

# Messenger

News to the churches • 27 January 2017 • Volume 122 • 02

## International Sabbath in Dundee

by Professor John Walton



A section of the international buffet.



Zimbabwe Group in musical harmony.



Children's story time.



Students, friends and relatives in national costumes.



Joshua Ghioalda plays a solo on the keyboard.

The flags of 24 countries were paraded by our members as they shared warm welcomes in their own languages during the colourful International Sabbath held on 19 November at Dundee Church. A large audience, including many visitors, heard prayers and Scripture readings in languages from every continent. Exotically costumed musical groups from Ghana, Zimbabwe and the Philippines praised God in their traditional ways; as did Dundee's student and children's groups.

The spirit of harmony and togetherness in Christ was made known by a new poem and in talks about Adventism in Kenya and South Africa. In his address the special guest, Pastor Paul Tompkins, newly elected Scottish Mission president, illustrated the day's theme – 'With One

Voice' – from personal experiences. He mentioned that the triangle, the only musical instrument he was trusted to play as a child, simple though it is, plays a key role in orchestral concerts. In a similar way every diverse individual from every culture has a key role in God's inclusive community.

The high point for the many food lovers was undoubtedly the international buffet lunch. It was held in the church hall, pleasingly decorated with displays of pictures and artefacts illustrating each country and its culture. The good spirit of co-operation and international unity in the global Adventist Church must have been apparent to our visitors who came from all walks of life.



## South England Conference vacancies

**An experienced Accountant/Associate Treasurer** is required at our Watford head office to assist with key accounting functions within the Treasury Department and report to the Conference Treasurer.

Key responsibilities for the Associate Treasurer will include but not be limited to:

- A rollout of the complete Church Pal software to the churches; • A project to update the valuation of all of the church-owned properties in the SEC;
- Management and control of 'internal audit' of the churches by contractors;
- New social media channels for giving by church members (giving by text, apps and touchless); and • The overhaul of the monthly management accounts pack and in-house preparation of statutory statements for the Executive Committee.

Responsibilities will depend on qualifications, and based on the level of experience the salary will range from £28,912.94 to £35,964.24 per annum.

The successful candidate will need to be a qualified/part-qualified accountant with treasury experience in a busy and large charitable or corporate environment, and able to commence employment with immediate effect.

The South England Conference is offering this fast-paced and interesting full-time position within the organisation with the opportunity for further professional development after a qualifying period.

The successful candidate is required to have the right to work within the UK and all necessary checks, which include a pre-employment medical, references and an enhanced DBS check, will be carried out. Previous applicants need not submit their interest.

**Full-time Local Church Trainer and Auditor:** Based at our Watford offices and reporting to the South England Conference Treasurer, the purpose of the role is to provide auditing and treasurer training services to our churches within the South England Conference.

Depending on experience, salary (which includes London Weighting Allowance) will range between £26,796.84 and £34,553.88 per annum.

*The successful candidate will be required to have:*

- Management or Accounting first degree
- ACCA or other relevant postgraduate qualification (part-qualified will be considered)
- Ability to learn new accounting software and train others in its use
- Proven ability to oversee the work of others
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office software – Word, Outlook, PowerPoint and Excel
- Knowledge of Sun Plus or similar accounting package would be advantageous
- Knowledge and experience of working in the not-for-profit environment would be advantageous.

*Essential criteria:*

- Empathy for the work, values and ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Excellent organisational skills
- A keen eye for detail
- Excellent communication skills
- Flexibility and the willingness to adapt to constantly changing routines, as well as the ability to work alone
- The ability to meet tight deadlines
- The ability to build strong relationships with church members, work colleagues and members of the public.

The successful candidate is required to have the right to work in the UK. A valid passport will be necessary as some overseas travel may be involved. Necessary Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out.

Applicants are invited to request an application form, person specification and job description from:

Mrs Jacqui Crawford – Human Resources Manager, South England Conference, 23 St Johns Road, Watford, Herts. WD17 1PZ.

Or email: [jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk)

**Deadline for both applications: 28 February 2017.**

*The South England Conference is an equal opportunities employer.*



## Enhancing Health

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

### January – juggle your J's

In the first Enhancing Health article for this year we set out a positive well-being forecast for 2017. Today we will begin to provide some action points to get us going on our wellness journey.

#### Juicing for health maintenance

A major question is, why juice when you could eat the whole fruit with the added benefits to health from its fibre? Identifying *when* it might be necessary to include juicing as part of the diet is important: for example, during an occasional fast, following an illness, and prior to commencing full meals if eating has been problematic. A clear understanding of dietary requirements and cautions with some health conditions is advised.

Nutritional advice from the Mayo Clinic regarding juicing states:

*'If you do try juicing, make only as much juice as you can drink at one time because fresh squeezed juice can quickly develop harmful bacteria.'* Katherine Zeratsky, RD, LD.<sup>1</sup> And when juicing, try to keep some of the pulp. Not only does it have healthy fibre, but it can help fill you up.

Beverly Ramage's excellent book – *Juicing for Life* – is available from the Stanborough Press and it contains some amazing recipes on how to use fruits and vegetables to enhance our well-being: a 'must buy' for 2017.

#### Jumping

A study by NASA found that using a rebounder or trampoline is a beneficial exercise as it improves the oxygenation of the body's cells. It also helps astronauts recover and regain bone and muscle mass after being in space.<sup>2</sup>

Safety tips include keeping your knees bent or just simply bouncing if you are unable to jump.

Skipping is great for the physically fit. Peter Sculman, Associate Professor of Cardiology/Pulmonary Medicine, from the University of Connecticut Health Centre in Farmington, states: 'It's certainly good for the heart. . . . It strengthens the upper and lower body and burns a lot of calories in a short time. . . .'<sup>3</sup>

#### Joy

A variety of scientific studies<sup>4</sup> have demonstrated that a joyful attitude can do the following:

- Increase blood flow by expanding our endothelium (the lining of the blood vessels that regulates blood flow)
- Activate endorphins (cause the release of these 'happy hormones')
- Lower blood sugar (suppress spikes in blood glucose)
- Increase immune function (increase activity of natural killer cells)

Having a positive mindset can enhance your mental, spiritual and physical well-being. The Bible said it first in Proverbs 17:22, where we read (NKJV): 'A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.'

Wishing you a juicy, jumping and joyful January!

#### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/nutrition-and-healthy-eating/expert-answers/juicing/faq-20058020>

<sup>2</sup><https://wellnessmama.com/13915/rebounding-benefits/>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/features/skipping-rope-doesnt-skip-workout#1>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.organicauthority.com/health/prescription-for-joy-4-fabulous-health-benefits-of-laughter.html>

# editorial

There are a number of reasons why my wife and I trade the gloomy skies and cold weather of the UK for the penetrating warmth, bright blue skies and temperate seas of South Africa each year-end. Among them are the joys of spending time with close family and long-time friends; the special taste and smell of sun-ripened fruit; and the country's endless variety of breathtaking 'big sky' landscapes.

