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ASNA @ Parallel London 2016

Based largely on information supplied by Sophia Nicholls
(South England Conference Disability and Diversity Department Director)

Just four days before the Rio Paralympics and the day after the UK's National Paralympic Day 2016, the first-ever fully inclusive push/run was held at the accessible and iconic Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London. On the day (4 September), 'Thousands of people participated in one or more of the five Parallel London challenges: 100m, 1km, 5km, 10km and Super Sensory 1km,' more than 40% of whom were subject to one or another disability.*

ASNA, the Adventist Special Needs Association, was there too, and its group of 21 was made up of supporters, runners/walkers and buddies. One of their objectives was to raise £2,000 towards the good work that ASNA does, both for those with special needs and for their carers. At the last count they were well over the midway mark but are still hoping to reach their goal.

The charity supports people living with disabilities and special needs by providing disability awareness training and certain resources, along with opportunities for carers to have short residential breaks during which they can be re-energised.

The innovative Super Sensory 1km course gave participants the chance for a sensory experience at 100m intervals. These powerful experiences were cleverly delivered via the use of such things as bright red helium-filled foil balloons (visual stimulation); loud tambourine and 'boomwhacker' sounds (auditory stimulation); eucalyptus-scented pots

(olfactory stimulation); and massage devices for tactile purposes.

According to Sophia Nicholls it was 'great to see so many participants enjoy this part of the day'. She felt that 'it was creative and well thought through for people with profound and severe learning disabilities to enjoy. . . .'

Sophia is well qualified to speak of such matters because her son, Matthew (the inspiration behind ASNA), took part in this Super Sensory part of the run. Matthew is blind, and has severe learning disabilities. Sadly, following an undiagnosed condition at the age of 11, he was left 'immobile from the waist down' and, according to the doctors, without hope of ever walking again. But, as Sophia says, 'persistent prayer and trust in the mighty hand of God' have paid off: for not only has Matthew been walking for the past four years, but he is now running!

If you would like to read more of Matthew's story or if you would like to help ASNA reach its fund-raising goal please visit its website (<http://www.asna.info>) and access this link: <https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/donation/to/6657/asna07768>. To participate in Parallel London 2017, please visit their website for more information: (<http://parallellondon.com/the-event-1>).

*www.sportindustry.biz/news/thousands-take-part-first-parallel-london#UHU2jceb8TZDiEJz.99



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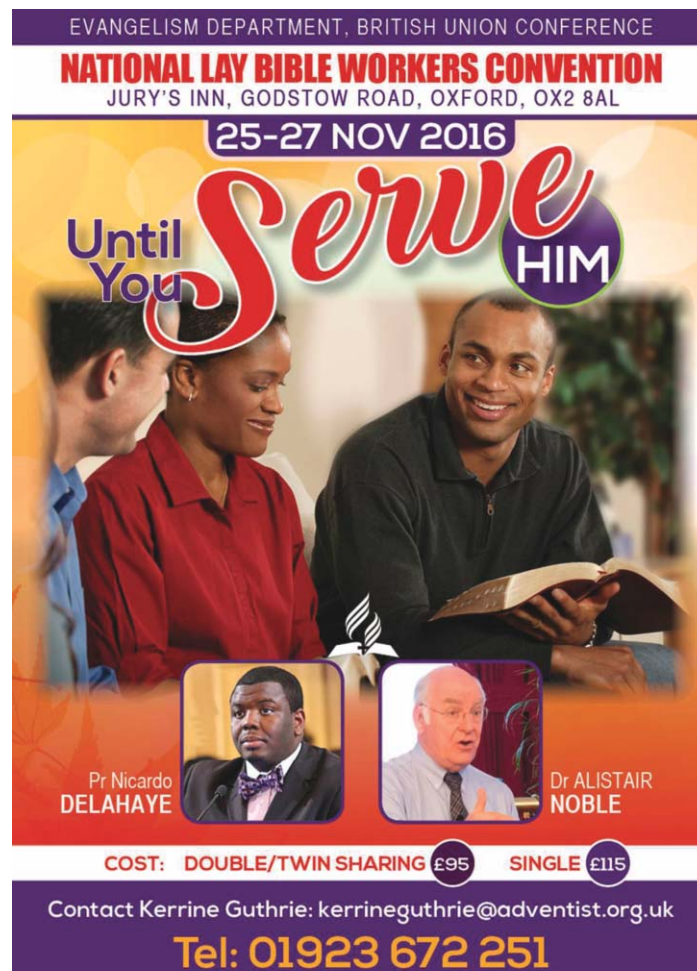
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Enhancing Health

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

Another look at vitamin D

'Vitamin D supplements "advised for everyone",' stated a BBC health news article by health reporter Smitha Mundasad.¹ She was reporting on official estimates that now suggest that one in five adults and one in six children in England may have low levels of vitamin D.

This followed the publication of a report on vitamin D supplementation by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN), which suggests that in order to protect teeth, bone and muscle health everyone over the age of one should consider supplementing their diet with 10 micrograms of vitamin D daily.²

So what has changed? Previously, the advice from the Department of Health was that vitamin D supplementation was only necessary for 'at-risk groups'.³ The recent research, however, shows that due to our limited exposure to sunlight (particularly in winter months), and the fact that our diet is unlikely to provide adequate levels of vitamin D, supplementation is necessary to protect the one in five estimated to have low vitamin D levels.

The new advice from Public Health England⁴ is that:

- Anyone over the age of one should consider taking a daily supplement containing 10mcg of vitamin D, particularly during autumn and winter.
- People who have a higher risk of vitamin D deficiency are being advised to take a supplement all year round.
- These at-risk groups include people whose skin has little or no exposure to the sun, like those in care homes, or people who cover their skin when they are outside.

- People with dark skin, from African, African-Caribbean and South Asian backgrounds, may also not get enough vitamin D from sunlight in the summer. They should consider taking a supplement all year round as well.

In a more recent report published on 6 September NHS Choices reveals new research on vitamin D supplementation benefits for asthma sufferers (in addition to their medication).⁵ The research indicated that vitamin D may help with the reduction of inflammation in the airways. The results from a small study showed:

- People taking vitamin D were also less likely to need to go to hospital at any time with an asthma attack.
- Three people in every 100 who took vitamin D in the studies had to go to hospital with an asthma attack, compared to six in every 100 who took placebo supplements.

Visit <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vitamins-minerals/Pages/Vitamin-D.aspx> for more information on vitamin D.

Good health!

