and eventually take up selling books from door to door in various English towns to support his family.

Like so many sensitive young people, John, as he became known, struggled to explain to his friends where he was on Saturdays, but he found his Adventist community supportive. When he arrived at Newbold Missionary College in 1933, he relaxed. 'It was heaven,' he remembers.

And so began an academic career of fifty years. After his Newbold diploma, John, studying mostly by correspondence, worked towards a BA, an MA and finally a PhD in English Literature, all from the University of London. He was only the third Newbold teacher to receive the degree since the college's foundation in 1901. All this while working full time, first as Head of Stanborough School in Watford and, subsequently, for thirty years as Head of the Newbold College Department of English. For a time, in the early '50s, he did both jobs at once, commuting between Bracknell and Watford and taking with him students from Stanborough who were living as members of the Woodfield family.

For thirty years, as Head of Newbold's English Department, 'Woody', as he was affectionately known by generations of students, taught English language and literature, journalism, the literary study of the Bible, and an introductory course in fine arts. Students raved about his glorious use of the English language and reported his erudition and his dry (sometimes caustic!) wit! His Fine Arts class was so popular it had to be offered every term.

To a whole generation of Adventist preachers, he

taught homiletics with a passion. For him, the importance of language for those who claim to believe in 'the Word made flesh' has always been crucial. 'I had suffered from so many bad sermons in my life that I wanted to make sure that my students did better,' he says. Dr Woodfield frequently occupied the pulpit himself – for a time as pastor of the Newbold church but regularly throughout his time at Newbold, where he was a sought-after preacher. Always, his practice of the homiletic arts set the bar very high. Requests for copies of his sermons were frequent. His hearers wanted time to savour the ideas and read the poetic beauty of the words in which they were clothed.

Eleven years after his retirement in 1984, Jean – his wife of 52 years and mother of his three children, Rosemary, Christopher and Elizabeth – died of a sudden thrombosis. He eventually moved out of what had been their family home into a tiny cottage with a beautiful walled garden on an historic street in Wokingham. He still lives there with his wife since 1999 – Anne-Marie Parsons Woodfield, a retired primary school teacher. The couple read a poem together every day and take an active interest in books, music, politics and the wider world. John regularly continues to live up to his mother's description: 'Those Woodfields, always scribbling', though now he does it on his computer, which he has christened 'Legion'. His memoirs already stretch to about 300 pages.

On Sunday afternoon, 14 August, a month before John's 100th birthday, about 90 people gathered for afternoon tea in Newbold's Moor Close to celebrate the man who has enriched many of their lives as colleague, friend, teacher and mentor. It was like being transported into another era. The guest list looked like a roll-call of the families of British Adventist leaders from the twentieth century. The celebrity at the heart of the event sat resplendent in his linen suit, his blue eyes twinkling, attentive to everyone and everything. He showed no sign of wilting under the warmth of the afternoon or the attention showered upon him. He cut his cake and posed for pictures with panache. He had even written 20 witty lines of poetry for the occasion. Renaissance man, Arthur John Woodfield, we give thanks for you. We salute you!

HELEN PEARSON



## 'There's a sermon about that ...'

Alexander Douglas shares his views on a matter that certainly deserves more discussion within our church in the British Union Conference.

The title of this article owes part of its origin to a conversation I had with a young BUC church member at a recent camp meeting. This is someone who was not born into or raised in an Adventist environment. In response to my questions about the level and nature of support they were receiving from members of their peer group, this young member responded by saying that when certain questions are asked, the default response is, 'There's a sermon about that ...'

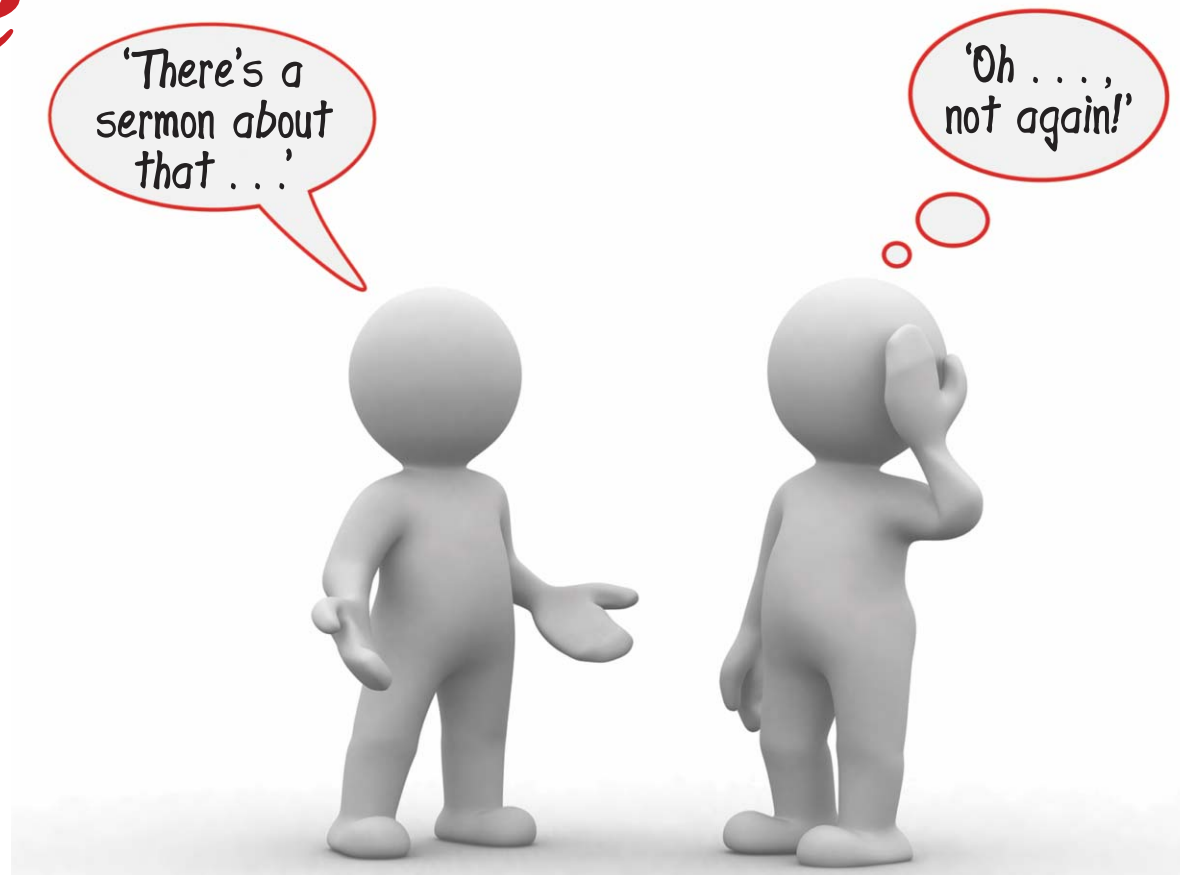
This is but one manifestation of a deeper malaise that is now so intrinsic to the reality of our Adventist church life here in Britain, that when you actually think for yourself and express those thoughts, you risk either a) becoming unpopular or b) becoming more unpopular than you already are.