Many of those landscapes are associated with South Africa's national parks, provincial game reserves and private game lodges. Of these, Table Mountain National Park and Kruger National Park are probably among the most famous – perhaps you have visited them yourself.

#### Face to face with wildebeest

During December and January just past, Elize and I had the pleasure of visiting three game parks. One of those visits involved a 10.5km hike through a combination of dense bush and waving grassland. Along the trail we had the unexpected delight of surprising a small herd of wildebeest, including two newborns that were slow in straightening their spindly legs and heading off. We were so close that I can confirm the accuracy of this description:

*'There is no other antelope like the wildebeest. It looks like it was assembled from spare parts – the forequarters could have come from an ox, the hindquarters from an antelope and the mane and tail from a horse.'*<sup>1</sup>

#### To an elephant paradise

On another day we paid a visit to one of the most densely populated elephant conservancies in the world: the Addo Elephant Park on the east coast of South Africa. This elephant paradise is home to more than 550 of these magnificent creatures, and during our visit we saw well over a hundred of them spread over three different waterholes!

Most large parks in Africa strive to stock the 'big five' – the African lion, African elephant, Cape buffalo, African leopard and rhinoceros – regarded by many as the most dangerous animals to hunt on foot. This park, however,



## Missing but not lost

goes a step further. It's the only one on earth that has what it calls the 'big seven': the 'big five' plus southern right whales and great white sharks (in its adjacent marine reserve).<sup>2</sup>

#### We shared the day

We shared the visit with two very good friends, Chris and Verna, who live not far from the park. They had planned a picnic lunch in the shady grounds of the main camp, where we were fortunate enough to find a vacant table and two benches. There we enjoyed good food and warm fellowship against a background of animated elephant conversation from the adjacent waterhole: with a full range of their rumbling, barking, snorting, shrieking and chirping!<sup>3</sup>

Once the meal was over, while the ladies explored the washrooms, Chris and I dodged cars and tourist buses to carry the cool box back to our vehicle. This done, we wandered over to the camp shop to buy ourselves ice creams.

#### Then Verna appeared . . .

Then, suddenly, Verna appeared . . . and I knew something was wrong. *'I've lost my bag!'* she blurted out, while making a beeline for the picnic area and the table we had used. But there was no sign of it, so Verna headed back to the washroom – just to double-check. Chris and I headed back to the car. I still don't know why, but when panic sets in one is prone to be irrational. We both knew we hadn't carried the handbag with us to the car!

There were hundreds of tourists at the main camp complex that day. The restaurant was packed; the shop was full, as were the museum, the hide and the picnic area. We met Verna on her way back from the washroom. There was still no sign of her bag.

Verna is the office manager of their family business. What was in that bag: office and safe keys, company debit and credit cards, important codes and passwords, her mobile phone, identity document and driver's licence? The staff wages due to be paid the next day? I don't exactly know, but I have never seen her so worried before!

#### Pray!

*'Stop panicking and pray!'* I said to myself. Then, *'Lord, we see them only once a year. Please don't let the day end like this! Please!'*

The answer that flashed was brief and to the point: *'Assure Verna that there are good and honest people here today. Suggest that she go to the information desk at the main office and ask them if anyone has handed in her bag!'*

I blurted out the suggestion and followed her through the parking area back to the complex. By this time people were staring at us, sensing that something was amiss.

Then, at the entrance to the information office, a smiling young woman stepped forward and politely asked Verna if she was looking for her bag! *'I found one on the windowsill of the ladies' washroom. Just ask for it at the desk.'* And just as Verna was doing so, her phone began to ring . . . in the bag. It was Chris – and ownership was confirmed!

#### As 2016 drew to a close . . .

And so, as the old year drew to a close, God gave me a sharp reminder that **panic never solves problems.**

That's the same lesson that the Israelites learnt when they were cornered at the Red Sea by an angry Egyptian army (Exodus 14:13-14, *The Message*):

*'Moses spoke to the people: "Don't be afraid. Stand firm and watch God do his work of salvation for you today. Take a good look at the Egyptians today for you're never going to see them again. God will fight the battle for you. And you? You keep your mouths shut!"'*

**Simply put . . . pray, don't panic!**

<sup>1</sup><http://www.outtoafrika.nl/animals/engwildebeest.html>

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.sa-venues.com/game-reserves/ec\\_addo.htm](http://www.sa-venues.com/game-reserves/ec_addo.htm)

<sup>3</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=153xbn1k2H8>



Julian Hibbert  
Editor





## How's this for a 2017 resolution? Let's make allowances for each other's faults

by Stephen Holden

Many retailers have a designated location in-store for a selection of merchandise they label as 'reduced', 'discounted' or even 'quality seconds'.

These are items which, through minor fault of manufacture or subsequent damage, are sold, to an informed public, at a reduced rate, rather than discarded as waste.

Such goods may have failed strict quality control tests in their place of manufacture or have been returned by unhappy customers seeking a refund on their purchase.

The extent of damage or 'fault in manufacture' which may result in an item being resold as a 'second' can vary widely. The fault may not necessarily be obvious, and you may have to really look closely to discover what it is:

- A stain on an item of clothing – that may or may not come out!
- A single pulled thread on a garment or a mis-sewn seam.
- A loose handle or a wonky leg on a piece of furniture or a scratch on its polished surface.
- A superficial hairline crack in a piece of pottery, or one item missing from what formerly comprised a set.

Once these seconds have been purchased there is usually no opportunity of return, refund or exchange. They are 'sold as seen and approved', which invalidates any warranty or guarantee offered with 'perfect goods'.

Think about those you know and love – are they perfect? Or is there a slight flaw here, a minor fault there? An occasional hint of deception, or irritability (especially when hungry), a mean streak, an uncontrolled temper, an

aggressive attitude or the voicing of ill-conceived words? If we look for perfection in others we will surely be disappointed.

Romans 3:10 tells us there is no one who always does what's right – no, not even one! In reality, we are all in the wrong outlet to be considered 'perfect goods'. Many discount stores rely on the availability of 'quality seconds' to provide a major contribution to their turnover. Such is the world in which we live.

When we look at others we may well feel that we've 'walked down the wrong shopping aisle' and are surrounded by 'seconds'. But the only way to foster a real relationship with anybody is to love and accept them, as they are, warts and all!

