

# Messenger

News to the churches • 18 November 2016 • Volume 121 • 23

## Welsh Mission Session report

by Pastor Richard Daly (BUC Communication Director)

The newly renovated Swansea church was the venue for the triennial Welsh Mission Session on Sunday 16 October, with over 200 delegates. Newly elected president, Pastor Emanuel Bran, opened the proceedings, and the BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, followed with the devotional message.

Highlights of the day included the Secretariat report presented by Pastor Paul Lockham, which indicated steady growth in the Mission. During the triennium there was a net growth of 5.5%. The membership changes include 31 baptisms; 22 joining through profession of faith; and 69 who transferred in. On the loss side, it was reported that 29 are missing; and that 36 transferred out of the Mission.

Former president, Pastor John Surridge, gave a PowerPoint overview of his term in office, highlighting the achievements of each department and ending with the newly rebuilt Swansea church, the final major project of his presidency.

Victor Pilmoor, who had served as Mission treasurer, expressed appreciation to the Mission members for their faithful stewardship. The Mission has shown consistent returns in tithe despite the lack of dynamism within the Welsh economy.

The delegation appreciated the reports and received them with minimal questioning, but were very proactive when the debate took place on plans for the future. It was evident that there is a desire to see further growth and unity within the Mission. Questions arose as to how the churches could work more effectively together in reaching those who are seeking to know God. Some delegates challenged the readiness of some churches to embrace new people if they are already having problems accepting each other. The discussion was amicable and displayed a united desire to get to know more of the various cultures that now make up the Mission.

Other departmental reports were presented by sponsors such as Pastor Jeremy Tremeer (who oversaw the Youth Department) and lay members, Irving and Lil Saunders (Health Ministries). Retired pastors, David Foster and Brian Phillips, showed their willingness to continue serving by helping in Family Camp and Trust Services respectively.

The delegates accepted the Nominating Committee's report of sponsors for the following departments:

### Sponsors

Children's Ministries .....	Mrs Eileen McKenzie
Communication .....	Mrs Diana Balmer
Family Ministries .....	Mr Ndaba and Mrs Chipo Ndebele
Health Ministries .....	Mrs Lil Saunders
Pathfinder Ministries .....	Pastor David Rancic
Stewardship .....	Pastor Emanuel Bran
Trust Services .....	Pastor Brian Phillips
Women's Ministries.....	Miss Samantha Fessal and Mrs Elidah Nota-Muza
Youth Ministries.....	Pastors Jeremy Tremeer and Jovan Adamovic
Brecon Family Camps .....	This was referred to the incoming Executive Committee.

The session ended with an inspiring message by the Mission president, Pastor Bran, who spoke of the excuses Moses made when called to service, reminding the delegation that, in working for God, He has already foreseen any obstacles and made provision for us to surmount them. A vote of thanks was taken to express appreciation to outgoing president, Pastor John Surridge. Pastor Sweeney closed the session with prayer. On departure, one delegate attending for the first time said, 'The whole experience was very positive; it was just good to see how the Church operates in an open way.'



Pastor John Surridge.



Pastor Brian Phillips.



Left to right: Pastor Emanuel Bran and Pastor Paul Lockham.





# TEENS UNITED SEC TEENS DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

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## Enhancing Health

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

### Home health, part 2: healthy living environment

Our living environment is currently a Government concern. The 'Healthy homes, healthy lives' document is a compilation of public health case studies from the Local Government Association,<sup>1</sup> and chronicles a variety of health issues that are linked to housing quality and how local councils are responding to those in the light of public health reforms.

The publication's foreword states: 'Councils all over the country understand how the quality of housing affects the health and well-being of their residents.'

Poor housing costs the NHS at least £2.5 billion a year in treating people with illnesses directly linked to living in cold, damp and dangerous homes.'

Another organisation focusing on environmental well-being is the UK Green Building Council (UK-GBC), a charity that campaigns for sustainable building environments.

The UK-GBC formed a task group to investigate the link between health and housing. Their report, 'Health and Well-being in Homes',<sup>2</sup> concludes: 'Our home, both the location and the physical building itself, influences almost every aspect of our lives – from how well we sleep, to how often we see friends, to how safe and secure we feel. If we want to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities, there can hardly be a more important place to start than the home: it is where most people spend most of their lives.'

So how safe is your living environment?

The United States agency, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)<sup>3</sup> report that many American homes have the following unhealthy conditions:

- 1 in 16 have high radon levels.
- 1 in 10 have water leaks.
- 1 in 6 have structural problems.
- 1 in 4 expose the occupants to lead-based poisons.
- 1 in 4 do not have a working smoke alarm.

Highlighting these home hazards, one commentator states: 'Our homes can make us feel safe, but they can also make us sick.'<sup>4</sup>

Here are some suggestions for a healthier home:

- Install carbon monoxide alarms near bedrooms.
- Test for radon.
- Clean up clutter so insects and rodents don't have a place to burrow.
- Install smoke alarms on every floor.
- Have your home tested for lead paint.
- Fix peeling or chipping paint using lead-safe practices.
- Use a range hood fan or other kitchen exhaust fans that vent outside.
- Seal openings to the outside and between rooms to keep pests out.
- Put away food, clean up and cover garbage.
- Fix leaks and wipe up spilled water so pests have nothing to drink.<sup>5</sup>

#### Good health!

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5854661/L14+-+85+Housing+and+Health+case+studies\\_14.pdf/b4620ef6-87bc-4e12-964a-5cbd4433dd47](http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/5854661/L14+-+85+Housing+and+Health+case+studies_14.pdf/b4620ef6-87bc-4e12-964a-5cbd4433dd47) <sup>2</sup><http://www.ukgbc.org/resources/publication/uk-gbc-task-group-report-healthy-homes> <sup>3</sup>[http://www.medicinenet.com/home\\_health\\_pictures\\_slideshow/article.htm](http://www.medicinenet.com/home_health_pictures_slideshow/article.htm) <sup>4</sup>ibid. <sup>5</sup>ibid.

# editorial

Zechariah 13 starts out with an obvious reference to the mission of the coming Messiah: 'On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.' (Verse 1.) He is portrayed here as a 'fountain', in the waters of which Israel would be able to find cleansing from its 'sin and impurity'. This imagery is obviously what Jesus was building on when He made this assertion: 'But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.' (John 4:14, NLT.) This is good news. This is the essence of the Gospel!

Returning to Zechariah 13, however, we soon stumble upon another Messianic reference\* in verse 6 – one that gives us pause for thought: 'If someone asks, "What are these wounds on your body?" they will answer, "The wounds I was given at the house of my friends."' (Zechariah 13:6.)

#### The 'wounds'

As preachers and teachers of the Word, we generally do a competent enough job (within the limits of good taste) of portraying the physical suffering of Christ during the hours of His trial and crucifixion. For those who are more curious, a quick Google search will quickly bring you face to face with the brutal reality of Roman crucifixion practices. 'A Physician's View of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ', by Dr C. Truman Davis, provides a clinical, step-by-step account of these sufferings of Jesus.<sup>1</sup> His descriptions are graphic and definitely not for the faint-hearted, but they left me in no doubt about this statement: 'There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends [by crucifixion].' (John 15:13, NLT.)

I now have a heightened appreciation for what was happening during this brief scene in Gethsemane: 'Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."' (Matthew 26:39.) He knew how critical His mission was, and He was supremely aware of the intensity and horror of the suffering that He would have to endure to make it a success.