¹<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-36846894> ²<http://www.nhs.uk/news/2016/07/July/Pages/The-new-guidelines-on-vitamin-D-what-you-need-to-know.aspx> ³<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vitamin-d-advice-on-supplements-for-at-risk-groups> ⁴<http://www.nhs.uk/news/2016/07/July/Pages/The-new-guidelines-on-vitamin-D-what-you-need-to-know.aspx> ⁵<http://www.nhs.uk/news/2016/09/September/Pages/Vitamin-D-protects-against-severe-asthma-attacks.aspx>

editorial

For me, Jens Laerke, spokesman for OCHA (The United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs), is the one who summed up the events of Monday 19 September the best:

*'It's a very, very dark day . . . for humanitarians across the world.'*¹

He was describing the evening attack on an aid convoy near Aleppo that left at least 12* humanitarian workers dead, including the head of the Syrian Red Crescent, and destroyed a large supply of medicine, water, and food destined to help stranded civilians.²

Provision exists

Back in 2003 the United Nations Security Council unanimously accepted Resolution 1502, which 'expressed strong condemnation of all violence to which those in humanitarian operations were exposed, including attacks on convoys and looting of their property'.³ It also made the perpetration of such acts a war crime and punishable as such. In recent years, however, we have seen a growing disregard for this particular resolution, especially among the many terror groups that the twentieth and twenty-first centuries have spawned.

It has always been dangerous

Strangely, doing good and being kind to our fellow men has always been dangerous, whether you are an official aid worker or not. I recall with vividness my father telling me of just such an incident from his time as a POW in Europe. One day, while he and his fellow prisoners were marching under escort through a Polish village, one of the bystanders suddenly stepped forward and handed a loaf of bread to one of them.

Only someone living on meagre camp rations and an occasional Red Cross parcel could really appreciate such a kindness – especially when the local population were in desperate need themselves. This was a humanitarian gesture of the purest kind . . . what followed, however, my father would never forget. Before the young woman could pull back from the marching column, one of



'It's a very, very dark day . . .'

the guards lunged towards her, sinking his bayonet into her belly!

Yes, doing good can be potentially dangerous, and here are some facts to prove it, taken directly from the Aid Worker Security Database.⁴ Firstly, since 1997 acts of aggression against humanitarian workers have occurred in at least 76 countries, the most dangerous of which has been Afghanistan with 481 victims. Secondly, the totals for violence against aid workers (1997 to 2015) tell this story about the dangers of doing good:

- Killed – 1,457
- Wounded – 1,353
- Kidnapped – 1,076

But they carry on . . .

Regarding the number of humanitarian aid workers worldwide, the latest estimates I could find were for 2013, at which time the figure was 450,000.⁵ That is a lot of people and their ranks are growing annually. They are people who are, by and large, prepared to carry on regardless of the dangers they face, many of them inspired to action by these words:

'Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'" (Matthew 25:34-36, NIV-UK.)

These words are located within Christ's description of the great judgement at His second coming. They describe one of the most solemn moments in human history, the point at which we face our Maker to hear either His approval or His displeasure, to be turned either to the right or to the left.

What is the deciding factor?

What is it that decides our destiny that day? Is it the length or seniority of our Christian service? Will it be the breadth and depth of our theological understanding? Could it be decided by the record of our evangelistic fervour – the number of souls we have won to the church? May it be influenced in some way by our diet, health or longevity? What is it that will decide our destiny?

Fortunately we don't need to guess, because Christ's words anticipate all those questions with a plain and simple answer: *'It's your kindness that counts!'* All the other things may be good and proper, but the thing that really sets us aside for His kingdom is whether we are consumed by kindness or not.

This is the critical question I'm faced with: *'Has kindness become "second nature" to me?'* My 'first nature' – my birth nature – is saturated with self, distorted and naturally inclined to evil (and I am not unique in this). But by God's grace Jesus makes a radical change possible. Through His perfect life and atoning death, He is able to hold my birth nature hostage while He works patiently in me to grow my 'second nature', for which He is the pattern. Paul provides an assurance of this:

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind [so that you will be like Christ] . . .' (Romans 12:2, NIV-UK.)

What is this dramatic scene in Matthew 25:31-46 suggesting then? Well, I think that it goes something like this: Christ's judgement day decision will be based a) *wholly and solely on our acceptance by faith of His precious and undeserved righteousness*, but it will be b) *most clearly reflected through our consistently kind and merciful responses to the needs of all we meet*.

Perhaps Christ was simply saying that the **evidence of a)** will be visible to all through the **presence of b)**, the same logic He used when He said, 'If [a] you love me, [b] you will keep my commandments.' (John 14:15, ESV.)

* Some reports put the figure at 21.

¹www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/20/un-suspends-all-aid-deliveries-in-syria-after-regime-strike-on-h/ ²<http://www.theatlantic.com/news/archive/2016/09/aleppo-aid-envoy-airstrike/500903/> ³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_1502 ⁴<https://aidworkersecurity.org/incidents/report/victims> ⁵<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/aid-worker-security-report-2015-figures-glance>



Julian Hibbert
Editor



Living the 'Olympic dream'

by Dr Alex Collins Arthur
(London Ghana Church)

We have witnessed a feast of international sporting activities this summer. First it was the European football championship in France, and recently the Rio Olympic Summer Games. Both the Olympic and Paralympic Games are very popular events in the international sporting calendar, associated with the celebration of outstanding sporting achievements and the national culture of the host nation.

What then does it mean to live the Olympic dream? Literally it means living in anticipation of an Olympic glory within the four-year intervals between the Olympic Games. But is there a deeper meaning than that? I invite you to come with me to review the life stories of the following great Olympians.

Michael Phelps
Michael is an American who started swimming at the age of 7. He appears driven by an unquenchable desire for success and always strives for his best. He has competed in five Olympic Games and is the most decorated Olympian of all time, with 28 medals (10 medals more than the second-highest record holder). He has won a total of 13 Olympic Games gold medals in individual events.

His first Olympic Games appearance was at the age of 15, and although there were no golds for him at that event, his tenacious quest for success has certainly paid off in subsequent Olympic Games.

The life story of Michael Phelps teaches us to set higher goals and never be satisfied with meagre achievements. We should always strive to maximise our God-given potential and keep on going for gold!

David Rudisha
David was born in a small Maasai

village in Kenya called Kilgoris, and is the current world and Olympic 800m record holder. In 2010 he broke Sir Sebastian Coe's 800m record (which he had held for 17 years), and in November of the same year he won the International Association of Athletics Federation's World Athlete of the Year award at

Games, remarked that it was the performance of the Games, not just of the track and field, but of the entire event. Bolt was good, but Rudisha was magnificent.

The life story of David Rudisha testifies that success is not won on a silver platter, but rather through hard work. This affirms the words of Henry Wadsworth

Were toiling upward in the night.'

David Rudisha's life story also offers hope to those from humble and overlooked parts of society, for if God can lift David up from a small Maasai village and crown him with international glory, then **He can work in us to accomplish great things too.**

Usain Bolt

Usain St Leo Bolt is a Jamaican runner, widely regarded as the greatest sprinter of all time.

Bolt is a unique and non-conformist character. He has a tall physique, which is considered rather unusual for most sprinters. He also takes a laid-back and relaxed approach to life, and in his training regime.

He is the first man to hold both the 100m and 200m world records concurrently. He won the 100m, 200m, and 4x100m relay world gold medals from 2009 to 2015, with the exception of a 100m false start in 2011. He has won 9 Olympic gold medals and is the reigning Olympic champion in those events. He is also the first Olympian to win the 100m, 200m, and 4x100m in three successive Olympic Games (triple-triple).