If we persist in seeing everyone around us as flawed and faulty, all our relationships will become an endless quest to improve others, control them, or pretend they are what they are not – perfect goods!

Thomas Merton is quoted as saying, 'Love is letting those we love be perfectly themselves and not twisting them to fit our own image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves seen in them.' He goes on to say, 'An indication of maturity is accepting that nobody is perfect, but loving them despite their shortcomings.'

Colossians 3:13 (NLT) urges us to 'make allowance for each other's faults' and to 'forgive anyone who offends you'. Remember, the Lord forgave you,



so you must forgive others.

And, remember, it goes on to say (verse 14) that the most important item of clothing you must wear in public is love – love 'which binds us all together in perfect harmony'.

A look at our reflection in the dressing mirror might reveal that we, like others, were flawed at manufacture and may well have sustained further damage along life's way.

God, through the merits of Jesus, however, offers us a full guarantee, as if we were 'perfect goods' without fault. In spite of all our imperfections, He places a value on us which He is never prepared to discount.

**Aberdaron**  
URGENT REQUEST (Aberdaron Camp)  
Skilled volunteer craftsmen required

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

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

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



## The global challenge of poverty confronts each of us

by Patrick McKerrow\*

As Adventists we know that poverty is an international shame in a world of plenty. Millions die annually from extreme poverty because they are too poor to stay alive. We all know that we have the capability to stop this needless inhumanity.

At the beginning of the new millennium world leaders set up projects and initiatives to try and cut poverty in half by 2015 (UN Millennium Declaration). Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, author of *The End to Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, encapsulates the poverty issue this way: 'There is no excuse. The deaths are on our watch. The deaths are in our name. The deaths can stop' (speaking at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, 30 March 2005).

He continues, 'The reason people die of extreme poverty is that they have nothing. They don't need a lot to stay alive, and they don't even need a lot to start the process of economic development. It would not require heroism on our part in order to help save those lives and help to promote economic

development where it is not occurring now on the planet. It would just take having our eyes opened. It would take some attention. It would take a breakthrough in our country from doing nothing to doing something, because we really are, essentially, doing nothing right now. That is the sad, hard fact.'

In his Nobel Lecture on 11 December 1964, Martin Luther King noted, 'There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we have the resources to get rid of it. More than a century and a half ago people began to be disturbed about the twin problems of population and production. A thoughtful Englishman named Malthus wrote a book that set forth some rather frightening conclusions. He predicted that the human family was gradually moving towards global starvation because the world was producing people faster than it was producing food and material to support them.<sup>1</sup> Later scientists, however, disproved the conclusion of Malthus, and revealed that he had vastly underestimated the resources of the world and the resourcefulness of man.' (Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.)

While it is clear that we have enough resources to share among us, it would seem the message expressed so profoundly by Jesus Christ about who is our brother remains unheeded. This is what Dr King called a 'poverty of the spirit'.

Dr King explained all those years ago: 'There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will. The well-off and the secure have too often become indifferent and oblivious to the poverty and deprivation in their midst. The poor in our countries have been shut out of our minds, and driven from the mainstream of our societies, because we have allowed them to become invisible. Just as nonviolence exposed the ugliness of racial injustice, so must the infection and sickness of poverty be exposed and healed – not only its symptoms, but its basic causes. This, too, will be a fierce struggle, but we must not be afraid to pursue the remedy, no matter how formidable the task.'

In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: 'I think people are beginning to realise that you can't have pockets of prosperity in one part of the world and huge deserts of poverty and deprivation and think that you can have a stable and secure world.'<sup>2</sup>

Mary Robinson, who was the first woman president of Ireland and former UN high commissioner for human rights, notes that 'Poverty . . . is a form of violence. Extreme poverty robs people of all their rights: their right to health, to education, to dignity, to equality of opportunity and often of the right to life itself.'<sup>3</sup>

Here in the UK, matters may look difficult right now following Brexit, but, whatever the issues that confront the UK Government at present, poverty in our world still remains a live issue.

Jesus said:

'Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

'And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' Matthew 25:37-40 (KJV).

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Robert Malthus, 1766-1834, *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, 1798  
<sup>2</sup>Tutu: Poverty fuelling terror', CNN, 16 September 2007  
<sup>3</sup>The UN's poverty-fighting programme lacks teeth', *The Guardian*, 15 June 2010

(\*Patrick McKerrow is an alumnus of the London School of Economics.)







## Ever thought of writing for God?

by Pastor Richard Daly, BUC Communication and Media Director

Most times we just write for ourselves: making notes, jotting down bits of information, making entries in diaries or journals. Either that or we write to someone else: an email, a letter or maybe a sermon. Either way, the focus is on trying to communicate to someone information we would like to share regarding our own views or opinions.

So, have you ever thought about writing for God? By this I mean providing spiritual insight on behalf of God that will encourage, inspire and motivate someone else. Writing for God involves you becoming an instrument by which God can inspire you with thoughts that may inspire others. This was the basis on which men and women were used to write the Bible as we have it today, 'for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit' (2 Peter 1:21, NKJV). It was their thoughts that were inspired, enabling them to translate those thoughts into words that had meaning in their own cultural settings. They used language that was familiar to them in the context in which they lived. The good news is that God still wants to use you in the same way today, if you are willing.

In Scripture we often read of God instructing people to write down the things they had seen and heard to bring encouragement or guidance to someone else. For example, God said to Isaiah, 'Now go and write down these words. Write them in a book. They will stand until the end of time as a witness' (Isaiah 30:8, NLT).

This verse provides a few good reasons why it's important to write for God and seek to get your works published. Many people have asked me questions like this: How do I get into writing? How do I find time to write? How can I get my work published? These are some of the questions I will tackle over this two-part series.

First let me explore the benefits of getting your work onto paper. Going back to the verse above, spoken to Isaiah, here are some main points:

- **Writing is therapeutic.** It enables you to clear your mind. It puts words to your thoughts in a constructive way. At those times when you have many thoughts rolling through your mind, putting them down on paper releases that tension and enables you to think more constructively.

- **Writing involves sacrifice.** Isaiah was told, 'Now go and write down these words.' God wanted him to make a break in his usual routine and make time to write. You must make that conscious decision to put aside time during the part of your day when your mind is more attentive.
- **Don't procrastinate.** Putting off writing when some inspirational thought has come to mind is easily done: but, inevitably, a delay could result in you losing that inspired thought. Again, God said to Isaiah, 'Now go' – not tomorrow, but *now*. God mandated a sense of urgency – He wanted immediate action!
- **Writing is an awesome privilege.** Isaiah was told to write 'these words': in other words, he was given specific guidance in what to write. It was not any words, but 'these words'. When you write God's words you will realise the awesomeness of the moment you are in.
- **Writing leaves a legacy.** Spoken words will evaporate and may never be remembered, but your written word can outlive you. Isaiah was told, 'They will stand until the end of time as a witness.' That's what separates the written word from all other forms of communication. It leaves a legacy that can bring hope and encouragement to someone long after you have written the article or book.