#### Deeper than we realise

It is little wonder then that Dr Davis makes these comments about the 'great emotional stress' that Christ experienced in the garden: 'But, of course, the physical passion of the Christ began in Gethsemane. Of the many aspects of this initial suffering, the one of greatest physiological interest is the bloody sweat. It is interesting that St Luke, the physician, is the only one to mention this. He says, "And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground." . . . Though very rare, the phenomenon of *haematidrosis*, or bloody sweat, is well documented. Under

## Reflections on Zechariah 13



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

great emotional stress of the kind our Lord suffered, tiny capillaries in the sweat glands can break, thus mixing blood with sweat. This process might well have produced marked weakness and possible shock.'<sup>2</sup>

This description leads us beyond the pain that leaves physical scars. His emotional wounds were undoubtedly far deeper and more painful than we could ever imagine!

#### 'At the house of my friends'

Let's return for a moment to Zechariah 13:6, to tease out what may be the most painful thing Jesus had to endure between Gethsemane and Calvary: 'If someone asks, "What are these wounds on your body?" they will answer, "The wounds I was given at the house of my friends."' (Emphasis supplied.)

Jesus hadn't come to Athens, Rome, Memphis (Egypt), Damascus or Constantinople. He had come to Jerusalem. He had come to His people, His own flesh and blood. He had grown up among them. Then He fed, healed and raised them from the dead. He blessed their children, taught them, and wept over their city. He was in 'the house of His friends', wasn't He?

Then we read this from the pen of John: 'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him.' That is bad enough, but what follows must surely have been the hardest of all for Christ to swallow: 'He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.' (John 1:9-11, emphasis supplied.)

#### His own did not receive Him

Matthew 27:38-44 summarises Christ's rejection by the 'rebels' dying with him; by the abusive passers-by; by the 'chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders'. Even his disciples were either absent or keeping their distance. But for John and some of the women there is no mention of them.

Scripture does record the brief eyewitness account of one man, though, a centurion. He was undoubtedly the officer in charge of the Roman detachment and accustomed to seeing men die. He had seen them cornered on the battlefield, trapped, with no hope of escape. He had seen them tortured beyond their limits, screaming for relief or death.

Typically these dying men cursed and swore till they could speak no more . . . but not this man. There was no aggression in Him, neither contempt nor hatred for those who derided Him. He never threatened retribution or revenge against His executioners. His only response to them was this: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' (Luke 23:34, ESV.)

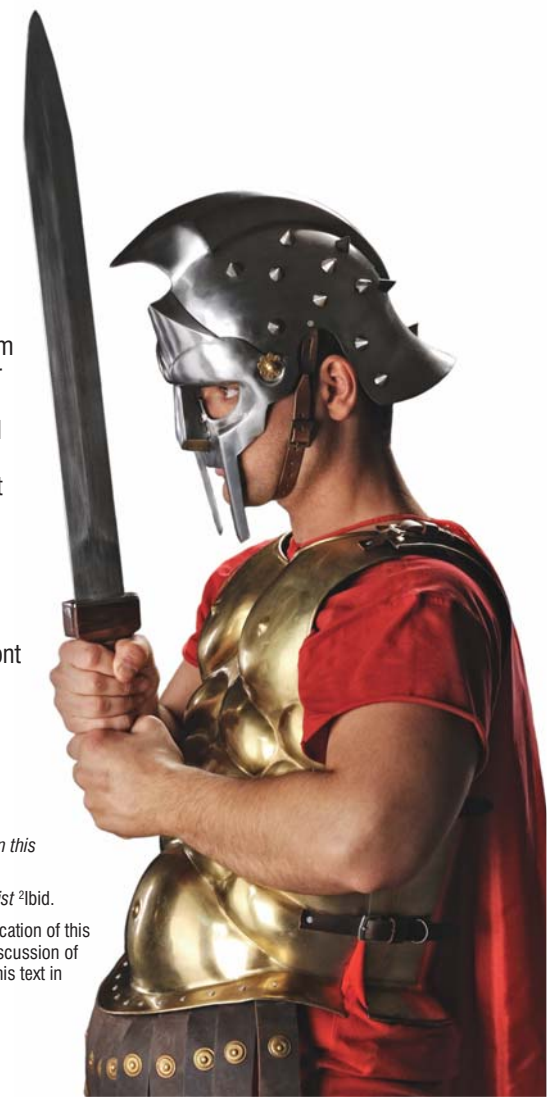
'And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"' (Mark 15:39.)

#### What do you say?

*Editor's note: Unless otherwise indicated the scriptural references in this editorial have been taken from the NIV-UK.*

<sup>1</sup><http://www1.cbn.com/medical-view-of-the-crucifixion-of-jesus-christ> <sup>2</sup>ibid.

\*The writer is aware of the comments regarding the Messianic application of this verse as found in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary's* discussion of Zechariah 13:6. Ellen White also makes a Messianic application of this text in *Acts of the Apostles*, page 226.



# 94-year-old baptised at Dunstable Church

by Natasha Mirilov

An overjoyed 94-year-old Peggy Brett was baptised into the membership of the Dunstable church on Sabbath, 1 October this year.

This creative church's members made sure that Peggy was surrounded by family and friends from various countries. Even those who could not make it to the church called to share their well wishes with her.

'For me this has been a very moving service,' said Simon Martin, South England Conference (SEC) Church Growth and Church Planting Director and the pastor of Dunstable Church. 'I've never baptised anyone 94 years young . . . but you could see the smile on her face and it was absolutely incredible.'

For those who had known Peggy for longer this was indeed a special occasion. Margaret Stewart, Peggy's daughter and a member of Dunstable Church, mentioned that in the 90s her mother told her that she didn't know if she believed in God.

'I am so emotional . . . it's a miracle,' exclaimed Margaret. 'The emotion of this little lady who was beaming, it was all coming out. She was joyful – there was no pretending. When she said "Yes" to her vows she really meant them!'

Margaret, who previously worked as a Bible worker, said how grateful she is for God's grace and His patience. Through her experiences in life she had learned not to 'get too worried that nobody else is joining, especially if it's in our family.'

'Keep on praying for them, keep on loving them, which is the most important thing! Don't go sermonising to them and God will do His part,' she went on to emphasise.

Ronnie Campbell-Stewart, Peggy's great-grandson,



emphasised that one is never too old to make the decision to follow Christ, especially since Dunstable started off the creative church for kids in 2009.

'It's amazing! Who would've thought, a few years after my baptism, this would happen,' said Ronnie.

After a previous baptism at Dunstable, Pastor Martin asked Peggy if she would like to get baptised; she answered by saying, 'Yes.' On the day her comment was, 'I should've done this years ago. It is never ever too late to make a decision for Jesus Christ. From the youngest to the oldest, a life following Christ is never a wasted life.'

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# gentlemen

## Men's International Day

by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt



Did you know that for a number of years now 19 November has been celebrated as International Men's Day? It is basically a day to emphasise the issues affecting men and to recognise and celebrate the contribution that men, young men and boys make to their families and their communities. It provides us with an international opportunity to highlight ways in which we may assist in the development, health and well-being of men generally.

This is a tradition that goes back to the 1920s in parts of Europe such as the Ukraine and Moldova. These concerns about men were further developed in the USA in the 1960s and on into the 1990s. However, it was not until the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago began to celebrate the day in 1999 that International Men's Day (IMD) really took root, and was soon after given the endorsement of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). One of the core objectives of the day is its emphasis on the importance of 'celebrating good male role models'. Today it is celebrated in over 70 countries worldwide.\*

Do you realise that this year 19 November falls on a Sabbath? Wow – so imagine that. Imagine large numbers of churches across the UK having men's days or men's AYS programmes or men's and young men's nights of prayer, or men's social nights all on the same day.

On a personal level, this last year has been a real learning curve for me in a number of ways: one of which was by studying Systemic Family Therapy and realising that the health and well-being of the family is tied up closely with the men who form a part of the family system. Of course this does not discount women and the vital role that mothers and daughters play, which becomes especially critical when fathers are absent or non-engaging. Rather, it is to emphasise the contribution men make.

