

Messenger

News to the churches • 21 October 2016 • Volume 121 • 21

Peace Park opened

by Pastor Richard Daly (British Union Conference Communication and Media Director)

Wednesday 21 September, the International Day of Peace, proved to be the perfect opportunity for the official opening of the new Peace Garden on the grounds of the British Union Conference (BUC) offices. The circular garden, located in a quiet spot between the Union offices and the Stanborough Park church, provides visitors with tranquil surroundings, comfortable seating and a three-tier fountain as its centrepiece.

The official ceremony took place at the Stanborough Park church with host minister, Jacques Venter, welcoming the many who attended. Music was provided by Matthew Payne, who played the first movement of Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, following it up later with the rather fitting hymn, 'O God, Our Help In Ages Past'.

BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, who has supported the idea for the park, gave a thoughtful message highlighting that we are citizens of two kingdoms, but when those kingdoms clash the Kingdom of God must take priority.

Other presentations during the programme were from Brian Philips, pastor and historian, who gave his personal testimony; Simon Colbeck from the Quaker movement also spoke, sharing his perspective on the conscientious objectors from within the Watford area.

Pastor Victor Hulbert, Trans-European Division Communications Director and the main researcher into the story of the 130 Seventh-day Adventist conscripts who refused to bear arms during World War One and were resolute in maintaining their Sabbath rest, was instrumental in putting the whole programme together.

When asked how he felt about the day, he said, 'I felt very humbled to be a part of the day. I set out in 2013 to do some research and tell the story of Seventh-day Adventist men who refused to bear arms, which subsequently resulted in a documentary film and numerous articles. I never expected it to result in a beautiful lasting memorial like this.'

Indeed, it was a perfect day and the setting reminded those present of the God of peace. Victor Hulbert expressed his hope that 'this (peace park) will be a lasting memorial and a place that will provide a space of tranquillity for future generations'.

After the service, crowds gathered outside the garden for the official opening by Garth Till, who cut the ribbon. He is the son of Willie Till, who was one of fourteen imprisoned at Military Prison Number 3 in Le Havre, France. Garth was only nine years old at the time, but remembers the trauma it caused his father.

This day will always be remembered for the right reasons. Even though it is a memorial of what was a sad and traumatic experience for some, it is also a symbol of their courage and faithfulness in standing 'for the right' and helping to provide us with a lasting legacy of peace.



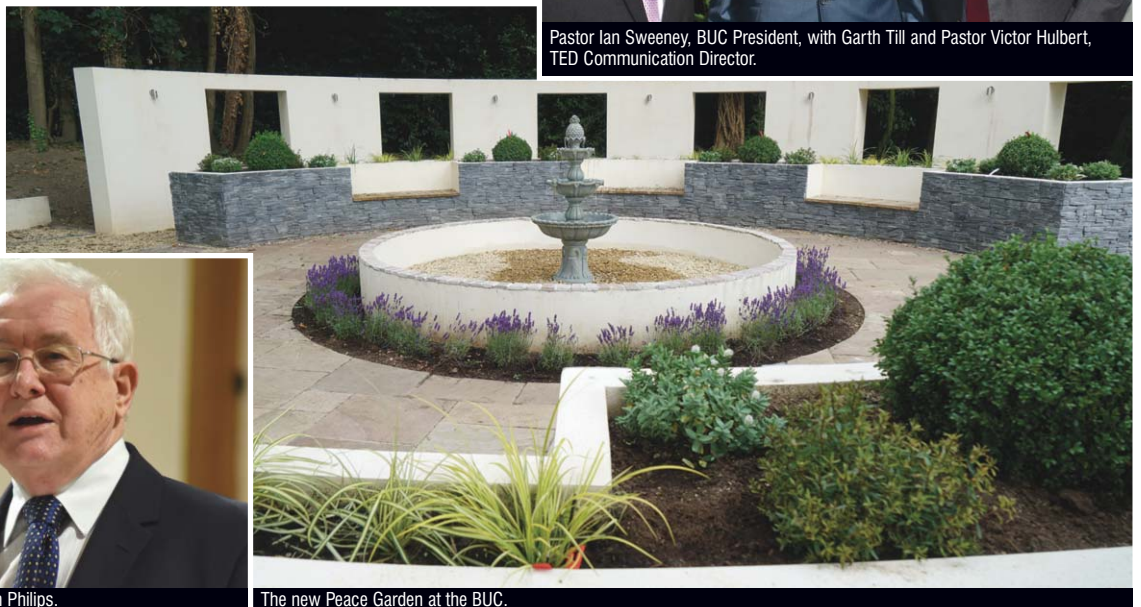
Garth Till gives his presentation before cutting the ribbon.



Pastor Victor Hulbert, TED Communication Director.



Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President, with Garth Till and Pastor Victor Hulbert, TED Communication Director.



The new Peace Garden at the BUC.



Pastor Brian Philips.



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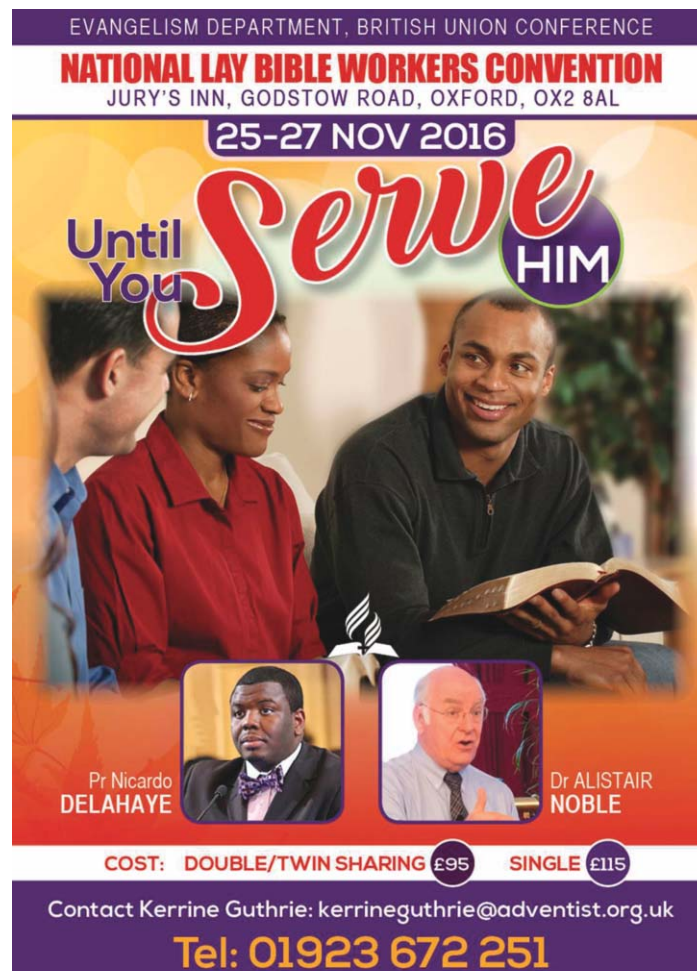
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Enhancing Health

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

Are beads threatening your health?

Are beads problematic? What's all the fuss about? Well, according to Sean Poulter and David Derbyshire of the *Daily Mail* in their *Mail Online* article (25 August 2016) we should 'Ban the toxic beads now! Tiny plastic beads in everything from shower gel to toothpaste are poisoning oceans and threatening health. It's time for them to be outlawed.'

Their main concerns about these microbeads are:

- They are found in shower gels, exfoliating scrubs, toothpastes and anti-ageing creams which can get into our bodies;
- They are flushed into rivers and seas by the trillion, where they attract toxins.

The *Daily Mail* advocates a full ban, stating: 'It is increasingly clear that microbeads, which, like plastic bags, are made of polyethylene, are a dangerous and unnecessary pollutant. Shockingly, every time someone takes a shower about 100,000 plastic particles wash into the sea, becoming a magnet for pesticides and other toxins. They are then swallowed by fish and other marine wildlife and end up on our dinner tables.'

In the same article, Tamara Galloway, a professor at Exeter University, is quoted as saying, 'We find pieces of plastic in every sample of seawater we study from around the world. Many marine animals ingest microbeads, mistaking them for food. They can then be lodged in the animals' gut – preventing them from eating nutritious food.'

Another report stated that the European Commission would

support Britain's efforts to 'stop products containing microbeads being sold, using a safety clause in EU law'.²

However, MPs like Catherine Bearder, a Lib Dem MEP, have expressed concerns following Brexit, stating in the same article: 'Andrea Leadsom, the Environment Secretary, must also face up to the consequences of Brexit, including the loss of influence over EU measures that protect our environment.'

So why are microbeads being used? The microbeads are used to enhance the look and feel of products. They are tiny balls of plastic varying in size from 0.001mm to 1mm. Smaller microbeads are found in cosmetics and cleansers, making them smooth and silky, while larger microbeads are used as exfoliators. They are also used to add colour and glitter, or to bulk out products.

Why not examine your products to see if they contain tiny specks of colour, checking the ingredients for words indicating microbeads, such as polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) and polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), or nylon.³

Perhaps it's time to consider botanical products.

Good health!

¹http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3757440/Ban-toxic-beads-Tiny-plastic-beads-shower-gel-toothpaste-poisoning-oceans-threatening-health-s-time-outlawed.html?ito=email_share_mobile-masthead ²http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3760853/Ban-Beads-Theresa-pressure-ban-toxic-beads-Brussels-says-UK-free-act-plastic-pollutants.html?ito=email_share_mobile-aboverelatedarticles ³http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3759269/Plastic-fish-caught-Britain-toxic-microbeads-used-shower-gels-toothpastes-beauty-products.html?ito=email_share_mobile-aboverelatedarticles

editorial

Yesterday my home church held a baptism that drew visitors from hither and yon – many of them being young people who were there to show support for those being baptised.