Usain Bolt's life story confirms the importance of affirming and celebrating our unique individual qualities, and not simply conforming to the pressures of stereotypical structures. Biological sciences confirm that every individual is composed of unique physiological elements that make us different from one another. **Being successful in life, therefore, is not based on living up to the success parameters of another person, but rather on perfecting your own unique natural abilities.** Do not allow the pressures from peer groups and the larger society to make you feel inadequate. Instead, take time to identify your God-given skills



the age of 21, making him the youngest ever recipient. During the 2012 London Olympics he completed the event in a record-breaking time of 1:40:91, a race which has been described as the greatest 800 metres of all time. Lord Sebastian Coe, the chairman of the London 2012

Longfellow (1807-1882) in his poem, 'The ladder of Saint Augustine':
'The heights by great men reached and kept
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,

and work on them to maximise your proficiencies.

The spiritual 'Olympic race'
Scripture suggests that there is a spiritual 'Olympics', one that involves our individual and eternal fate – and the universe is watching.

'Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.' (1 Corinthians 9:24, KJV.)

Much as there are similarities between the earthly and spiritual Olympic Games, there are also striking differences. Participation in the spiritual 'Olympics', unlike the earthly version, is mandatory for every created human being. Recognition in the spiritual 'Olympics' does not depend on the hierarchy of how we finish the race. Medals are awarded to all those who endure to the end by clinging on to Jesus with unyielding faith. The apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7, 8 affirms that there will be joy for those who complete their race, with pain and sorrow soon forgotten.

Dear friend, I am looking forward to that great day when the spiritual 'Olympians' will be assembled to receive their medals. On that day we will hear our names called and be beckoned forward to receive our medals: when the Lord Himself shall descend from His throne, put His hands on our shoulders, look into our eyes and say, 'Son, I know it all. I know all the pain and suffering that you went through. I know all the anguish, disappointment and heartache you suffered. I remember your struggles and failures; I remember the time when you contemplated giving up. I remember the time when I had to send My angels to comfort and strengthen you. I remember them all. But I am proud of you because you held on to your faith and completed the race. Receive now your gold medal.'

This should be our desire in life. This should be our 'Olympic' dream!

'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.' (2 Timothy 4:7, 8, KJV.)



Communicate your faith confidently

by Pastor Richard Daly
(BUC Communication and Media Director)

In this series of articles we have been looking at how to communicate your faith. We have discovered that all major companies and organisations have one goal in mind – to convey their message in such an effective way that the full cycle of communication takes place, which ends with the consumer fully understanding what is being communicated. In the Christian realm we have much to learn from our secular counterparts.

If there is one aspect of communication that will get people's attention, it is when the message is communicated confidently: unlike the umbrella salesman who, when standing sheepishly before his audience, head slightly bowed and making no eye contact, starts his sales pitch with, 'Maybe, I think, this umbrella could possibly be of benefit to you if you wish . . . if not now, perhaps another time.' Needless to say, he never got any sales.

When you believe in something in a convincing way, it ought to permeate through your beliefs, attitude and behaviour. If Christ is truly the centre of your life and you can testify of His love, mercy and daily provision, that should enable you to share your message with confidence. There's nothing more effective than when people can see 'in your eyes' the sincerity and genuineness that comes forth from within.

Today we have effective speakers who are gifted in the art of persuasive speaking. They know their products very well and will have personally tried and tested them. They will have convinced themselves of the value of the product they are trying to sell you.

The psalmist says to us, 'Taste and see that the LORD is good.' (Psalm 34:8, KJV.) In other words, when we have fully experienced Christ for ourselves – tried, tested and proved Him – then we too will be convinced of the invaluable role God plays in our lives. This acts as a wonderful catalyst to sharing our good news with confidence.

There are really no excuses we can give God when it comes to doing the task He sets before us. Remember that He has a history of using the least, most unassuming individuals to do His work. When Moses was called to deliver a specific message to Pharaoh, we know he made a number of excuses and expressed a lack of confidence in his public speaking skills, until the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and



'Maybe, I think, this umbrella could possibly be of benefit to you if you wish . . . if not now, perhaps another time.'

teach you what you shall say.' (Exodus 4:11, 12, NKJV.) I believe this promise still applies to us today. When we take the first step to 'go' God will be faithful and will impress upon our hearts the words we are to say. It's a test of faith.

I think of others in the Bible who made excuses. There was Gideon, who declared that he was the least; Isaiah, who declared himself a man of unclean lips; and Jeremiah, who said he was too young (or inexperienced). Then there was Samuel, who, when appointed to anoint the next king of Israel, looked at Jesse's first son, Eliab, and announced, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!' But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:6, 7, NKJV.) Aren't you glad that God does not base His 'fitness for service' tests on the physical or other qualities that men perceive as necessary for effectiveness? God looks at the heart, and He sees something we don't even see ourselves. He sees potential. He sees what we can become if we put our confidence in His mighty power and not in our own skills. Is that not what the apostle Paul had in mind when he declared, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13, NKJV)?

In the spiritual realm our confidence should come from the Lord. He desires to give it to us all, without exception. It was through trust in God that the above Bible characters each moved forward. Although they initially made excuses, they soon saw for themselves the way in which God was able to work through them. The results were phenomenal, yet they did not take any credit for themselves, for they knew it was God working through them. They only desired to give all glory to Him. Let's not believe that God could only use those in biblical times to accomplish His will. He is more than willing to use you today. The question is, are you ready to be used?



Church or charity: a crisis of identity?

by Pastor John SurrIDGE, BUC Executive Secretary

On Thursday 15 September my fellow officers and I had the privilege of meeting with the new BUC Executive Committee for the first time – or do I mean the BUC Trustees? Seventh-day Adventist Church policy says that our governing body is the Executive Committee. However, here in the UK and Ireland we are legally organised as a charity, which means that our governing body consists of trustees. It's the same group of people, of course, the ones who were elected at the BUC Session. They are, at the same time, both trustees and members of the Executive Committee. But how do they think of themselves? What is their primary identity?

I'll answer that in a minute, but before you start thinking that all this bureaucratic nonsense doesn't affect you, think again. It does.

We can find the core issue in a number of familiar Bible texts. On the one hand we have: 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation' (Mark 16:15) and, 'And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all

nations, and then the end will come' (Matthew 24:14). But on the other hand we have, 'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:35, 36 – all texts from the NIV).

The church does lots of really good things. By working together, pooling our resources and using our members' spiritual gifts, we feed, clothe, educate and heal people. We transform our own communities into better places (just look at the house prices around established Adventist centres), and we give aid to victims of human and natural disasters in far-off lands. We are indeed a charity to be proud of.

For some Adventists this is enough. Doing good, helping people, improving society. But is that really why we exist as an organisation?