For example, Ellen White refers to men who are husbands as potentially being the 'house band', a role she defines as follows:

'The characters we form will speak in the



home life. If there is sweet accord in the home circle, the angels of God may minister in the home. If there is wise management at home, kindness, meekness, forbearance, combined with firm principles, then be assured that the husband is a **house band**; he binds the family together with holy cords and presents them to God, binding himself with them upon the altar of God. What a light shines forth from such a family!' (*Evangelism*, page 342, emphasis supplied.)

Bearing this in mind, it is no wonder that Satan targets our men, doing all he can to distract them from their servant-leadership roles, causing them to forget their divinely appointed opportunities/responsibilities and so neglect their families and the quality of care needed. The roaring lion makes them a target, seeking to 'devour' as many as he can, leading them to become trapped by chains of circumstance: misguided responsibilities, social pressures, improper emotional ties, neglected devotion to God and a host of other temptations. Then, having done his work with the men, this enemy turns his assaults against the young men and boys – the vulnerable next generation.

However, this trend can be reversed by men's ministries leaders, youth leaders, and church members who embrace the social opportunities available to us to host Spirit-led, prayer-driven, Scripture-based, and need-oriented men's activities.

Here are a few ideas of what could happen if you take the initiative:

- Begin with prayer and ask the Lord to reveal the felt needs of the men in your

congregation and give you the courage to move forwards in meeting them.

- Have a men's prayer session for a few hours on a carefully chosen date such as IMD, or a 'prayer wheel' for men using WhatsApp.
- Have a men's day of fellowship for your church, and have some of the men tell their stories and testify to the goodness of Jesus in their lives.
- Arrange a male voice choir and have the men, young and old, sing to the glory of God on the next IMD or other special occasion.
- Organise a men's film and 'Supermalt

night' at the church or someone's home – watching a film such as *Courageous* and having a discussion afterwards.

- Arrange a pizza night out during which the young men can socialise with the older ones and get to know each other better.
- Plan a young men's sleepover at a DBS-checked member's home.
- Have a social night or a football match together with some good food as a part of it.

Now I realise that it is too late to organise a men's event for this Sabbath, 19 November, but there is nothing to stop you doing something in the weeks ahead – and these things can take place on any day of the week for that matter.

Whatever we do, let's join our hearts and prayers and minds together to make something happen for the nurture and support of our men, and the celebration of the contributions they make in our churches, communities, homes and personal lives. Let us do something to reach out to our brothers and help each other fulfil our God-given potential and purpose as we journey on towards the Kingdom of Heaven.

\*Source:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Men%27s\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Men%27s_Day)

### Holy Land Tour

Sunday 23 – Sunday 30 April 2017  
Led by Pastor Richard Daly  
For details/booking form email  
[richarddaly7@gmail.com](mailto:richarddaly7@gmail.com).



## Difficulties and ways forward for Christian-Muslim relations in Britain

by Helen Pearson

Newbold College's 2016 Beach lecturer, Dr Philip Lewis, visiting fellow at York St John University, was admirably qualified to speak about Christian-Muslim relations in Britain. He has lived alongside Muslims both in the UK and in Pakistan while studying, writing and lecturing about Islam for more than three decades. His life work has been advising churches and secular organisations and encouraging Muslim-Christian understanding. Alongside the lecture, he handed out a useful and wide-ranging bibliography to enable his audience to read more for themselves. He told them that his goal was 'to challenge lazy generalisations about British Muslims'. To achieve this, his masterful lecture included some history, some sociology and a lot of personal insight.

He began by dividing twentieth-century UK Muslims into those who visited post-war, those who followed them here believing that they would eventually return to their Muslim homelands, and those who finally settled here. He showed that Muslim groups in various parts of the UK have different national backgrounds – some from East Africa, some from Pakistan, some from Turkey. Within each group there is further division between older and younger generations, English and non-English speakers, and a widening gap between those from an industrial culture and the more educated YUMMIs – young, upwardly mobile Muslims. 'No one is a "Muslim in general",' he said.

He identified negative and positive changes to Muslim societies since the atrocities of 9/11 and 7/7. The ensuing moral panic in the media, which has targeted Muslims as 'the enemy within', has been socially destructive. On the other hand, he pointed out that government

funding has become available to address deficits in Muslim leadership, including that of imams, over 90% of whom were born outside the UK.

Muslim scholars themselves have three broad responses to the wider society: isolation, engagement and resistance. Dr Lewis believes that there is, and needs to be more, radical re-thinking within Islam if all Muslim leaders are to be in touch with both their own communities and the wider society. As it is, he suggested, sexuality and political subjects are often taboo in both mosques and homes, leaving young Muslims adrift.

The specific intellectual challenges facing UK Muslim communities were Dr Lewis's next focus. Muslim theology, he showed, offers no systematic formulation recognising that it is a minority view. Historically, Muslim thought was often developed in a military context, which took success and dominance for granted. Muslims knew how to command and obey but had little experience of living with equality or, like many Jewish and Christian communities, as minorities. Progressive Muslim scholars are now seeking to explore their traditions for resources which will enable them to share power in democracies.

They are hampered in this work by the persistence of imported sectarianism, cultural illiteracy, the lack of Muslim arts graduates, and the lack of a Muslim tradition of curiosity about 'otherness'. Some in the Muslim world are beginning to realise that their co-religionists have not understood or participated in the construction of modernity for over four centuries.

But there are optimistic signs: a greater engagement in tertiary education both by and with Muslims; educated Muslim women working for a visible,

active, progressive Islam; and the development of a British Muslim intellectual tradition in the UK with a few public intellectuals like Hakim Murad and Mona Siddiqui. Politically, too, Muslims like Baroness Warsi and the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, are becoming more visible. And then there are the celebrity Muslims, Nadiya Hussain, Mo Farah and Citizen Khan!

Finally, Dr Lewis recounted how churches are working on developing trust: engaging imams in conversation, looking closely at anti-Muslim rhetoric in society, avoiding extremes of sentimentalism and demonisation, and co-operating in strategic planning for



sustainable, inter-generational conversations both nationally and internationally. There are Christians who are actively collaborating with the new generation of British Muslims on charitable projects. Work with progressive Muslim women in peacemaking has also been crucial to developing these good relationships.

'If Christian-Muslim relations are to succeed we need a safe space to ask hard questions of each other,' Dr Lewis concluded. For the 100-strong audience in Newbold's Salisbury Hall, this year's Beach Lecture provided one such space.

### Vacancy at Stanborough Secondary School Maternity Cover Modern Foreign Language (French Key Stages 3 and 4) and Female Games Teacher:

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Commencement date: February 2017; end date: February 2018.

Stanborough Secondary School is looking for someone to cover maternity leave and teach both French (in our MFL Department) and Games for girls. The qualified candidate will be capable of teaching French to Key Stage 3 and GCSE levels.

The MFL Department achieved a 100% pass rate in GCSE French Grades A\*-D in June 2016 and we seek to appoint a teacher who will maintain the strengths of the department.

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The only qualification required to teach Games is a passion for sports and plenty of enthusiasm and energy.

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Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

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## 'Seven souls saved for service'

'Stand up!' That was the challenge to the congregation by Pastor Dane Fletcher, Youth Director of the Jamaica Union Conference, as he concluded a two-week series of meetings for the Bristol district of churches. The theme for the campaign was 'The Final Crisis – Decide Now!' and he certainly enthused the members and visitors as they listened intently.

The series culminated with a baptism on Sabbath 8 October, during which seven people from three different churches were baptised. Bristol District pastor, Royston Smith, baptised the candidates, assisted by Pastor Kirk Thomas, SEC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Director, who preached in the morning.