It was a beautiful service, at the end of which we had four radiant new members to welcome into our fellowship. Then, after many hugs and handshakes, most of the congregation migrated to the adjacent hall for lunch – and what a lunch it was. The tables groaned under an abundance of tasty dishes, both savoury and sweet, and there was food to spare.

The lunch was quickly followed by another service and the hall was soon empty but for a group of deaconesses who had to clean up . . . and they did so with cheerful efficiency.

What would we do without them?

I shudder to think what church life would be without them. In fact, I think we generally take our deaconesses for granted, with hardly a second thought for what they do to make our worship and fellowship the rich experience that it is.

Our deaconesses quietly leave their stamp of cheerful efficiency on every aspect of church life. For example, just a few weeks ago we celebrated the Lord's Supper, during which I had my feet dried with a fresh white towel that some kind deaconess had washed, folded and set aside for me. During the service I watched deaconesses remove and fold beautifully starched cloths from the table to reveal scores of sparkling glass communion cups, each carefully filled with grape juice. That morning I took a small square

In memory of Martha



Julian Hibbert
Editor

of unleavened bread that was offered to me – a symbol of Christ's sufferings – respectfully baked by a nameless deaconess.

The cheerful efficiency of our deaconesses quietly touches every facet of church life. Besides the role they play in preparing for the Lord's Supper, they also visit the elderly and ill; distribute food parcels to the needy; buy and arrange the flowers that we see in church; wash and iron our baptismal gowns; plan, prepare and serve our fellowship lunches, clean up afterwards and dump the trash; not to mention many other things that vary from church to church. Yes, all this, and they still find the energy to welcome us warmly on a wintry Sabbath morning.

'Mary has chosen what is better . . .'

In Luke's record of events at the home of Christ's close friend, Lazarus, he tells us of an incident involving the sisters, Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42). According to Luke it was Martha who 'opened her home to him' and became 'distracted by all the preparations that had to be made'. In sharp contrast to which, Mary 'sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said'.

By its very nature, hospitality will always confine someone to the kitchen. A role that hostesses generally accept with good grace. This doesn't mean, however, that they are not acutely aware of what they are missing. It doesn't stop them longing for a chance to sit 'at the Lord's feet' and listen too!

Luke captured that frustration so aptly in verse 40: * 'She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"'

To be honest, Christ's response to Martha's plea always puzzled me. To my ear it sounds like a gentle telling off: ' "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." ' (Luke 10:41-42.)

What is Jesus telling Martha here? 'Get your priorities right, girl! You need more devotion and less motion!' I'm sure He was, but on the other hand, could Christ's comments have been more about **Mary's needs** than about **Martha's deficiencies**? Could it be that with His understanding of Mary's nature, her weaknesses and the struggles she would face, Jesus is actually saying:

'Martha, this is not the time to scold her. Let's cut her some slack. Mary has chosen what is best for her at this moment, and it will not be taken away from her!'

A little personal 'prophecy' about Mary that certainly came true.

Now, lest we mistakenly think that Martha was a woman of **much action** but **little faith or spiritual understanding**, listen in on her conversation with Jesus after the death of her brother:

' "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

'Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

'Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

' "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." ' (John 11:21-27.)

What a powerful and clear testimony, equal to anything uttered by the disciples.

Back to our deaconesses

While writing this I came across a reference to Martha as 'the patron saint of active, practical women'.¹ Now, I don't believe in patron saints, but I do believe that 'active, practical women' like our deaconesses are the backbone of this church.

Thank you all for your wonderful ministry!

* All Scripture references are taken from the NIV-UK.

¹<http://www.catholicireland.net/saintoftheday/st-marthaof-bethany-1st-century-sister/>



My journey to the Seventh-day Adventist Church

by Andy Gregory

I was born in 1970, the son of a Methodist minister, and raised in Wales. I moved over to Bristol in 1999 when I became a teacher. Sadly, I lost both parents to cancer at the end of that year and from there my life went on a huge downward spiral. Fast-forward to 2006, and I was now living alone in a small rented flat in Kingswood, Bristol. Unable to cope with the effects of my grief, I had lost my teaching job; I had lost the job I secured following that; I had lost my marriage; and, as a consequence, I had lost my home and many of my possessions.

At that point I decided to attend a local Methodist church again and subsequently met my new wife, Hannah, through an online dating site. She encouraged me to begin using my teaching qualifications again, and in January 2009 I secured a job as an education worker for an anti-racism organisation in Bristol city centre called SARI. There were a number of Christians working in the SARI team. One was a fellow education worker called Web, who attended a Seventh-day Adventist church. I was impressed by his wealth of knowledge, so one day I asked him, 'What do you think about evolution?' The following morning he handed me a piece of paper on which he had written, 'Dr Walter Veith: The Genesis Conflict, *amazingdiscoveries.tv* – proves evolution is fake!' I immediately decided to check this.

After digesting this, I had a listen to some of Dr Veith's other material. He explained, among many other things, the

Seventh-day Adventist beliefs that he had embraced. These made more biblical sense to me than the doctrines I had been taught all my life in other churches, and I began to pray that God would lead me to a place where He could use me to serve Him.

Eventually the thought, 'If I agree with the Seventh-day Adventist teachings, why am I not attending a Seventh-day Adventist church?' began to enter my mind on a frequent basis. During the following weeks I began attending the Adventist churches in Bristol, first the North, then the Central church, which I enjoyed, before deciding to see what Lodge Causeway was like. After attending my first service there, I was introduced to a friendly young man called Tudor. Within a couple of weeks Hannah and I invited Tudor and his wife Ana around to our house for some tea. We got onto the subject of evolution and I shared the truths I had learnt from Dr Veith. 'Will you speak during our afternoon programme at the church?' asked Ana expectantly.

'Are you serious?' I asked. 'Of course I'm serious – the knowledge you have is amazing!' she replied. I was overjoyed and started preparing using every spare moment, and God has been using me ever since. God answers prayers and His timing is perfect!

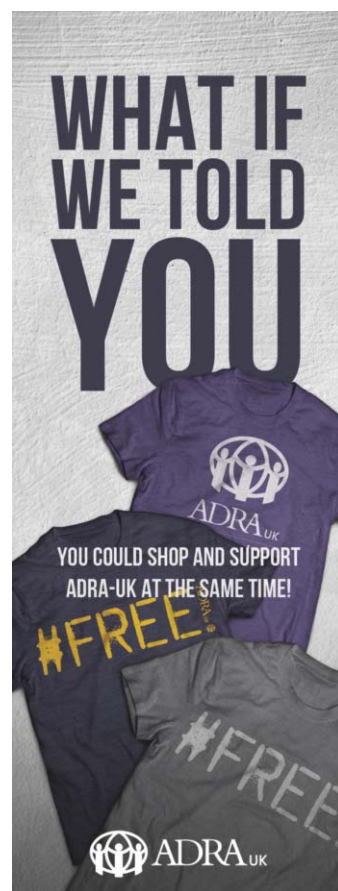
And so to my baptism into membership at Lodge Causeway on 20 August 2016. I wanted to publicly acknowledge the changes in my life and tell of how God had led me there. The Lord says, in Matthew 10:32 (NIV): 'Whoever acknowledges me



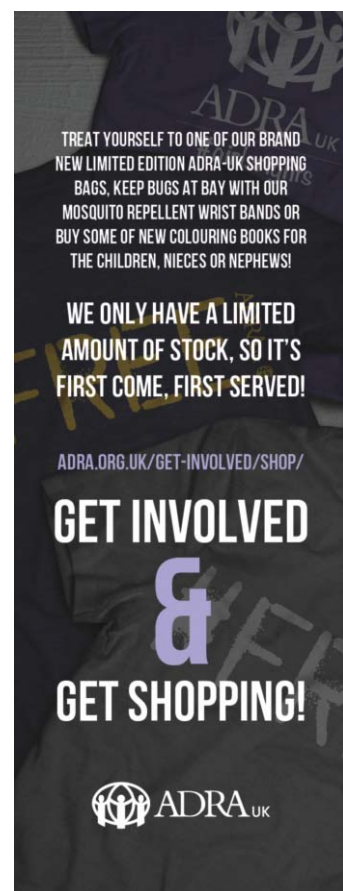
Andy Gregory, left, with Pastor Rudika Puskas.

before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.' Jesus keeps His promises, and this scripture confirmed my decision. I believe

with all my heart that what the Seventh-day Adventist Church stands for is 'The Truth', and if God is for us then who can be against us!



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



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.

Communicate your faith willingly

by Pastor Richard Daly
 (BUC Communication and Media Director)



inbox

Dear Editor
 The observations of Alexander Douglas, *MESSENGER* 9 September, are thought-provoking.

Is it really true that there are congregations where members' honest questions of faith are answered with, 'There's a sermon about that...'? What is this? The blind leading the blind?

If there is a section of our membership whose faith is dependent upon North American thinking, theology and celebrities, where does responsibility for this lie?

The message which Seventh-day Adventists bear to the world is Bible-based and transcends all cultures. It is relevant to all people and in all places, especially at the present time in world history. It is not dependent upon North America or any other section of the world.

Seventh-day Adventist ecclesiology – its doctrine of the church – must by its very nature supersede culture and not be conditioned by, or modified to accommodate, culture. There is an unfortunate tendency emerging in some quarters to play down the universal element of the Seventh-day Adventist mission and faith. Sadly, this tendency has a very strong European influence, the one area of the world where the Advent message has been the least effective and its distinctiveness played down.

Alexander's article does highlight a serious problem. He is to be thanked for directing the attention of the church to it. Surely how to fix this problem is the task of pastors and church boards to avoid receiving into church fellowship men and women who have not received adequate instruction in the beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists and about the place and role this church has in the will and purpose of God.

PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE (RETIRED)

In this, the last of a four-part series, I challenge each of us to be effective communicators. I'm not referring to eloquence of speech or perfecting the Queen's English. Effective communication is about ensuring that what you have to say is fully understood by the recipient, but it doesn't guarantee that the message will be accepted and agreed to by the listener.

Christ spent much time communicating His message of the Kingdom of God and all that it embraced. His words spoke truth to the heart, but not everyone accepted His message.

Conglomerates and multinationals know that their products will not be accepted by everyone, yet they still spend millions promoting them, recognising that even a marginal increase in product awareness can result in success. They spread their message 'far and wide', across the whole media spectrum, with the expectation of capturing at least a small percentage of the potential market. And to tell the truth, for most companies that's where it all begins, with just a small return!

If you are to be an effective communicator of your faith you must not be deterred by results. The Christian message is not a popular one and sharing your faith will not always be met with the same level of enthusiasm with which you share it. However, God calls us simply to be faithful and to adopt an attitude of willingness. This doesn't, however, come naturally to most of us. Our instinctive response is to shy away from outreach activities, especially if they involve having to engage with someone else. So when God says, 'You are My witnesses' (Isaiah 43:10, NKJV), He is calling us not only to emerge from our comfort zones but to be involved in a task that goes against the grain of our natural feelings. It calls for us, therefore, to be 'willing' communicators.

We have already discovered that a desire to share Christ's message ought to be the result of an 'overflow' of our spiritual experience with Him. We have also discovered that the sharing of His message may take different forms and does not depend solely on public speaking. God gives each of us talents and abilities to communicate His love to others which are just as powerful and effective, if not more so, than public speaking. The question that God puts to us is simply, 'Are you willing to serve?' To which our response will, hopefully, be, 'Lord, I'm available to You; use me for Your service.'

As a student I had the wonderful privilege of spending one year as a student missionary on the island of Majuro, in the Marshall Islands. I had the responsibility of teaching a class of twenty-two

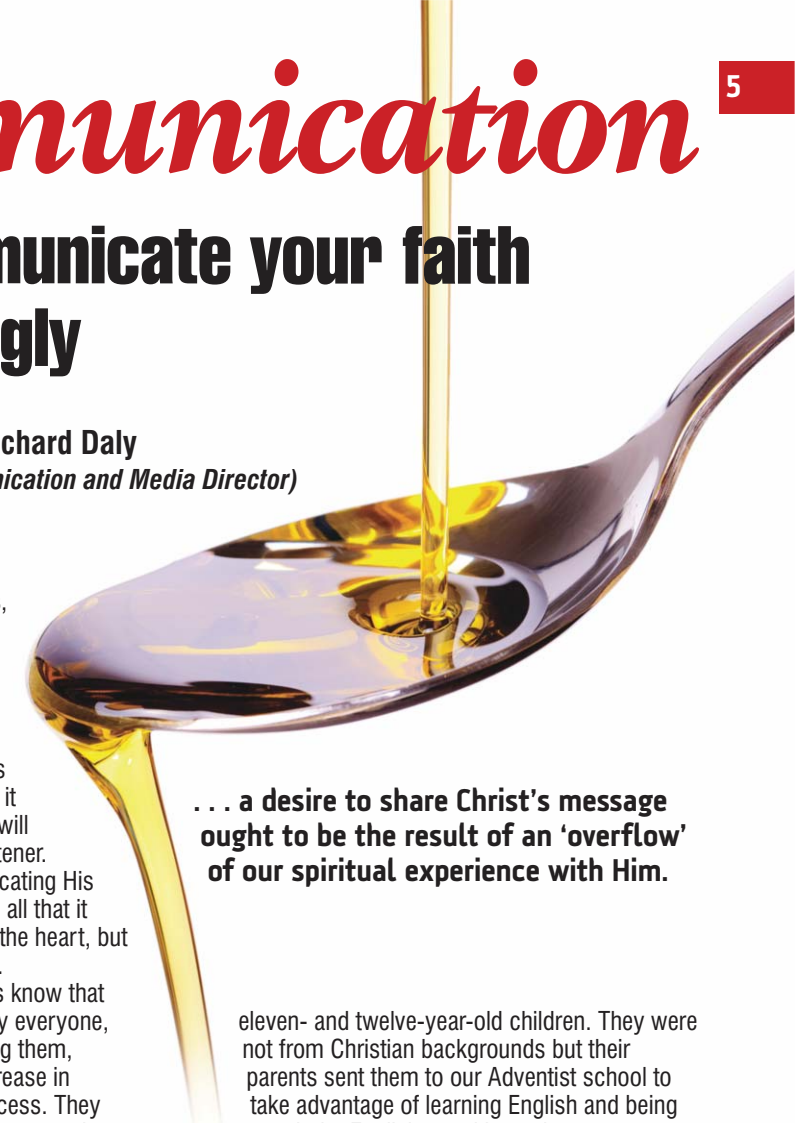
... a desire to share Christ's message ought to be the result of an 'overflow' of our spiritual experience with Him.

eleven- and twelve-year-old children. They were not from Christian backgrounds but their parents sent them to our Adventist school to take advantage of learning English and being taught by English-speaking volunteers; however, my policy was to begin and end each day with them in prayer.

There was one boy in the class called Alden, the smallest yet the most troublesome. He often came to school late and barefoot. He sat on a stack of books to make himself look tall and often played practical jokes on me. For example, while my back was turned he would climb on his desk and put the clock forward by thirty minutes. Then, thinking it was time to dismiss them, I would do so, only to find out that the school was still in session. Alden could be seen hand on belly, laughing outside. He would also put bits of chalk in the groove of my chalk eraser, so that when I used it more chalk would appear. He was the practical joker. However, near the end of that year Alden remained behind one day and asked, in his broken English, 'Mr Daly, does God really love boys like me?' His question was sincere and his heart was searching for the God I had tried to share in class. I told him how much God really loved him and that He probably laughed at his practical jokes too. He smiled and turned away. That was the last day of school.

When I arrived home from my mission trip, I read through the many thank-you cards the children had written to me and came across Alden's. His words were simple but very touching: 'Mr Daly, I may never see you again Mr Daly... But one place I'll see you is heaven.'

I still feel emotional just writing about it, but the lesson for me is that when you are willing to be used by God, if your witness leads only one person to know His love, it was worth it. What price will you pay to reach a soul for His kingdom? May you be willing to say, 'Lord if You can use anyone, You can use me.'



camp meeting



First ever Welsh Mission camp meeting

by Pastor John Surridge, BUC Executive Secretary

Over the weekend of 30 September to 2 October the Welsh Mission held its first ever camp meeting, at the beautiful, if somewhat isolated, Christian Conference Centre of Cefn Lea, near Newtown. Speakers for the health-themed weekend were Dr Allan Handysides, Associate Health Director at the General Conference, and Mrs Sharon Platt-McDonald, Health and Women's Ministries Director at the British Union Conference.

In his Friday evening devotional Dr Handysides caught everyone's attention with a clinical analysis of the story recorded in Luke 8, of a woman who had been subject to bleeding for 12 years. Speaking with the candour and precision typical of someone who has practised obstetrics and gynaecology for 35 years, Dr Handysides suggested several possible causes for her condition. Any initial discomfort on the part of the audience was soon dispelled by Dr Handysides' equally honed bedside manner, as he painted a picture of a gracious Healer – one who cared enough about the patient to ensure that she was restored completely: physically, spiritually and socially.

On the Sabbath Dr Handysides told the dramatic and gripping account of a white water rafting trip on the Zambezi river. He, his son and some of his medical colleagues had taken the trip, despite warnings of high water levels and extreme conditions. On two occasions he was thrown out of the boat; the second of these was with such violence that it broke the two safety ropes he was holding onto. Drawing a parallel with Jesus' story of the prodigal son, Dr Handysides pointed out that both sons were in the wrong. Both were holding onto insecure ropes. The prodigal left home with progressive ambitions, seeking his authentic self, while the older brother was a moral conformist whose ambition was independence through hard work and

self-discipline. Both lost the connection with their loving father, but in Jesus' story only the one who knew he was lost was fully restored. 'The danger in following the path of the older brother,' said Dr Handysides, 'is that we can avoid the Saviour by seeking to avoid the sin.'

Despite his in-depth medical knowledge Dr Handysides deliberately chose to focus on grace. 'I'm not a vegan,' he said. 'Not that there's anything wrong with a vegan diet, but by placing an undue emphasis on diet we can attract certain people for the wrong reasons.' He went on to say that some five percent of the population have 'orthorexic' tendencies: that is, they are obsessive in pursuit of a healthy diet. 'The message of our church is salvation through the grace of Jesus, not veganism.'

Sharon Platt-McDonald's energetic style and infectious optimism generated a sense of well-being among her audience. There were, in addition, nuggets of wisdom which, upon reflection, had the potential to revolutionise people's health. The author of numerous books and magazine articles, Sharon identified several themes and rules for living which she has seen working in other people's lives. Particularly interesting was her presentation on 'resilience' where she outlined a series of biblical principles to enable even the most harassed and persecuted to bounce back in the face of adversity.

Sharon also contributed to an excellent celebration of Women's Ministries in the Welsh Mission. Led by the current Women's Ministries sponsor, Mrs Jennifer Rowell, this session highlighted the numerous retreats that the Welsh Mission women have enjoyed over the past few years. As Jennifer is standing down this year the Mission is seeking a new sponsor to continue the good work.