Think through this with me for a moment: if you ask a fellow church member about an element of some article of our faith and this church member refers you to a sermon that somebody else has preached, that is obviously not a bad thing. If the second time you seek such clarification from either the same or a different church member, and they refer you to a different sermon, then that still is not necessarily a bad thing: but what if it continues to be the case that every time certain questions get asked the only response is a referral to someone else's pre-packaged words? Surely then it is not unreasonable to conclude that, when it comes to certain important questions, local church members generally do not have the capacity – or even the prerogative – to be able to sit down with those who ask these questions and share their own

(studied) responses with them. (I say 'responses' because sometimes a question does not actually *have* an answer ... !)

Here within UK Adventism it tends to be 'celebrity Adventists' – who are usually American – who form the locus points\* of our references. This is also having the harmful effect of telling both prospective and current Adventists that the Seventh-day Adventist faith is in fact a North American one and so it is going to be American thinkers (male, female, black, white, old, young) upon whom we must depend to be sure that we have understood our Adventist identity properly.

Speaking as a South American Caribbean of African heritage and Anglo-European education, I have really enjoyed my opportunities to engage with US scholars in more than one discipline: but it is precisely this ongoing engagement that tells me that the North American vanguard of thought cannot possibly hold answers to Anglo-European questions as a matter of course. Over the years certain ideas about history, culture and religion have travelled out of American academic enclaves into the wider social (English-speaking) mainstream. They are celebrated as 'American' innovations of thought, but the reality is that these (genuinely important) ideas would not and could not exist without the work of certain European thinkers who went before. So if you are a Seventh-day Adventist living in the UK and trying to take the message to Anglo-European society (who are the cultural minority in our churches), it surely matters that you have an understanding of how Anglo-European people think – because they will not have the



same cultural presuppositions as North Americans! So if you never really get to know people in Anglo-European society outside 'work' or 'education' then you will struggle to have any real idea of how such people think.

If – in addition to the above – every single idea and concept you possess about evangelism is dependent on the thinking of North American Adventists – who themselves are likely to be culturally and intellectually adrift of what happens here in Anglo-Europe – then we have the unedifying situation in which a person lives in Anglo-Europe but exists in an SDA subculture in which Americans teach Britons about how to reach Anglo-Europeans when they themselves have an insufficient grasp of the increasing ways in which the secular Anglo-European critique of Christianity is developing. This is why we have seen a significant number of British-based graduates of ARISE (Light Bearers), AFCOE (Amazing Facts Centre of Evangelism) and other similar institutions struggle to make an evangelistic impact on British society – because the tools that they have been given really do work much better in the USA than could ever be possible in the UK.

And with both evangelical and Pentecostal churches here in

Britain now working overtime to welcome more diverse members of society into their church communities (I speak from experience), the fact that we continue to struggle with cultural integration in our Adventist churches is one of the biggest reasons why our wider witness to British society cannot be any more successful than it is.

Anglo-Europeans are more than happy to **appropriate** certain exported 'Americanisms' (courtesy of TV and film), but they will almost always retain their right to **think** as Anglo-Europeans. In this regard they are (usually) unwitting heirs to a profound tradition of what I call 'sceptical-liberal' frameworks of thought. This usually means that, when faced with a Seventh-day Adventist who can only reply to tough questions with 'sound bites', 'quotations' and 'sermon links', they are not at all likely to be inspired to think rigorously through their own sceptical-liberal presuppositions. This in turn means that the process by which they might eventually confess Jesus Christ as Lord becomes exponentially more difficult.

Historically, many Adventists have been baptised because of Seventh-day Adventist church members, but those who have remained have done so despite Seventh-day Adventist church

members! In these last days we have no authority from either Scripture or Ellen White to allow others (however gifted and anointed they may or may not be) to do our 'Adventist' thinking for us. For that reason this disease of 'sermon-promotion' that masquerades as a spiritual action may actually be a cover for theological laziness.

This is one way in which one can see that in these last days many who make their way into the Seventh-day Adventist Church will in fact do so *despite* the church members (too many of whom have not even necessarily understood the sermons that they are busy promulgating) – and not *because* of the church members.

Being able to explain something to someone else in your own words could not be more important in terms of 'keeping it real'. Yes, there may be a hundred sermons about that, but what if your questioner only has ears for your words – because they actually know you, and (hopefully) trust you? Can we afford to let others speak for us at the risk of eventually completely losing the ability to speak – and, indeed, to think – for ourselves?

\* A locus of points is the set of points, and only those points, that satisfies given conditions.



