

Messenger

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Your biggest witnessing chance this century?

by Pastor Victor Hulbert
(Trans-European Division Communication and Media Director)

Take a blank sheet of paper. Sit quietly for a few moments and jot down five ways that your church could best tell its story. Finished? Pause again. Think big. Think very big! Think Hollywood big!

Could one of the ideas you just jotted down be for the church to spend US\$40 million to tell the story of one of its 'heroes'? Could it be to make a film so compelling that it will become a significant talking point in the media, around the water-cooler at work and, undoubtedly, in the school playground?

Ridiculous? Maybe. But what if somebody has already spent the \$40 million and done it for us?

This November the name 'Seventh-day Adventist' will be splashed across cinema screens worldwide in a film that recently got a ten-minute standing ovation at the Venice film festival. Pundits predict Oscar nominations and multiple awards.

Are you excited now? Don't you want to tell your friends? Don't you want to sing it from the rooftops? You should!

Hacksaw Ridge, a Mel Gibson film about Desmond Doss, the man Adventists know as World War Two's unlikely hero, is about to hit our screens. You may not like the violence – after all, portraying a bloody battle scene where Doss saves 75 lives is not going to look very pretty. You may not like cinema. That is fine. Doss didn't like it either – but he gave permission for his life story to be turned into a film as he realised that his humble journey could help others discover faith.

Hacksaw Ridge is the biggest PR opportunity the church has ever had. Mel Gibson, a man from a radically different faith background, was convicted that this was a story he had to tell. It is a story of moral courage, faith, pacifism and Sabbath-keeping. Even the evangelical world is enthused with the Sabbath-keeping part of the film – comparing it favourably with the classic 1924 story of Olympian Eric Liddell in *Chariots of Fire*.

So now to test number 2.

Turn over your blank sheet of paper. Take a few minutes to think about how you can share more of the faith that you hold dear – and that Desmond Doss portrays so well in *Hacksaw Ridge*.

Got some ideas?

Ok, here are a few to help you.

- Count how many non-Adventist friends, colleagues or neighbours you have. Order and give each one the special *Hacksaw Ridge* edition of *Focus* magazine ('on peace, hope and pacifism'). Stanborough Press is making them available at an extraordinary price of only 20p each. That is so affordable that you can spread them like the leaves of autumn. Adventist editors around the world have commended Stanborough Press for the quality of the magazine and sought permission to translate and use it in their own countries. The UK has the resource others are asking for . . . and it is yours for just 20p!
- Use your social media to share positive stories about *Hacksaw Ridge*, linking people to Adventist resources that tell more of the story.
- Let your friends know that Desmond Doss is not unique. British Adventists also displayed courage in standing for their beliefs during World War One. Point them to www.adventist.uk/ww1. Arrange a showing in your church or small group of the UK film, *A Matter of Conscience*. Follow it with a discussion on moral values, pacifism and faith.
- Following the lead of youth in Poland, arrange a Desmond Doss fun run. Don't just run: do it with a load on your back representing the 75+ lives he saved. Donate the funds raised to help refugees from Syria, disaster victims in Haiti, or a charity of your choice.
- Keep an eye on newspaper reports or blog entries. Post a positive comment sharing that you have been inspired by the faith of Desmond Doss.



Mel Gibson, director.
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Order your special-edition *Focus* magazine now while stocks last. Phone 01476 591700 Monday to Thursday, 8am to 5.30pm.

See also:

Adventist Review: 'Would Desmond Doss be happy with *Hacksaw Ridge*?' – www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story/4465-would-desmond-doss-be-happy-with-hacksaw-ridge

Deadline Hollywood: 'Mel Gibson on his Venice Film Festival comeback picture *Hacksaw Ridge* – Q&A' – deadline.com/2016/09/mel-gibson-hacksaw-ridge-venice-film-festival-the-passion-of-the-christ-201813728/

Adventist Review: 'Hacksaw Ridge talking points: a guide for church members' – www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story/4394-hacksaw-ridge-talking-points-a-guide-for-church-members



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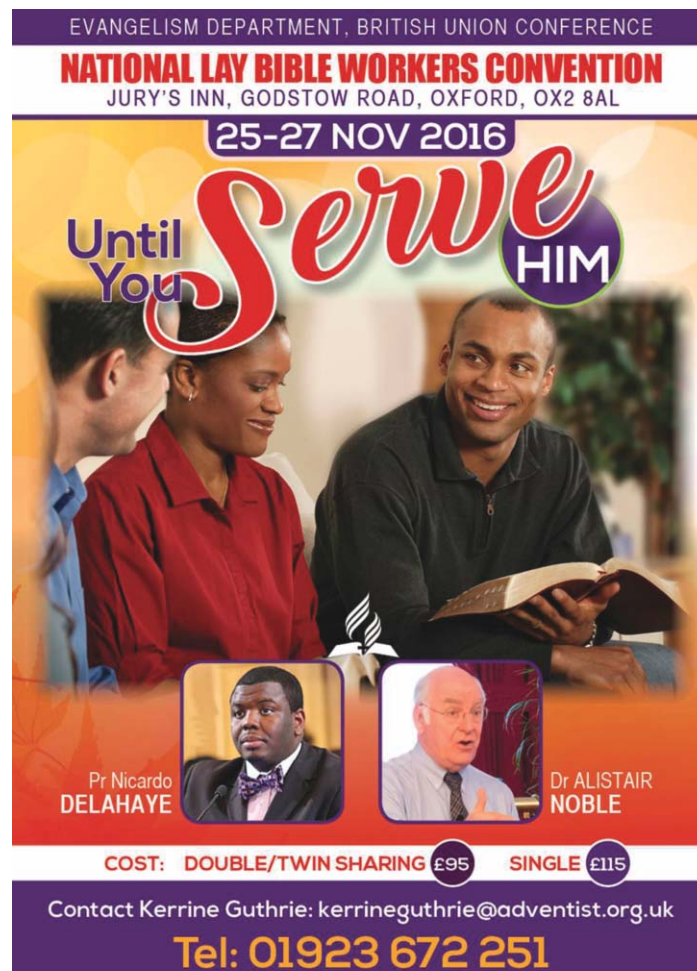
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Enhancing Health

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

Home health, part 1: toxic home syndrome

We commence a new series on home health: raising the importance of a healthy living environment and highlighting some of the toxins in our living space that threaten our well-being. Let's begin with a look at what could be harming us in our homes.

The initiative, 'My Health My Home' was established to highlight the dangers of poor indoor air quality and promote better ventilation in homes.¹ Its research data reveals the following:

- 'Indoor air may contain over 900 chemicals, particles and biological materials with potential health effects.'
- 'We spend more than 90% of our time indoors, and indoor air can be up to 50 times more polluted than outdoor air.'
- '81% of people are at risk of suffering from a respiratory or dermatological condition because of poor air quality inside their home.'
- '58% of people have experienced mould or condensation in their home.'

Raising Awareness, an online publication by journalist Lisa Salmon, reports:

'It's estimated that 15.3 million UK households suffer from toxic home syndrome, where occupants' health deteriorates as a result of poor indoor air quality. And while the most common effects are coughing, sneezing, watery eyes, fatigue, dizziness and headaches, a recent pan-European study found that exposure to indoor pollutants can also be linked to reduced life expectancy, and diseases including lung cancer, cardiovascular disease and asthma.'²

Sounds alarming, but can these claims be substantiated?

The National Institute for Health and Welfare's pan-European study 'revealed the negative impact indoor allergens have on disease and life expectancy'. It 'estimates that indoor air pollution could contribute to around 128,666 deaths in the UK each year'.³

The Institute's report highlighted the fact that indoor pollution may be contributing to disease in the following ratios:

- Cardiovascular diseases – 57%
- Lung cancer – 23%
- Asthma – 12%
- Other respiratory conditions – 8%

Professor Peter Howarth, a specialist in allergy and respiratory medicine at Southampton University, voices his concerns:

'Toxic Home Syndrome occurs when individuals and families are exposed to a potent mix of airborne pollutants within the home arising from poor ventilation, causing respiratory and skin diseases to occur more frequently. . . . I have seen many patients with serious health conditions due to pollutants within the home.'⁴

In the next issue we look at helpful home health tips for a safer living environment.