I have had the privilege of having a book



published by the Stanborough Press. It is called *God's Little Book of Prayer*. About a year after its publication I received a letter from a man in Zimbabwe who explained that he had been on the verge of suicide when someone handed him a copy of it.

His life had spiralled into depression at the loss of his wife and daughter in a fatal car accident. He found no way out of his dismay and darkness until he started reading that little book. The words brought renewed hope and strength to his soul. He began to believe again. He gave his life to Christ and experienced a new focus for the future.

He wrote to me, thanking me for that little book which saved his life. I would like to think that the Holy Spirit led him to that book (or led the book to him), and that its words brought him into a connection with the divine Author and Sustainer of life. When I read that letter I was moved with humility and awe to know that at the same time I was either sleeping, or eating, or doing something completely different, through the written word someone across the globe was reading that book and making a decision for Christ through a few words God had led me to write.

Writing for God is indeed a wonderful honour. You never quite know the impact the words you have written and published will have on someone else. In the next article, I will explore how to get your work published. Meanwhile, start thinking today about how you can get into the practice of writing.

### Re: Church streamlining

Dear Editor  
I welcome the renewed calls for streamlining the Church's organisation by Cor Sanders (4 November, 2016, page 7) and others. This was raised in 2011 by our then-president, Pastor McFarlane. Despite its common sense, his call was quickly kicked into the long grass, which was a great shame. We have continued to waste precious resources of personnel and cash by failing to address this issue, which is vital for the ongoing health of our Church.

Cutting out one layer of management would clearly free a number of experienced pastors and staff to work at the 'coalface' where they are so desperately needed if we are to fulfil our Lord's great

commission.

Equally, it would ease the financial position as summarised by Earl Ramharacksingh in the *MESSENGER* of 9 December 2016. Removing one level of management would make it easier to balance our books, by cutting out duplicated functions.

How best to do this is, as Pastor McFarlane said, a matter requiring careful study. I would not be so foolish as to propose the exact approach that should be taken; however, the need for change is clearly, urgently, staring us in the face. It is a challenge we should not duck again. There comes a time when all organisations have to reform themselves to ensure that they flourish.

ALLAN KISSACK, EXETER CHURCH

## The Stanborough Press Ltd Vacancy for a Director/Trustee

The Stanborough Press Ltd, an institution of the British Union Conference, is a registered charity that involves itself primarily in the origination, publication and distribution of Seventh-day Adventist literature both in the United Kingdom and abroad. Its head office is located on the outskirts of Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The Stanborough Press Ltd wishes to appoint at least one additional board member to function as a Director (Trustee) of the charity and hereby invites interested and suitably skilled persons to submit their CVs for consideration.

Among the areas in which the charity seeks additional skills and expertise at board level are:

- Health and wellness
- Business and marketing
- Finance and accounting
- Spiritual development
- Youth and children's literature
- Information technology

To register your interest in serving in this capacity kindly email your CV to Elisabeth Parkinson at [eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk) by not later than **15 February 2017**. Any related enquiries may be addressed to the same person.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



# At work and play in Cambodia

by Sophie Gordon, Volunteering Programmes Officer (ADRA-UK)

Connections trips are becoming a 'staple' event on the ADRA-UK calendar and here is our report on the one to Cambodia late last year.

This beautiful country is a popular destination for travel and tourism, boasting some of the world's most interesting sights. Cambodia also has another side to it – away from the wealth and extravagance of the city life many still live under difficult circumstances.

For this reason our UK volunteers left behind their comfortable lives for one united purpose – to benefit the poor and vulnerable of this nation.

Upon arriving in Cambodia, the 15 team members undertook a 12-hour-long trip to Phnom Penh, the capital city, then moved on to the Kompong Thom Province to take part in a demanding project affecting several villages.

The volunteers were to construct latrines and water tanks (in which to harvest rainwater); prepare gardens, children's playgrounds and shelters; and involve themselves in daily kids and mothers' clubs.

It is common for rural dwellers to live in crowded spaces with the family, its livestock and farming equipment in close proximity. This forces family members to walk far to find secluded spots to use as toilets. Under such conditions the use of a proper latrine nearby saves time and promotes both hygiene and community health. For this reason the volunteers aimed at finishing four latrines a day, in addition to the involvement in the various clubs.

This task was not made easier by the weather conditions. There is nothing like a tropical rainstorm – hours of heavy rain – to disrupt a good day's work. Fortunately, God mercifully let many of the subsequent downpours fall overnight, which helped to keep the humidity down and the daily work to a maximum.

Even with a career builder on the team, the manual labour needed for each day pushed people to their limits. While a builder usually has a variety of tools and mechanical equipment at their disposal in the UK, it is often sheer manpower that is used to complete tasks in developing areas. It was when strength and determination were needed most that the strong team morale shone through! Our group of strangers surely became a workforce and a family over that period of two weeks.

In the wooden and straw-roofed homes, our volunteers found some of the most humble, kind and grateful people. If there was any way in which the locals could help, whether digging holes in simmering heat, helping to paint, carrying or fixing equipment in place, they were more than happy to be involved.

The strong sense of community and togetherness exhibited by the Cambodians left a lasting influence on the team. The homes where we worked were chosen because their occupants saw the little they had as something for the entire community. They were happy for the local children to have a playground on their land, or the latrine, as these were things that could bring joy and help to all. This was a powerful illustration of love in action: something that speaks strongly of the influence of God, even in those who might not know it is His Spirit who leads them to act for the good of others.

We saw the same beautiful spirit in the multitude of children who attended each worksite. Just to know there were 'foreigners' in their village was enough to bring children from all surrounding areas. They watched silently at first, but were soon trying to communicate the few words of English they knew, posing for photos, showing us their dances or simply touching our hair in wonder and amusement. The kids' clubs were the key ways in which we interacted with children, teaching them the alphabet, simple counting methods, how to wash their hands and brush their teeth, and of course a few games and songs they could remember us by after we left each day. It was so important to create a space for the children, to let them know their friends from around the world care about them and are willing to travel thousands of miles to bring smiles to their faces.

At the mothers' clubs our volunteers watched as health workers taught nursing mums the best food to feed their children. They sat attentively, eager to improve the health of their households, with many also receiving the chance to learn to read and thereby help their children too. It is often women who are the most disenfranchised in developing countries, and it was a source of pride and encouragement for the volunteers to see how ADRA is trying to improve women's health and education around the world. There was also a lot of laughter and fun at these meetings, a space for the women of the



community to come together to talk, learn and socialise.