The highlight of the camp meeting was a

baptism. Paris McKenzie attends the Newtown church and lives with her family not far from the conference centre. An active member of the church youth group, Paris already leads out and preaches. Over the years she has grown in her faith and has completed a comprehensive series of studies with her father, church leader Kenroy McKenzie. On the day, Paris was supported by her two local ministers, Jeremy Johnson and Adriana Fodor, as well as numerous family members and friends who had come from the West Midlands to share the special day with her. The privilege of conducting the baptism was given to former Welsh Mission president, Pastor John Surridge. Standing with Paris in the outdoor baptistry, under a sky which had only just cleared of rain, Pastor Surridge spoke of his warm affection for the whole family. 'The McKenzie family are not just deeply spiritual,' he said; 'they also make Christianity fun. They do all sorts of interesting things and have integrated well into the Newtown community. They give Adventism a good name.'

The warmth and family atmosphere of the camp meeting was enhanced by an excellent praise and worship team. Led mainly by the Chigbo sisters from Newport, the singing included a wide range of hymns, contemporary praise songs and favourite choruses. Special items by Denzel McDonald, Leslie Riskowitz, Kenroy McKenzie and Forrest Douglas added to the occasion, and the concluding 'Side by Side' was a moving and appropriate end to a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

This, the first ever Welsh Mission camp meeting, was an experiment. 'We weren't sure how many would attend,' said event organiser and current Welsh Mission president, Pastor Emanuel Bran. 'In the end we had a good group and everyone has said they want to come back next year. So, it looks like these camp meetings are going to become a regular fixture in our church calendar.'

In the Conferences, camp meetings have been running for many years. Welsh Mission members and ministers alike were very grateful for the support of the NEC President, Pastor Richard Jackson, who attended on the Sabbath with his wife Angela. Speaking just before he left, Pastor Jackson expressed his pleasure at having been part of the event and went on to suggest that, as the Welsh Mission is so close to the West Midlands, perhaps there could be co-operation on such events in the future. No doubt such an arrangement would be a blessing to both fields.



Pastor Richard Jackson (left) with the Welsh Mission pastoral team.

SEC

SEC OneLife report

by Natasha Mirilov

The South England Conference (SEC) are celebrating the baptism so far of over 100 people during their *OneLife* evangelistic outreach held in London in collaboration with Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN).

The Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere series, under the motto, 'The Best You Can Be: Body, Mind, Spirit', ran as a two-week programme (3-17 September) that combined the Gospel with the Church's unique health message.

It involved nine evangelists and several other guest speakers, including 3ABN's founder and CEO, Danny Shelton, who said, 'It's our responsibility and privilege to tell the world about Jesus.'

The name *OneLife* was chosen so that everything would centre around the one life, that of Jesus Christ, and it was hoped that it would ignite a spirit of evangelism across the Conference.

According to SEC Communications Director, Pastor Sam Davies, the programme demanded a lot of behind-the-scenes advertising and public relations activity. He explained that the object was to get everybody involved for Christ.

'It's really about how we create a movement around evangelism; it's no longer just the job of the pastors or of the elders, but everyone,' said Antonio Belgrave, the SEC's Strategic Planner.

Programmes were held at locations throughout London and the south-east of England, these being the hosting churches: Brixton, Chiswick, Croydon, Greenwich, Hampstead, Lewisham, London Ghana, North Wembley, Oxford, Stoke Newington, Tottenham West Green Road, and Walthamstow.

'We are still on a high and we are planning to nurture those people that were baptised today,' said Rita, from North Wembley.

It was an opportunity for members to witness miracles happen within their churches. For example, Beverley, a member of North Wembley, witnessed a passer-by take a leaflet that was handed to her and promptly enter the meetings.

'People are out there waiting for the message and it's just for us to make sure that we are giving out the right message – to let them come in and enjoy the fellowship that we share and to know Christ for themselves,' said Beverley.

Donovan Gervais, from Croydon Church, was happy to see the enthusiasm of the speakers, and this was his comment: 'I expected the 3ABN people to just come and do their sermon and then go wherever . . . but

I wasn't really expecting them to really engage with the congregation as much as they did.'

Each evening SEC Health Ministries Director, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, held health seminars, motivating attendees to live a healthy lifestyle. The final day of the *OneLife* campaign was the high point, a special Day of Fellowship held at Ruach City Church, London, on 17 September. Churches participating in the campaign joined together for the evening programme, as most of them were having baptisms in their churches. The evening concluded with a testimony session and a concert featuring several well-known artists, including musical evangelist Neville Peter.

There were ten live streams each night on the *1Life.org.uk* website. According to SEC Media Director, Vili Costescu, this was a breakthrough for the department, as it was their opportunity to experiment with various live streaming platforms, such as Facebook Live and Periscope, for the first time.

Dr Emmanuel Osei, Acting President of the SEC, indicated that the Conference directors



Danny Shelton.



Dr Emmanuel Osei and Chidi Ngwaba.



A rapt congregation listens intently.

would be evaluating the entire programme to identify areas of strength and deficiency, which will be used in the planning of future events of this nature.

For more information on the *OneLife* programme, visit *1Life.org.uk*.

BUC Secretary vacancy

The British Union Conference has a vacancy for a full-time Secretary to work at the British Union Conference office in Watford. We are looking for a cheerful person, with office secretarial skills, who is organised, efficient and able to offer a welcoming, helpful and professional approach to visitors and callers, both in person and on the telephone. In addition to a diverse range of secretarial duties, responsibilities will include travelling to and helping to run events, providing hospitality for meetings, and computer data management.

Employees of the BUC are expected to be committed to the mission and the values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Salary from £18,223 to £23,506 per annum, in accordance with experience.

Full-time hours are 36.75 per week, 8.15am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.15am to 12 noon on Friday. Closing date for applications is **31 October 2016** with interviews to follow during the first week of November 2016. Applicants must have the right to work in the UK. Application forms are available from: Sophia Prince, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford WD25 9JZ. Email: sprince@adventist.uk.



Leytonstone's success

On Sabbath, 13 August, the members of Leytonstone commenced their special evangelistic series with Pastor Andre Campbell from Florida, and singing evangelist, Audley Scott, from Jamaica. They were well supported by a faithful prayer team who interceded on behalf of everyone, including the visitors.

The series ran until 24 August and the attendance was excellent – even on the week nights. Pastor Campbell spoke on the theme, 'Babylon is fallen', and his messages were dynamic. This was

accompanied by powerful singing from the singing evangelist. As an added bonus the meetings were broadcast through live streaming to many parts of the world by 3ABN Radio.

The series ended with the baptism of eight precious souls, each unique in their own way. The baptism was followed by a brief concert during which Pastor Campbell and the church's first elder, Fitzroy Morris, sang a duet together. Thus ended one of the most successful of Leytonstone's evangelistic outreach programmes. *COMMUNICATION DEPT*

A double celebration!

A double celebration took place at the Hackney church on Sabbath 3 September. First was the ordination of two trainee elders, PR and Communications leader, Herminia Mathieu, and Women's Ministries Director, Jacqui Otopka. All the elders

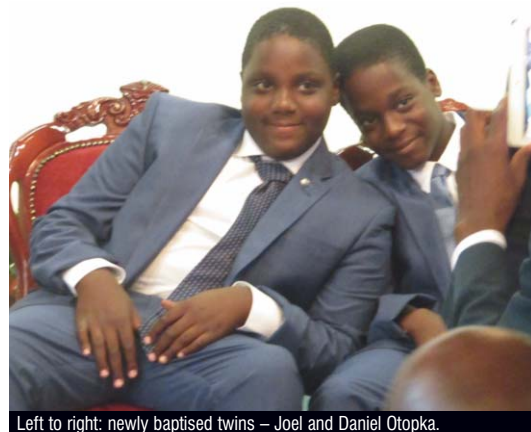
present, from both Hackney and elsewhere, were called to lay hands on the two elders while Pastor Everett Picart ordained them.

The celebrations did not end there, however, as newly ordained elder, Jacqui Otopka, and her

husband witnessed the baptism of their twin boys – Daniel and Joel – who were both born with physical defects. One was partially blind while the other was partially crippled. However, after prayer by their parents and the church, both were fully healed. Pastor Picart baptised them, after which a number of people

responded positively to his invitation to be baptised in the near future.

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT)



Left to right: newly baptised twins – Joel and Daniel Otopka.



Ordained elders – Herminia Mathieu and Jacqui Otopka.

Aberdaron

URGENT REQUEST (Aberdaron Camp)
Skilled volunteer craftsmen required

Aberdaron Camp needs volunteer craftsmen, skilled in carpentry, building and DIY, to help complete urgent construction projects. If you can spare a few days or even a week or two, we would like to hear from you.

Free accommodation plus assistance with travel. Meals will be provided.

Please call: 01758 760281; 07757 725518; or 07532 277223.



Historic Sligo baptism

The Sligo Seventh-day Adventist group celebrated an historic first baptism on the weekend of 22 August. Four people were baptised in the sea at the picturesque Strandhill beach, a popular surfing destination a short distance outside Sligo town.

'It was a day on which lifelong memories were created,' reports Pastor Weiers Coetser. 'The Atlantic surf was pounding in quite vigorously thanks to a low-pressure system that enveloped the whole country. The baptismal candidates showed their resolve by not letting the waves or the cold water put them off. . . .'

Esnathi and Lindiwe Nkosi, a mother and daughter, will probably never forget the day. Having journeyed just over a hundred miles for the ceremony, they experienced a car breakdown a short distance from the church. They were concerned that they would not make it on time for the ceremony, but a church member was quickly dispatched to fetch them from the side of the road and they made it just on time for the vows.

'When the baptism was announced at the church a few months ago we were living relatively close by in a refugee centre. After then we were granted leave to remain in Ireland and we moved to a village quite far away in Galway. But we really wanted to participate in this event, so we decided to drive up to Sligo and we are so grateful that we made it safely to the church,' said Esnathi, wrapped in a blanket with a smile beaming from her face.