Good health!

¹<http://www.myhealthmyhome.com/> ²<http://home.bt.com/lifestyle/wellbeing/could-your-house-have-toxic-home-syndrome-11363969127470> ³<http://www.ventive.co.uk/toxic-home-syndrome/> ⁴Ibid.

editorial

The idiom 'seeing is believing' dates back to 1639, when it first appeared in *Paræmiologia Anglo-Latina*, 'a collection of proverbs in English and Latin' published by a certain John Clarke.¹ It simply means that 'if you see something yourself, you will believe it to exist or be true, despite the fact that it is extremely unusual or unexpected.'²

During more trusting times this idiom served most of us quite well. We were generally able to believe what we saw in print, but for that one day a year when most newspapers ran their April Fool's Day news items. Today one has to be a little more discerning about what appears in print, as there are now a host of online 'media' sites that specialise in hoaxing us. Here is a recent example. According to a report circulated by *WTOE 5 News* (a fantasy news website), earlier this year Pope Francis had 'shocked the world by publicly endorsing Donald Trump for President of the United States'. This was completely untrue of course, but then so was the one that appeared on a sister site (*KYPO 6 News*) of the same fake news network, which shamelessly reported the Pope's 'endorsement' of Hillary Clinton for President!³

It's all about 'clicks'

Why is there a glut of online sources peddling spurious news? There may be a number of answers, but let's confine ourselves to three.

Firstly, it generates 'clickbait'. These false or sensational bits of 'news' awaken curiosity, which entices browsers to visit other websites where there are links that may lead you to part with your money in some way. The 'clickbait' may also generate advertising income even if it doesn't lead directly to a sale.

Secondly, the person or entity posting the false or misleading information may simply wish to deceive the internet user for political, ideological or religious reasons. Such deception is often aimed at degrading the confidence or trust that people have in their organisations and institutions – only to replace it with a 'truth' of the deceiver's own making.

Finally, I strongly suspect that some people derive a sense of exhilaration from the sheer ability to embarrass, confuse, manipulate or control the world around them. In a certain sense it is about the feeling of power that they are rewarded with: which was no doubt how



Seeing is believing

a fellow from Toulouse felt when his parody about Marine Le Pen (leader of the French far right) and Nigel Farage endorsing a recent Theresa May speech was publicly quoted for the truth. To which he subsequently tweeted: 'It is funny that British MPs cannot recognise an unofficial account. It's clearly marked on my profile.'⁴

It's not always clearly marked!

Unfortunately, on the internet, not everything is always clearly marked and we need to heed the advice of *Hoax-Slayer* that: 'Given how many fake-news reports circulate online, it is always wise to verify any strange or unusual "news" report that comes your way before you share it.'⁵

There is a growing number of current and former Seventh-day Adventists who fall into category two above. They advertise their views on the internet in a manner that, to quote myself, 'is often aimed at degrading the confidence or trust that people have in their organisations and institutions'.

Now, lest you misunderstand me, I am not suggesting that people who take issue with our organisation or our beliefs should be muzzled. On the contrary, I support their inalienable right to be heard, hoping always that what they write will be factual, credible and courteous.

Having said that, however, let me sound this caution: do not make seeing the *only* basis for your believing. Notice how Paul puts it in 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 (ESV): 'Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.' This is a formula that should be followed by the mature Christian and, if used properly, the internet can be one of your best tools as you 'test everything'.

Not long ago a family member sent me a link that directed me to *Real News Right Now* (<http://realnewsrightnow.com/>), where I found a 'published report about Pope Francis's intentions to revise the 10 Commandments', which surfaced after his South American visit last year. Here is a taster:

'During his sermon, Pope Francis announced to Christians around the world that God had called upon him, instructing him "to revise the most sacred of texts, the Ten Commandments". Pope Francis said Christians around the world are "faced with ever-increasing temptations brought on by the evils of modern society". The Pope said the updated Commandments reflect the changing times and include some minor rewording of the existing rules as well as the addition of two new Commandments.'⁶

There is no credible basis for this report but it was picked up and circulated among a number of our members – some of whom have a voracious appetite for such things.

Something similar happened after claims were made back in 2013 that Pope Francis had an Adventist brother. The Adventist grapevine went into overdrive to circulate this bogus report: just as it did with 'a similar rumour circulating when John Paul II became Pope'.⁷

Beware – it might not be there!

I came across this on a site called *SDA Apostasy* recently: 'On this page I hope to share researchable data with those Seventh-day Adventists that are still members of the General Conference (GC) Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) church that it is time to leave that church as Revelation 18:1-5 declares. . . . The overwhelming proof of Jesuit infiltration into the GC SDA churches has forced me to speak out.'⁸

With bated breath I searched for the promised 'researchable data' and the 'overwhelming proof of Jesuit infiltration', but, strangely enough, it wasn't there. **Not a single supporting fact of it!**

So as Paul says, ' . . . test everything; hold fast what is good.'

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seeing_Is_Believing

²<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/seeing-is-believing>

³<http://www.hoax-slayer.net/no-the-pope-has-not-endorsed-donald-trump-for-president/>

⁴<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/719046/Embarrassment-for-Nicola-Sturgeon-as-Marine-Le-Pen-endorsement-of-Theresa-May-is-a-HOAX>

⁵<http://www.hoax-slayer.net/no-the-pope-has-not-endorsed-donald-trump-for-president/>

⁶<http://incontextministries.org/index.php/investigate/hoaxology/9-hoaxology/988-pope-francis-to-revise-10-commandments>

⁷<http://adventist.org.uk/news/news-archive/buc/the-popes-brother-and-other-adventist-myths>

⁸<http://sdaapostasy.org/sdaeyes.htm>

Editor's note: You might be interested in reading 'The 8 Violations of Media Objectivity' found at <http://honestreporting.com/news-literacy-the-eight-categories-of-media-bias/>.



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Aberfan

The Aberfan disaster, a catastrophic collapse of a colliery spoil tip in the Welsh village of Aberfan, on 21 October 1966, killed 116 children and 28 adults.

This is how Gaynor Minett, then an eight-year-old at Pantglas Junior School, remembers it:

*'It was a tremendous rumbling sound and all the school went dead. You could hear a pin drop. Everyone just froze in their seats. I just managed to get up and I reached the end of my desk when the sound got louder and nearer, until I could see the black out of the window. I can't remember any more but I woke up to find that a horrible nightmare had just begun in front of my eyes.'**

Two reports appeared in the *British Advent Messenger* of 11 November 1966, both of which shed light on the prominent role played by our Church during the tragic event. We share them with you here in condensed form, while leaving you to ponder this question: *'What impact would our Church make if something similar happened today?'*

Aberfan and the van

by Pastor A. C. Vine, British Union Welfare Leader

One of the worst-ever disasters in British history devastated this Welsh village when, on Friday, 21 October, 1966, a gargantuan slag heap on the mountain top above Aberfan began to move. For many decades the refuse from a coal-pit, a mixture of stone, dirt, and coal-dust, had been dumped on an ever-growing man-made mountain on the real mountain side. Below it was the village with its central feature – the school for well over two hundred children.

Slowly at first the horrible mass began to move, and with gathering momentum poured its filthy death-dealing mass towards the village and the school, which lay directly in its path. There was no warning. It engulfed the school with all its teachers and over two hundred children, and a road of seventeen houses, crushing buildings to powder and burying them and their occupants forty feet beneath the black, slimy ooze.

The Civil Defense authorities sent out calls across the whole of South Wales and the Western Midlands of England for help in the form of earth-moving equipment and gangs of men experienced in excavation procedures. They came from all over the country and so did hundreds and thousands of ordinary people with their spades, and hearts swollen with compassion, to help in the work of digging out victims. The army and electricity authorities quickly rigged scaffolding, and strung up hundreds of powerful lights on literally miles of cable, and had the whole ghastly scene well lit up by sunset on Friday.

Parents and relatives with anguished faces stood knee-deep in slag and slurry, knowing that almost certainly they would never again see their children alive. Some were mute, some were bitter, some wept silently, some were wracked with gusts of stormy weeping.