There were many lessons for the group to learn: especially when it came to their daily food! Day after day, for all three meals, there was rice and very little variety among the extras. The team ate humbly, but, more importantly, just as the locals. This was an eye-opening experience, as it made all aware of the abundance of choice we have in our own daily lives, and how limited the same choice is for others – largely on account of geography.

The volunteers shared many a new experience while in Cambodia, whether it was their first time leading morning devotion for a group, or preaching overseas, as two of our members did each Sabbath. Perhaps one of the most memorable events was walking on water to church! The route to a school church had been flooded and meant the group had to walk across wooden planks, covered in water, to worship. Waiting for us there was a class of around 100 children with songs in Khmer and English, worshipping in the classroom where they studied during the week.

All in all, whether in the field, in the church or in the city – our ADRA Connections trip to Cambodia was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will not be forgotten by those who attended. The sights, sounds and unpredictable weather, but most of all the people, were a reminder of how, both near and far, we are all connected and partakers of God's love. There is nowhere in the world that His love, guidance and care are not experienced. It is often our volunteers who feel they have benefited the most when travelling, as they see how having little in terms of 'things' can equal so much more in terms of character, kindness and community.

This is just one of the many stories from an ADRA Connections excursion! With trips to the Philippines, Nepal and Thailand in the pipeline for 2017, your own experience awaits you! Don't wait – contact [volunteering@adra.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@adra.org.uk) today to be put on our mailing list and be among the first to hear of our volunteering opportunities.

Also look out for our next Connections trip launching this month!





THE ADVENTIST VOLUNTEERING SERVICES (TED & SEC)  
AND THE COMMUNITY SERVICES (SEC)  
INVITE YOU ON A MISSION TRIP

# Project Ghana 2017

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

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

**NEEDED: CASH DONATIONS, BOOKS, FUNCTIONING COMPUTERS, CLOTHING, TOILETRIES, SHOES (ALL NEW OR IN VERY GOOD CONDITION)**

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

"There's no better time to do this than right now, Join this life changing mission today"

LIKE US    Project Ghana 2017  
EMAIL [projectghana2017@gmail.com](mailto:projectghana2017@gmail.com)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

# Project Ghana 2017

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

**Volunteers Contribution £1,500:**  
This covers the cost of your flight, travel, food and accommodation. Volunteers can either make full payments or pay in instalments to:  
Account Number: 069 533 94  
Sort Code: 07-04-36  
Nationwide Bank

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

For all those interested to go on this mission project  
There will be a special meeting on **30th October 2016**  
at the **Advent Centre** from 12pm

LIKE US    Project Ghana 2017  
EMAIL [projectghana2017@gmail.com](mailto:projectghana2017@gmail.com)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

What can you buy for 10p a day?  
**A Smile for a Child**  
.....  
sign up for direct debit today!

 ADRA UK  
[adra.org.uk](http://adra.org.uk)  
 [www.facebook.com/ADRAUK](http://www.facebook.com/ADRAUK)  [teamadra](https://www.instagram.com/teamadra)  
 [youtube.com/adrauk](http://youtube.com/adrauk)  
Registered charity 1074937 (SCO37726 - IOM1101)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Based on the arrangements of  
Mervyn Warren, Ron Huff & Greg Nelson  
*Inspiration Gospel Music*  
presents... *Featuring The UK National Gospel Community Choir*  
Live Brass  
Live String Ensemble  
Live Gospel Band  
UK National Gospel Chorus  
Special Guest Soloists

# YOUNG SOULFUL MESSIAH 2

*A New Vision*

15th April 2017  
Venue: Studio 7, Kings Meadow Campus,  
Nottingham NG7 2NR  
Doors Open: 7.00pm  
Tickets: £10.00/£12.00/£14.00 (priority seating)  
Contact: Kelly Christie-Phillips 07989242109  
email: [cardcean@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cardcean@yahoo.co.uk)

**Early Bird & Group Ticket Sales now on:**  
£9.50 Advanced Purchase by 31/10/2016  
£10.00 return or Free £10.00 ticket on door for every 10 tickets bought by 15/01/2017

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

# press release



## A new partnership!

Imagine this familiar scenario . . .

**Door knocker:** 'Good morning! I am collecting for the worldwide work of ADRA! Would you like to donate?'

**Resident:** 'Do you have projects in the UK?'

**Door knocker:** 'No, we help those primarily in poverty overseas.'

Well that is all about to change!

For decades, ADRA-UK has been synonymous with creating opportunities for thousands of people in need overseas. This is a proud achievement for which we are extremely thankful! By training and support, improving long-term food sources, promoting sustainable economic development, giving access to clean water and sanitation and helping men and women work better together – ADRA has been changing the lives of millions!

Yet, did you know that the strength of ADRA is really the church? ADRA responds when disaster strikes around the globe; and, wherever there is a church, even when other aid agencies cannot land to provide relief, ADRA can! The relationship between ADRA and the church is vital. In light of this connection, the Trustees of the charity took a groundbreaking vote that will enable ADRA to also help UK citizens who are living in difficult conditions.

Working in partnership with Adventist Community Services (ACS), ADRA will assist initiatives such as community centres, disability support projects, crisis relief, foodbanks and soup kitchens. In co-operation with the local Adventist church and ACS, we will help less-advantaged people have access to more opportunities, creating environments for them to reach their potential and thrive!

Our beloved and main fund-raising method, the Annual Appeal, will help us achieve this great work. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the door-to-door collection will now support UK-based projects. Ten percent will be made directly available to fund community outreach programmes. (The ACS Department at the British Union Conference will manage the funds made available by ADRA-UK.)

Bert Smit, ADRA-UK's CEO, comments, 'This is a historic decision to work alongside Adventist Community Services in helping suffering people right here in our country!' Sharon Platt-McDonald, ACS's Director at the BUC, is delighted: 'Thanks to ADRA and our local churches, we will now be able to make a significant change in the lives of many individuals facing challenges. We are proud and excited to be able to increase the scope of our work in the local community.'

**Door knocker:** 'Good morning! I am collecting for the worldwide work of ADRA! Would you like to donate?'

**Resident:** 'Do you have projects in the UK?'

**Door knocker:** 'Yes! 20% of your donation today will stay to help people *right here* in the UK!'

Every penny counts, and, as ADRA is preparing to launch the 2017 Annual Appeal, the key message that we can serve both here *and* overseas is an important one. Thank you for helping to lift people out of poverty!



Right: Hammering nails into wood to demonstrate the impact of harsh words.

Far right: Those who attended the talks at Bene Vides VI, where Dee spoke.