One young boy, Declan Dankwa, despite only being 9½ years old, had been asking about baptism since Pastor Smith arrived in Bristol, in March 2016. Any concerns over his age were settled once the congregation heard him testify: 'I feel very happy that I'm finally getting baptised. It's very exciting.' His father, Kwasi Dankwa, who is the first elder, said, 'I was a bit nervous as a dad, but having seen him make his decision I'm really happy as he's really focused and he will get support from the family. He also likes reading the Bible and books on prophecy, and that will make things easier.'

Taka Makore, who is almost 9, was another young candidate. 'I've been asking to be baptised for quite a while. Now I feel comfortable, because it is said, "If a man is not born again he will not enter the Kingdom of God."' He also declared his desire to be a pastor when he grows up. In fact, both Taka and Declan will be preaching in November at Bristol Central's Children's Day.

Karen Khonje, a 10-year-old from South Bristol Church, was also baptised. After the service she said, 'I feel so happy, there are barely any words I can say. This is the best time of my life. I'm so glad I'm connected to God. I've been thinking about this for a long time. . . . It felt like burdens had been lifted off my shoulders.' This was an especially poignant moment for Karen's parents, as Karen's birth was an answer to seven years of special prayer.

Lekazia Turner, who is 14, was also baptised as a member of the Bristol Central church. Her father, Hughlin Turner (an elder), said, 'Words cannot express the joy I'm feeling at this time. The angels are celebrating with us.' He paid tribute to Lekazia, saying, 'It was a personal decision she made after having Bible studies.' Lekazia said afterwards, 'I was a little nervous, but it feels great! I feel much happier.'



Candidates with Pastor Royston Smith.



Pastor Dane Fletcher.

Marco Francis also joined Bristol Central. He had recently got married to one of the Bristol Central young people. Commenting on the experience, he said, 'It feels pretty good, as I was always in the church, but now I am *in* the church and part of it.' Baptism was a challenge for Marco, but despite his fear of water, and with encouragement from his new wife, Jodene, he went through with it.

Novelett Hamilton-Wilks was a returning member, after having attended another church for a while. She said, 'I feel great, wonderful and excited. I want to work for my Father, because He's so good to me, and I want to do some evangelistic work, and whatever I can do to help.'

Gloria Thompson was a new addition to the North Bristol church. She was determined to be baptised, as it had been put off previously, due to her son's ill health. This time, however, she decided that she 'didn't want to put it off again. I wanted to be a Christian and come back to God.'

The whole church gathered after the service to greet and welcome each new member, and to encourage them to remain strong, now they had made their decision for Christ.

IAN SABADIN (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, BRISTOL CENTRAL CHURCH)  
PHOTOS BY NELSON KHONJE



## Portsmouth baptism

On 3 September, Portsmouth Church celebrated the baptism of five young people: Junel, Shawn, Leigh-anne, Lauren and Jade. Although Lauren now lives in the Berkshire area, the congregation welcomed her with open arms, as it was her desire to be baptised in her former home church. The candidates were joined by their family and friends, who travelled from far and near to witness this special occasion. 'I'm so happy to be here to witness the baptism of all my children!' said grandmother Irene, and her sentiments were typical of all who attended.

After the baptismal vows, the candidates' favourite Bible verses were read out by their parents, followed by a visual presentation that was put together by the candidates. Pastor Tim Zestic, who conducted the baptism, led the church in welcoming the young people into the membership of Portsmouth Church.

MARY EMMA MWITA (COMMUNICATION)

## OneLife at North Wembley

On Sabbath 3 September designated north-west London churches opened their doors to invite everyone who could to attend their nightly OneLife outreach meetings.

For the next two weeks, until Sabbath 17 September, North Wembley Community Church and Emmanuel Community Church joined forces to host the OneLife meetings through a special blend of praise and worship, health spotlights (some were streamed live, featuring Dr Chidi, with others presented locally) and the regular evening and Sabbath sermons preached at the venue and watched online.

These OneLife meetings of the North Wembley churches followed months of prayer, investment and planning, directed by local minister, Pastor Kwesi Moore, and his leadership team.

The visiting speaker was Pastor Philip Wesley II, a native of Long Island, New York, who pastors New Dimension Church in Brooklyn. He preached on a range of interesting subjects, which were streamed live and made available on the SEC OneLife website, YouTube and the church's website. Reports came in that the messages were being viewed online, not only in London and around the UK, but from as far away as Germany, Canada and the United States.

The series culminated in the baptism of ten precious souls by Pastors Moore and Wesley, with many contacts requesting Bible studies as a direct result of the meetings, for which God is to be praised!



Those baptised were: Jonathan Silveira, Nathan Soares, Joseph Fenton, Anthony Soares, Tenisha Morgan, Ethel Samaroo, Janelle Clarke, Linus Pamphile, Chantell Lue and Ashley Davis. Here they are seen posing with Pastor Kwesi Moore and Wayne Golding (elder).

JUSTIN MALABRE

## Zion's desire

The eldest of Sean and Tessa Anderson's four children, Zion, is a ten-year-old boy who loves God's wild creation and enjoys exploring it in the area where he lives. From an early age Zion fell in love with the Scriptures and has since chosen David as his favourite hero. He also enjoys listening to Scripture songs, testimonies, sermons and faith-based stories and messages.

Recently he took to heart the call to be a missionary in God's service and he sees the need to share the Gospel – something he enjoys when he travels with his parents to the mission field.

Finally, 20 August was set aside for Zion's baptism, a long-awaited event. The church was filled with witnesses from the Aberdeen church and those from Inverness, with whom Zion and his family regularly worship. Friends from Cambridge also came to Aberdeen, offering support to Zion. Some of them sang a special item, as did Zion's parents.

We trust that God will continue to bless Zion as he eagerly looks forward to Jesus' return and a time when he will be able to ask God and Jesus all the questions that the world cannot answer now.

JANICE SAVIZON



Pastoral team and baptismal candidates.

God's abundant blessings, knowing that his ministry will tremendously benefit the members of his new district.

However, sorrow turned to joy as Pastor Picart conducted his final baptism at Wood Green. Although it was his last day at Wood Green, Pastor Picart was able to bring joy to the hearts of the members by baptising Dascine Prince and Maleek Yeah after their series of Bible studies with T. Cuniah (elder). Both candidates had made their decision to be baptised during the recent 'ShareHim' campaign held at Wood Green during the month of August.

Just a few Sabbaths later on 1 October the congregation welcomed their new pastor, his wife Rosetta and their family. Pastor Joojo Bonnie assumed his ministerial responsibility at Wood Green after transferring from London Ghana Church, having also spent time in ministry at Trench Town Adventist Church, Jamaica.

BARBARA SOMMERS (COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT)



Pastor Joojo Bonnie.

## Wood Green's sadness mingled with joy

On Sabbath 17 September, Wood Green Church experienced a range of mixed emotions. They were sad at losing their pastor, Everett Picart, who delivered his last sermon that day after only a short tenure. Pastor Picart has been moved to the Chiswick and Acton church district. The Wood Green elders and congregation wished Pastor Picart



## Harlow baptises three

Sabbath 10 September was a very special day for the members of the Harlow Central church, during which they had a chance to watch Pastor Valentine Roach baptise three new members into their fellowship.

The happy new members are: Rubby Mondejar Estrellas, who praises God for His leading in her life and the blessing of a wonderful family; Lael Constance, a student, who is grateful for the support of his God-fearing parents; and Noqba Mivitcho, who appreciates the influence of his godly mother in making him a responsible individual.