'Ghastly' is the right word to describe the night scene that Friday, as a deep-seated fire feeding on the coal-dust in the slag sent up a pall of smoke above the excavators.

Here was a challenge to our own newly acquired 'unbaptised' mobile disaster unit. It

was driven to Cardiff, carrying such blankets as we had, and was there loaded with large supplies of food donated by a wholesale grocer, containers of water, and a hastily gathered group of workers from Cardiff and Aberdare.

When we arrived at our destination and made our way through the murk to the area where the work was afoot, we hoped there would be a good place to site the mobile unit. Instead, we were met by a harassed but kindly policeman who advised us to drive on the sidewalk and keep out of the way of the earth-moving trucks. We did so, and then set to work to get water heated for drinks, and hot soup. Some sat at one end of the Union's van making sandwiches; others kept a supply of hot drinks going. We were soon ready for the jaded workers, and kept up the service throughout Friday night. About 3am Sabbath, a crew from Cadburys came and asked us if we would accept for distribution some chocolate bars of various kinds. We were glad to, but hardly expected to have around 150kg dumped on us!

It soon became apparent that although we seemed in such an unpleasant position, compared with other relief services, such as the Salvation Army, we were strategically well placed, and able to give help where most needed – close to the toiling workers.

Many were the expressions of appreciation for the service we offered, and we had many happy surprises: such as from an official who asked me, *'Where are you from and what is your*

organisation?' I told him. I mentioned that I had brought the unit from Watford, and that all the other helpers were local church volunteers. He said: *'Well, now I know Adventists better. This is really practical Christianity. God bless you!'*

It was soon obvious that we could work so much better with an electricity supply, boilers, etc. So the authorities arranged for us to have gas cylinders, boilers, and lamps. All we had to do was to keep up a regular rota of workers doing twelve-hour 'shifts'. This we did.

We also kept up at the actual site of the excavations a service of drinks, soups, and sandwiches. As, on some of these trips, we saw bodies or mangled remains recovered, we were at once horrified and revitalised in the service we were able to give to the devoted workmen, excavators, doctors, nurses, ambulance men, and others.

We were encouraged by the rallying to our new welfare service of all our South Wales workers, and many fine members from Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, Aberdare, and elsewhere.

We think our Welsh welfare workers have brought credit to the Church in the British Union, and that our story will be a source of joy to you all.



Sgt Jones carrying Susan Robertson out of the Pantglas Junior School. ©REX/Shutterstock

Welfare at Aberfan

by Pastor Amos Cooper, President, Welsh Mission

It was 12.15pm on Friday, 21 October, when my phone rang and Brother James Huzzey asked me if I had heard about the Aberfan disaster. Until then I knew nothing about it. This began our many enquiries to find out more details and offer our welfare services. We contacted the authorities and offered our voluntary helpers, particularly in the capacity of feeding and preparing drinks for the thousands of workmen already on the site. Brother A. Roderick, our Cardiff welfare leader, had offered his motor caravan to be used as a mobile canteen, and we asked the AA to intercept Pastor A. C. Vine, who was on his way with the Union welfare van to a welfare rally in Newport, Monmouthshire. We hoped to divert this unit to the disaster area. The police stopped Pastor Vine just before Gloucester. Now with two mobile units and many volunteers to help, we were in a strong position to contribute a worthwhile service – and we did.

In faith we went to one of the leading grocers in South Wales, 'Batemens', explaining that we were from the welfare service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they opened their shop, saying: *'Take what you want.'*

It wasn't long before the police called our mobile units to move in to the Aberfan disaster area. Now we had to make some decisions concerning the welfare rally, due to continue all day Sabbath. We decided that apart from the morning services the other meetings should be postponed. In the hour of desperate need, now was the time for action, not meetings. Then, that Sabbath morning, as soon as the shops were open, we contacted 'Morgans', another big firm in Cardiff. After stating who we were and what we were doing they also asked us to take what we wanted. 'Britton's Dairies' also gave us an abundant supply of fresh milk.

But more than just meeting the physical needs, our willing voluntary helpers were able to speak words of comfort to many who were bereaved, and encouragement to those engaged in the gigantic rescue operations.

We would pay tribute and express our heartfelt thanks to the almost fifty people from seven different churches in Wales who combined their efforts for this emergency, which lasted six days. Some of the folk turned out for a number of shifts. We would not forget also those who held themselves in readiness if called upon, those who looked after children or helped in some other capacity, thus releasing others to go. We appreciate, too, the offers of help which came from different parts of the country, following the encouraging remarks made by the press, radio, and TV regarding the Seventh-day Adventist welfare service.

Not only were we able to meet a humanitarian need in a desperate situation, but also helped to break down prejudice and elevate Christ and His cause before the

people. Commendations for Seventh-day Adventists came from all sides, including police officers, the armed forces, managers of firms, miners, as well as many of the workmen engaged on the site to whom we were able to speak while giving them drinks and food.

Here are just a few of these comments and experiences: On Saturday evening, 22 October, word spread through the whole disaster area of Aberfan that the coal tip might move again. It had been raining hard for several hours. All around our two mobile welfare units, houses were evacuated. The Salvation Army were ordered to move by the police from a building just at the side of us. Although we were permitted to stay, the police repeatedly came and told us that we were in the direct line of danger, and as soon as we heard the siren we had to run immediately for all we were worth. Fortunately this danger abated. A miner thanked us for staying so close to the school, and keeping them supplied with drinks and food when the whole area was evacuated. *'God bless you, lady,'* he said to one of our welfare workers, *'we need your prayers.'* We assured him that many prayers were ascending for the rescuers and bereaved.

Then there was the lorry driver's comment: *'I only know of two churches who are doing practical Christian work: the Salvation Army and the Seventh-day Adventists. You really live up to what you preach.'*

The volunteers were not spared the raw and tragic sadness of Aberfan: a small lad about eleven years of age was brought to our van. *'Mrs, can you do something to warm him: his mum and dad are still under there and he 'asn't got no home now.'* A hot drink and a few words of comfort temporarily stemmed the bitter sobbing before friends took him out of the rain and cold to their home.

There was the old man, now homeless, asking for a few provisions so that he could have a hot drink in the caravan lent him for the night; and the woman who came to help us while several of her relatives lay buried in the avalanche of death.

One miner who had dug for thirty hours, cold and wet, came for another hot drink. After a word of encouragement and comfort he returned to search for his own children, all under the black sludge.

'Has he lost someone in the disaster?' questioned



Pastor A. C. Vine with the welfare van.

one of the policemen.

'No!'

'Then why is he wearing a black tie?'

'He is one of our ministers,' replied our welfare worker. Our co-labourer pointed to two or three more welfare workers, indicating that they also were ministers. The questioner said: *'I didn't think ministers dirtied their hands and faces like this.'*

Some men and women came to us stating that they could not face the task of digging any more, but after practical help and words of encouragement they went back to the grim task.

A number of times we were stopped by people in the streets who wanted to express their appreciation. One such experience occurred on Tuesday night just as Brother and Sister Searles were going off duty. Councillor Jim Williams, by whom the Queen was escorted round the disaster area, and with whom she had tea the following Saturday, called our brother and sister into his home and put his arms around them and said: *'I want you to take my personal message of thanks to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for all you have done to help us.'* Councillor Williams had lost seven of his own loved ones in the disaster!

Surely the words of Jesus are most appropriate: *'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.'*

* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aberfan_disaster

Editor's acknowledgement: I must thank Dr Brian Philips of the Welsh Mission for the tip-off about the Adventist Church's role during the Aberfan tragedy.

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London Adventist Chorale visits Liskeard

by Pastor Clifford Herman

'It's a day that would definitely stay in the memory of the people of Liskeard forever. I looked over my shoulder and I haven't seen people so happy for a long time,' said the Mayor, Councillor Jane Pascoe of Liskeard.

On Sunday, 25 September, Liskeard, a town of about 10,000 inhabitants, came alive when over 500 people gathered in the local Methodist church for an evening with the London Adventist Chorale, two local Cornish choirs and an abundance of hymn singing in the style of the BBC's *Songs of Praise*.