Below: The Newbold team. Below right: Time for a selfie at the Children's Programme. Dee with some of the children who were excited to take pictures with English-speaking people.



## 50 commit to Christ during Newbold mission trip to Brazil

by Kirsty Watkins, Newbold Publications Co-ordinator

Nine members of the Newbold community joined colleagues and lay members from the South England Conference (SEC) on a two-week mission trip to Brazil from 15 October to 1 November last year.

The eight students were accompanied by Dr Bjørn Ottesen, Head of the Department of Theological Studies, and Pastor Rafael Luz from the SEC, on the trip, which included visits to Adventist organisations in São Paulo and an evangelistic mission trip in the country's north-east.

The series of evangelistic talks, held in Benevides, a major northern city, was the culmination of a longer campaign of meetings and Bible studies held by some of the local Adventist churches. Over 500 attended the eight-day series of meetings, held in 11 separate churches, with the majority of the visitors being non-members.

'Newbold has a good relationship with the Church in Brazil, with many young people and several of the Church's leaders having studied on the Newbold campus. Church growth is incredibly strong in the north of Brazil, and it is an area where we felt we could really contribute to the evangelistic efforts of the local churches,' said Dr Ottesen.

The group also undertook studies in the homes of people who attended the talks. Thirty-four baptisms took place at the end of the series, and an additional 16 people came forward to request baptism in the future. It is expected that many more will also make decisions for Christ as the local church continues its ministry.

Dee Edwards, a postgraduate Theology student who led in the organisation of the project, said she had a wonderful experience preaching in the small church she was assigned to. 'People were keen to listen to the messages, and they were so warm and welcoming. It was a joy when a number decided to get baptised by the end of the week. It was an amazing opportunity to experience evangelism somewhere very different from my own context and learn about their challenges,' said the former president of Newbold's Ministerial Society (NMS).

A special effort was also made to enhance children's ministry. One student, Clebson Braga, led a programme for around 40 children in one of the churches, using very simple resources that made a positive impact on the spiritual growth of the children. Another student, Ruben

Gaspar, helped the church he served to start a Pathfinder club.

Among the Adventist institutions the group visited were the São Paulo campus of the Adventist university UNASP, which has almost 6,500 students; Novo Tempo, a 24/7 media centre that broadcasts television and radio across Brazil; and Casa Publicadora Brasileira, the Adventist publishing house in Brazil, which, in addition to producing more volumes than all the other Adventist presses around the world combined, is also one of the top ten publishing houses in Brazil.

Pastor Alastair Agbaje, Newbold's chaplain, was also heavily involved in organising the trip. 'Newbold is the only institute of higher education within the TED,' he said. 'This is why we continue to foster a focus on mission as well as encourage a high standard of academia within the college community. I am so proud of this group of students and staff, and it was a pleasure to be a part of the planning team. This experience has visibly changed and transformed the lives of all who participated, and I hope that this mission trip will become an annual activity.'

The group had raised around £2,500 to undertake some work in the community of Belém while they were there, but the materials did not arrive in time so the local churches will continue this work with the donation.

The trip was made possible through collaboration between the Newbold Ministerial Society; the college's Campus Ministries; the SEC, who also contributed financially; Newbold staff; and the TED.

## Mission to Kinshasa

During the latter part of 2016 Winston and Lois Williams (Woodford Green Church) joined Rahim Thiombiano (Sureway Community Church) on a successful mission trip to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. There they joined another 22 volunteers – among them dentists, doctors, nurses and pastors – from the USA, France, Tanzania and Uganda to preach the Gospel at 30 sites over 14 nights. The result was a harvest of 538 souls. Prior to that the 29 churches in this city of 12 million had a membership of around 6,000.



The Advent message was also broadcast on local TV over the same period. In addition to this, 2,140 patients received medical treatment for a variety of health needs. If you would like to know more about these trips please contact Winston at [tt2fish@gmail.com](mailto:tt2fish@gmail.com).

KHAMA MENYERE

## Ministers' spouses take time out

It was a time recently for ministers' spouses to be treated in a special way, courtesy of the Ministerial Spouses Association. From Friday 21 to Sunday 23 October, at the Wokefield Park Hotel, in Reading, the 25 spouses benefited from a time of spiritual, educational and social engagement.

Activities included arts and crafts, lectures on breast cancer

## Prayer & Faith Conference

'It's easier to be saved than it is to be lost!' was the message of the guest speaker, Pastor Patrick Graham (Youth & Children's Ministry Director of Allegheny East Conference) to the teens during the Prayer & Faith Conference (PFC) (27-31 October 2016).

Teens who had attended in previous years knew what to look forward to: great music, powerful speakers, wonderful fellowship – and this year's programme did not disappoint them! Organised by the South England Conference (SEC) Teens Department, PFC attracted over 200 teens. There were also over 50 Pathfinders in attendance for their drum corps drilling. The conference was packed with preaching, presentations, praise, worship and the chance to socialise. These are all focused on individual growth in faith and personal communication with God.

Pastor Graham demonstrated the need to allow Jesus Christ into our lives at the beginning of each day and have full control of what we do. That way it is easier to be saved than it is to be lost. With this, the teens were challenged to ask God to wake them up at 5am the following morning for personal devotion without the aid of their alarms, and it worked.

PFC was packed with workshops and Bible study by the North England Conference (NEC) Youth Director, Pastor Adam Ramdin; and the South England Conference (SEC) Youth Director, Pastor Anthony Fuller. Further workshops were run by Paul Frempong and Naomi Osei. Paul, who is a member of Jesus and Ministries (JAM), delivered a thought-provoking workshop on 'Conflict Resolution' – a much-needed workshop in light of the rise of gun and knife crime in the United Kingdom – during which the teens shared their experience of this often-hidden reality. Naomi delivered an interactive workshop on how to be successful, and encouraged the teens to daily challenge themselves to attain their goals.

Over the years, the last night of PFC has become a time for teenagers to testify about the miracles happening in their lives and tell about their greatest battles. It is a time of strong emotions. Esther Serwaah, PFC staff member and first-time attendee, observed, 'I have been genuinely moved as I listened to the teens' prayer requests. I thought being 25 was already tough and I had a tough life growing up. But nothing compares to what these teens are going through. . . . Fortunately, the night later turned into a celebration of the goodness of God, giving rise to comments like this: 'I always found it hard to focus



awareness with mammary examination, foot spas, keep-fit sessions and afternoon walks in the scenic surroundings. The spiritual devotions and personal testimonies added to a well-rounded weekend.

The theme for the weekend was, 'This is my . . .', and it was an opportunity for spouses to share, in their own words, 'my story' of personal encounters of faith and trust in God.