For fifteen-year-old Kudzai Munyaredzi, the day also held great

significance. He'd been looking forward to the baptism for more than a year, and faithfully attended the preparation classes. But there was a tinge of sadness and worry because his father could not be there to witness the ceremony. His father, Goodrich, was in the Sligo Hospital ICU fighting for his life after suffering several heart failures three weeks before the baptism. The family took time out from keeping a vigil with their dad to support Kudzai as he affirmed his belief in God on the beach that day.

Takondwa Mwale was re-baptised on this Sabbath. 'I was baptised several years ago in Malawi,' says Takondwa, 'but my life has taken me on a journey that clashed with the values of the church. I have always felt the call of God in my life, however, and wanted to celebrate the fact that I was back on the spiritual course that I believe God wants for my life.'

The Sligo Seventh-day Adventist group was started approximately six years ago under the leadership of Shupai Matewa and two friends, and has slowly increased in size. Today the group meets in a hired Presbyterian church hall in the centre of town. This baptism marks an important landmark in the growth of the little congregation. Standing at the seaside on the day of the baptism were 25 church members. Some had travelled from Derry/Londonderry and from Dublin and Longford, but the Sligo group's membership is also increasing and on some Sabbaths more than 15 members and friends join for worship. 'We can't wait to see what the Lord's plans are for our new church members and for our group in Sligo,' says Shupai.

IRISH MISSION COMMUNICATION (PHOTOS BY JEANDRE COETSER)

Special Isle of Wight retreat

About 190 members and friends from both the Filipino International and the Heathrow International churches spent the whole week (21-28 August) in a spiritual retreat at Bembridge Village, on the Isle of Wight. A carefully planned daily programme had been prepared with the theme 'Back on Track', with Pastor Lowell Teves, a veteran pastor who has served in both the Philippines and the United States, as the guest speaker.

His messages dealt with the daily challenges of the Christian's life. In addition to the daily morning and evening worship services, the other daily activities were conducted by the staff of the Kingswood Learning Centre. During the week, retreat

participants took time to enjoy the beach by swimming, relaxing and generally enjoying the wonderful weather and sunshine with which we were blessed.

On Sabbath the children were entertained with a treasure hunt and a Bible wordsearch. After lunch, everyone walked down the trail to the beach to witness the baptism of Dennison Cruzata, our newest addition to the family of Christ.



As we said goodbye on Sunday, 28 August, some with tears in their eyes, everyone knew in their hearts that the fellowship would continue to linger in our minds in the months and years to come. Joint Retreat 2016 had

blessed and strengthened the lives of members and friends from the Filipino and Heathrow International churches.

THEA FRIAS AND JOHNSON WONG

Cycling to benefit others

The heart-warming story of someone who cycled around Lough Neagh in the heart of Northern Ireland to raise money for the British Heart Foundation Northern Ireland.

A member of Coleraine Church has raised over £1,000 for the British Heart Foundation Northern Ireland by cycling around Lough Neagh, a freshwater lake in the centre of Northern Ireland.

David Dickie is well known for his fund-raising efforts on behalf of the British Heart Foundation. In previous years the *MESSENGER* featured his efforts to push a bath around the village of Ballymoney as well as a country music evening that he arranged in a local hall. These efforts have since been recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh at a special ceremony at St James's Palace.

This year's 90-mile bicycle ride was inspired by David's daughter, Stacey, who challenged him to stay fit for the summer. Stacey is a keen cyclist herself and has used her cycling to raise funds for other charities in the past. She enlisted the help of three cyclists who had previously been her fund-raising partners – Eamon, Lyndsay, and Angeline – to support her dad on his big ride.

The team set off from the Antrim Junction One car park on Sunday, 6 September, and followed the network of country lanes and pathways that circle the largest body of fresh water (by area) in the United Kingdom. There were frequent stops and much banter. The journey took just over seven hours. When they arrived back at the starting point a small group of family and friends were waiting to congratulate them on their achievement.

David, who experienced a heart attack several years ago, expressed great appreciation for the support that his fellow cyclists had given. 'The people of Ballymoney, family and friends of the team of cyclists, and members of the church were generous in their donations and their time. It will all make a big difference,' he said.

Asked what he is planning next, he said, 'I have a few more ideas up my sleeve, but I must still get the courage to put them into action.' Watch this space for David's next inspiring project.

WEIERS COETSER



When London reached the world

by Dr Richard de Lisser (SEC president)

Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere is the much-reported and repeated clarion call of the South England Conference (SEC). It is a rallying cry to its members to be intentionally involved and engaged in soul winning. The year 2016 was designated as the year when the SEC would partner with 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network), a supportive ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to hold the largest evangelistic effort in the history of the SEC.

The world grapples with a host of problems: the war by proxy in Syria; the resulting mass movement of refugees across treacherous seas to find safety; the crisis caused by ISIS as it kills and maims the innocent in Europe. The taking of innocent lives anywhere reminds us that not only do black lives matter, but so do white lives, brown lives, yellow lives, pink lives, young lives, and old lives! All lives matter! Under the theme 'OneLife' the SEC and 3ABN offered hope to those in the midst of hopelessness by hosting 11 evangelistic meetings in London, Oxford and Bracknell.

There were ten live streams available each night on the project's website with over 1,200 unique visitors in the first week alone. With the use of technology and the partnership between the SEC and 3ABN

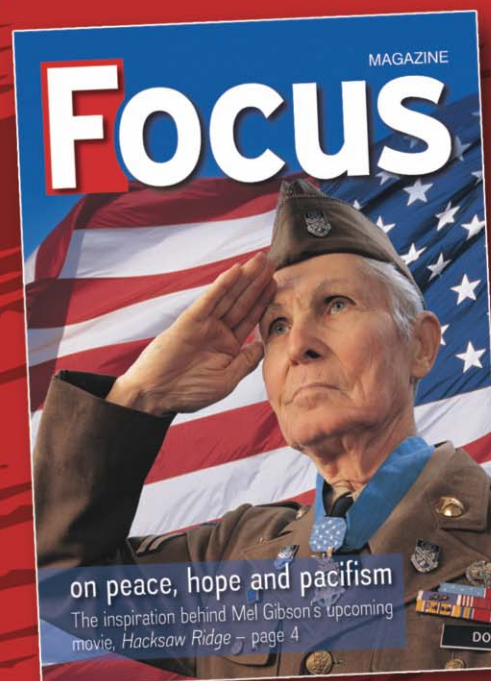
these meetings reached out not only to London but to the world as well, with a potential global reach of 100 million people.

Ellen White wrote in *Testimonies for the Church*, volume 6, pages 25 and 26: 'There is a great work to be done in England. The light radiating from London should beam forth in clear, distinct rays to regions beyond. God has wrought in England, but this English-speaking world has been terribly neglected. England has needed many more labourers and much more means. London has been scarcely touched. My heart is deeply moved as the situation in that great city is presented before me. It pains me to think that greater facilities are not provided for the work throughout Europe. . . .

'Where there are one or two men struggling to carry forward the different branches of the cause, there should be hundreds at work. In the city of London alone no fewer than one hundred men should be engaged. The Lord marks the neglect of His work, and there will be a heavy account to settle by and by. If the workers in America will impart to others of their great mercies, they will see prosperity in England. They will sympathise with the workers who are struggling with difficulties there, and will have the heart to say, not only in word but in action: "All ye are brethren." Matthew 23:8. They will see a great work done in London, all through the cities of England, and throughout the different European countries.'

In the South England Conference these prophetic words have come true as the OneLife campaign culminated in over 100 baptisms with the potential for many more to come.

Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere: London has reached the world!



This film may win Mel Gibson a Best Director's Oscar next year . . .

But this November* *Hacksaw Ridge* could also win a lot of respect for our church and awaken much curiosity about our beliefs too.

This is what the critics have had to say:

The Telegraph . . .

'*Hacksaw Ridge*, review: Mel Gibson's first film in a decade is fantastically moving'

'What could have possibly attracted Mel Gibson to the story of Desmond Doss, a man whose unconventional religious beliefs made him a pariah among his peers, but who, once the system had learned to grudgingly accommodate him, worked wonders and saved souls through sheer force of conviction? Desmond was a committed Seventh-day Adventist and pacifist who served as a US Army medic at Okinawa, saving 75 lives without ever lifting a weapon – and the curiously ideal subject for what is unquestionably going to be viewed as Gibson's comeback movie.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/films/2016/09/04/hacksaw-ridge-review-mel-gibsons-first-film-in-a-decade-is-fanta/>

The Guardian . . .

Andrew Pulver wrote:

'As a machine-tooled vehicle for Mel Gibson's directorial comeback, *Hacksaw Ridge* couldn't be more perfect. A study of a Second World War conscientious objector who demonstrated extreme bravery under enemy fire (and won the Medal of Honor), the film allows Gibson to identify himself with a tough guy of considerable moral virtue, someone who has gone through their own modern Calvary, taken the punishment, and come through the other side relatively unscathed. And the foundation for all this? An unswerving commitment to a little-understood corner of the Christian faith (in this case, Seventh-day Adventism), which triggers – in order – bafflement, ridicule, and finally respect.'

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/sep/04/hacksaw-ridge-review-mel-gibson-finds-a-conscience-in-gruesome-war-story>

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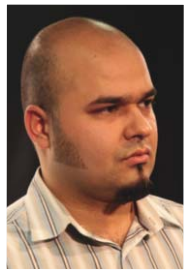
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* Date of UK premier was yet to be announced at the time of going to press.



Aberdaron youth camps of 2016

by Pastor Adam Ramdin
(NEC Youth Director)



2016 was a high point for youth camps at Aberdaron as good all-round weather combined with excellent staff and a high turnout of campers meant that many lifelong memories were formed at the campsite, which is known to locals as Glan Yr Afon, but to our Adventist community simply as Aberdaron. Aberdaron is a great place to connect with God, make new friends, deepen existing friendships and renew one's spiritual life. This summer the Youth Department ran three camps there.