Half an hour before starting time it dawned on those who had prayed and planned since last year that the moment of truth would soon



The London Adventist Chorale.

A singing audience.



be upon them. Would their efforts pay off? Once again God showed His faithfulness as, one by one, young and old from Liskeard and its environs filed in, slowly filling the ground floor. It was soon evident that the balcony would have to be opened too. By six o'clock it was two-thirds full, and we were ready to start the memorable moment.

A brief welcome from the minister of the Methodist church followed as he reminisced about the time his church was regularly that full. Then, after an encouraging greeting and opening from the Mayor, the festival of music began. Songs from the three choirs were echoed by rousing songs of praise from the five-hundred-strong audience. The choirs were accompanied by the local Salvation Army band, the St Martin's Church organist on the pipe organ, and the young sixteen-year-old pianist of Plymouth Adventist Church, all under the talented direction of Ken Burton – Liskeard was wrapped up in praise!

The event was offered free to the community, but the promotional material indicated that a collection would be taken towards meeting some of the costs of the event as well as benefiting a local charity. Before the collection was taken David Berry, the director of the local food bank, took a few minutes to tell about the work that the food bank was doing. To our great surprise the generosity of the audience resulted in a collection of over £1,500.

Then came the highlight. After a few words of encouragement and sharing of the love of Jesus by the local Adventist pastor, Clifford Herman, the three choirs performed their rendition of 'Total Praise', the delivery of which was rewarded with a standing ovation and the call of 'encore'!

There were calls for more. More music, more celebrations like these, and more events that uplift the community like this one. Liskeard Adventists, a very small community tucked away in the heart of a smallish town, hidden in the heart of Cornwall, were placed firmly on the map – and, above all, God had been beautifully praised!

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)

Is it time for a change?

by Cor Sanders



Church organisation and financial management can be a real issue! Especially when we run low on the cash needed to fund evangelistic outreach, church expansion projects, or youth activities, or to employ new graduates from Newbold College. One way in which the shortage of funds makes itself obvious is in our inability to provide enough pastors to serve the churches in the field. I have been wondering why in some areas in Great Britain there are pastors serving more than two churches, and that often in rural areas. Surely this overloads these pastors and restricts their ability to serve our members adequately or perform their evangelistic duties as they would like to.

When we look at our situation from an

objective and practical point of view, the BUC is relatively small and yet is divided into various conferences and missions. 'Why?' I hear you ask. Why are we, in the Trans-European Division, one of the few, if not the only union, divided into conferences and missions, while the rest are 'just' unions? Are there perhaps examples in other parts of our world organisation of unions that are not divided into such a top-heavy organisational structure as ours?

Well, there are countries, like the USA, that have conferences covering a much larger area than the whole of the British Isles. They also have a lot more church members in these areas than we do, and yet each is organised as just one conference. So perhaps there is no reason why Britain can't be re-organised into

one Union. Doing away with missions and conferences and all the job duplications that go with it would – in my opinion – increase the availability of pastors in the UK at no extra cost, since they are already employed by the church.

This means that we will only need about 3 administrators to run the church in the British Isles, unlike what we have at present – at least 12! Would it not be a huge blessing were these highly experienced pastors to re-join their fellow pastors in the field and serve our local churches? Buildings now used as offices in the conferences and missions are fixed assets, which could then be sold to strengthen our desperate financial situation.

Perhaps in future, when we have a much larger membership than at present, with members all returning the Lord's tithe to the local church organisation that is serving them, we could then consider an organisational structure with conferences and/or missions. Since we at present are struggling to make ends meet in the North and seem to have excess funds in the South, perhaps now is the right time for a 'brainstorm team' to sit down and prepare a plan to re-organise our church structure for the British Isles by closing down the conferences and missions to form one Union so that we can share our income and resources evenly across the nation in a Christian way, thereby preparing a warm welcome for future members without our present financial worries.

TSM – a mingling ministry

by Marcelle Riley

The summer of 2016 was quite a busy one for the Travellers Singing Ministry (TSM) as they mingled with others and ministered in song at various events in Birmingham.

On the warm, sunny Sabbath afternoon of 6 August the group captured the attention of the crowd as it sang the songs, 'We Shall Wear a Crown' and 'Praise Your Name' at a community get-together at Summerfield Park. The next day, our singing engagement took us to the City Banqueting Suite for a formal celebration of the fifty-fourth anniversary of Jamaican independence. This event was attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham. The following weekend, we participated at a concert with other denominations at the 'World Vision for Christ' church in Birmingham.

Although TSM is a multi-faith group, the core of its membership is made up of Seventh-day Adventists. This 33-voice group is led by Rose Blake of Windsor Street South Church, Birmingham, and meets there for rehearsals. The aim of this ministry is to share the good news of salvation with others through the medium of song, especially at non-Seventh-day Adventist venues. The group was formally established in March 2015 with 15 people, and started singing officially in October 2015. Since then, TSM has had the opportunity to sing at various non-church events such as the Martin Luther King Tribute at the Birmingham Town Hall.

In the words of Joan Barrett, the group's music director, 'I am amazed at the way that God has been using this ministry since its formal establishment.'

For the most part the group is composed of vocally untrained members who simply enjoy using their voices to minister about Jesus in song. Their reception has been very positive and they have bookings for other events towards the end of the year.

TSM is a witness to the fact that God can use the 'ordinary' voices of those who are willing to do as He commands and witness to others. It is already evident to the group members that 'little becomes much when you place it in the Master's hand'.





Irish Mission Session report

by Pastor Richard Daly (BUC Communication and Media Director)



There were no cultural, political or territorial divides as the delegates from across the Irish Mission gathered under the theme, 'Reach the World' for their Mission Session. Dublin was the host city, where over one hundred delegates met at the Emmaus centre over the two days of the session. There was a mood of excitement and expectation as newly elected Irish Mission President, Pastor Dan Serb, chaired the opening proceedings and warmly welcomed all. After an inspiring devotion on the theme of being 'sent' by God, by Interim BUC Ministerial Director, Pastor Llewellyn Edwards, delegates felt moved not to waste any opportunities to share the love of God.

The first report was by Pastor David Neal, who served during the previous triennium as Mission president. He highlighted the Mission's main evangelistic thrust, the 'City of Hope' project, with guest speaker Pastor Mark Finley. Dublin was selected by the BUC as the city where it would focus its resources in line with the General Conference plan to reach some of the largest cities with the love of Jesus and the message of His soon return. The three-year project resulted in sixty-five baptisms!

Pastor Paul Lockham's secretarial report also emphasised the theme of church growth by indicating that during the last three years the Mission membership had grown 15.12% as a result of baptisms and a further 13.27% as a result of transfers from elsewhere. Over the triennium the Mission's membership had increased from 701 to 809, a net growth of 108. Pastor Lockham also highlighted some of the Mission's challenges: a large land area with a thinly dispersed membership and limited resources for paid pastoral workers.

The highlights of Victor Pilmoor's treasury report included the signing of a contract for the purchase of a new church in Cork, 23 years after it became a Global Mission project. The financial report reflected consistent faithfulness on the part of the members.

As far as the departments are concerned, Youth has been the most financially active, primarily because of its various camps and other events. Victor also reported on the issues surrounding the charity status of the Irish Mission and the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland. In order to be able to claim Revenue returns in Ireland there is a need to harmonise the governance of the two entities. A motion was

passed to enable the officers and the new executive committee to seek legal advice and draw up the constitutional documentation that will be required to have the members of the Irish Mission Executive Committee serve as the trustees of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland. A special session will then be called to consider the proposal and vote on its implementation.

Other reports included Pastor Adam Keough's youth presentation, which spoke of the need to develop meaningful friendships with our young people. Edith Samambwa gave an enthusiastic report of the various health initiatives and the major impact health played in the City of Hope project. Pastor Coetsier, Communications Sponsor, highlighted the importance of telling God's story in new ways that people can understand.