## Communicate your faith ... effectively

by Pastor Richard Daly, British Union Conference Communication and Media Director

In the last edition we looked at the personal responsibility God has privileged all of us with: that of sharing our story. Your personal story is about the good things Christ has done for you and the reasons why you love and trust Him. You are to become a personal 'brand' in order to convey a clear message to those in your domain – friends, colleagues and even those with whom you have one-off encounters.

Among the key things commercial companies do when looking to promote their products is a lot of market research, product analysis, consumer surveys and predictive trending. The top branding companies go one step further: they define the next big thing that will happen; they create 'game-changers' in existing markets before people themselves even know what they want. The bottom line is that effective results are determined by communicating the product effectively, and there ought to be no difference when communicating your personal message of faith.

Here are some principles to apply as you do so:

**1. Believe your message.** It's not about how eloquent you are, but people are drawn to someone who speaks with conviction. In Mark 1:21, 22 (KJV) Jesus 'went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.'

Our primary example in the Christian life is Jesus Christ Himself. Notice that the people could tell the difference in the way He taught. He spoke with authority. He spoke like He actually believed in and understood the message He was communicating. This is the way we are to speak.

Many Christians do not speak convincingly because they don't even know what they believe. You cannot effectively communicate what you have not personally experienced. That's why your story is unique and personal to you. Express yourself with the unwavering confidence that, because Christ is real to you and has made such an impact in your life, He can make a difference in someone else's life too. I believe there is a noticeable difference when someone speaks from the depth of their heart, when they truly know and understand what they are speaking on – and are passionate about it.

**2. Live your message.** Words are cheap, but can be amplified and become more meaningful when they are evident in the life of the one who puts them into action.

We want to influence people with God's Word. Everyone is being influenced by something or someone; and everyone is influencing something or someone. The only question is – what or who are you influencing?

There is a need today for a Christian maturity that provides people with real, honest-to-God examples of authentic Christlike living. Effective ministry to others is often equated with such things as dynamic personalities, multiple talents, giftedness, training, enthusiasm, and charisma. But these things alone are inadequate. Much more is needed. In the Bible, the qualities that lead to effective ministry are found in the elements of spiritual character, in the character of Christ reproduced in us by the ministry of the Holy Spirit (see Eph. 4:11, 12; Gal. 5:22, 23).

**3. Convey your message.** This will be a natural outcome when we adhere to the first two points. The desire to communicate your message ought to be the natural overflow of a relationship with Christ. Last year when I conducted a workshop on 'Sharing Your Faith', this question was asked: 'Why do so many Adventists feel inadequate in doing so?' Some of the common responses were fear of what to say, lack of training, self-inadequacies, lack of biblical knowledge and the avoidance of any discussion that may lead to being challenged. Some of these responses we will explore in the next issue, but when it comes to conveying your message, nothing will really happen unless you step out in faith and try. Remember, it's 'not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD' (Zechariah 4:6, NKJV).

When you engage in a spiritual mission, you enter into a domain that transcends human understanding. The Holy Spirit works through you in ways you cannot fathom. You become a mere instrument by which extraordinary and unexplained occurrences take place in the life of the listener, which can only cause you to marvel as you see God working through your life. Most of the more effective human instruments for God in the Bible were ordinary men and women, all with impediments of some kind, who were prepared to put all personal feelings aside and trust God with the task placed before them. The positive results that were seen through conviction, change and conversion were therefore credited to God, for they knew this was not performed in their own strength. So what are your excuses? Feeling inadequate? Feeling shy? It could be that the very excuse you have is what God sees as an area of strength in your life. Remember, it's through your weakness that you become strong (2 Corinthians 12:10).



Students being blessed.

## British missionaries in Cambodia

**Leslie and Dana King served for several years as frontier evangelists in the South England Conference, where they established the Inside-Out group as a church plant in Yeovil, Somerset. They now serve as self-supporting missionaries in Cambodia. On a recent return visit to England they were interviewed by Pastor Michael Walker (retired).**

**Michael:** Welcome home to England, even though it is only for a short while! It is now almost two years since we were with you in Cambodia for your daughter's wedding and I am interested in learning more of what you have been doing and how the Lord has been directing your missionary work; but before we do, maybe for the benefit of our readers you could just brief us on your background. You were born here in the UK, right?

**Leslie:** Yes, my wife was born in High Wycombe and I was born in London but brought up in High Wycombe. Neither of us were born into Adventist families. My aunt and uncle were Seventh-day Adventists and I started to visit church with them when I was about 12. I was baptised when I was 15.

**Dana:** My parents hailed from St. Vincent in the Caribbean but it was in 1980 that Dr Silburn Reid invited them to an evangelistic campaign. I was only a child at the time. My dad was a heavy drinker, almost an alcoholic. I still remember him pouring the alcohol down the drain. My dad and I were baptised together.

**Michael:** What led you to Cambodia and how long have you been there?

**Dana:** We went out there on

5 June 2012 after completing medical missionary training at Uchee Pines in Alabama, USA. Our daughters influenced our decision. The eldest, Sarah, spent a year out there as a volunteer teaching music and the sciences before going to university. Then our daughter Gemma joined her for the remaining couple of months in 2011 and has since married a Cambodian by the name of Hym Heng. Their involvement made us realise that there were very few people out there to help reach the people of Cambodia. We joined up with Salt Ministries, which was founded by Tim and Wendy Maddocks, an Australian Adventist couple who are working there.

**Leslie:** At great sacrifice and self-denial, Tim and Wendy have developed Salt Ministries in partnership with the Adventist Church, and along with their Christian Leadership Training efforts they have raised a school on their campus, an orphanage and a media centre.

**Michael:** I know that you have both worked there at various jobs, but what is your present function?

**Leslie:** As our understanding of the needs in Cambodia grew, we were led to develop more life-skills training in the school's curriculum – such as farming,



Hym Heng, Gemma's husband.

mechanics, sewing and home economics – so that they could become more self-supporting rather than depending too much on sponsors.