In his opening devotional and address to the new trustees (or



Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President and Pastor Paul Lockham, former BUC Executive Secretary

Executive Committee members) BUC President Pastor Ian Sweeney repeatedly stated that our mission is: Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere. Yes, it's a slogan already well used in the South England Conference, but it's much more than that: it's our core identity. Seventh-day Adventists were raised up to preach the Gospel in the days leading up to Jesus' return. We should do other good things as well, but our priority is to evangelise.

So, coming back to my question, what is the primary identity of our new trustees or

Executive Committee members? The answer was given by former BUC Executive Secretary, Pastor Paul Lockham, in a carefully constructed induction lecture. 'First and foremost we are a church,' he said. 'We operate within the legal framework of a charity, but it is simply there to enable us to fulfil our primary objective of being a church.'

Part of my job is to keep the BUC Executive Committee on the straight and narrow in terms of charity law. But the other, and far more important part, is to keep them focused on what we're really here for: evangelism.

much-loved field of education). Two weeks into the job and I am connecting with the leaders of our institutions and churches, ascertaining needs, while juggling the day-to-day administrative aspects of the department that keep it functioning and alive. I look forward, by God's grace, to developing a collective vision that will drive the planning and events that will ensue over the next five years. In the meantime, please join me in thanking my predecessor, Anne Pilmoor, for all that she has accomplished within the department these last 10 years, working closely with schools within the BUC. We wish her and the family God's richest blessings for the future.

We continue to solicit your prayers for the department and invite you to join us as we seek to learn from and are guided by the Master Teacher.



Back to school

by Kathleen Hanson, the newly appointed British Union Conference Education Director

'Back to school' – a phrase that inspires whoops of delight in some and feelings of dread and fear in others; a phrase that I mourned this year, as I closed the door to my office for the last time and wondered about all that I was leaving behind. The warm smiles and laughter of the children, tales of their summer escapades, the freshly polished floor and smell of new books, not to mention the many kind expressions of gratitude lovingly

offered in a wilting daisy or a home-made card. It's not that I didn't recall the long hours, challenging interactions or pressure to deliver on performance, but just that I felt hugely blessed to have been called to a profession (these past 25 years) that I truly loved and thanked God for every working day.

And so, on 1 September, I walked through a new door, met new colleagues and prepared for a new chapter in my life (still within my



Difficult conversations between Adventists

by Helen Pearson

The Newbold College Diversity Centre began its new semester on 13 September with the first in its series on 'Difficult Conversations', with a lecture entitled 'Difficult Conversations Between Seventh-day Adventists'.

After forty years of service to the Church on three continents as pastor, scholar and administrator, Dr Reinder Bruinsma's lecture reflected on the state of the world and the Church within it. His remarks drew on his recent book, *Facing Doubt: A Book for Adventist Believers 'On the Margins'*.

He began with an overview of the diverse difficult conversations in which the Seventh-day Adventist Church finds itself and a reminder that diversity is not a new phenomenon. From New Testament times, multi-ethnic, multicultural and multilingual crowds have been drawn to Christ's teachings. More recently, the trend towards greater ethnic diversity continues. Indigenous people find themselves in the minority in their own countries living alongside migrants from not one but many different parts of the world. Inequalities between rich and poor, differences between those on the political right and left, and issues relating to homosexuality all help to create divisive barriers.

Dr Bruinsma showed that, given this background, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not the only faith community that must speak to a very diverse public. But recent research by the Pew Research Centre in the United States has shown that, among Christian churches in North America, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is itself the most diverse.

The blessings of ethnic and cultural diversity have brought greater vitality and more financial and organisational strength to the Church in the West. However, that same diversity, which has the potential to offer enormously rich understandings, has often generated mistrust and polarisation, and has made conversation difficult and power struggles almost inevitable.

Areas of difficult conversation include modern and postmodern approaches to truth and biblical interpretation, concepts of Adventist worship, lifestyle, ethical norms and even ideas of time. Perhaps the most difficult conversations occur on the question of what it means to be a 'real' Adventist.

Central to Dr Bruinsma's lecture was his focus on an underlying theological issue that often prohibits a constructive discussion

between groups in the Church – the approach to the interpretation of the Bible. Some promote the idea that the Bible 'means what it says. Period.' Others suggest 'that we all read the Scriptures through the lenses of our own culture' and that inevitably implies different interpretations. The result of these differences plays out in debates about a variety of doctrinal issues including the sanctuary, interpretations of 1844, the nature of Christ, the issue of perfection and eschatology, the role of Ellen White and the remnant status of the Adventist Church.

Dr Bruinsma's tone was conciliatory and even-handed. He repeatedly warned his audience against 'prejudice and unfounded generalities'. He reminded them that the lines between the various groups within Adventism are not always clear-cut, which should make us wary of generalisation or easy categorisation. At the same time, he did not trivialise the differences between groups of Adventists. He recognised, he said, that 'some would say that positions are so far apart that conversations are simply impossible.' His own view was: 'There clearly are no easy, quick solutions and we must mostly rely on long-term strategies.'

He offered suggestions for five strategies for improving understanding at local church level:

1. Opportunities for encounter – providing intentional programmes that give different groups the chance to learn about each other's backgrounds and understand the richness of diversity available to them.
2. Education – informing church members about the history of the Adventist Church, especially its nuanced opposition to the making of creeds and to the 'plain reading' of Scripture. Education to dispel ignorance about the development of Ellen White's thought and to improve knowledge about the nature of homosexuality were part of this strategy.
3. Separating the important from the peripheral – establishing the idea that not all beliefs should be treated as equally important. 'The Sabbath is more important than the seven trumpets, the Trinity is more important than pork,' said Bruinsma.
4. Fostering a culture of inclusiveness – guarding against all forms of exclusivity, which is often built into our Adventist DNA – the idea that a few are right and all others are wrong. 'We must know and affirm to each other that we are members

of the one body of Christ.'

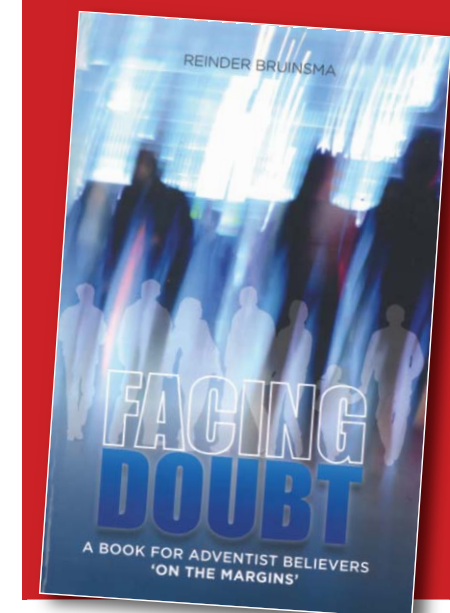
5. Intentionality in communication – when official Church communication channels close to voices that do not echo 'official views', we need to use contemporary channels of communication. We need to focus non-defensively on the 'difficult' issues that thousands of church members wrestle with and the points of view that thinking Adventists need to consider in their quest for meaning.