DINESH DAVID PHASGE (ELDER)



## Great Brickkiln baptism

On Sunday evening, 18 September, the members of the Wolverhampton Great Brickkiln Street church of the NEC met to witness the baptism of a precious soul, Crystalee Malcolm, a young lady who attends church regularly with Edna, her mother. Crystalee is also an active member of the Pathfinder club. Officiating in the service were local elders and leaders who played a significant part in the candidate's life. The sermon was preached by guest pastor, Derek Simon, and deeply impressed the congregation: after which the rest of the baptismal service was conducted by the local minister, Pastor Rainford McIntosh.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



## The best decision ever!

On Sabbath 8 October Grantham Church held a baptism for four precious souls who have made the best decision ever – to follow Jesus and make Him their personal Lord and Saviour. Melody Sheppard, the youngest baptismal candidate, was the first to be baptised. This was done by her grandfather, Pastor Paul Lockham, who also preached a

powerful sermon prior to the baptism. Pastor Solon Kyriacou, the pastor of Grantham Church, then baptised Amanda White, who has been attending Grantham Church for two years; Jacquima Wilson, who has been coming to church since January 2016; and Matt Seymour, who has been attending since January 2015. All four candidates received overwhelming support from their friends and family and the event was followed by a delicious church lunch.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



## Weston-super-Mare members welcome their new pastors

On Sabbath 1 October the Weston-super-Mare church was filled to the brim with people who came to welcome their new pastors, Jonathan and Mary Barrett. The elder of Weston, Len Setton, formally introduced Jonathan and Mary to the congregation.

Pastor Jonathan comes to Weston after caring for the Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City churches while Mary was assistant to Jacques Venter, the senior pastor at Stanborough Park Church.

They are both looking forward to working together at the Weston church after being involved with separate churches. The morning service was followed by a fellowship lunch, during which the members were able to make their acquaintance. The congregation are looking forward to their ministry and working together with them as a witness to the community in Weston-super-Mare.

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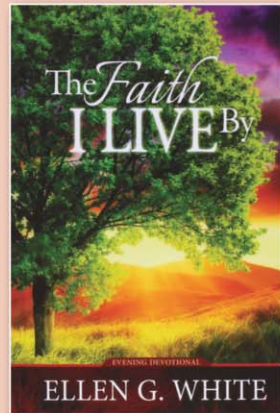
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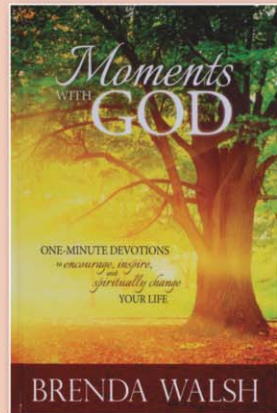
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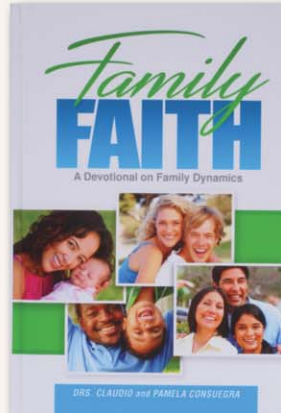
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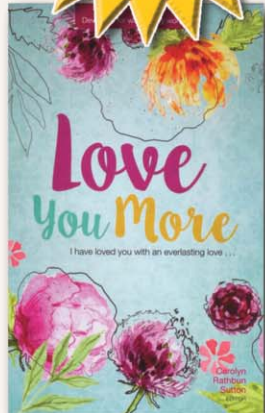
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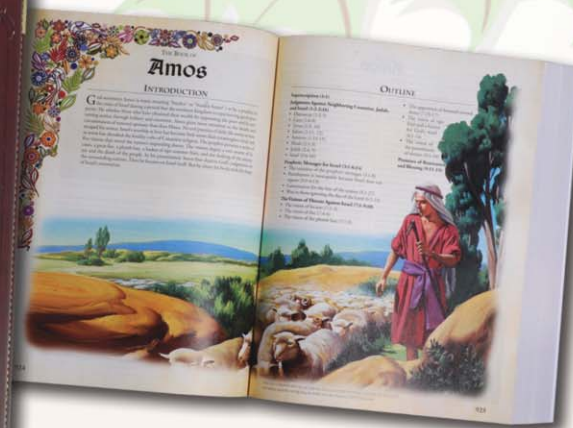
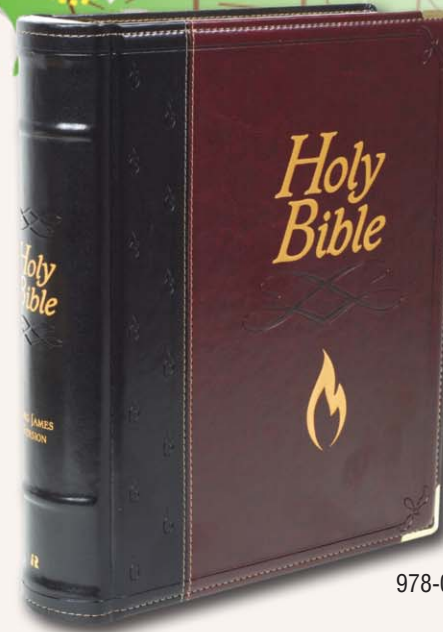
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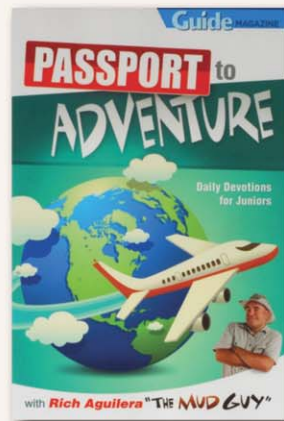
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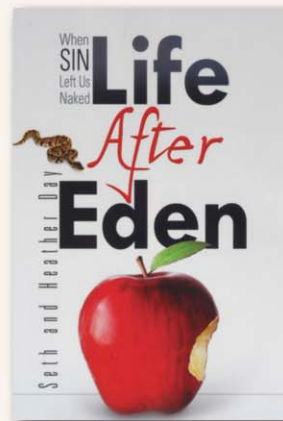
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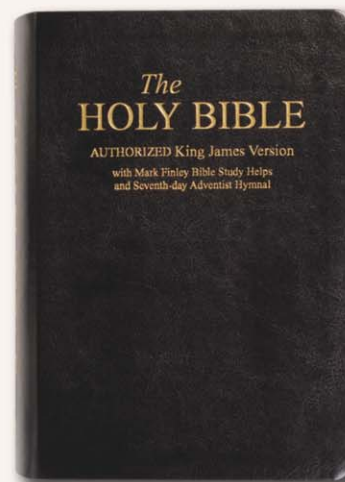
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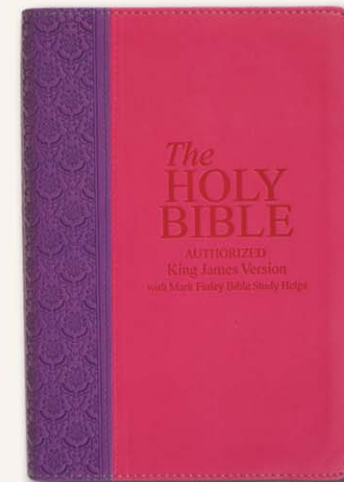
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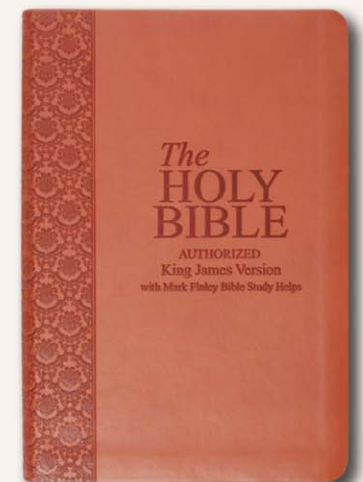
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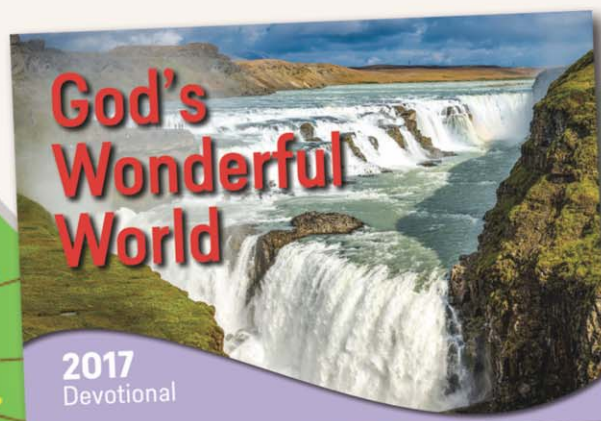
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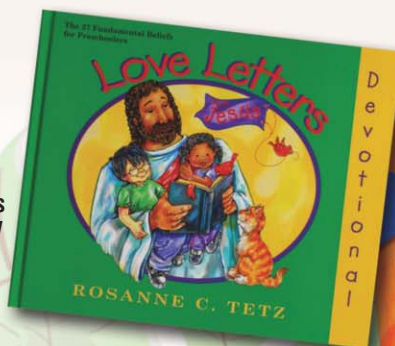
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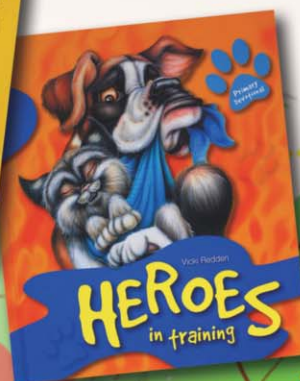
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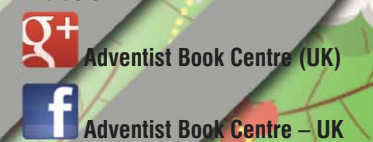
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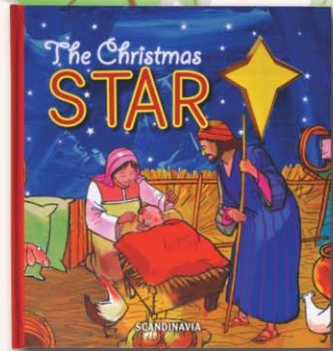
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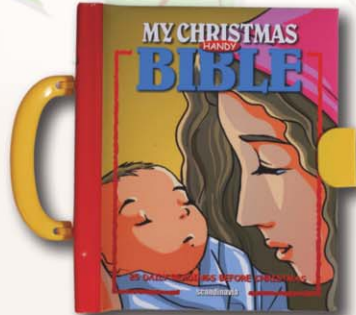
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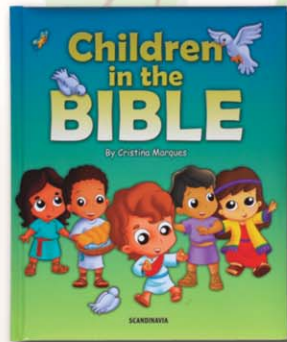
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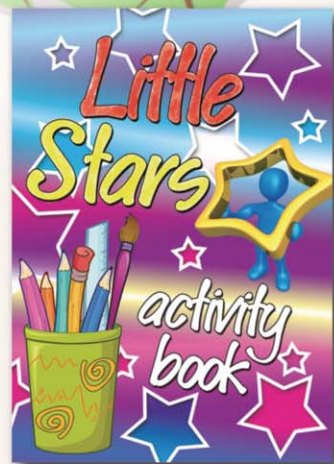
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Jeremiah 29:11