**Michael:** What is the main religion in Cambodia?

**Leslie:** Buddhism is the official religion, claiming about 95% of the population. Of the rest, Muslims make up about 2% and Christians just over 1%. There is a great need for the Gospel to spread there.

**Michael:** How are Seventh-day Adventists generally received?

**Dana:** A reasonable relationship exists between us and other Christian organisations. We are respected. Tim Maddocks has learnt to speak Khmer, which has done a lot to build relationships.

**Leslie:** ADRA has also done good work in Cambodia. For example, in Hym's village ADRA showed his mum how to cook vegetarian food. The locals didn't know at the time that ADRA was part of the Adventist organisation but they were very impressed. Now we are living and working there, they have found out that ADRA is connected to our church.

**Dana:** While our son-in-law, Hym, was speaking to a local Buddhist about being a Christian the man

asked why he didn't worship on a Sunday like other Christians. He then read the man the Ten Commandments: to which he responded, 'If everybody in the village followed your God's rules, then we'd all be at peace.'

**Leslie:** Hym comes from a very poor Buddhist family. His parents could not afford to feed or educate him, so they sent him to live with the Buddhist monks, where he trained for two years to become one of them. His elder brother, Houn, became an Adventist Christian through some Seventh-day Adventist medical missionaries who had a major impact on his village. Houn later moved to Salt Ministries and became a house parent in the orphanage. He wanted Hym to study at the school on the campus. Their parents agreed, but only if the Buddhist priest would release him. The priest agreed because he believed that Hym would learn to speak English at the Adventist school.

**Dana:** Hym found it hard to understand this 'new' God. When he stepped inside our church, there were no idols or pictures – and he thought to himself, 'This must be a poor god!' He couldn't see a god. How could he worship a god he couldn't see?! Over time he began to understand and eventually became a devoted Christian.



Children at the well.



Leslie 'charcoal cooking'.

**Michael:** You were talking about moving away from Salt Ministries in Siem Reap to plant a church in a Buddhist village. Surely that is a bold and courageous step to take? Did you follow that through?

**Leslie:** Yes, we have made it a matter of prayer and God has been making things possible that we never dreamt of. We are now working with Hym and Gemma in Hym's own village, about 4 hours' drive north of Siem Reap.

**Dana:** We believe God prepared the way for this due to ADRA's previous involvement there, as already mentioned. Hym's mum has a scrapbook of what ADRA did and is very proud of her involvement with them. That has opened the door for the Holy Spirit to use us in reaching Hym's parents with the Christian message and to subsequently reach out to the villagers.

The locals are inquisitive, wanting to know why Hym is still in Cambodia – because he has married a foreigner, and, to them, that is his way out! This gives Hym the opportunity to share his faith.

**Michael:** So when you went to live in Chreab, did you move in with Hym's parents?

**Dana:** No! Their house was too small to accommodate us all, and like the other villagers they are very poor. We have built our own house on land where the villagers used to live.

**Leslie:** You see, under the Pol Pot regime many were murdered. The survivors relocated down the road away from where they believe the spirits of the dead lurk around at night-time. They will venture on the land during the day but are afraid to do so in the dark. By establishing ourselves on this land we are able to demonstrate that our God is greater than the other gods and able to protect us from evil spirits.

**Michael:** I've seen Cambodian houses: many are built on stilts to avoid the floodwaters and they are rather primitive, with flimsy walls constructed of a wooden frame filled with woven strips of bamboo. Is this the type of house you built?

**Leslie:** Not at all! It is a solid structure built of brick with tiles, plastered walls, proper drainage, a toilet, and a pump over the well.

**Michael:** You are now in your house, the Lord is watching over you and the locals can see that you are not affected by the



Dana and Leslie King.

### Cambodia

The people of Cambodia suffered much under Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979, and some 1.5 million or more Cambodians (out of a total of 7-8 million) died of starvation, execution, disease or overwork. From the infamous detention centre (S-21) in Phnom Penh only 7 out of the 20,000 survived the killing fields. The Viet Cong invaded Cambodia in 1979 and removed the Khmer Rouge from power but eventually withdrew, leaving the surviving peasants to fend for themselves. The population had been severely decimated by Pol Pot's regime, leaving the country devoid of professionals. The population today is around 16 million, which is 49% male and 51% female. Demographically the average age is greater in the younger age group – i.e. 50% of the population is under 22 years old; the median age is about 24 years. One report revealed the following age structure:

0-14 yrs 31.6%; 15-24 yrs 20.5%; 25-54 yrs 38.9%; 55-64 yrs 5.1%; 65+ yrs 4%.

spirits, so how is this beginning to impact upon your ministry there?

**Dana:** Well, Hym's parents had been afraid to live in the old village, but, having seen us there, they are now staying in our house while we are away here in the UK. Something is very clearly happening in their life that is drawing them towards the Christian faith.

**Leslie:** Also, we had an experience where evil spirits were troubling a young couple and the woman came to me, rather distressed, and asked if we could help her. We brought her case to the Lord. Then we visited their tiny house and spoke to them, explaining what we were going to do. After offering prayer, we instructed them to carry all their heathen gods outside the house where a lot of the villagers were gathered and burn them. It was important that they did this themselves to demonstrate that they were getting rid of these false gods. We then went back into their house and prayed once again in the name of Jesus that He would banish the evil spirits from their home for good. Since

then there has been no trouble at all!

**Michael:** That is a very powerful witness! You indicated earlier that things were changing in the lives of Hym's parents.

**Leslie:** Well, they helped when we were building our house and we have since built a better one for them as well, which they are very pleased about. There were, however, issues about the Sabbath. They were quite insistent about working on the Sabbath while building ours, but we firmly declined. However, when it came to building their house, of their own accord they put down tools and wouldn't work during the Sabbath.

**Dana:** Hym's dad is now more comfortable engaging in a house blessing as well as Sabbath worship. In fact, villagers are beginning to call him a Christian, and the interesting thing is that he has not denied it!