Junior Camp: This camp is for those between 8 and 12 and we had 52 eager campers this year, many of whom have been in past years. The camp was led ably for the second year in a row by Melissa Nicholson, a secondary school teacher from Birmingham. Throughout the week the campers enjoyed a special 'Aberdaron Olympics' organised by activity staff members, Daniel Caines and Wayne Brooks. We also enjoyed days down at the beach, a wide variety of different arts and crafts, and canoe outings to Fishermans Cove and back, as well as a day trip to Haven and Pwllheli. Throughout the week we were blessed by the ministry of Clair Sanches-Schutte, Children's Ministries Director from the Trans-European Division. As our camp padre, she took the theme of 'Survivor: Overcomer in Christ' and delivered it in a creative way that engaged the children at each presentation. I would like to thank all the children who came to the camp, all the parents who paid for and sent their children, and all the dedicated staff who make holding these camps a reality.

Earliteen Camp: This camp is for those aged between 13 and 16, and this year, despite there being two other events around the same time for a similar age group, we had 53 campers, up from last year. Campers came from a variety of locations such as Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Grantham, Northampton, Stoke-on-Trent and Hemel Hempstead. We were blessed again with an excellent set of counsellors, nurses, and activity and kitchen staff who all sacrificed a week of their summer to make the camps possible. Throughout the week we had some original art and craft activities, camp Olympics again to go with the year of the Olympics, an obstacle course, canoeing, kayaking, go-karting, football tournaments and basketball.

We also did, for the first time, the 'Aberdaron 3 Peaks Challenge' whereby the three highest hill forts on the Llyn Peninsula had to be climbed between 11am and 6pm. A group of around 15 campers were up for the challenge, and, led by Stephen Bull, they were able to complete the task. On the Thursday we had our yearly camp banquet, which had an army survivor theme, with many of the campers dressed accordingly. Our camp speaker was Sam Walters, an elder from Wolverhampton, and he did an excellent job of presenting the Gospel, connecting with the teens and appealing for them to give their lives to God. The camp was run by Michael Likupe, a long-time Aberdaron staff member.

Youth Camp: Three years ago we had to cancel youth camp due to low numbers. Two years ago we had 13 campers. Last year we had 26 and this year we grew again to 37. Youth camp is for those aged 17-30 and this year we were blessed to have Pastor Isaac Liburd as our camp master. His popularity among the campers grew throughout the week, especially early-morning bell ringing and wake-up calls. Of all the weeks this summer, this one probably had the best weather. On the Tuesday evening a group of about 15 campers and staff took a trip down memory lane and hiked to the top of Anelog at 11pm to sleep there with nothing more than a sleeping bag and a bivvy bag for warmth. It was a beautiful moonlit night, but the real treat for those who braved the night on the mountain was the early-morning sunrise in the distance over Snowdonia in the clear morning sky. Our camp speaker was Pastor Jonathan Burnett, who took us on a journey through the book of Mark, chapter by chapter, bringing the first-century stories to life again. We even enjoyed one of our worships at 'The Point', singing songs and hearing the Word preached, while enjoying the views of Bardsey Island in the distance.

Summer camps have been an integral part of Adventist youth ministry for many years, not just in the UK but around the world, and this summer was once again a testimony to the powerful impact that they have on the lives of those who attend, whether to camp or to work. Next year's camps will run in the first three weeks of August, so put the dates in your diary and plan to either be there yourself or send your children for a great experience!



SEC Extreme Teens camp by Pastor Nathan Stickland

What do seven minibuses, sixteen caravans, and one hall have in common? At one point each of them contained the teenage campers at the South England Conference Extreme Teens Camp at Chapel Porth, Cornwall, from 22 to 28 August.

Departing from the South England Conference office on Monday morning in seven minibuses, and one van for the luggage, the campers were glad to eventually clamber out of the buses and get settled into their accommodation: the sixteen caravans, plus a few tents.

The camp speaker was Pastor Sam Gungaloo, whose mantra for the teens to remember was, 'I was not born great, but I was born for

greatness, because my God is greater than great.' Pastor Sam held the teens' attention with his stories and Bible instruction, and by the end of the camp twelve teens had expressed a desire for baptism, which was more than ten percent of the attendance.

Between worships all the campers were involved in daily activities organised by Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, Lydia Hamblin, George Osei-Bonsu and Keeley Davis. On Tuesday it was cycling, and it was an amazing sight to see over one hundred teens lining up to get their bikes. An almost ten-mile ride along an old mining track took them to Portreath beach, where lunch was eaten, ice creams bought, and punctures repaired. Wednesday was a day of paintballing.

Thursday was set aside for canoeing and kayaking, and high rope climbing activities. Shrieks of laughter and fear on the high ropes brought words of encouragement from both facilitators and spectators, and many teens exceeded their initial apprehension.

Friday was partly spent at Perrenporth beach, then back to the site to wash the minibuses and enjoy the obligatory water fight. On Sabbath there was the usual picturesque walk up the Beacon, along the cliff path to the famous old mine buildings, around Chapel Porth beach, and up the hill to get ready for the evening banquet.

Many of the campers were new this year, with some being overheard saying they plan to attend next year without a doubt. Bookings are open for next year already. For more information about the SEC Extreme Teens camp see Facebook 'SEC Teens Ministries' or www.secteens.org, and for all other teens/youth activities across the UK and Ireland visit www.adventistyouth.org.uk and pick up your copy of *Encounter* magazine from church or online. Thank you to the other 20-plus staff for their volunteering, and to the churches that made their minibuses available for this camp.



Manor youth go camping

Here is the happy group of Manor Church (youth and helpers) that recently went camping in the beautiful village of Birchover in Derbyshire. It was a time of fun and fellowship for all.

ANDREW YESUDIAN



Centre of Hope, Health and Healing (Gloucester)

Since the launch of the Gloucester Centre of Hope, Health and Healing in July 2015, the health team have worked with Pastor Namushi Namuchana to implement a 16-point action plan to educate both the members and the surrounding community about the importance and benefits of making healthy lifestyle choices.

On 16 July Gloucester Church celebrated the centre's first anniversary during a service at which Sharon Platt-McDonald, British Union Conference Director of Health, Women's Ministries and Disability Awareness, presented the health team with a certificate awarding the status of Centre of Hope, Health and Healing to the church by the British Union Conference.

The centre's programme of the past year has been a busy one in which the team have concentrated on 16 different outcomes, among which were the following:

Ebony Carers programme – a 10-week programme to help a local carers group to implement healthy lifestyle changes for their clients, including how to cook Caribbean meals more healthily. The course was based upon the Creation Health programme and its weekly focus alternated between demonstrations about the preparation of healthy meals one week, and exercise the next. Very positive feedback was received from participants, several of whom have personally made significant lifestyle changes.

Beat Diabetes seminar – on Sunday 24 July Gloucester hosted Dr Chidi, who presented a seminar on how to potentially beat diabetes. The event was well attended by people from the community, who also had access to a wide range of literature from the centre's library. Two attendees borrowed books on diabetes and vegan meals – one was a Muslim man.

Pastoral surgery – the pastor's surgery is another means of extending the healing ministry of Jesus both to the church and to the

SEC Summer Teens Concert

Newbold Church was filled beyond capacity by youth during the second annual South England Conference (SEC) Summer Teens Concert on Saturday, 13 August, designed 'to give a platform to our teens to be involved in the spiritual side of music, the spoken word, drama and mime . . . [and] to inspire young people to write their own original pieces as well', according to Dejan Stojkovic, SEC Teens Ministries Director and event organiser. Stojkovic explained that this was now an annual opportunity for young people to share their original pieces, thereby inspiring them to newer challenges. Apparently the organisers have realised that when this opportunity is given to teenagers, they grow and are eager to participate, because 'they love talent'.

'The only inspiration they get sometimes is by watching *X Factor*. We just want to create a platform and let them know that in the church we encourage them and we appreciate talent,' said one of the organisers. 'Whatever you see somebody do, you are going to take and replicate it in your church.'

Even though participants were mainly SEC teens, the crowd warmly welcomed visitors from the North England Conference (NEC). One attendee explained the atmosphere of the event as 'a vacation at home'.

With 14 different acts and over 500 people attending, extra seats had



community. While church members do visit the surgery, for the most part, those who have accessed the pastor's surgery have little or no church affiliation. More than 100 people of various social and professional backgrounds have been blessed by this ministry, who include two Muslims who requested prayer during their visits. The surgery allows the church to be a listening ear and a guiding voice to those who are going through challenging times.

Community allotment – the church successfully bid for £250 of funding to develop the allotment, with which a small polytunnel has been purchased to grow a wider range of produce. The allotment flourished during the growing season and the produce was shared with the soup kitchen as well as with elderly members of the congregation.

Health expo – on Sunday 7 August, both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of Gloucester visited our annual health expo, which was held during the celebrations to mark the anniversary of Jamaican independence in Gloucester Park, as part of a two-week local carnival. As usual a wide range of health-screening facilities were available to visitors, and the tent was busy all day from 11am to 5pm.

Visitors were invited to try hula hooping as a fun way to exercise, and this was a great attraction for young and older people. Another attraction was the smoothie bike, where visitors were invited to use pedal power to blend their own smoothies. Our Zumba instructor led three Zumba classes, which were very popular with those attending the festival. Also available was free healthy living and evangelistic literature.

In addition to these activities the church also runs **fortnightly health walks and Zumba classes**. The majority of the Zumba class participants are from the community and attendance varies between 7 and 18.

The Community Soup Kitchen continues to deliver a service to the homeless and vulnerable in our community, and some days more than 80 meals are served.

This busy church has also held four **Eat More Veg cooking demonstrations** for the community, and during the week of 8-15 August 2015 they ran a **Lifestyle for Excellent Health programme** too (which was reported on last year).