Ministerial Spouses Association leader, Laura Osei, shared her delight in the success of the weekend, especially with new spouses attending for the first time: 'I was very pleased with the way the weekend went. We had a good mixture of practical, social and spiritual activities. . . . It is important that we come together to share our common experiences and how we can learn to be of better support to our spouses in ministry.'

Pastor's wife, Michelle Kwesi-Moore, attending for the first time, said, 'I had a blessed week; I particularly enjoyed fellowshiping with other spouses and making new friends who are colleagues in ministry.'

PASTOR RICHARD DALY, BUC COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA DIRECTOR



spiritually, but the pastor really touched me and now in everything I do I try to pray more. I am also in the process of letting go of unhealthy relationships in my life. I thank everyone who played a part in organising and being there.'

By the end of the conference, 34 teenagers had decided to be baptised. We thank God for the work He continues to do in the lives of our teens through the Prayer & Faith Conference each year.

GEORGE OSEI-BONSU





## 50 years of independence – 125 years of Adventism

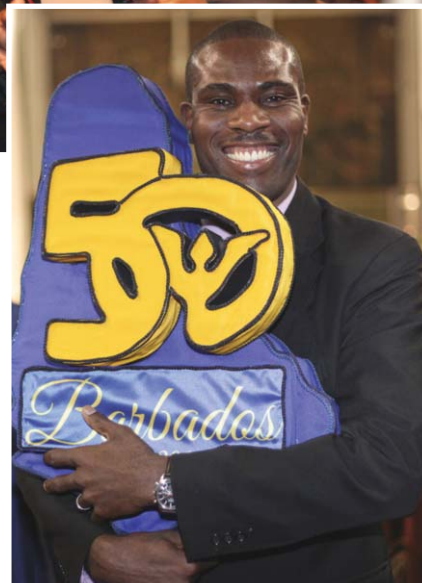
Clapton Community Church hosted a thanksgiving service on 19 November 2016 to commemorate 50 years of Barbados's independence. Pastor Dr Colin Thorne, one of the leading ministers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Barbados and the Secretary of the East Caribbean Conference, gave the morning's address. Also present were His Excellency Mr Guy Hewitt, the Barbados High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and His Excellency Mr Lazarus Amayo, the Kenyan High Commissioner to the United Kingdom: in addition to which, church leaders such as Pastors Augustus Lawrence and Richard Daly were there to represent the SEC and the BUC.

The Barbadians among both members and visitors were visible in their nation's colours of blue, gold and black, while all was set against a tasteful background decor arranged by Sister Gordon and her team. The children present received Barbados-themed 'goodie bags' filled with items such as an activity booklet, stationery and a Barbados

50th anniversary of independence pin. These were lovingly arranged by Sisters T. Donaldson and I. Husbands.

Lunch was served following the morning service, and proved to be a showcase of Barbadian culinary delights. There was more to follow during the afternoon programme, and this rounded off this delightful display of faith intertwined with culture, unity and joyous thanksgiving to God for the fact that the Adventist 'flag' has been flying proudly over the nation since 1891.

ISHA HUSBANDS



## Central London 'visitors' day'

Central London Church celebrated a 'visitors' day' with a difference on Sabbath 19 November last year. The sanctuary's seating was re-organised around large, round, white tables with floral centrepieces, allowing members and visitors to sit face-to-face in happy circles within the sanctuary. It was a wonderful and Spirit-filled day that commenced with the usual vibrant worship service by our worship team and a God-directed message by Pastor Elliott Williams entitled, 'Have Faith in God'. Dr Williams spoke with clarity and the conviction of the Holy Spirit as he challenged us to 'have faith in God and accept His plan for our lives'.

This was followed by an interactive Sabbath School study session, initiated by a few speakers who presented some thought-provoking questions on the book of Job. After the main service and a sumptuous lunch the programme led into an afternoon of praise and testimony for members and visitors alike.

The day ended with a focus on service to the community through an outreach called '50 Covers – A Clothing Drive for the Homeless', organised by the Central London youth. Donations of winter clothing were given to the homeless in the area of Charing Cross in London.

JULITA FRANCOIS



## St Austell's double blessing

Saturday, 25 October, was a memorable day at the St Austell church in Cornwall, which was full to overflowing with family and friends who were gathered to praise and thank God for answering the prayers of many for the lives of twin girls Violet and Isabelle. They are two little miracle daughters of Shaun Hicks and Jessica Hatton who were born prematurely at Derriford Hospital at 27 weeks. The service began later than expected, which gave time for greetings and 'getting to know you' exchanges as the twins enjoyed a meal with their mum before appearing. The service encompassed old and young alike with song choices played by Steve and Jena Hulbert.

Pastor Mike Smart gave an uplifting pastoral talk, while Pastor Chris Peake and David Hatton took part in the welcome, prayers and Scripture reading. After the dedication a blessing was pronounced on Shaun, the father. It was so good to celebrate and praise God for all His grace and favour towards the little ones.

FRIDA PEAKE

## Newbold celebrates and dedicates

Students, staff and special guests gathered at a special ceremony on Friday 25 November last year to dedicate newly renovated classrooms used primarily by Newbold's School of Business, and to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first graduates from the college's Business programme.

The almost-300 students who have graduated from the School of Business were recognised, in addition to the some-2,800 students who have taken at least one Business module at Newbold. The first Business cohort graduated from the school in June 1987, and included current Newbold Business lecturer, John Crissey.

The work was made possible thanks to a series of generous donations to the Newbold College Business Student Alumni Society's student scholarship fund, in recognition of the 'tireless work done by all the past and present staff of the School of Business', of which there have been over 20. The fund also provides scholarships to support eligible final-year students. The money for the renovation was donated by Business alumni who are dedicated to the success of the School of Business in providing a high-quality Christian Business education.

The renovation of classrooms 2 and 3 in Murdoch Hall was the first significant work undertaken on them since Murdoch Hall was built in 1983. Renovations included redecorating and refurnishing, which were largely undertaken over the summer by the college's Campus and Estate Services team, led by Colin Hole.

Newbold Principal, Dr John Baildam, spoke on behalf of the college and highlighted the school's impressive Business graduate outcomes, saying, 'We are one of the most international Adventist higher-education campuses, and, although we are smaller than many others, we have a great impact.'

Dr Baildam also took the opportunity to reiterate that, despite rumours to the contrary, the college will continue to operate with all current curriculum areas and programmes, and with the full support of the college board and the Trans-European Division, into the foreseeable future.

For more information about the Business Student Alumni Society, to donate to the student scholarship fund, or about the college's programmes in Business, Theology, Liberal Arts, Health and Wellness, and the English Language, visit [newbold.ac.uk](http://newbold.ac.uk) or email [info@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:info@newbold.ac.uk).