**Michael:** What further plans do you have to reach out to the people in the village?

**Leslie:** We would like to arrange



School at Siem Reap.



Media centre at Siem Reap.

for sponsored volunteers to come and work with us from Salt Ministries. We also need Cambodian volunteers who will have a greater impact upon the people, but these are poor people, unable to finance themselves. They know the language and this is vital to communication. There must also be Adventist young people from elsewhere who are trained and ready for service. We would welcome them too.

**Dana:** We would like to teach English by combining Bible stories and Christian songs. We also plan to teach the people healthcare, hygiene and vegetarian cooking. We envisage teaching their children Bible stories by using colouring books.

**Michael:** What would you identify as your most pressing needs at this particular time in your mission programme?

**Dana:** At this time we need a photocopier and printer in order to mass-produce materials for children and other training classes. We also need sponsorship for volunteers from Salt Ministries and elsewhere to come and work with us; and we shall need to build accommodation for them in

which to stay. Another need is to acquire a place in the village that we could use for classes and for worship.

**Leslie:** We have survived and got this far on much, much prayer and reliance upon God. We ask the Lord to guide us through the projects as He sees fit and we trust Him for our needs.

**Michael:** But you must have some source of income, or are you relying solely on voluntary donations?

**Leslie:** The rent from our house in Yeovil provides a regular amount to draw upon; but we seek to be self-sufficient and self-sustaining by planting our own fruit trees and growing our vegetables. We do not have any regular donors but occasionally people send us funds, for which we are really grateful.

**Michael:** You've mentioned what your immediate needs are for your ministry but you have not mentioned what your own personal, urgent needs are?

**Leslie:** At the moment a small diesel generator provides the only electricity we have. We need to travel several miles to purchase

diesel and carry the canister on a motorcycle. Therefore we tend to use it as little as possible. It would be a blessing to install solar panels – particularly now we have a baby in the home. A 4-wheel drive would be a great boon for driving through the mud, sand and flooding. That is a pressing need, as we don't want to travel with a baby or toddler on a motorcycle or tractor! We also need to clear more of the land and to fertilise and irrigate it, so that we can become more self-sufficient; and we hope eventually to install a proficient sewerage system, as we currently have to dig a hole to bury human waste. I am thinking of a biogas system so that we could utilise it for energy and long-term self-sufficient, healthier living.

**Michael:** What you are doing is truly admirable and I am sure everyone appreciates your reliance upon God, but have there been times when you have felt like giving up?

**Leslie:** Not really, but we have had times of exhaustion, frustration, confusion and even anger with the

situation, certain circumstances and even injustices.

**Michael:** How have you handled that situation?

**Dana:** We have spent more time in prayer, and given extra time to sleep and rest in order to rebalance the mind and body; we have recounted both our blessings and God's leading in our lives, and spent time singing praises to Him. He has been so good to us!

**Michael:** Thank you, Leslie and Dana; and we shall continue to remember both of you, together with Gemma, Hym and your baby grandson, Hayden, in our prayers. May God grant you the success in your mission service that will make all your sacrifices worthwhile.

If you feel impressed to find out more about the missionary work of Leslie and Dana King, to receive their newsletter, or to support their frontline mission work, please contact Pastor Michael Walker at [mwalker08@btinternet.com](mailto:mwalker08@btinternet.com).

# news

## Boys2Men campaign launched at Balham Church



abuse'; 'Holy and horny'; and 'Masturbation';

**Clarence Jackson**, an experienced preacher and educational practitioner, who delivered a session on the theme of manhood: the main focus being to identify

Christ's characteristics as the model that all men should aspire to;

**Paul Frempong**, an educational practitioner for the past decade, who explored the importance of being educated and the benefits it has on a young man's future, including his job prospects;

**Gwenton Dennis Sloley**, a specialist 'gang practitioner' with over ten years' experience, who talked about the development of the gang culture in England and then discussed the consequences of gang culture on young people's lives. He also described the different exit strategies that young people can follow to abandon this lifestyle.

The good news is that this was not a one-time-only event. This is only the beginning for Boys2Men and there is a series of activities, programmes and seminars that have been planned. There are more problems to address, and many lives still to change. With parental support and God's guidance, Boys2Men will keep making a difference.

- Future Boys2Men events will include:
- Meeting with the parents to discuss how we can work with their children in the long term, i.e. in mentoring programmes;
  - A Boys2Men careers day involving a day trip to the Barclays head office in Canary Wharf;
  - Prison workshops;
  - Delivering the programme to local Adventist churches through AYS, and to other denominations due to the large attendance of non-Adventist children and parents;
  - A one-week summer school programme in 2017.

Through this process of collaboration we can start tackling these problems and ensure our boys turn into great men. For more information about this event or on future ones please email: [south@londonyouthfederation.org](mailto:south@londonyouthfederation.org).

things to many people, and when boys do not, or cannot, speak about this to the people who ought to love them the most, they can be left confused and unsure. The Boys2Men campaign aims to address some of these questions.

Our boys are taught the stories of Moses, Joseph and many other Bible heroes; however, when they go to school, their friends don't ask them about how Joseph ran from Potiphar's wife because he was a man of principle. Instead they will ask him if he

has already had sex!

When the church acknowledges these kinds of problems and acts on them, projects like Boys2Men are born. Boys2Men is something that not only analyses key problems, but researches and looks for effective solutions. It allows parents, elders, pastors and volunteers to join forces to advise and mentor boys and young men who lack the support they need to face real life the way Jesus would have done.

### The Boys2Men event

The first Boys2Men event took place on Sunday 17 July at the Balham church in London. The London Youth Federation (LYF) in collaboration with Jesus and Ministries (JAM), a South London-based youth Bible study, paved the way for the project to take place. The event featured four guest speakers:

**Pastor Ray Patrick**, an experienced practitioner who specialises in sex and relationships, whose workshop covered the topics: 'Why God created sex'; 'Sex and

Boys growing up in inner cities face many challenges such as the pressure to get involved in gangs, drugs and other crimes. Based on this, community leaders and workers have tried to develop a programme of events to address these issues.