This is a brief overview of what has been happening in and around Gloucester's Centre of Hope, Health and Healing.

VARETA BRYAN

to be brought out for everyone to comfortably listen to their friends perform and be inspired to do so themselves next year. For the future, organisers hope to make SEC Summer Teens Concert an outdoors spiritual festival of music on Newbold College's grounds.

NATASHA MIRILOV (COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA ASSISTANT)



Camp Hill Kids' Club

During the recent summer holidays Camp Hill ran a successful Camp Hill Kids' Club for two weeks under the guidance of the Children's Ministries team.

The children learnt a lot of things associated with the Bible and reinforced the lessons with the use of interesting arts and crafts. Everything the children were taught was biblical and showed how much God loves and cares for them. The children also went on trips to 'Jump Nation' and 'All Things Wild'.


Kids' Club closed with a Children's Ministries Day on Sabbath 3 September, during which the entire programme was aimed at the children.

During Sabbath School and later AY all the children, especially those who were either starting school for the first time, or moving from the infant to the junior group or from primary to secondary school, were all given words of encouragement by their parents and guardians. This was Camp Hill's first coming-of-age ceremony.

Dr Patrick Herbert, our pastor, closed the day with an encouraging presentation, emphasising the motto, 'Doing your best is better than being the best!'

Truly a climax to two weeks of fun and activity that our children will never forget, thanks to the dedication of our hard-working team.

NATAILE SUTHERLAND

BOOKSALES	October	30 Hyland House	10am-2pm	
	November	6 Croydon	10am-2pm	
		13 Cambridge	10am-2pm	
		27 LBW Convention, Oxford	10am-4pm	
ABC Shops				
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm, 01923 893461				
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm, Sunday - 11am-3pm, 0121 3286380				
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset, 0207 7236849				
Order on our Sales Hotline 01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk				



Crieff's Adventurers

Crieff is a small town of about 6,000 people situated on the edge of the beautiful Scottish Highlands with their magnificent lochs. About 70 years ago, Dr G. Brown, who had been a matron at Battle Creek Sanitarium, and her husband moved to Crieff to set up a nursing home and to try to share the Adventist message. Thus began the first Seventh-day Adventist company in the town, in the front room of their house. The company grew and in 1977 the beautiful Crieff church was built in just 11 days by a group of Maranatha volunteers.

Today the church has over 70 members, but, sadly, as the young people grow up they tend to move away, as there are few job prospects for them. However, over the last few years, the church has been blessed by some young couples returning and starting their families. They have also been joined by young couples from Poland, Russia, Latvia and Estonia. The church is now blessed with 16 children and two babies. As the children have grown the church board thought it would be wonderful to start an Adventurer club for those old enough to join.

There have been several leaders and the present ones are Liana and Linas. They had never run an Adventurer club before but were willing to try, helped by other church members. Liana and Linas wanted to make the club fun for the children as well as helping them learn skills. So just recently they organised a seven-mile cycling trip to help them earn their cycling honour. In order to get on the cycling trail they had to cross a main road. Stephen Peacock, one of the leaders, noticed a parked police car and he told them what the children were doing. When it was time for them to start, suddenly the police car arrived, to the great excitement of the children, and one of the officers got out of the car and stopped the traffic so the children could cross safely. This made a very exciting start to a very successful trip.

On 14-15 August the Adventurer club went on a camping weekend near Crieff, organised by David Hatch. The weather was brilliant, as was the camp site, and this made it enjoyable for the children to practise pitching their own tents and cooking their own food, including the bread toasting over the camp fire. The weekend proved to be a wonderful time for the children and their leaders, and it is hoped that it not only taught them camping skills but also gave them a taste for God's great outdoors.

PASTOR BOB RODD (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



Halesowen singers minister in Exeter

On 13 August The Advent Melodies and Nealsen Clifford from Halesowen Church in Birmingham visited Exeter Church in Devon to support them with an outreach into the community. Hannah and Louisa Jeffery, once members at Exeter and now working at Birmingham University, had first met the Filipino group when they worshipped together at Bournville.

Knowing how they had inspired communities in their own district and other areas of the UK, they suggested to Exeter Church that they invite them. As well as singing at church, which was filled to capacity, the group sang in a local park in the afternoon. As they sang, members handed out leaflets to invite people to a concert at St Stephen's Church in the city centre that evening. Leaflets had also been distributed in the general area.

The concert was a blessing to all those who attended. Nealsen Clifford, who was celebrating his twelfth birthday, performed some beautiful solos and a cake was presented to him at the end of the concert. His parents had dedicated his life to God's service at his birth, when both his and his mother's lives were in the balance. From the age of three his singing talent emerged, and he has used it for the glory of God ever since.

He was joined by Jayden in a moving duet and Alex in another.



Stephanie Flores sang a delightful solo. Other children in the group called 'Angels Praise' also sang in beautiful harmony and delighted the audience. Hannah and Louisa Jeffery also played a medley of praise songs on the piano and cello, and the choir sang a number of inspiring songs. As well as members from Seventh-day Adventist churches in Devon, a few non-members attended and some people passing by in the street came and listened for a while in the porch. The concert concluded with the stirring song, 'What a Day That Will Be', reminding those present of the glorious second coming of Jesus to which we all look forward. Pastor Ian Lorek thanked the singers for their hard work and uplifting concert.

STELLA JEFFERY



Peter Dutton of the Croscombe church thanks Pastor Wayne Erasmus, and his family.

Much-loved pastor moves on

There were tears, hugs and much reminiscing when the Weston-super-Mare and Croscombe churches said goodbye to their pastor, Wayne Erasmus, and his family, on 3 September. Wayne is a much-loved pastor and everyone was very sorry to see him go. His wife, Karliese, and two daughters, Matthea and Michaela, will also be greatly missed. Karliese taught in the children's Sabbath school and the girls will be missed by the children whom they would lovingly take care of during the service, leaving their parents free to enjoy the sermon.

Len Sitten, elder of Weston Church, said that it was eight and a half years ago when Wayne and his family arrived in England from South Africa. Since then he had made a valuable contribution to the life of the church. He had been able to see the importance of the new extension and persuaded the board members to push through with it. Now that the building is finished, the church has opened its doors to the community and is able to provide space for other organisations to use it on a regular basis.

Wayne also started up a craft club (the Crafty Club) and a vegetarian cookery club, which have been a great success, and members of both came to say their goodbyes.

Wayne has many skills: such as cooking, crocheting, knitting and flower-arranging, to name just a few. His sense of humour and fun were infectious and will be greatly missed.

The Erasmus family were showered with gifts from both the Croscombe and Weston-super-Mare congregations and many members expressed their heartfelt gratitude for Pastor Wayne's wonderful ministry.

Wayne, in turn, wished the congregations God's richest blessings and said that he felt confident that he was leaving the churches in good hands.

Among the other people honoured on this special day were Laurie and Connie Beetson, who were celebrating their seventieth wedding anniversary, and Eileen Bidmead, who had turned 100.

YVONNE HILL

Restoration

November 5, 2016
4:00 pm



Hosts:
Mike Johnson
Gale Masondo

Intimate worship through:
Songs, Prayers, Testimonies, Anointing

Free Entry with love offering
Tickets from: <http://restoration2016.eventbrite.co.uk>

Christ Church
Purbeck, Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, MK14 6BN

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A beautiful tradition

When Pastor Bob and Moyra Rodd moved to the small town of Crieff 29 years ago to pastor the church there, they found that there was quite a lot of ignorance and prejudice concerning Seventh-day Adventists. Moyra thought that one way of counteracting this would be to hold an annual flower festival and use the donations for local charities. So on 26-29 August this year the Crieff church held its 21st annual flower festival with about 150 non-Adventists in attendance.

It is easy to take for granted the beautiful displays and not to realise the hours of work that go into each festival. For example, 83-year-old Dorothy Logan and 74-year-old Moyra Rodd organise the festival each year and also create many of the displays. This year they spent over 90 hours in one week between them at the church preparing 16 of the 30 displays.

Each year many regular visitors say, 'It is the best yet,' and it was the same this year, as they expressed their praise for the beauty and ingenuity of the displays. Moyra and Dorothy and their helpers have tried to do more than just make a lovely display of flowers: they have tried to interpret the themes in creative ways. This year the theme was Floral Alphabet, and even letters like Q and Z were used. For example, Z was illustrated by the colourful display of Zadok the Priest, and Q was illustrated by the display for the Queen of Sheba.

Each year a charity is chosen to receive the donations; this year it was the turn of Perth and Kinross Young Carers, and the amount raised was £1,227. This included the £350 that Moyra and her husband raised through their tea in the garden.

Young Carers do a fantastic job in caring for sick relatives, and this often adversely affects them in their schooling, their social life and even their self-worth. This vital work is often overlooked, so Perth and Kinross Young Carers provide holidays, day trips and social events for these young people to try to make their lives more pleasant.

The Crieff church wishes to thank all those who came and donated to this worthy cause, and also all the visitors who have attended over the last 21 years and given thousands of pounds to the various local charities.

PASTOR BOB RODD



Camp Hill in the news again

Camp Hill's Women's Ministries team have been active again, this time in organising a special meeting for women and girls of all ages to worship, relax, socialise and eat together on Sunday 4 September. The event was convened by Gloria Jordon and there were visitors from other Adventist congregations present too.

Special music from Kaydian Anderson, Jillian Hayden and Valerie Riley set the tone of the programme, after which Sandra Dawes, a former Camp Hill Bible worker, addressed the church, reminding everyone to treat each other with compassion at all times, stop judging each other and stop treating others badly.

The event was in keeping with the Camp Hill strategic objective to remove all barriers within our congregation as a way of making our church a more inviting place for visiting friends and non-members.