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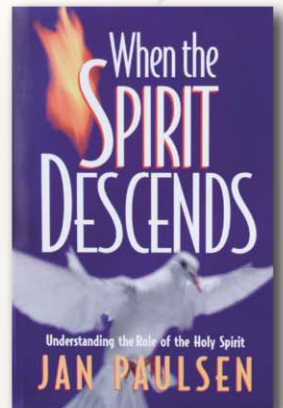
Philippians 4:6

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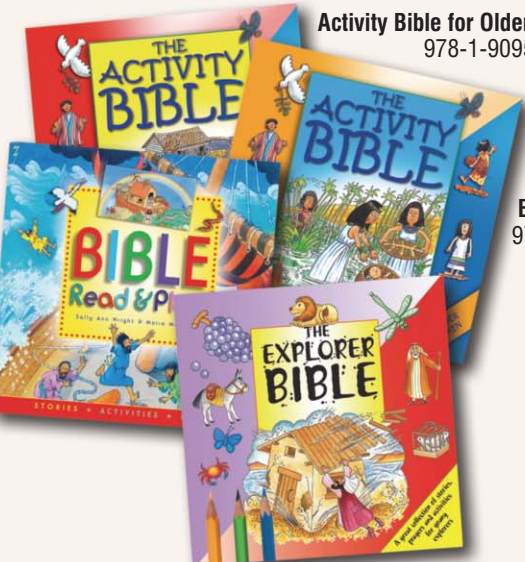
Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

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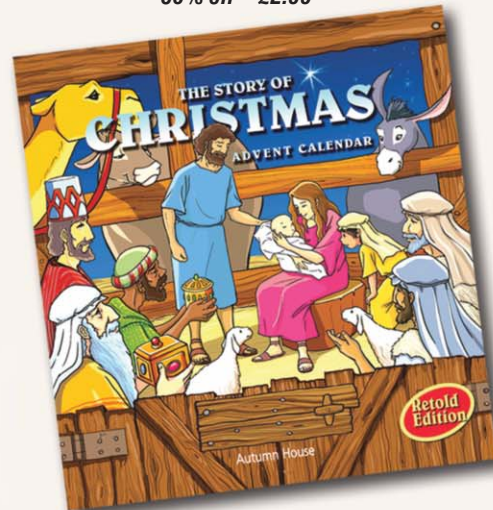
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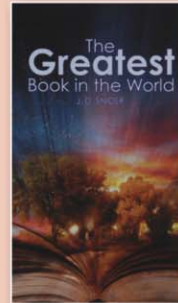


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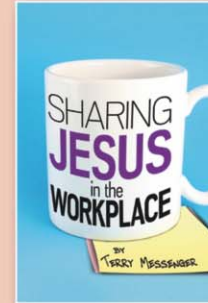
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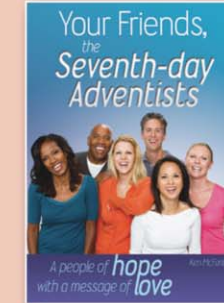
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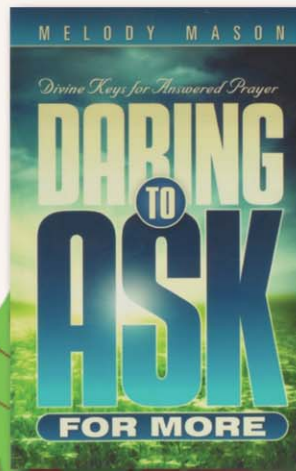
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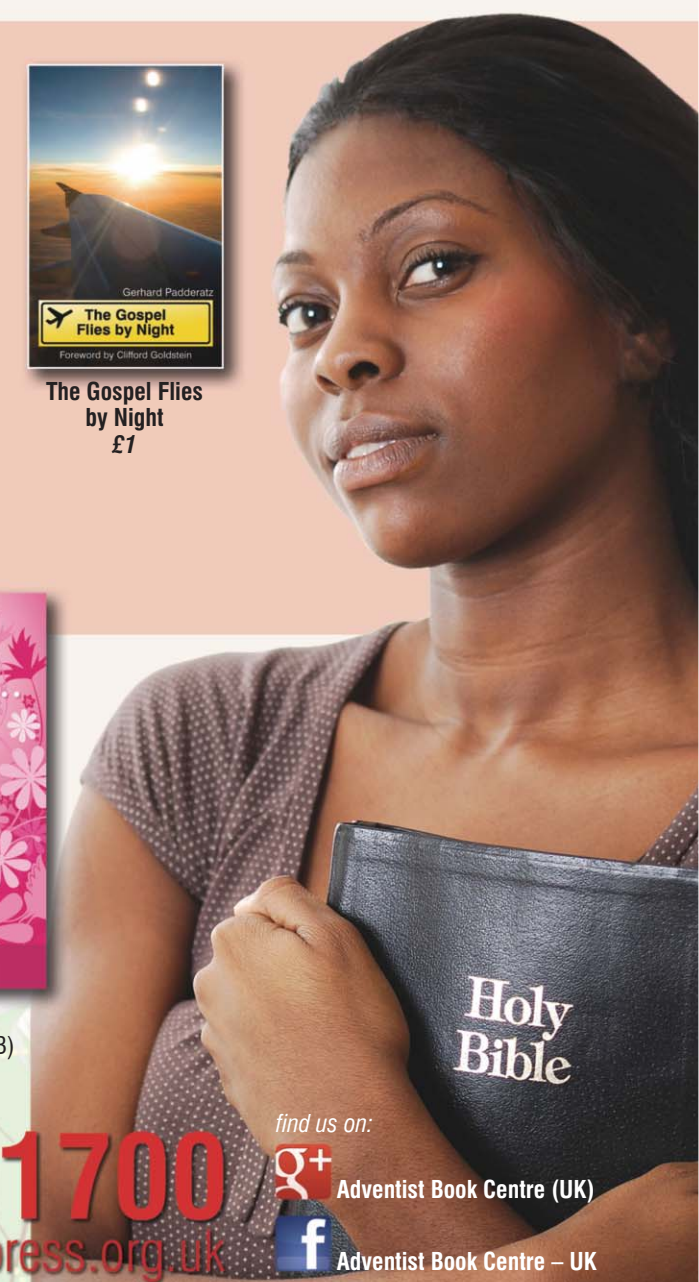
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# Equipping 'Women of Virtue' volunteers