The result is the Boys2Men campaign to encourage boys from inner-city London to reshape and redefine their concepts of becoming a man. The project emerged from the London Youth Federation's Area 6B youth leadership meeting in January 2016 and was fuelled by concerns about the high number of boys and young men leaving the church.

The meeting also highlighted that there was an opportunity for local churches to get involved in dealing with the holistic needs of boys and young men within the church. JAM (Jesus and Ministry) community leader, Paul Frempong, then decided to devise a programme to address the issues raised in the meeting. The name 'Boys2Men' was chosen as it represents the transition of young boys to adulthood.

The concept of manhood can mean many



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## Serenity moves into new building after first baptism

Serenity Church was started by Pastor Elliott Williams as a church plant with members drawn mainly from Walthamstow. The leader is Phyllis Pearson (Sommasundram). We initially met for worship in a house and have been able to hold two health expos a year in a largely Muslim area. Even the local imam came to the expos and brought along some fellow leaders.

The Lord decided that it was time for us to move after five years and several attempts at getting a building. Then, just two weeks before the change of venue, three people declared their intention to be baptised! This resulted in our first baptism, on 23 July, by our current pastor, Harrison Mburani. Among them was Elizabeth, Phyllis Pearson's neighbour, whose Jehovah's Witness relatives have been seeking her conversion since 1996. She, however, has felt otherwise – that was not what she was seeking. Since the beginning of the year Elizabeth has drawn closer to Phyllis and to the faith that she has now embraced.



Left to right: Faisal Rojid (leader); Pastor Harrison Mburani; Elizabeth Boakye; Phyllis Pearson (leader); Laszlo and Anna Csalmi.

Our new church is located in Waltham Abbey at 53 Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey EN9 1BD.

EARL NORMAN (COMMUNICATION)



## Chiswick baptism

Chiswick Church celebrated the baptism of five on Saturday, 6 August, at the conclusion of their two-week-long series on the end-time Bible prophecies, held by guest speaker, Tristan Cuniah.

This series, 'Hope for a troubled world', was used as a springboard to prepare for the upcoming South England Conference (SEC) and Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) outreach, 'Onelife', which starts in September.

The discussion of prophecy still seems to attract a large number of people. 'We were blessed every night with a large number of visitors,' said Keith Boldeau, pastor of Chiswick Church. 'People sense that we are living at the end of time and they just want to hear.'

According to Cuniah, many Adventist church members are unaware of the details concerning prophetic topics, not realising that many political moves are prophetic signs, yet realising that the end is near. The Adventist Church, however, has a message to share to the world.

'The responsibility that we have now is to send the last message, the third angel's message, to a world which is really destroyed and desperate. We've got the solution and that solution is Jesus Christ,' said Cuniah.

Chiswick Church's goal is to spread this message. The church will shortly start a vacation Bible school for children; they go from door to door to spread the Gospel; and recently they had a health fest at their sister church, Acton. All this has been leading up to the London-wide Healthfest held at the end of August at Ruach and Troxy, initiated by the SEC, and to the Onelife outreach that follows.

'I'm excited and looking forward to 3 September. It's a wonderful thing to see the Spirit of God at work. It's a wonderful thing to see people making decisions,' said Boldeau. 'This church was dedicated, this pool was dedicated to the honour and glory of God, and I believe that God is just going to do things in this church.'

Another baptism is planned for the end of the 3ABN series in September.

NATASHA MIRILOV



Left to right: Peter Cooper, Michael Lucking and Pastor Geert Tap.

Photo: Dan Sabatier

## All smiles at 'the Park'

'With Jesus you cannot go wrong!' reassured Pastor Geert Tap, in his sermon, 'Stanborough Park by the Pool of Bethesda'. 'God would never leave us. Remember the words of Jesus as He healed the lame man, "Do you want to get well? Take up thy bed and walk." ' Those were encouraging words for Peter Cooper and Michael Lucking as they prepared for baptism on Sabbath 23 April. Stanborough Park Men's Group further emphasised Pastor Tap's words with the song, 'My Anchor Holds'.

After the baptismal vows, Beatrice Dan, Peter's fiancée, read his favourite Bible verses, Revelation 21:1-5. Pastor Paul Clee, who stated in his preamble that it was a privilege to study with Peter, then baptised him. Paul Lucking, Michael's father, read his favourite text (John 14:1-3) and he was then baptised by Pastor Geert Tap. Pastor Tap and the elders led the welcoming of the two young men into the membership of Stanborough Park.

'I am so grateful to God for the ways He has led in my life through the good and bad times. I thought, *What better way to show my gratitude than by getting baptised and following Jesus all the way.* I feel very welcomed worshipping at Stanborough Park; that is why I decided to become a baptised member of this church. I want to thank all my family and friends for the support they have given, especially Pastor Sam Davis, the former president of the South England Conference, for not only dedicating me but encouraging me to be baptised.' Those were the words of Michael Lucking as he beamingly expressed how happy and thankful he was.

Peter Cooper, who has attended Stanborough Park Church from babyhood, has always actively participated in church life. For many years he has been heavily involved with the Audio-Visual Department, and his name is commonly found in the credits at the end of Livestream broadcasts from the church. One could see his delight at being baptised as friends and family offered congratulations.

FLORENCE ALLEN

## 50%+ membership increase

On Sabbath 6 August, history was made at the Southend-on-Sea Community Church (SOSCC) when they held their very first baptism. The three candidates were Ossie Butcher, who served with the United Nations as a regional manager; Gilson Edward, an ex-army officer who served in the Middle East; and his wife, Monica, who continues to serve as a loving, caring mother to her young family. The couple were introduced to the SOS Community Church through the open-air street ministries programme on Southend High Street.