Once the nominating committee had done its work the following were voted in by the delegation to serve as departmental sponsors for the next three years:

Youth Sponsor:Pastor Curtis Samuel
 Associate Youth Sponsor:Pastor Ben Pontanar
 Associate Youth Sponsor:Pastor Christian Salcianu
 Pathfinders Sponsor:Bogdan Stan
 Health Ministries:Betty O'Rourke
 Communications:Clid Negosanu
 Associate Communications:Pastor Weiers Coetsier
 Associate Communications:Pastor Adam Keough
 Children's Ministries:Shupai Matewa
 Women's Ministries:Joan Burch

The remaining vacant departments will be completed by the executive committee.

Mission President, Pastor Serb, ended a successful and amicable session by sharing his vision for the future, calling for continued unity, progressive evangelism in new and unique ways, and sustained church growth. His was a vision of all members being involved, working together, pastors, sponsors and members, for the common cause of sharing the everlasting Gospel to a world in need of a Saviour.

West of Ireland Camp 2016

by Betty O'Rourke (photos by Anna Boishko)



Welcome and inclusivity was the hallmark of the 2016 West of Ireland Family Camp, held for the fourth year in a row at the Kinasoolagh camp site at Newmarket-on-Fergus, County Clare, over the July bank holiday weekend.

First to be welcomed at the event, which has become a high point on the Irish Mission calendar, was Pastor Dan Serb, the newly appointed Irish Mission President. The presentation he gave to the almost-capacity audience was challenging and informative. Exploring the causes of religious violence around the world, he emphasised the need for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its members to show inclusiveness to all people in the community without compromising the beliefs of the church. 'There is a growing need to be known in your local community as a people who are balanced in their religious beliefs, who love others and who are welcoming,' said Pastor Serb.

A sad goodbye was said to Pastor David Neal and his wife Marci, who have served the Irish Mission for the past eleven years. On behalf of the churches in the West, Mrs Angela O'Brien thanked them for their loving leadership and support. Pastor Neal remarked on the growing multicultural membership of the Adventist churches on this island. This was a development he had witnessed in his time as president. 'Almost every country in the world has its ambassadors for Christ in Ireland now, and this has enriched the membership and fellowship in the local churches,' he stated. 'The diversity was a great blessing

to me during my term in office.'

A big welcome back was given to Pastor Jeff Freeman, who travelled from Rome to preach at the camp. When he announced where he came from he quickly clarified that this Rome is in Georgia, USA, where he now serves after pastoring the Cork church up to March of this year. His presentations, based on the theme of 'Walking with Jesus', were inspired by Matthew 24:12, which warns that 'the love of many will grow cold' (NKJV).

Over the four days of the camp Pastor Freeman took us on six different 'journeys with Jesus' during His ministry, thereby sounding a message of hope in a world becoming increasingly devoid of Christian love and principles.

A very special welcome was extended to the six new members of the church who were baptised at the camp. They had travelled from Kilkenny, Cork and Newmarket to be baptised by Pastors Ben Pontanar, Tony O'Rourke and Jeff Freeman. Two of the candidates had taken their marriage vows two days before camp and desired to show their love for Jesus through baptism. The candidates were supported by family, friends and some wedding guests who had never before seen a baptism.

It was the Kilkenny group's first time at camp. Their melodious voices added energy and joy to the rousing song services that inspired all the attendees. They promised to



return next year to worship with their new friends from churches in Longford, Mayo and Galway.

'Camp was everything we expected,' said Pastor O'Rourke,

and it will be best remembered for its beautiful weather, wonderful fellowship and everything that was said and done in support of its theme, 'Walking with Jesus'.



Northfield's new club

Northfield Church is on the move with the launch of their new Adventurers club, and with their first meeting on Sabbath afternoon 24 September history was made.

During the programme the new club members were welcomed: eight Adventurers, four counsellors and two directors. The group's first outreach was done in collaboration with the Personal Ministries Department, which organised a walk distributing leaflets within the local community. As one counsellor commented, 'The people were looking at the children in their uniforms.'

The inauguration was well supported by church members, parents, Area 5 co-ordinators Len and Pamela Stuart, and our very own Pastor Obi Iheoma.

After reflecting on the day's activities, Pastor Obi observed that 'a church with a strong Pathfinders ministry is a church with the community as its focus. This is the start of great things to come. I am pleased to be part of a church on the move, one that has an effective synergy between Pathfinders and Personal Ministries.'

SHANELLE LINDSEY-CLIFTON



BUC Student Day 2016

Over 400 students from around the British Union, including groups from Scotland and Wales, gathered at the Leicester Central church to worship at the BUC Student Day on Sabbath morning 8 October. Leicester Church is a beautiful building with a large balcony and it usually has plenty of seating, but ongoing roof repairs meant that part of the balcony was unavailable, so chairs were set out in the foyer to provide seating for the use of everyone.

The programme for the day was co-ordinated by Alex Browne, Chisha Chitambala and Chantal Tomlinson, and the Sabbath school included a study of Daniel 1, plus a testimony and reports from Campus Ministry leaders of the General Conference, the Trans-European Division and the North England Conference.

Guest speaker for the day was Johnny Wong, an elder from Gateway Church in Melbourne, Australia, who inspired the students with his sermon, 'Five Men at the Cross', based on Luke 23.

Johnny Wong interrupted his own sermon at one point to suggest to the students that they take notes, observing that 'students take copious notes during lectures, but when they get to church they seem to have developed a super memory!'

He reminded the students that God hadn't brought them to Leicester for just another weekend – it was because He had plans for them. 'You are called to be missionaries where you are.' He pointed out that many nations send their young people to be educated in British universities, and therefore, through the influences they have over their friends at university, they are setting an example to future government ministers, academics, CEOs, scientific innovators and others.

Preparing and serving lunch to 450 people is no easy task; however, the Leicester ladies, led by Mary Allen, did a wonderful job of it and none of the students went hungry – and there was even enough for seconds!

There was a choice of workshops in the afternoon: 'Giving Personal Bible Studies' by Johnny Wong, or 'How to Set Up a Campus Ministry'

Wolverhampton Central's open-air outreach

Wolverhampton Central's Family Ministry Department held a Community Activity Day on 28 August at East Park.

The event was well supported by the church members, beginning with the Pathfinders and their lively drums, which were followed by a mini health expo. This had a number of health checks, a smoothie stall, an aerobics session and several games that enhanced the physical aspects of health.

The Community Day Centre was also present with various brochures and displays. The Children's Department had arts and crafts, a bouncy castle and face painting on the go, allowing children from the church and the community to mingle. The community children were not in a hurry to go, and as a result their parents remained for longer at the fair. These children also received literature to read.



by Chantal Tomlinson. Both were well attended, with the panel at the latter providing very practical advice to students wanting to start up such a ministry.

The day ended with some very encouraging student

testimonies. In closing, BUC Youth Ministries Department representative, Natalie Davison, thanked the Conference campus ministry directors and Mission sponsors for organising transport to bring the students to Leicester, and for their support of student ministries in general. Churches wanting to support students from nearby campuses, or students wanting to start up a campus group, can certainly contact their Conference or Mission youth department for guidance and assistance.

Sunday brought more training by Johnny Wong, organised by Pastor Adam Ramdin from the North England Conference. Johnny's ministry in the UK also included a Discipleship BUTREC training event on 11 October, which was attended by a large group of appreciative pastors. He then travelled north to be the guest speaker at the Scottish Mission Student Day in Dundee the following Sabbath.

Many of the students in attendance at the BUC Student Day were first-timers to the event and it was encouraging to see such a large group of Adventist students gathered together in one location. It was agreed that this is now definitely in the calendar as an annual event – so we look forward to seeing even more students next year! Just remember to register earlier next time!

Keep up to date with all student events at: www.adventistyouth.org.uk. Facebook: Adventist Youth, UK & Ireland.

NATALIE DAVISON

Photos: Dejan Stojkovic

The music station played some of the world's great hymns and briefly told the stories behind them. This was a blessing as people at the park were inspired by the sweet melody to join in too.

We got this question from a member of the community present at the event: Are you going to have it every year?

Well, plans are in place to follow up the contacts made on the day, and in answer to the question, 'Yes!'