In conclusion, Pastor Bruinsma became personal. He focused on the real spiritual virtues needed by people involving themselves in difficult conversations: the 'patience of the saints', courage, and faith in Jesus' 'mustard seed' principle. Seventh-day Adventists need to keep having small-scale difficult conversations at local and personal levels and pray that these may mushroom, multiply and bring change.

The lecture will soon be available to view online.

To order your copy of *Facing Doubt: A Book for Adventist Believers 'On the Margins'* contact the ABC on 01476 591 700, or by emailing us at: sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk.

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. . . in Peru

by Fabrice Baker-Livingstone, Communications Officer, ADRA-UK



On 31 July one of the largest ADRA volunteer groups so far travelled to the beautiful and mountainous country of Peru. The Republic of Peru, located in the western part of South America, embraces a large section of the Amazon jungle and is home to some of the wonders of the world. Unfortunately it also has numerous communities where many of its inhabitants live in abject poverty. In fact, around a third of the population do not have adequate cooking facilities and are forced to cook over their living room fires, which has the associated health risks of respiratory problems and the exposure to open flames. In order to help change these circumstances, our ADRA-UK volunteers took three flights, travelling for over 21 hours, to arrive in the coastal city of Cusco in Peru. Their task was to build 20 ecologically friendly stoves in the rural village community of Yaucat.

In Cusco, the group feasted on a traditional meal of chifa (Chinese-Indian Peruvian food) and enjoyed their last Wi-Fi connectivity for almost two weeks! Then, after a final two-hour journey to Camp Chuquicahuana, they arrived at their secluded home, beautifully

nestled in the foothills of the Andes mountains. Interestingly, parts of this campsite have been constructed over the years through the financial assistance of ADRA-UK, to which many of our MESSENGER readers and church members would have contributed.

The Peruvian hills were soon alive with the sound of ADRA volunteers who, through sickness and health, warmth and sub-zero temperatures, journeyed daily to and from the village of Yaucat, with a steady determination to complete the work for which they had fund-raised to take part in.

The first few days of the trip were spent preparing the materials, which involved transporting hundreds of bricks from the volunteer camp to the village. Once this had been accomplished and the bricks were safely in Yaucat, the volunteers had the additional task of carrying 75 bricks per house, along with sand, cement and all their tools, up a steep, winding path into the homes of the villagers. Straightforward as this may sound, when you add in the high altitude – an incredible 3,400 feet above sea level – chilling temperatures in the early mornings and no established

roads throughout the community, you can see that this troop of volunteers had their work cut out! Yet nothing could dampen their spirits!

With the help of the villagers those 1,500-plus bricks were delivered to various homes on the hillside. What was really a blessing to see was the great community spirit among the local families: an example of this was a young man who carried 20 bricks at a time to help build a stove in his grandmother's house. This spirit was demonstrated over and over again as these Peruvian women, who generally are small in stature, ferried not only their own supply of materials but also those of the older and more frail members of the community.

Many of the volunteers remarked that the women in the village (both young and old) were some of the strongest women of their acquaintance, and, as we heard their remarkable and heartfelt stories, this fact could not be doubted. Many of these local women are now providing and caring for households of up to seven children, as the poverty and hardships of life have driven many of their husbands to alcoholism and the subsequent abandonment of their daily responsibilities. As a result of



life's hardships, these mothers have become strong and resilient, and their example spoke keenly to the ADRA group that consisted of 17 women in total! While everyone understood what the task of building eco-stoves entailed, after travelling to the village and meeting the beneficiaries, the true reality of the work and its necessity was felt by all.

These first few experiences were not lost on the group. Each day, as the coach set off and was driven skilfully through the Andean foothills, weaving its way towards Yaucat, spirits were high and voices higher as the team of 18 strangers soon became firm friends. The volunteers were separated into groups of 4 or 5, and after an on-site demonstration from the ADRA Peru team, including the CEO, Mr Pulsiano, hard hats and gloves were donned and the teams were off to build their daily target of five stoves with a cheerful 'Buenos dias.'



'Here comes the science part . . .'

Upon

entering each family property, volunteers usually had to prep in the outside yard – which usually housed a selection of cows, goats or sheep, and almost always guinea pigs. After this, each team began their work by submerging bricks in water to help build a stronger foundation. Next, two team members were tasked with thoroughly mixing the sand and cement – then adding the required amount of 'agua' (water) in order to create the correct consistency for the 'mezclar' (mortar mixture).

Next came the measuring and levelling in preparation for the brickwork of each stove. With no team wanting to build a sub-standard kitchen, each group painstakingly measured, re-measured and measured again, levelled, re-levelled and levelled once more in order to ensure that the families they provided stoves for had the best possible facilities. To round off the process, the bricks were carefully laid, concrete slabs

strategically placed and then the chimney was fitted as the crowning act! One volunteer remarked: 'I kind of assumed that on this trip I would have just done manual labour but I had to do it all. I felt part of the design, I feel like here on an ADRA Connections trip you step up a level, because everything matters. It looks simple but you have to be accurate!'

Throughout the week it was clear that the volunteers had more than just the four members in their team. At each home, family

members eagerly rushed to help and assist wherever they could – fetching water, providing extra spades, offering refreshments and even partaking in celebratory dances with team members. Families communicated in either Quechua (the indigenous language) or in Spanish to convey their joy at the work strangers had flown thousands of miles to complete on their behalf. By the end of the trip the volunteers were also conversing with the Peruvian labourers, with shouts of *mas agua* (more water) and *mas mezclar* (more mixture) echoing throughout the community.

The original itinerary planned to finish the eco-stoves on day 12, but due to the group's hard work, enthusiasm and conscientious spirit, all 20 stoves were given the seal of approval by day 10 – two days ahead of schedule!

After officially completing the last stove, the volunteers and beneficiaries were invited to a short ceremony held at the local school. The Mayor of Yaucat offered a moving 'thank you' to each and every volunteer for their kindness and willingness to help those living on the edge of existence. Speaking to the UK group and the families who received kitchen stoves, the Mayor remarked, 'I'd like to share with you that we have a great need, and one of the greatest needs we have here is for our children. You have helped not just this generation but also future generations, and I'd like to say thank you so much. And although we may not see each other face to face again, I know that every time we see our kitchens we will be reminded of your kindness, your smiling faces, and for that we are just so thankful.'

A few days later, to officially thank the ADRA-UK volunteers,

the villagers travelled to Camp Chuquicahuana for an evening of speeches in the auditorium. There was a family representative present from each home that received a stove, and with word and song (specifically by Nani, a young boy who had become firm friends with members of the group), the hearts of those who had come to help were overwhelmed by their gratitude! Each volunteer was gifted with a traditional Peruvian hat from the villagers, and bittersweet goodbyes were said before the closing prayer was offered by the head of ADRA Peru. There were not a few tears as this large group acknowledged the God of heaven who had brought all of these individuals together, to share in this work and this moment.