The SOS Community Church is a small church plant of five adults, who have had a membership increase of over 50% at one baptismal service – imagine what that would look like in your church!

What made this baptism, led by retired pastor, Dr Claude Lombart, and church plant leader, Dr Colin Gordon, even more remarkable is that ministers and members of three non-Adventist churches also attended this wonderful event. They had been invited to attend because of their interest in how Seventh-day Adventists do baptisms.

One visitor said, 'How wonderful the whole day went. . . Isn't it nice to see Adventists working together with other denominations and not keeping only to each other.' She went on to say, 'You are such a small group but you all did so well, cooking food for so many people, and the church was decorated beautifully. The whole thing came together, and it was excellent.' According to a Baptist minister who was



The SOS Community Church core leadership team: Cherry Smith, Morecia Barclay, La'Marisa Barclay, Paulette Gordon, Colette Gordon (and Lientho Barclay in absentia), along with Pastor Claude Lombart and Dr Colin Gordon, surround newly baptised Ossie Butcher, Gilson Edward and Monica Edward.

Picture quality as supplied

present, 'I listened carefully to [the] sermon and it couldn't have been preached clearer by most of our own Baptist ministers.' This event, in itself, was a big witness! The evangelism continues.

The ideas for the lay-led SOS community church plant were put forward and adopted by the South England Conference in 2012. It organised church services in 2014, further developed its street-based ministry in 2015 and is living proof that great things come from small beginnings!

DR COLIN GORDON (CHURCH PLANT LEADER)



## Stanborough concert raises over £1,700

A Sabbath evening concert on 9 July consisting of inspirational sacred music and readings ended the first half-year series of concerts produced by the Stanborough Park Church Music Department and raised over £1,700 for the church's Development Fund.

Entitled 'The Lord's Prayer', which was the first item performed by the orchestra and the last sung by the choir, the repertoire included many well-loved hymns for congregational singing, such as: 'Morning has broken'; 'Love divine, all loves excelling'; 'I will sing the wondrous story'; 'Immortal, invisible, God only wise' and 'Come, we that love the Lord'.

Vocal items were performed by the main church choir and smaller groups, and instrumental items by the church's orchestra and other groups of musicians of all ages – all demonstrating the high standard and talent to be found within the church.

Conductor Jieun Ahn, the leader of the Music Department and concert organiser, remarked that with 'the whole congregation in front of me and the choir and the orchestra behind me, it was a tremendous experience; I am so sorry that I was the only one in that position.'

After the concert she was full of praise for the performers, thanking the musicians in particular. 'Working with you as we were preparing for

the concert was full of blessings from God,' she said. Continuing, she said, 'Every single step we walked together, whether it was easy or hard, has been full of God's blessings and grace. I felt that each musical item was in God's hand and was blessed. . . I was holding back the tears.'

Jieun also thanked the young people who participated 'for their hard work, their positivity and willingness!' She also mentioned that they had asked for 'another programme soon in which they are more than happy to participate'.

Many who attended are not regular Stanborough worshippers, including people from other local Adventist churches as well as many from other denominations who would have heard about the concert through 'Christians Across Watford'. SECmedia were also there to film the concert and interview some of the audience afterwards.

The concert has received over 600 viewings on the church's website – <http://stanboroughpark.adventistchurch.org.uk/> – and can be located in the 'Worship Services' menu. The new concert series is coming back in September after the summer break. Those wishing to receive news of forthcoming events, please email [music@stanboroughpark.org](mailto:music@stanboroughpark.org) for further details.

JUNE COOMBS



### Paisley's reality check

'It's a bit of a reality check,' said 32-year-old Lorraine Wilson when she joined nearly 200 other workers and shoppers at a two-day health expo in County Square, Paisley, outside Scotland's fourth-busiest railway station. 'It's a good idea and it makes people think about what they are eating and drinking,' she said.

Paisley Church's health and social care professionals, and undergraduates, were kept busy checking height, weight, blood pressure and lung capacity while participants completed a comprehensive questionnaire on lifestyle. The resulting printouts compared actual age with health age and suggested lifestyle improvements. These were then the subject of further personalised advice and more than 140 requests for more information have been referred to the Adventist Discovery Centre.

This is the fourth such event and reflects the church's mission statement: 'We are Christians with a mission to share this faith by constantly seeking to serve the needs of our community.' What Ellen White describes as 'the right arm of the Gospel' is therefore its major outreach strategy. Paisley pastor, Claudiu Popescu, said, 'We just want to make an impact and promote good choices. It's all about raising the community's awareness of health and lifestyle.'

JOHN WILBY



### Unity and diversity in a multicultural church

The Sabbath School Department of Windsor Street South decided that for 2016 they wanted a visitors' day on which to celebrate both the unity and diversity of the 26 countries represented within their membership, all the way from Angola to Zimbabwe.

On Sabbath 9 July the celebrations started with a powerful panel discussion tackling that week's lesson and featuring a song by one of the Romanian members.

A dazzling parade of flags led into Divine Service, with each flag bearer bringing greetings in their native tongue, thereby highlighting the true span of continents and cultures within the congregation. The array of languages and traditional outfits was truly a spectacular sight.

Pastor Ayodeji Adesina, the visiting speaker for the day, shared the need for a return to unity while keeping alive the virtues of our diversity. He emphasised that although we may come from different backgrounds we believe in the same God, and that we should allow Him to guide us in all that we do.

For lunch members and visitors were treated to a feast of national dishes from all the participating cultures, as fellowship and good food further brightened this special event.

The cultural day theme was carried on into the afternoon programme, during which they showcased Adventism across all the regions represented in their church. They also held a panel discussion with six members of different ages and from different countries tackling challenging topics that threaten the unity of our church today. Although riveting and passionate, the discussion led those in attendance to the same conclusion: in Jesus Christ we are one.