JACQUI GORDON (COMMUNICATION LEADER)



Campus Ministries Training Weekend

From 31 August to 4 September 35 university students from around the UK gathered at Aberdaron Camp in North Wales for a weekend of training, fun and fellowship. The students comprised two groups – either current leaders of Seventh-day Adventist student societies or those wishing to start an Adventist society on their campus. Among those gathered at Aberdaron were representatives of around 20 universities. Some were from universities such as Coventry, Leicester DMU, University of Manchester, and Bradford, where we have an active Adventist Students on Campus (ASC) presence, while others were from cities such as Liverpool, where we have yet to establish an official Adventist student society.

At present in the North England Conference we have 10 Adventist student societies, though the goal is to more than double that number and have an ASC group on every campus where we have an Adventist presence.

Campus ministries is such an important part of church life, and yet for many years it has unfortunately been neglected. It is a ministry that requires constant training as the student leaders change on a yearly basis. This was the second such training weekend to be held in the NEC, and we plan to make this part of the annual calendar.

During the weekend we had Pastor Justin Kim from the General Conference as our main speaker. He has over 15 years of practical experience in campus ministries, which was a blessing to the students as he presented on subjects such as: 'Keys to being a successful student'; 'How to set up a society'; 'The role of the local church in campus ministries'; and 'How to implement an evangelistic cycle in the academic year'.

Time was allocated for each society to meet with Justin Kim for some personal tuition and guidance in the challenges they are facing

Bristol school's gift box responses

Glenfome Primary School in Bristol embraced the Gift Box Appeal for the second time when they invited representatives from ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) and members from BJEC (Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee) to conduct the school's assembly on Tuesday 27 September. Mrs Ruth Nolan (Deputy Head) gladly welcomed the team, which included Pastor Royston Smith, Fabrice Baker-Livingstone, Sophie Gordon, Mary Philip, Angela Baker-Wright and Nelson Khonje.

The assembly listened to a presentation from Fabrice Baker-Livingstone and Sophie Gordon, both of ADRA. This included a video of a young schoolgirl telling her story of how she and her family live in abject poverty in Swaziland. There were also photos of children who received last year's gift boxes. Fabrice recounted the excitement from the children as they received and opened their boxes.

Some of the children who took part in last year's appeal remembered the gift items that they enthusiastically placed in the boxes for the children of Swaziland. Most of them, as well as some of the staff, pledged to donate a box again this year. Last year 51 boxes were donated by the staff and pupils of this school!



and how to plan for the year ahead. There was also time for personal one-on-one counselling for each student with the speaker. On Sabbath evening we had a testimony and praise evening, and listening to how God has led each student was very encouraging to everyone there.

The Adventist Students on Campus (ASC) ministry in the NEC has a Student Advisory that assists in training, promotion and mentorship to current and new societies, and two of those members were key in putting together the programme and planning the weekend – Chisha Chitambala and Chantal Tomlinson, pioneer society members from Leicester DMU and Coventry University respectively.

During the weekend we also had some free time and were able to make use of the new bikes that the Youth Department had bought, as well as the speedboat and the kayaks in the sea. We enjoyed a lovely walk on Sabbath to Fishermans Cove, a Friday night vespers at the point and a roaring camp fire one evening. It was a time of spiritual enrichment and ministry training as well as wholesome recreation in nature. We were blessed to have lovely vegetarian food cooked by Cheryl Banton and we would like to thank the Aberdaron Camp staff for hosting this key event this year. Pictures of the retreat can be found on Facebook on the NEC Youth page, and videos of the training will be available on the NEC Youth YouTube channel.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN, NEC YOUTH DIRECTOR



This project is part of the Bristol Seventh-day Adventist churches' ongoing relationship with the school, which includes regular reading sessions with the children, monthly cookery demonstrations and a weekly fitness class.

The session ended with words of thanks from Pastor Royston Smith and a prayer of blessing for the staff and pupils of the school.

MARY PHILIP (HEALTH/COMMUNITY/DISABILITY MINISTRIES LEADER)
PHOTOS BY NELSON KHONJE

Reaching out . . . to next door!

'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me" ' (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

The Bristol Central church took this advice to heart when they reached out to support an annual event organised by the Supported Independence Centre on Ashley Road, on Wednesday 7 September. Although this centre is next door to the church (which has been a part of the community for over six decades), this was our first attempt to provide them with close support. The centre provides invaluable support for individuals with mental health needs, learning difficulties, challenging behaviour, and drug and alcohol misuse, helping them to develop their independence and become more confident.

This initiative was made possible through Pastor Royston Smith, who just recently became pastor of the Bristol District of

Churches. He had discussions with the management of the centre and offered the services of the church to bring a different dimension to the event.

The writer, who is the Health/Community and Disability Department leader for Bristol Central, rallied a team of volunteers, who came out in support. Free vegan/vegetarian wraps were supplied, as well as water, homemade flapjacks, fruit bowls and healthy smoothies, to name a few. Free health checks were done and our very capable nurses provided advice. Twenty-two checks were recorded with both men and women coming forward, curious to know their blood pressure and blood glucose levels, for which the centre's manager was especially grateful.

The day was well attended, with other service users coming from different centres in and around Bristol. Several presentations were conducted outside as the weather was warm and dry. The team welcomed at least seven police officers, two of them on horses.

Before the church's team left the premises, they were invited to sing some choruses with which everyone joined in. The event was simply brilliant, and the church's presence was very much appreciated.

MARY PHILIP



High Wycombe Community Ministries

On Sabbath 10 September, Wycombe Community Church presented a Community Ministries Day with a difference.

A special guest, the High Wycombe Deputy Mayor, Councillor Maz Hussain, came to support the Wycombe Community congregation on mental health issues. Members from the local community also came to listen to discussions on parenting.

A short skit on job loss, money problems, and parenting directed by

Shakira George and performed by the Wycombe Community Drama Group really brought the house down.

Centilia Douglas, a teacher, presented an excellent overview on mental health and well-being, while Malika Bediako (SEC Community Services, Children's and Women's Ministries Director) gave an amazing, vibrant and humorous talk on parenting.

While all this was happening, Donna Sutherland and her team were busy interacting with the children as they actively enjoyed arts and crafts all morning.

Lastly, a visiting singer, Matthew Lombard, sang a touching rendition of 'One Day at a Time' to the delight of the congregation.

Church members then spent time rubbing shoulders with the local community during a healthy lunch. The visitors thoroughly enjoyed the day and there were requests from them that Wycombe Community have many more informative programmes like it.

The local councillor, Maz Hussain, thanked David Da Silva, our community leader, for inviting him to Wycombe Community. 'It is a very good thing that you are doing. I will certainly address these mental health issues in the community,' he said. Councillor Hussain is particularly looking forward to working with David in the Asian community on mental health issues.

At the end of the programme Malika also congratulated High Wycombe Community Church on the Community Day. 'It contained a variety of different ingredients which made the programme so interesting and successful,' she said.

DAVID DA SILVA AND SONIA LEE

Cambridge Church creates 'an experience'

On 17 September, Cambridge Church held a health expo at St Phillip's Church Centre, Mill Road, Cambridge. Our members invited the local community to come in and get their free 'Health MOT' by visiting the various health-screening stations, which included BMI calculation and lung capacity, blood pressure and blood glucose checks.

Visitors were curious to know their health age and to discover how fit they were, which resulted in some queuing at the popular step test. Others were especially attracted to our massage and nutrition stations (for obvious reasons). The latter offered demonstrations, and the sampling of smoothies and vegan bites. A local man, 34, had this to say: 'This is not just a health fair; it is an experience! I want my wife to experience this as well.' After which he went home and sent his wife along!

With the help of our regular members and seasoned professionals,

the church was able to carry people through a journey of self-discovery and personal improvement. By the end of the circuit, every person showed a spirit of willingness to better their health and left determined to come back next year to measure their progress. Co-leader and elder at Cambridge Church, Henry Makuyana, said, 'We made connections. That's good. People want to know more about our church and our health message.'

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Andrew Holden receives a special thank-you from Dr Patrick Herbert.

Giving back to the church

While Seventh-day Adventists all over the world have recently been studying about how we can help the communities where we live, one man,

Andrew Holden, has shown the members of the Camp Hill congregation

'Chill in a Field'

For the first time LIVE St Austell, along with Area 1 youth, planned a chilled-out weekend fondly named 'Chill in a Field' at Chapel Porth campsite. The purpose of the weekend was to relax and enjoy time with God through prayer and discussion with friends.