The memories collected on these trips cannot easily be put into words; and this article can only provide a snippet of the sights, sounds and bonds that were made in Peru – which will undoubtedly last a lifetime. ADRA Connections trips seek to offer a wealth of experience and an understanding into the developing world that cannot be felt from the comfort of one's home.

Since ADRA Connections is a volunteer programme connecting communities around the world, the question is, 'What are you waiting for?'

To register your interest for the next ADRA Connections trip please visit: <http://adra.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/adra-connections/> or email: volunteering@adra.org.uk.

Check more pictures and videos and keep up to date with ADRA-UK and ADRA Connections by joining us on Facebook (ADRAUK) or following us on Instagram (teamadra).





SoEML graduates 125-plus

More than 125 students graduated from the School of Evangelism, Mission and Leadership (SoEML), which is run under the guidance of Pastor Kirk Thomas, South England Conference (SEC) Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Director, on 11 June at Camber Sands, Essex. This was the highest number of graduates since the school started in 2012.

To commence the fifth graduation ceremony Croydon Pathfinders started off with a drill as the graduands walked into the auditorium.

Pastor Thomas then gave an introduction in which he mentioned how pleased he was to see the faces of people who are eager to serve God. One of the graduates later confessed the following to him: 'Pastor, I've never graduated from anything, but I'm very happy that I could finally graduate from a programme, and wear a gown, and receive a certificate, and – more than that – know that God is pleased with me.'

The director of the school explained to attendees that the SoEML is not a programme that has been set up to rival any educational institution, because degrees are not on offer. This programme was created to train and equip lay members so they can be inspired to do ministry wherever God leads them. According to Thomas, many people came to the programme not knowing what to do in life or where their talents lay. However, after completing the programme many felt led to commit themselves to higher education.



Pastor Eglan Brooks, the British Union Conference Personal Ministries Director, said that he hoped that these certificates would kindle the graduates' interest in furthering their knowledge. According to Brooks, they were living proof that there is still a desire to serve the living God. 'There is still power in the word of God to engage people in service,' said Brooks. 'One of the challenges that we are facing as a church is that we do not have Adventists who believe as they should in order for them to go out and bring other people into the Kingdom of God.'

After this inspiring message, the graduates were invited, by cohort, to receive their diplomas. They were challenged to engage in earnest prayer and Bible study, and to dig deeper in the word of God than ever before.

The SoEML staff hope that this will just encourage and inspire more people to be a part of this programme. This year, 12 cohorts and the school's first webinar were offered. Starting in September, 3 more cohorts are being offered.

NATASHA MIRILOV

Sunrise Adventurer Club shines!

The word of God instructs us, 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.' (Proverbs 22:6, KJV.) With this in mind, New Addington Church in Croydon started an Adventurer club under the guidance of the director, Brenda Nurse, during the past year. She solicited the assistance of area co-ordinators Trevor Harewood, Marcia John and the dependable Godwin Benjamin for stationery, supplies, support and advice, among other things.

Over the past year, Brenda and her team of counsellors completed the programme for Sparks, Little Lambs, Sunbeams, Busy Bees, Eager Beavers, Builders and Helping Hands. The club, with the support of parents and other members of the church, worked hard to ensure that the objectives were met in time for the testing, which every child passed. The club also held their first-ever camp on the weekend of 19 to 21 August, and it was a blessing to all who attended. The investiture was held a week later, under the watchful eye of area co-ordinator Marcia John. With the first year behind us, all those connected to the club ask you to pray that it will grow from strength to strength.

EDWY CHANDLER



Special Needs Camp

Special Needs Camp took place from 3 to 10 July at Aberdaron, North Wales. The theme for our worships this year was 'Good News', and, through the programme compiled by Pastor David Rancic and delivered by both he and Pastor Curtis Murphy, we heard the good news of being created in God's image, right through to the return of Jesus and life in heaven. We left at the end of the week knowing we were all important to God.

During the time of the camp, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited Aberdaron as part of his yearly visit to the principality. Several campers and staff went to see what was happening and when he met Billy, a non-Adventist who was a camper but now works in the kitchen, he was told a lot about our camp. So much so, that as Prince Charles moved through the crowd he was heard to ask, 'Are you part of this camp?' as he shook hands. It wasn't only the campers who were quite excited about this event!

Because of the inclement weather this year, arts and crafts was a popular activity, with pots being made to take home and T-shirts decorated. The uniform T-shirts worn by the site team were lavishly decorated across the back with different pictures and words which were not entirely related to the work they undertook. However, this reflected the way the two teams mixed together for the benefit of the campers.

During the concert, and again during sports day on a rare sunny



morning, we experienced a change in the atmosphere when 'snow' started falling, to everyone's amazement. We wished that the machine producing the snow could have been programmed to produce more sunshine during the week!

We were fortunate to have several new members of the team this year, and one new camper, 67 years old, for whom this was his first ever holiday, after being in care since he was a teenager! He has definitely booked his place for next year's camp.

If you would like to join our team, or if you know someone with a disability who would like to hear the Good News at their level, perhaps with a carer who would enjoy a break, please contact me via our website, www.specialneedscamp.co.uk, or at jsbussey@ntlworld.com.

JOY BUSSEY (SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP CO-ORDINATOR)



Adventist singles meet

A group of Adventist singles gathered for a retreat to 'Cultivate Purpose and Let God' on 15-17 July.

Christian Mthombeni, the event organiser, was inspired to plan this programme after attending several couples' and family retreats. After hearing attendees' feedback regarding the fact that there are issues before getting into a marriage, Mthombeni saw the need for a singles' retreat.

'The idea of having a singles' retreat is to encourage single people to work on themselves,' said Mthombeni. 'And even in our singleness we need God to be the centre of everything.'

Guest presenter, Seth Asare, explained that together the attendees were looking at what relationships are, how they can be developed, and how to nurture them.

'The presentation has been wonderful and inspiring,' said attendee Mildred Gordon. 'I've learned a lot that I can take away to enhance other people's lives.'

Organisers say that this event is beneficial for both men and women, as they get the chance to interact and discuss issues openly. The plan is to make this event annual.

NATASHA MIRILOV (COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA ASSISTANT)



PHOTOS: NELSON KHONJE

Bristol's eight baptisms

On 9 July there was great joy in Bristol as eight people (mostly young) were baptised at a packed baptismal service in Bristol Central Church.

The face of Billy Odumzor, father of David (15) and Deborah (13) from South Bristol Church, beamed as he saw his youngest children rise from the baptismal waters. He said after the service, 'It's like having a harvest. It's not easy to grow your children in the Lord, and now seeing them baptised, from a little baby to now, I just can't measure the love that God has for me and my family.'

Another young brother and sister from South Bristol, Davidson (19) and Regyqueen Mbah (17), were also baptised, to the delight of their family and friends.

Former Bristol pastor, Richard Daly, baptised four of the young people, while Bristol district pastor, Royston Smith, baptised the others. Pastor Daly knew a number of the young people, including Janii Harrison, who was joining North Bristol Church and had requested him to baptise her.