NATAILE SUTHERLAND



Saturday 10th December
4pm
Community
Carol Service

At
Chelmsley Wood SDA Community Church
Pike Drive, Chelmsley Wood,
Birmingham B37 7US
chelmsleywoodchurchoffice@yahoo.co.uk
Refreshments and live entertainment
Health Food – On Sale

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'Mission to Mend' 2016

On Wednesday 17 August 20 people from the South England Conference and one person from the North England Conference met at Heathrow Airport for their flight to Atlanta. Our main mission in Atlanta was to work with the City of Refuge, a women and children's shelter that is the vision of a Baptist minister, Bruce Deel, who saw the need for it in the 'projects' of Atlanta. Although the shelter has been running since 1997, in 2003 it was given a very large warehouse free of charge in one of the poorest and most crime-ridden areas in the nation. Here almost 40% of the residents live below the Federal Poverty Level and 60% of the city's murders occur, which is why the FBI considers this area the most violent city block in the United States.

Some of these people need shelter as they live on the streets; medical care, as many of them have chronic illnesses; safety, because they are being threatened by their partners, mothers or fathers; and money, as they have little to eat. The mission of City of Refuge is to transform and revitalise the city of Atlanta by empowering and equipping these residents to improve their lives.

We were there to work with their Feed My Lambs programme, which provides after-school care for children aged 5-11. When they get off the school bus they receive a snack, followed by two hours of lessons and/or recreational activities before being collected by their parent/guardian for dinner.



This was an opportunity to show love to these deprived children but it was also an eye-opener for our young people to see how blessed they really are by comparison.

This was the twelfth year of the Mission to Mend, and we would like to thank the South England Conference president and all the other church leaders who faithfully support our efforts. We also thank our other private donors, without whom this trip would not have been possible.

SACHA GILLIN



Dedication in the Park

Two years ago Cheltenham Church held Worship in the Park, and we enjoyed it so much that we felt we'd like to do it again. We went along in July on a beautiful sunny summer's day with our folding chairs, picnic blankets, guitars and props for acting out the Bible stories and put up a table for passers-by to take free gospels and stationery items with 'Jesus, light of the world' on them.

We enjoyed singing together and acting out three parables Jesus told on the theme of nature – the wheat and the weeds, the sower, and the mustard tree. (Will we see mustard trees growing there next year from the seeds our children liberally spread?)

What really made the day special was the bringing of baby Sara Miryam to be dedicated by our pastor, James Shepley. Her mum, Nadia, brought her to Pastor James, who explained the purpose of dedication and prayed for her, asking God to bless and guide her life. Nadia then told us her story. When she decided she would like to have a baby she prayed to God that this would happen, but to no avail, or so it seemed. It was only at the point when she thought there would be no baby, and she started to make other plans, that she finally fell pregnant. She is therefore so grateful to God for answering her prayer and sending her this beautiful baby girl she loves so much. Nadia's husband is not a Christian, so we especially pray for her and her family, and will do our best to support her as she faces the challenges of bringing up her daughter to know and follow God.

VICKY BEAMISH



Young voices praise Him!

The North England Conference (NEC) Area 4 Children's Ministries Emphasis Weekend was held in Long Eaton, 27-28 August. It was a truly colourful affair as two groups put their artistic skill to use. One group painted 'The Wise Man's House' and the other painted 'The Foolish Man's House'. Then the congregation carefully considered what it really meant to build on the rock as opposed to building on the sand. Michael Asare added a further splash of colour with his selection of beautiful African cultural dress. Volunteers modelled the costumes as he encouraged us, as the big family of God, to appreciate each other's different cultural backgrounds. He continued this into the afternoon as he spoke about cultural foods and practices.

There was also a parade of nations in which national flags were held high and the song 'God's Big Family' reverberated all around as the voices of young and old filled the air with praise. The children's group, TLG, sang to the glory of God and James treated the adults to a 'story'. Dr Gina Miller, a graduate of Andrews University, preached an interactive sermon entitled, 'His V.I.P.', which spoke to both children and adults alike. There were three afternoon workshops: drama; arts and crafts; and a 'Children of God' cultural workshop. The weekend programme culminated with a taste of Messy Church and games.

This is what the children had to say about the experience: 'Amazing!' 'The children were engaged as well as the parents, it was very interactive and it was great.' 'Perfect . . . I loved it!' 'I liked the experience of the kid's church; it was fun.'

A parent made this comment: 'We loved the time worshipping God as a family. Everyone was involved and everyone was important. We need more of that to keep our children in church.'

PASTOR PATRICIA DOUGLAS (NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR)

obituaries



David Richard Lunney Astleford died in Bassingham, Lincolnshire, UK, on 13 September 2016, in his words: 'after a lifetime of

service as a literature evangelist'. Very early in life, while living in Curaçao, the Netherlands Antilles, with his missionary parents, a literature evangelist named Rafael Fleitas came to stay with them in Mundo Nobo very briefly. One of the first things this colporteur told young David was, 'You colporteur.' He could not say much more as he did not know either Dutch or English. That was before David started primary school in Emmastad in the early '30s. He did not know what 'colporteur' meant (a person who travels to sell or publicise Bibles and religious tracts) but it was not long after this that he went out selling small Dutch books to the neighbours. During primary school days, both in Curaçao and British Honduras (now Belize), he continued selling. When he was in secondary school he continued his studies while on the 'Scholarship Plan', especially in Western Canada.

David studied at Oshawa Missionary College (now Kingsway College, Canada) and Canadian Junior College (now Burman University, Canada) as

well as Newbold College in the UK and Atlantic Union College in the USA. He did graduate study at the London School of Foreign Trade (UK) and Andrews University (USA).

He spent 43 years in church employment altogether – over 33 in overseas mission service. The latter was in East Africa, Southern Asia, the Far East and the Western Pacific. All his life he took Adventist books to people, endeavouring to 'persuade them to want and to buy what they need'. The overseas mission service was at 'Union' and 'Division' level in the Adventist Church – recruiting, training and working with LEs (literature evangelists). He said it was a great life. David's father was an LE before becoming a missionary and pastor, and his grandfather was an LE also, starting shortly after the very first Adventist LE, George King.

David retired from Pakistan in 1993, and spent most of his retirement years near the smell of printer ink at the Stanborough Press in Grantham, waiting (as he used to say) 'for his next call'!

In 1953 David married Della May Schueler in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Four children came to their home: James, Executive Director for ADRA Canada; Pamela, a nursing professional in Australia;

John, a chemical engineer with an international practice; Peter, a London, UK solicitor with an international practice. (One might be right in beginning to suspect an international theme in all this!)

David repeatedly avowed that he was very conscious that he owed a huge debt to his wife, who supported him in his overseas mission service.

He is mourned by his wife of 63 years, his 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, and they are joined by family, friends and colleagues around the world.

JAMES ASTLEFORD

Alan Hush, Snr

'That man had a good send-off,' said Liz Simpson as she left the church after the funeral of Alan Hush, Snr, the father of Pastor Alan Hush and his brother Neil. Alan Hush, Snr, was one of the founder members of the South Shields church, and was its head deacon and 'Mr Fixit'. He had lived with his son Alan and daughter-in-law, Deniza, for many years as age and ill health took their toll. Sadly, he passed away in August.

The funeral was held in the scrubbed-up and tidied church where a packed congregation had squeezed in to pay their last respects to Alan and support his family, who had come from as far away as Australia and Korea. Besides the close relatives there were also many South Shields members and those from other local churches, and lots of

friends, colleagues and supporters of Pastor Alan Hush.

Pastor Curtis Murphy, former pastor to Alan, Snr, joined with the writer and Pastor Sandy Pairman to conduct the service. The congregation knew Alan, Snr, very well and there were humorous recollections from the life of this man born in a pit town, through to his days as a motor vehicle mechanic. We all learned about the canoe built for the family, and the way he once repaired a major fault on a car using a rock, a hammer and a single spanner. We also learned that God and the church were at the heart of Alan's life. At the very last, Pastor Alan Hush presented his father's set of keys back to the church – they had occupied an important place in his dad's pockets, right till the end.

The grave was back-filled by a party of 12 pastors, including the Conference President, who took on the role of grave-fillers. The watching cemetery employees, who are used to graves being filled in, were impressed, and the man in charge noted that this was the first time he had ever heard joyful hymns sung at the graveside.

It was a deeply moving service from which all present must have taken away fond memories. As the writer noted at the end of the church service, 'Good night Alan; by God's grace we'll see you in the morning.'

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nottingham	Edinburgh	Belfast
Oct 21	5.54	6.06	5.55	5.57	6.11
28	5.40	5.53	5.41	5.40	5.55
Nov 4	4.28	4.40	4.27	4.25	4.41
11	4.16	4.29	4.15	4.12	4.28

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Coming of age – not looking back

On Sabbath 23 July, Leytonstone Church held their 'Coming of Age – Not Looking Back' programme for all their youth between the ages of 13 and 19. Everything for the morning was youth-focused, through the Sabbath school and on into the worship service. The Sabbath school took the format of a radio show and was well received, as were the six sermonettes presented during the worship hour.

The morning service ended with a presentation during which the young people (12-19) were presented with plaques; on each was written a Bible text specifically chosen for the recipient.



Back row, left to right: elders, Fitzroy Morris, Pat Coker, Denise Ingleton, VJ, Raheem, Samuel, Darion, Afeba, Joshua, Alicia, Rianna, Josette and Elaine Housen (organiser). Second row: Kai-Dene, Lianne, Erjahn, Cheyenne, Immanuel and Jodine. Front row: Marvin, Vern, Chedev and Rhianna.

The youth were totally attentive and appreciative of the programme, which reassured them that they are loved and valued; and that their parents, extended families and church members all want the best outcome for them as they make choices on their spiritual journey.

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Nationwide Bank

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For all those interested to go on this mission project
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