On Sabbath everyone gathered around tables decorated with flowers, candles, snacks and Shloer. This created a community feel to encourage openness and honesty within smaller, more intimate groups.

Pastor Jerry Smith was the guest speaker for the weekend. Many of the group had heard him speak in May at the 'LIVE in a Field' camp and were thrilled to have him and Olivia back. His messages focused on the character of God and sparked very interesting discussions in the small groups. We discussed how Jesus presented Himself; how He met people and satisfied their immediate needs through His love and kindness. His final message was entitled 'The God who said go', and focused on spreading the word of God. He encouraged us to 'tithes our time' through outreach and mission trips.

Pastor Jerry noted that " 'Chill in a Field' was a blessing in that it gave us the chance to make new friends and renew some of our older friendships. It was also great to have a chance to discuss how we might better serve Jesus by loving our neighbours.'

The worship was fantastic! Steve Hulbert led the worship team, with Jena Hulbert, Jackie Hall and Chance Garcia Hondo on vocals, accompanied by Gemma Hall (vocals and guitar), Daniel Costin (saxophone),



Matthew Herman (keyboard) and Otniel Rodrigues (cajón). It was great to see the musical talent from Plymouth and St Austell pooling their gifts in praise and worship to God.

Despite the threat of rain the Sabbath afternoon walk still went ahead, and by the time we had made it to the famous Wheale Coate Mines most of the group were soaked through. Determined not to let this dampen our spirits, we commenced with the usual selfies and silly group photos before heading down to Chapel Porth beach and back to camp to dry off.

After worship on Sabbath evening everyone participated in group games organised by James Wherry. His assortment of team-building minute-long games kept the group going until gone midnight.

Many thanks to Sean and Aaron

how someone from the community can aid the church to serve others.

But who is Andrew Holden? He is a retired business owner who was an IT consultant at HSBC bank for twenty-six years. In the evenings, however, he taught martial arts, later turning it into a successful business. Then, when an opportunity arose for Andrew to teach martial arts at Calthorpe School, he left the bank and ran his business full-time at the school. This school, with its modern facilities, serves the needs of young people who have special educational difficulties. It was in this capacity that God placed Andrew in the right place at the right time to be able to offer assistance to the church.

Andrew Holden assisted Camp Hill by providing a venue at the school where the church's Family Life and Special Needs Departments could meet: Family Life for family-orientated social activities and Special Needs for Sabbath School. It was originally through Andrew's acquaintance with Vivia Salcedo (an elder), her team and the Special Needs class that Andrew decided he also wanted to give something back to the community. He had witnessed the love that Vivia and her team had for the members of the Special Needs class and it touched his heart.

It was this witness that made him decide to allow the members of Camp Hill to use the facilities of Calthorpe School. This in turn touched the hearts of the members of Camp Hill, and Dr Patrick Herbert (pastor of the church) expressed appreciation on behalf of Camp Hill by presenting Andrew with a plaque along with other gifts expressing thankfulness.

Vivia's penned tribute summarises our sentiments. 'Tribute to Andrew from the Special Needs Group: thanks for his kindness and generosity towards the group. We really appreciate him for the times he put his concerns on hold in order to facilitate the group's requirements. He will be greatly missed, especially his pleasant and unselfish characteristics. We wish him all the best for the future. May God bless and keep him today and always.'

NATAILE SUTHERLAND

Ramharacksingh for travelling all the way to Cornwall especially to cook for us!

Everyone had a great time and can't wait for the next camp. It brought us all closer together and was a great way to introduce new students and young people to Area 1. We became a close-knit community by sharing, laughing, singing and discussing our Christian experiences together.

Kevin Puventhiranathan said: 'Worship, food and mates in a field – nothing beats that. Absolutely fantastic weekend with interesting discussions and enlightening sermonettes on topics that you don't hear or consider every day.'

Bruce Daka commented: 'This weekend uplifted me – spent the time with amazing people in worship and music with beautiful Cornish beaches to visit. Thanks, "Chill in a Field!"'

JENNIE HALL



Hackney honours its icons!

On Sabbath 17 September, the Hackney congregation honoured Curtis and Marguerite Bruce, founding members of their church.

Curtis Bruce Snr was Hackney Church's very first head elder way back in the late 1970s and served this congregation in that capacity right through to the early 2000s, when his health made this difficult. He was responsible for leading out in the negotiations which led to the purchase of the present church building on Scriven Street in Haggerston, East London. During that time the church was pastored by Ellis Guthrie, who returned to offer his congratulations to the couple, who were celebrating 50 years of marriage. He said: 'The Bruces continue to leave a legacy for other married couples and young people to emulate. They have been together for many years and during those years have also served the church well.'

John Locker, former head elder of Hackney Church, has fond memories of a man he describes as his mentor: 'Elder Bruce was and continues to be an inspirational figure in my life,' he said. 'I learned so much from him during his time as head elder of this church which prepared me well for my time as head elder. The Bruces are icons in this church and . . . continue to be an inspiration to us all, including the younger generation.'

Pastor Guthrie dedicated the Bruce family in prayer, thanking God for their many years of marriage and for the legacy they have left for their children, grandchildren and members of both the Hackney and Stoke Newington Seventh-day Adventist churches to follow.

DARELL J. PHILIP

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Nov 4	4.28	4.40	4.27	4.25	4.41
11	4.16	4.29	4.15	4.12	4.28
18	4.07	4.19	4.05	4.00	4.17
25	3.59	4.12	3.57	3.50	4.08

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Aberdaron

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



Stanborough Secondary School vacancies

Vacancy 1: Teacher

Stanborough School, an independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and family atmosphere, is looking to employ a teacher who can teach English Language, English Literature and Humanities (History/Geography) at a starting salary of £26,500 depending on experience. The role commences immediately and these are the general responsibilities of the post:

- Teach Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 English Literature and English Language.
- Teach Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 History and Geography.
- Provide learning support to all learners.
- Undertake Form Tutor responsibilities.
- Participate in all school activities.
- Undertake additional duties as required by the Faculty Leader and Head Teacher.

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- A relevant degree;
- A teaching qualification;
- Relevant experience;
- Authorisation to work in the UK.

Closing date: **16 November 2016**. Interviews will be held on 18 November 2016.

Vacancy 2: Volunteer Assistant Dean Boarding School (female, for one year)

The successful applicant will need to commence work immediately.

General responsibilities:

- Caring for all sick boarders and coping with any emergencies or accidents in the boarding house.
- Routine organisation of all aspects of the physical care of boarders, and sharing of the duties of the boarding house with the other Housemaster/Matron.
- Assisting the Housemaster/Matron and resident staff to plan and carry out a varied programme of activities for boarders after school and on weekends.
- In an emergency, caring for day pupils is required.
- Strongly supporting the Housemaster/Matron in maintaining a safe, pleasant environment for boarding pupils.
- Maintaining a warm, friendly atmosphere in the boarding school so that parents, governors and school visitors feel welcome.

The post comes with a monthly stipend of £175.00 and includes all meals and accommodation. This advert will remain current until the position is filled.

Vacancy 3: Volunteer Marketing/PR Assistant

The successful applicant will need to commence work immediately.

Responsibilities:

- The handling of all marketing-related enquiries addressed to the school.
- Liaison with local businesses and newspapers regarding advertising and PR-related activities.
- Working closely with the Head Teacher to ensure that marketing activities are in the interest of the school.
- Keeping the web page content updated and consulting with the web designer.
- Arranging the ongoing development of brochures, prospectuses and informative publications.
- Developing close relationships, through regular contact, with parents and the heads of feeder primary schools in the London and Watford area.
- The organisation of events and activities related to public relations, such as Year 6 Days, Speech Night, College Days, Days of Fellowship, etc.
- The preparation of promotional packages: posters, flyers and leaflets, for use as advertising tools for promotional visits to local and international schools.
- The publication of the Stanborough School newsletter on a half-term basis.