Pastor Daly had actually dedicated Deborah Odumzor as a baby and was thrilled to be back for her baptism.

Evangelist Jeremiah Bonner, who was in Bristol conducting a revival series, reached out to the candidates during his sermonette, encouraging them with his timely message.

One member of Bristol Central Church, Edith Appleby, was particularly pleased as she saw her daughter, June Ford, take to the waters after many years of prayer on her behalf.

June said, 'I feel wonderful to be baptised today, as it's the first day of the rest of my life.' She went on to describe how, after a tragic loss, she was angry with God and left the church for a while, but then, when her mother was ill, she started hearing about God in a different way,

London Ghana's early start paid off

The London Ghana church was among nine South England Conference congregations selected to broadcast the historic Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) event live to the rest of the world in September this year.

Led by their senior pastor, Fergus Owusu-Boateng, the church proactively embarked on a three-week mini-evangelistic series to sensitise both church and community members about the forthcoming event.

For twenty days, including three Sabbaths, they held lectures on marriage, which were ably presented by the pastors of the church.

Sermons on topics such as 'Is it really love?', 'What God has joined together', and 'Living together in Christ' were presented, along with opportunities for discussion on pertinent issues that affect marriage today.

Over three thousand people watched the lectures live via the church's website live-streaming them around the globe, while nightly attendance reached around one hundred and the Sabbath afternoons saw an average attendance of five hundred.



and how He died to save her from her sins. She said, 'If God gave up His Son, who am I to get angry, so the words I was hearing helped me to have a different relationship with God and want to have a closer walk with Him.' She also thanked her family and friends, and the church family for their support and encouragement.

Another candidate joining South Bristol was Devonn Reid, who, despite being in pain, was supported in the baptismal pool by Pastors Daly and Smith. His joy was self-evident as he rose from the water in newness of life.

Marklan Jackson, who was joining Newport Church, was well supported by family and friends, and very impressed by the support of the local churches.

As each candidate took to the pool, a family member or friend read a scripture and sang a special item. Some of the candidates were visibly touched by these expressions of support. Pastor Daly ended the service with an appeal for anyone else who wanted to consider baptism, and several people, including some youth, came forward for prayer.

This was Pastor Smith's first baptism in Bristol and he also went on to outline the plans for the next baptism and the way forward for the Mission to the Cities outreach.

IAN SABADIN (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER FOR BRISTOL JOINT EVANGELISM COMMITTEE)

Five souls were baptised after the three-week event, with several others committing themselves to being part of the next one.

NANA SIFA TWUM



Six Stevenage youth baptised

On 20 August the Stevenage congregation held their summer baptism of six youth at the Luton Central church.

Pastor Jonathan Barrett took great delight in baptising all the candidates, while youth speaker for the day, Nana Bonnie, encouraged them with the thought that baptism was just the start of a continuous journey with God.

Now let's meet our candidates:

The youngest of the candidates, Evita Fernandes (13), knew that she wanted to get baptised two years ago. She couldn't contain her happiness after emerging from the water feeling 'more complete, whole . . . blessed', and 'ready to fully accept Christ now, so people can see who He is through my kindness'.

It was at Student Camp that Clyde Mutimbanyoka (20) realised that he wanted to follow God. He entered the pool with confidence as the congregation sang, 'At the cross'. Malensu Kabeya (18) said, after her baptism, that she felt 'excited for the future because it's like a new chapter in my life, so I'm looking forward to what's going to happen for me next, and what God's going to do for me now'.

Just before Obert Chidawaya (16) was immersed, Pastor Barrett challenged him with these words: 'You came with quite a keen mind and I hope you are to serve Him with the same attitude.' Obert enjoys studying and is looking forward to learning more about God.



Candidates, left to right: Thobile Nyathi, Samantha Lupindula, Obert Chidawaya, Malensu Kabeya, Clyde Mutimbanyoka and Evita Fernandes.

Beaming throughout her baptism, Samantha Lupindula (16) said she 'found grace and peace, from the Holy Spirit, just from being able to trust in the Lord with all my heart'. She 'also realised that choosing to get baptised is not a key to getting to heaven, but that it is an outward show of an inward change. Once I understood this I learnt that nothing I say or do can stop the Lord from loving us.'

Like Clyde, Thobile Nyathi (17) found that the different events she had attended (Pathfinder Camp, Prayer and Faith conferences and Extreme Teens Camp) had helped her to form a real connection with God.

KELLY AH CHIN KOW

Could this story still have a happy ending?

by the Editor

Ulceby in North Lincolnshire is a typical rural village, located 10 miles northwest of Grimsby and 14 miles east of Scunthorpe, and surrounded by fields and farms. According to the 2011 census the village had a population of 1,711 – 211 souls more than it had in 2001.

So why am I telling you this? For the simple reason that our Ulceby church – the first Seventh-day Adventist church built in the British Isles – was formally closed in December last year, and that our union president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, felt it necessary to notify the British Union Conference constituency of the fact.

This historic church was built according to 'blue-prints' brought over from the USA by E. G. White during her visit to Europe (1885-7) and formally opened in 1888 – a detail that is obvious from the bleached wooden letters on the church's façade. Pastor A. A. John began baptising members in the general area in 1883, and Ellen White visited the village in 1887.

The Ulceby story is one that deserves to be told in much more detail than this, and in some future issue of *MESSSENGER* we hope that Dr David Marshall (our former editor), whose grandmother was baptised in Ulceby, will do this for us. At the same time we will also try to bring you some photographs of the interesting interior of this unique piece of our UK Adventist heritage.

Could the Ulceby story still have a happy ending? If you have any positive suggestions that might make this possible, please share them with us.





What a tidy bunch!

What do you do when your church's surroundings need a tidy-up to keep them looking attractive to passers-by, and available funds discourage finding a professional to undertake the task? The obvious solution is to call on the deacons and other willing volunteers to lend a hand now and then for a special clean-up session.

Stanborough Park Church has long been referred to as 'the church in the woods' but its wooded and grassy surroundings need regular maintenance to keep them looking their best and complementing the recently altered church building. Basic grounds maintenance has always been undertaken by some of the deacons who are dab hands with lawnmowers and brooms. However, occasionally the needs are greater than they can manage on their own and reinforcements are required.

So, following an appeal to members, the head deacon, Bernell Bussue, reports that 'near perfect mild conditions greeted a group of deacons, deaconesses and members' who arrived on Sunday, 15 August, ready to tackle whatever tasks awaited them.

He continued, 'We are blessed with a beautiful house of worship, so maintaining the overall environment of grounds and building needs willing volunteers to help keep down unnecessary expenditure.'

It seems that this activity is likely to become a regular fixture in the church calendar, especially during the growing season, as he adds: 'This is the second time this year such activity has taken place and is part of the effort to hold down church spending, as the congregation and friends of the church continue to raise funds to pay off the debt of our sanctuary refurbishment and extension.'