by Hyacinth Gayle, Pastor Maslin Holness and Sharon Platt-McDonald

The British Union Conference Women of Virtue (WOV) programme entered a new phase on Sunday 23 October when it expanded its function to include the training of volunteers on how to use the programme as a ministry and an outreach intervention. Launched in April 2014, the programme, which is based on the godly and productive life of the woman described in Proverbs 31, set out to inspire women to excellence in every facet of their lives.

Then, in May 2016, programme founder and director Sharon Platt-McDonald took the decision to develop chapters of the WOV programme in both the North England Conference (NEC) and the South England Conference (SEC). Hyacinth Gayle was nominated as the NEC WOV chapter co-ordinator and Pastor Maslin Holness (SEC Women's Ministries Director) as the SEC WOV chapter co-ordinator. The strategic development, resourcing and outreach segments of the programme remain under BUC direction.

The next step was to form teams of volunteers in the NEC and SEC who would be responsible for the operational aspects of the programme: hence the training event on 23 October that was held at the Milton Keynes church.

Reflecting on how the WOV programme fits in with the SEC focus on evangelism, Pastor Holness remarked: 'The programme was designed to help the volunteers learn more about the intricacies of the programme, and how it can be used in churches and communities as an evangelistic tool to draw women and families to Christ.'

Pastor Maslin had this to say: 'The atmosphere was indeed filled with God's presence as we began the day with praise and worship. The morning really culminated as the WOV national board members shared their personal experiences as to what the programme had done for them. In the afternoon there was a beautiful buzz in the room as the ladies worked creatively in teams to set up each of the segments they had chosen, supported by the national board members.'

We were encouraged by the feedback from the women with regard to the evangelistic aspect of the programme. According to one of the attendees: 'I am really interested in the 'Community Activists' segment. I want to make an impact in my community so I am intending to bring this programme to my church and use this segment as an outreach tool for women in my community. I am really excited.' Another attendee stated: 'I am so glad I came today; I have really grasped the WOV programme and I am ready to go back to my church to implement it.'

Assessing the impact of the day, Hyacinth Gayle reports: 'God planned for the Women of Virtue volunteers in the SEC and NEC to come together for the first time in order to be trained in this amazing ministry crowned by God Himself. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was evident from the moment we came. . . . The atmosphere was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit, enthusiasm and laughter.'

The evaluations from the attendees captured the extent of the training. Here are two:

'The programme content was excellent. The programme was broken down very well. I loved "Evangelism Outreach". The material was very well presented and packed with relevance.'

'This was a fab day. The programme was very inspiring, very informative, and I have received a blessing. Everything was well planned and in order.'

If you would like to experience the Women of Virtue programme in your church here is a brief overview of what it entails:

## Programme content

Based on the attributes of the Proverbs 31 woman, the programme comprises 13 segments depicting the virtuous and productive life of this exemplary woman. These are:

- Women of Godly Character
- Women As Singles
- Women As Wives
- Women of Strength (emotional resilience, physical well-being and spiritual stamina)
- Women As Homemakers
- Women As Mothers



Photos as supplied

- Women Maintaining Their Appearance & Deportment
- Women As Providers
- Women Who Are Industrious
- Women As Investors
- Women As Community Activists
- Women and Personal Development
- Women Encouraging and Affirming Excellence

A suite of initiatives, training materials and events has been developed around these aspects of the programme.

Earlier this year Sharon received an invitation from the General Conference to train Division leaders on the programme for global rollout at their Women's Ministries advisory. Having now launched international chapters in Grand Cayman, Canada and South Africa, we continue to pray for God's favour on the programme development and the lives of those it will minister to. May it continue to bring glory to God.

## NEC Family Camp fund-raising

This year's North England Conference Family Camp, held at Aberdaron, North Wales, from 22 to 31 July, was blessed with enriching worships, inspiring singing, fantastic food, and great fellowship – along with plenty of sunshine and quite a bit of rain too! Situated at the end of the Llŷn peninsula in North Wales, Glan-yr-Afon has hosted the popular Family Camp for many years. This year's camp will be remembered as the camp where the 150 attendees generously responded to a request to help others less fortunate than themselves.

The 2015 Family Camp raised money for ADRA-UK's Nepal Appeal, following the devastating earthquakes which shook that country in April and May that year. During that camp, spurred on by the children's group (9-11 years), who led the fund-raising programme, the 2015 campers raised £1,082 for the Nepal Appeal.

Family Camp 2016 committed itself to raise money for ADRA Burkino Faso, specifically to purchase hand-pedalled bicycles. This landlocked country in West Africa is one of the poorest countries in the world. There are an estimated 150,000 handicapped people in Burkino Faso, many of them afflicted by polio. The government does not provide any benefits to handicapped people, and life is a great struggle for them. Prejudice from their communities, and even from their families, makes life even more difficult for them. Without the use of their lower limbs, disabled people move around on the power of their hands and arms, and thus cannot make a decent living. For every £70 raised, ADRA Burkino Faso is able to purchase one hand-pedalled tricycle, which changes one person's life immeasurably.

Family Camp attendees were asked to bring along an item or items which represented their home country. These items were then sold off



at an auction, held after Thursday night's Camp Banquet. Items were brought in from all corners of the UK, as well as from places like Mauritius, Finland, Hungary and Burkina Faso itself! Auctioneer Mark Manners-Jones did a fantastic job of keeping everyone entertained and driving up the bids.

During the 10 days of Camp, money was also raised from various other sources, including: tuck shop sales, personal donations, Sabbath offerings, Gift Aid and donation matching. At the end of the camp, £8,000 had been raised for ADRA Burkino Faso. Helia Mateus, Chief Finance Officer for ADRA-UK, who was at Family Camp with her own family, was able to organise the transfer of monies and purchase of hand-pedalled bicycles very soon after the camp ended.

Family Camp 2016 will be remembered for many different reasons: strengthened faith; friendships made and renewed; a real sense of God's presence in this special place. It will also be remembered for this very positive response to help those who are unable to help themselves.