Applicants should hold relevant qualifications and have appropriate experience. The post comes with a monthly stipend of £175.00 and includes all meals and accommodation. This advert will remain current until the position is filled.

Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All appointments will be subject to the required DBS clearance.

Applications should be sent to:
Milimo M. Mumbo, PA to Head Teacher, Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford WD25 9JT or mmumbo@spsch.org.

Application packages are also available from the same source. Tel: 01923 673268.

BOOKSALES

November
6 Croydon 10am-2pm
13 Cambridge 10am-2pm
27 LBW Convention, Oxford 10am-4pm

December
4 Sheffield Burngreave 10am-2pm
11 Brixton 10am-2pm

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

news

Audrey Balderston presents her flowers to Weston-super-Mare Church

The Weston church was pleased to welcome Audrey Balderstone to share her beautiful floral displays and their spiritual message, along with Pat Walton, who was assisting her. Audrey has a unique flair for the use of flowers to exalt her Saviour. She demonstrates this by lovingly arranging the flowers while simultaneously drawing lessons from them about Jesus and the Christian life.

Audrey's love for flower arranging has led her to take part in festivals around the world as well as in this country. Her displays have even earned her a gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Her talk was based on a quote from Polonius from Shakespeare's Hamlet:

*This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.
Farewell: my blessing season this in thee!*

From this she was able to share a message of caring for others while at the same time being true to one's self. She also shared some interesting snippets of information about the flowers she so expertly put into her different arrangements. For example, she held up a carnation that had been used the previous week when she visited Ireland, so it wasn't completely fresh. Then, after massaging the carnation on the outside and breathing over it, the flower amazingly revived.

It was intriguing to watch as her creations told a story about the way



we should treat people, even the 'prickly' ones. She said that each flower made her think of the many different characteristics of people, the life situations in which we find them, and the importance of all of us being directed by the Spirit of God in our relationships. She pointed out that we shouldn't be too quick to judge others or have a haughty attitude. With this she held up a flower called *Strelitzia reginae* (the Bird of Paradise), which has a haughty appearance, and said how it was necessary for this flower to remain in contact with water – just as we should always be in contact with Jesus.

The star of the display was a cross with long arms to represent God's grace and lilies to symbolise Christ's hands. The vertical line was shorter and was made of willow painted black. As this arrangement was being created, the melody of 'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus' was played in the background.

The congregation learnt a lot about flowers and also received a spiritual lesson at the same time. The day finished with an excellent finger buffet prepared by the ladies of the church.

YVONNE HILL

'Cave Quest' adventure in Reading

The sound of children singing at the top of their voices reached far beyond the rock-clad walls of Reading Central during Vacation Bible School week, 15 to 19 August.

Odette Bezuidenhout, Reading's Vacation Bible School team leader, said: 'The theme for the week was "Cave Quest: Following Jesus' Light". Last year we had a Mount Everest theme. This year we thought we'd do something different, so we decided we'd make a cave and see what there was to explore. When the children walked into the church and saw the scenery, they asked, "Is this our church?" So it was good for them to come in and see a different setup.'

Games Master, Natasha Dias, said: 'We had very interactive games for two groups of children: five-to-seven and eight-to-eleven-year-olds. We highlighted lessons from the Bible in different games, the same lessons that we had been learning throughout the day. It was good team-building fun as well. The children had a great time and it was a great way to burn off some energy. The best part of the week was the graduation ceremony where parents came to see what their children had been up to.'

Odette concluded: 'I think Vacation Bible School is a brilliant form of witnessing, especially when we're trying to reach out to the community. We've had one parent who came last year who is now attending church regularly, so praise God for that. The parents said that what we did was amazing and they will definitely bring their children back next year.'

CLIVE MALCOLM



Reading Central VBS team.



Reading Central VBS children singing.

What can you buy for 10p a day?
A Smile for a Child


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 Registered charity 1074937 (SCO37726 - IOM1101)


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THE WEST MIDLANDS SDA CULTURAL COMMITTEE
 PROUDLY PRESENTS

 **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

A Celebration of Culture

SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2016
 All Day Celebration Starting 10:00 am



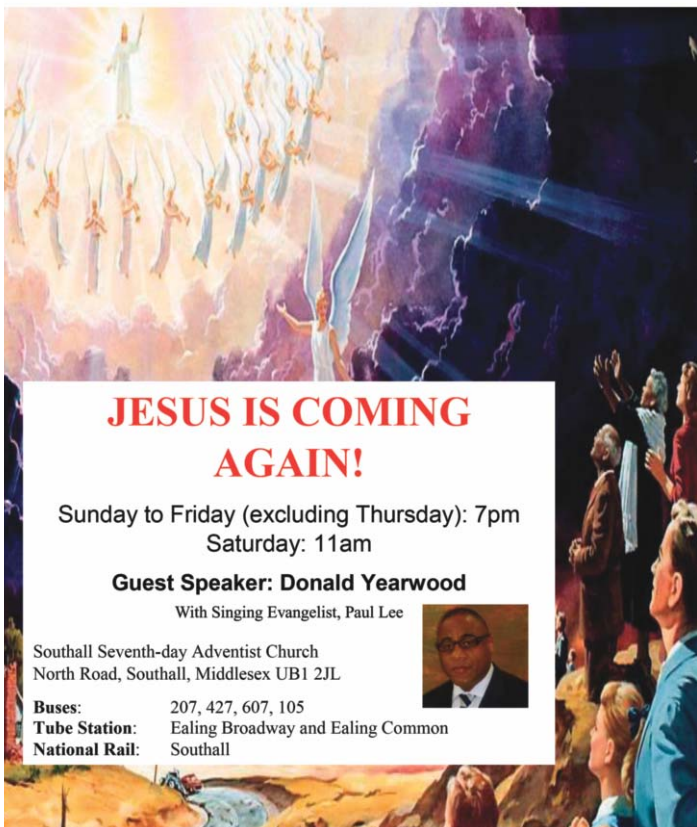
SPEAKER:
PASTOR CECIL PERRY
 FORMER BUC PRESIDENT

Venue:
 Winson Green SDA Church
 (Bishop Latimer Memorial Building)
 36 Handsworth New Road,
 Winson Green,
 Birmingham, B18 4PT

Contact: Judith 07909 851026
 Maisie 07957 375153

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

 **Southall Seventh-day Adventist Church**
Week of Revival
 Sunday 27 November to Saturday 3 December 2016




JESUS IS COMING AGAIN!

Sunday to Friday (excluding Thursday): 7pm
 Saturday: 11am

Guest Speaker: Donald Yearwood
 With Singing Evangelist, Paul Lee

Southall Seventh-day Adventist Church
 North Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2JL

Buses: 207, 427, 607, 105
Tube Station: Ealing Broadway and Ealing Common
National Rail: Southall



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

 **SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE DIVERSITY MINISTRY**
 UNDERSTANDING | ACCEPTING | CELEBRATING

Conference details

Friday 25th November 2016
SPEAKER: Pastor Reinder Bruinsma – Diversity & Adventist History
6.00pm – 7.00pm: Evening meal
7.00pm – 8.30pm: Diversity & Adventist History

Sabbath 26th November 2016
SPEAKER: Pastor Daniel Duda – Theology of Diversity
10am – 12.45am: Morning service with Tihomir Lazić and team from Newbold Church. Music, worship & diversity.
3.00pm – 5.30pm: Seminars, Workshops, Discussion with Q&A

Launch of SEC Diversity Resource Guide Book
 This will include transcripts from the workshops, seminars, the SEC Diversity Mission Statement & Policy, Diversity, Law and the Church.

Seminar Leaders

Theology of Diversity in Practice – Pastor Daniel Duda
Diversity, The Church & Sexuality – Pastor Reinder Bruinsma
Diversity, The Law & The Church – Chucks Golding & Valerie Brown
Q&A Panel Discussion – Facilitator, Pastor Jacques Venter

7.00pm – 8.30pm: Evening Music & Praise Concert in Celebration of Diversity
8.30 – 9.30pm: Mini Diversity Well-being Expo
 'Food' for Mind, Body & the Soul

Contact Ligia Buzac – lbuzac@secadventist.org.uk or book FREE online by following this link www.secdivmincd.eventbrite.co.uk



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