JUNE COOMBS

Beloved pastor moves on

When does an Englishman become an Irishman? In Adam Keough's case the process is considered complete, since he has now lived in Northern Ireland longer than in England. Having spent some of his childhood in Northern Ireland as a pastor's son, he later returned to pastor the Belfast church as an intern under Mart de Groot in 2002. Adam married a local girl, Heather McCormack, and they have two children, Olivia and Jacob. After 14 years as pastor in Belfast, this record term came to an end when the church held a potluck lunch on 23 July (Adam's birthday) to bid the family a fond farewell – at which Eileen Irvine (elder) paid a moving tribute to Adam's leadership over the years. The younger members of the congregation will especially miss his entertaining children's stories, but plenty of opportunities remain for them to reconnect at the various camp meetings and fellowship events held around the Irish Mission, for which Adam remains the youth sponsor.

We wish the family God's richest blessings as they begin a new chapter in service to the members of the Dublin Ranelagh church.

CAROLINE SWAIN (BELFAST CHURCH COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)
PHOTOGRAPH: IAIN IRVINE



Sound the battle cry!

Members and visitors stood to attention as the men took command during Hackney's Men's Ministries Day on 13 August. Then followed an interesting Sabbath School programme led by the superintendent, Darel Philip, and based on Hebrews 12:1-2, which encourages believers to remember the witness of those faithful individuals recorded in Hebrews 11 before taking the baton from them to continue the race of life. The lesson study, presented by Dr Bernard Lendor, focused on Jesus desiring good for others and reminded us of the many who are crying out for help around us.

The guest speaker, Pastor Dennis Mingo from Reading Church, then spoke on the theme, 'Every Man's Battle, God's War', which focused on David's battle with the Philistine giant, Goliath. Pastor Mingo worked with the Hackney Children's Department to dramatise the captivating sermon. Speaking about the significance of the stones David picked out as weapons to defeat the giant, Pastor Mingo said: 'The stones represent responsibility, accountability, maturity, respectability and spirituality – characteristics David possessed on the battlefield and which we need to invest in all our young people, especially our young boys and men.' Pastor Mingo's wife (Janice) and son (Adriel) then sang an emotional song: 'Don't Let Another Soldier Die', which reminded us of our responsibility to look out for each other as we journey together on this Christian pathway.

The day concluded in the afternoon with a play, 'No Man Left Behind', performed by Grays' Men's Ministries team. Hackney's Men's Ministries leader, John Locker, summed up his department's approach like this: 'We want to work together with our young people so that, as we journey, none of us will be lost and all will have a place in God's kingdom when He returns to take us home.'

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

WANTED: Pioneer Taskforce Volunteers!

The North England Conference seeks volunteers for the following:

To set up new churches or to support struggling churches through efforts such as Bible studies, door-to-door work, health and nutrition activities, literature evangelism, distribution of Bible request cards, various methods of friendship evangelism and small groups. Applicants must have a well-rounded knowledge of the Seventh-day Adventist teachings, accept these teachings and let their personal lives reflect the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle. They should also be good communicators (fluent in English), be able to conduct Bible studies, seminars and evangelistic meetings, prepare contacts for baptism and have the ability to minister cross-culturally. These are voluntary positions for which full accommodation and a living allowance will be provided. Locations will be in three different areas within the NEC. Starting date: as soon as possible. Minimum term of service: one year (subject to applicant's suitability).

Apply online or to Pastor Michael Simpson:
North England Conference
Church Planting Department,
22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB

Tel: 0044 115960 6312
Fax: 0044 115969 1476

Email: msimpson@necadventist.org.uk

Web: <https://www.adventistvolunteers.org>

Call ID: TED.NECY.2016.03 (Isle of Man), TED.NECY.2016.04 (Lincolnshire) and TED.NECY.2016.05 (West Midlands)



You might like to consider this . . .

The Herghelia Lifestyle Centre is an Adventist health institution situated in the picturesque hills of Târgu Mureş, Romania. It specialises in treating lifestyle diseases and disorders through NEWSTART principles, set in an 11-day programme.

Recently 28 members and friends from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and London travelled there to experience it for themselves. The trip was organised by the Health Department of Luton North Church in conjunction with Felicia Ilie from Bedford Church, who is a testament to its life-changing treatments. The Centre had reserved its facilities exclusively for this UK group, and each client had a bespoke programme drawn up for them based on their medical and personal needs. Each one had a nurse assigned to take care of them during their stay, who would also pray with them each morning prior to the start of the day's programme. The meals were plant-based and made from ingredients organically grown on site and freshly prepared. In addition to this there were periods of indoor and outdoor exercise several times a day; massage and physiotherapy; mineral baths, jacuzzis and other hydrotherapy treatments; health lectures; cooking demos; personal counselling that addressed everything from stress to addiction; and, of course, some personal time too.

With only 11 days in which to effect healthful changes, the centre encourages clients to play a personal role in their healing process. Bedroom TVs, for example, have only two channels (sermons or relaxing music and nature programming), while Wi-Fi is switched off at 9pm to encourage clients to get a good night's sleep. And for those who might be tempted to sneak off and buy alcohol, chocolate or anything else to impede their restoration, the centre is conveniently located far from civilisation! The staff did, however, organise a visit to Dracula's hometown – the mediaeval town of Sighişoara, where all were able to sample local life first-hand.

Sabbath provided a wonderful opportunity for doctors, nurses and clients to worship and fellowship together, during which many bonds were formed despite the language barrier. There were many tears as the delegation came to the end of their stay. But what of the results?

Here are three from among the many. One client, who had to board the flight to Romania in a wheelchair, returned to the UK pushing



their own luggage trolley! A client in their late 80s, who is normally wheelchair-bound, dispensed with it just three days into their treatment, stating that the numbness in their legs had gone. Another client who could barely walk three steps at a time without needing to rest, and who also had to board their outward-bound flight in a wheelchair, returned to the UK without assistance, and has been out and about, non-stop, on their feet ever since!

And what about you? If you need a fresh start to health and the tools to make it a long-term reality, then consider attending the Herghelia Lifestyle Centre.

For more information, please email Kathleen at: herghelia2017@gmail.com.

KATHLEEN CONNAGE (HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
LUTON NORTH CHURCH)

UK-Zambian DOF cancelled
Please note that the above event has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Grantham Church's Service of Thanksgiving

On 5 November at 11.15am Grantham members will celebrate the church's 50th anniversary.

The theme will be: *Focus on the 'homeless' years (1966-1969)* and interested parties are invited to both the service and the subsequent fellowship lunch. If you intend to attend the lunch kindly RSVP to: Mrs E. Carnell, c/o Seventh-day Adventist Church, Dudley Road, Grantham NG31 9AA.

Messenger

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Sunset					
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	London	Card	Nottingham	Edin	Belf
Oct 7	6.24	6.36	6.27	6.32	6.44
14	6.09	6.21	6.11	6.14	6.27
21	5.54	6.06	5.55	5.57	6.11
28	5.40	5.53	5.41	5.40	5.55

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