JERUSAH JEFFREY AND LEROY GRANT



### Pastor Murtagh turns 90!

On 23 July, at the Ark in Rivenhall, Pastor Desmond Murtagh celebrated his 90th birthday. During the celebrations Pastor Robin Lewis of Colchester Church gave an interesting summary of Pastor Murtagh's life and ministry, mentioning that his last congregations were Chelmsford and Hutton.

KEN JONES

# obituary



**Frank Colliver (1932-2016) d. 20 June.** Born on 30 January 1932, Frank Colliver was to live a long and eventful life,

serving as a medic in the navy, doing lots of building work (including the wall opposite the church), singing like a Cornish Johnny Cash, finding love twice, and supporting the church in St Austell and Redruth for many years.

In the late 1960s, he was met by Len Taylor, who was selling *Bible Story* sets in the area. He subsequently went on to join the Adventist Church, being admitted to membership in 1990, along with his daughter Hilary. He later became a deacon, and often used his singing talents to enrich the worship services.

His first marriage, to Winnifred, lasted from 1957 until her death in 1999. Some time later, he met the recently widowed Margret and, with her, found a second lease of love. They married at the St Austell church on 22 May 2005, but somehow forgot to go to the registry office and so their

union is recorded in the civil records as beginning on 1 June. They set up their joint home at Margret's house in Foxhole.

Frank suffered a collapse on the way home from church in 2015 but, thanks to the amazing care of the Air Ambulance team, was airlifted to hospital in Truro. Subsequently, the entire drama featured on TV in the programme *Countryside 999*. His condition was one that is often considered beyond treatment, but Frank was so alert and communicative that he was rushed into lifesaving surgery, which gave him another ten months of life until his condition got the better of him and he passed away peacefully in the company of his family on 20 June this year.

The funeral service, conducted by the writer, was held at the St Austell church on Monday 11 July, followed by burial alongside a number of other Adventists awaiting the Lord's return in the Campdown Cemetery, Charlestown.

He leaves behind his widow, Margret; his brother, Kenny; and his children: Hilary, Anthony, Derek and Allison.

PASTOR C. PEAKE

### The Great Seventh-day Adventist Bake Off

On 23 October, Urban Island Kitchen will be hosting their second Great Seventh-day Adventist Bake Off at the Advent Centre. Last year the event raised £300 for ADRA-UK and resulted in lots of stunning entries.

It's all about Alice in Wonderland this year. All the entries will be inspired by the novel of that title written by Lewis Carroll and will scream, 'EAT ME'. There will be two categories this year: 'Anything Goes' and 'Free From'. As their names suggest, 'Anything Goes' are cakes made from the usual cake ingredients without any dietary restrictions, while 'Free From' are cakes with at least one dietary restriction. So your cake could be fully vegan or just gluten-free or even just egg-free. It's totally up to you.

So if you are serious about your baking and, even more importantly, serious about raising funds for ADRA-UK, then enter at: [thegreatsbakeoff.splashthat.com](http://thegreatsbakeoff.splashthat.com).

The goal for this year is to raise a minimum of £1,000: so don't hesitate to enter, or to attend with empty stomachs and full wallets.

### Wedding anniversary of the Simpsons

The North Manchester members recently (Sunday, 19 June) celebrated the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Altiman and Marlene Simpson along with family and many of their other friends. The Simpsons were fortunate enough to have their five children present, and their grandchildren who journeyed from around the globe to be there.

The following Sabbath the couple, who are founding members of the North Manchester church, were further honoured for their years of faithful service to this congregation.

LESMOND TAYLOR



### Religious Liberty Day at Hackney

'A national Sunday law has been passed in the United Kingdom! Failure to observe this law could lead to a fine, loss of home, work and a prison sentence. Will you deny Christ by observing this man-made law, or will you obey God by keeping the Sabbath holy?'

'You are a teacher! Your head teacher has told you to teach a lesson promoting evolution.

Failure to teach the lesson could lead to a disciplinary hearing and your suspension. How will you respond?'

Such were the dilemmas posed to those attending the Silence of the Lamb Religious Liberty Convention held at the Hackney church on Sabbath 16 July. Living in an increasingly secularised world means that the voices of many Christians are

being silenced so as not to cause offence to other religions, including those which do not believe in a God.

These and other issues were further expounded upon by Dr Patrick Lowe, an elder of the Handsworth church in Birmingham. Dr Lowe's message – 'Preparing for the Final Crisis' – called upon us to recognise the seriousness of the times we're living in and to broaden our basic understanding of biblical prophecy. 'We are living in the last days of earth's history. Therefore we must preach the end-time message that Jesus is soon to come and He wants us all to be saved,' admonished Dr Lowe.

He continued with the same message in the afternoon, rounding off with some practical advice to help prepare for the final crisis by being as physically, mentally and spiritually armoured for the crisis ahead as possible.

DARELL J. PHILIP (RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ASSISTANT)

### Messenger

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### Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	London	Cardiff	Nottingham	Edinburgh	Belfast
Sept 9	7.28	7.40	7.34	7.45	7.54
16	7.12	7.24	7.17	7.27	7.37
23	6.56	7.08	7.00	7.08	7.19
30	6.40	6.52	6.43	6.50	7.01

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**AUG 28<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2017**

**WANTED:      NEEDED:**

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS,  
IT PROFESSIONALS, BUILDERS,  
DECORATORS, MUSICIANS,  
PREACHERS, SINGERS  
(AND GENERALLY HARD  
WORKING VOLUNTEERS)

CASH DONATIONS, BOOKS,  
FUNCTIONING COMPUTERS,  
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# Project Ghana 2017

**Project Site:**  
This mission project is based on an Island Alorkpem D A Basic school, Ada Foah/Kasseh Adventist Academy, in the Ada District of Ghana. Ada is a coastal town in the Greater Accra Region. This town is located along the Volta River. It's also the capital of the Dangme East District.

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Nationwide Bank

**A non-refundable deposit of £180 must be paid by 31st Dec 2016**

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**Pr. Leslie  
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