Family Camp 2017 will be held from Friday 21 July to Sunday 30 July – and booking details will be available in the new year.

ANGELA LOGAN

## Diamond wedding anniversary in Exeter

David and Beryl Elliott celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 23 September. They were presented with a plant arrangement and card at the Exeter church the following day and a celebratory cake was shared with members during refreshments after the service.

David will be remembered as the organist at the New Gallery Centre a number of decades ago and both he and Beryl have faithfully served the Exeter church over the years in a variety of roles. We wish them both God's richest blessings in the future.

STELLA JEFFERY







Left to right: Health Ministries team, Maybelle & Rio Espulgar, Luka Mhishi, Jonna Wilkinson, Pearl Walker, Mike Clarry, Paul Manogaran, Michael Walker.



Rebecca Rogers demonstrating her special dish.

## Health Ministry update from Great Yarmouth

The Health Ministry team in Great Yarmouth is still very active under the continued leadership of Pearl Walker. The beginning of autumn saw the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the scene once again.

On Sunday 11 September we conducted another health screening programme in the main undercover shopping centre in the town. We are very grateful for the continued support of the Market Gates management in allowing us to use, free of charge, the main crossroads in the shopping mall for this service to the community. During the course of the day we performed 102 BMI checks, 141 blood sugar tests, 157 blood pressure checks, and 31 carbon monoxide tests. Out of the 15 people who sought medical advice, 11 were referred to their GP. We also had a table full of free health and spiritual literature. On this occasion, more magazines and booklets were taken than previously.

The following Sunday witnessed the continuation of our vegetarian cooking classes in our church building. Although attendance was down due to some being on holiday or unwell, we had an encouraging turnout. Four dishes were presented: first of all, *Mock Duck Bake* by Pearl Walker; followed by *Sautéed Mung Beans* by our minister, Rio Espulgar; and then Rebecca Rogers, one of our young people, bravely faced the public by presenting her first recipe, entitled, *Stir-fried Vegetable Spaghetti*; and finally, to complete the demo, the writer himself made *Macaroni Fritters*. Afterwards, we all sat down together to enjoy the cooking. Expressions of delight and satisfaction filled the room as everyone enjoyed the meal and a developing friendship with our community visitors.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



## Banbridge in bloom!

Roses are red, violets are blue . . .

There is no poem here; I'm just stating facts! Here is another fact: on 3-4 September, Audrey Balderstone spent the weekend at Banbridge, combining her wonderful abilities of preaching and teaching with flower arranging.

Arriving in Northern Ireland, with a car full of flowers, it was hard to tell where the flowers stopped and where the car began! Audrey worked extremely hard to get everything prepared for the weekend ahead, to make sure everything ran smoothly.

On Sabbath morning, Audrey's presentation was entitled 'This Above All'; and it was truly a remarkable experience. The congregation were amazed at the floral displays that Audrey was able to create while simultaneously delivering a thought-provoking

message. Being able to present the Gospel through flowers is such a wonderfully creative way to put the message across, and the presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning, Audrey ran morning and afternoon workshops entitled 'Take 5', during which she demonstrated how to make beautiful arrangements using just five flowers. Members from the Banbridge and Belfast churches signed up for the workshops and we even had people come down from as far as Londonderry to attend.

Adverts were placed in the local papers, and nearby churches were notified too. As a result eight people from the community came to the workshops on Sunday. They were all incredibly friendly, and they commended the

Banbridge members for their warmth and hospitality too. They said that if the church were to do crafts and activities like this again they would certainly attend. It was great that the church was able to make those links with people from the community and leave them with such a positive impression of Adventists – so therein lies the challenge for the church in the weeks and months ahead.

Banbridge wishes to say a huge thank-you to Audrey, and to thank God for the results so far. You might even say it was a 'blooming good' weekend!

PASTOR CURTIS SAMUEL



## Adventist sculptor dies aged 88

A UK Adventist sculptor, Alan Collins, who passed away last week will be remembered for his well-known works. For example, visitors to the Trans-European Division office in St Albans often comment on the striking fibreglass sculpture portraying the three angels of Revelation 14 that graces the building's facade. It has become an iconic St Albans landmark ever since the building was constructed in 1964.

This sculpture is just one of Collins' many religious works of art to be found in both the UK and America, created in a life that spanned 88 years. He called his art 'silent sermons', portraying, as they do, biblical narratives.

Collins passed to his rest on Tuesday, 18 October in Dorchester, following several years of poor health. Born on 15 August 1928 in Beddington, Surrey, Collins developed his artistic skills from a young age, often finding it easier to express himself through visual images than through language.

He developed a lifelong connection to the Adventist Church after having attended a series of meetings by Australian evangelist, Thomas



J. Bradley, in Croydon. He became part of the Holloway church family, where he met and married his first wife, Jeanne Fuegi, in 1954.

Among Collins' most recognised works are numerous sculptures throughout Guildford Cathedral, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede. In 1964 the Royal Society for the Arts awarded him the Sir Otto Beit award for his stone carving of St Martha of Bethany, which is to be found at the cathedral.

In 1968 Collins moved to the United States, where for more than 20 years he taught at Seventh-day Adventist universities, including Atlantic Union College (1968-1971), Andrews University (1971-1979) and La Sierra University (1978-1989). After retiring he moved to Phoenix, Oregon, where he continued to create works in bronze, wood, clay, concrete and stone, before returning to his homeland. His memory will live on through his sculptures and continue to bring glory to God.

VICTOR HULBERT

## Sad and tragic news from the Trans-European Division

'It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Lars-Eric Andersson, husband of Trans-European Division Executive Secretary, Pastor Audrey Andersson. Lars died instantly following an industrial accident near their farm in Sweden on Sunday, 23 October 2016, aged 55.

'Lars loved life on the farm, loved his family, his wife and his Saviour. That combination of love now finds itself expressed in the hope and assurance that rests in our hearts as we look forward even more to the resurrection morning and a time when there will be "no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4, KJV.)

'On behalf of the Trans-European Division and of the wider church family we express our condolences to Audrey, Lars' mother, siblings and extended family as well as to Audrey's extended family. Audrey equally would like to thank people for their support and prayers during this difficult time.

'The last photograph that the TED has of Lars and Audrey together was taken during the recent Adventist World Church Annual

Council when Audrey was presented with the GC Woman of Excellence award. Lars could not have been more proud of her. He will be sorely missed.'

SOURCE: TEDNEWS



SEC MUSIC & NUMBER SEVEN PROMOTIONS  
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**SATURDAY**  
**DEC 3<sup>RD</sup>** 2016  
DOORS: 6:30PM SHOW: 7:30PM

**Gala GOSPEL CONCERT**

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Janice Chandler-Eteme

Marquita Richardson

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OSP (the Orchestra of St Paul's) Ben Palmer (conductor)

Tickets:  
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*Don't*

exploring the longings of a women's heart

**MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup>, TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>, WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup>, FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**Holloway Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
 381, Holloway Road, London N7 0RN  
 7pm - refreshments, 7.30pm - the Word uncut

**SABBATH 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**  
 MOTHER'S PRAYER CONFERENCE DAY  
**London Irish Centre**  
 50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB  
 9.15am - registration/refreshments  
 9.45am - prompt start  
 5pm - end

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For more information please contact **Barbara Lawrence** on **07940007331** or **Toyin Aworinde** on **07533793253**

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 be **ANOINTED**, be **BLESSED!**

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

**Conference details**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016**  
**SPEAKER:** Pastor Reinder Bruinsma – Diversity & Adventist History  
**6.00pm – 7.00pm:** Evening meal  
**7.00pm – 8.30pm:** Diversity & Adventist History

**Sabbath 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lbuzac@secadventist.org.uk) or book **FREE** online by following this link [www.secdivmincd.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.secdivmincd.eventbrite.co.uk)

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