KIRSTY WATKINS, PUBLICATIONS AND ALUMNI RELATIONS CO-ORDINATOR



## Diversity Centre lectures, spring 2017

Spring semester

**Tuesday 7 February** Dr Torben Bergland, Psychiatrist,  
*Moving Beyond Immature Faith: A psychiatrist's perspective*

**Tuesday 7 March** Dr David Landrum, Director of Advocacy at the Evangelical Alliance, Christianity, Free Speech and the Challenges of Secularism

**Tuesday 4 April** Dr Jenny Taylor, Director, Lapido Media, Centre for Religious Literacy in Journalism, *Fear and Loathing in the Newsroom: How journalists understand religion*

All lectures will be held at 7.30pm in the Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, RG42 4AN. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

Date for your diary . . .

**Tuesday 10 October – 2017 Beach Lecture** Professor Alec Ryrie –  
Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University,  
*Faith and Politics: A Reformation anniversary view*

Contact Helen Pearson on 07775 612610



THE DIVERSITY CENTRE  
PRESENTS

## THE FEBRUARY DIVERSITY LECTURE Moving Beyond Immature Faith A Psychiatrist's Perspective



**Dr. Torben Bergland**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 7.30 pm**  
Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College  
Binfield, Bracknell RG42 2AN

*Everyone is welcome – Refreshments will be served*

Contact: Helen Pearson (07775 612 610)



## Cecil Perry on retirement

Pastor Cecil Perry's active life, even in retirement, is admired by many. He is a zesty West Indian of Jamaican origin who has an ability to inspire those around him. This is, briefly, how his working life played out:

'I entered ministry 56 years ago. Prior to that call I learnt the meaning of industry and the dignity of labour. My life has been characterised by a home-grown work ethic that has seen me through my education and subsequent employment, both as a pastor and later as an administrator.'

With over 50 years of service in both Jamaica and the UK, Pastor Perry has served in various capacities, including that of our British Union Conference President.

After such an active working life, Pastor Perry's retirement has been far from sedentary. This is how he puts it: 'Today, I think it a pleasure to continue my ministry, albeit on a voluntary basis, as a tribute of thankfulness for God's goodness to me.'

### Retirement thoughts

It is not difficult to hear his fervour and zest for life in his perspective on retirement:

'My decision eventually to take retirement from paid ministerial employment was not based on the notion of my being 'over the hill' or the loss of my physical strength. I had exceeded the statutory age for retirement and felt it was time to conquer another hill or climb another mountain, like Joshua and Caleb in Joshua 14.'

So what is life like for him, and what elements of life can he now celebrate? Here are his thoughts:

- The moments of quiet meditation and reflection that come with retirement bring inner spiritual renewal. Having more time to



## Stoke Newington baptises four

During 2016 Stoke Newington held a youth outreach on the theme, 'Radiant Youth Reflecting Jesus'. The speaker was Ashley Pusey, a second-year law student from the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, and his messages were vibrant, exciting and youth-focused.

On the last evening of the series four people were baptised: husband and wife Stephen and Sandra Smith, Jonelle Riley and Susan Thomas.

Local pastor, Augustus Lawrence, performed the baptisms, after which a baptismal package was given to each candidate before they were introduced to the congregation.

FLO SUTHERLAND

contemplate one's mortality in the light of eternal realities makes the difference between the 'now' and the 'then'.

- The opportunity to volunteer for service without the constraints of time is valuable. To work without the gain incentive also fosters a feeling of inner satisfaction for me.
- To be able to spend more time with family and friends helps strengthen the bond of friendship.
- To have tackled those tasks that have been waiting for years to be done provides a real sense of achievement (for example, clearing the garage or attic only to discover hidden treasures).
- To pursue new dreams and adventures denied you during your employment can give you another hill of aspiration to climb.

### Tackling retirement fears

Pastor Perry's retirement planning 'rules' are quite simple, but simply wise:

- Create a community of lifelong friends to help and support you in time of need.
- Select a secure pension provider and be prudent in your spending and saving habits – and make sure you start early!
- Place your future in the hands of God.

### Wisdom pearls

When asked about some of the challenges he faces he identified them mostly as external pressures: for example, having to cope with the many outside demands made by those who believe that he has more time on his hands than he does. Then he finds the wisdom to politely filter out those requests that he can't manage.

This is what he says about the need for a holistic approach to ageing: 'Following the cardinal health principles of a balanced healthy diet, positive thinking, exercise, rest and trust in divine help have made a difference in my life.'

This was his parting remark: 'The joy of retirement can help you discover the person you really are. You may not like what you see, but self-discovery can lead to a refreshing makeover.'

BY SHARON PLATT-MCDONALD, BUC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR



## Middlesbrough Men's Day

The culmination of another good year for the Middlesbrough Men's Ministry was their Men's Day on 19 November 2016. The day was full of blessings from the moment you entered the church. It was great to see so many men arrive early and participate in the class. Instead of the mission story one of the men had put together a short video from the recent Men's Ministry retreat at Langdon Beck, a great reminder of this wonderful event. The speaker at the main service was Pastor Bhebhe of the Bradford church, who based his stirring message on the life of Joseph. After the worship service, the church was treated to a fabulous meal prepared by a number of the men. The Middlesbrough men are truly looking forward to 'Making a Difference' in 2017.

COLIN WOODFORD



Some of the original group from 1966.



Barrymore Bell receives his presentation by Councillor Linda Wootten.

## Grantham Church turns 50

On 5 November 1966 over one hundred men, women and children entered Westgate Hall to formally organise the Grantham church. The new church was an amalgamation of a house church held at the home of the Burroughs family in Colsterworth and the recently relocated workers of The Stanborough Press Ltd and their families.

All ages signed the roll of charter members, from teenagers to elders, but it was noted that nearly half of the signed-up members were under the age of 30, causing Pastor K. A. Elias, NEC President at the time, to comment that he expected the church to be vibrant and forward-looking.

Fifty years on – to the day – many of those original members or their children met to commemorate the event, having travelled from Norfolk, Bristol, South Wales, Worcester and Watford, with messages received from as far away as Australia. A commemorative booklet was given to each family outlining the church's history from 1966 to 1969, the years the church met in rented halls prior to the building of a new church and school in 1970.

A display was also prepared by the Community Services,

showcasing the work of the church in the community over the past 50 years. The formation of the Alma School in the army Paymaster's Hut adjacent to The Stanborough Press Ltd was not forgotten and the children of Dudley House School (its successor) performed a drama and song.

During the service, six members, Barrymore and Beryl Bell, John and Esme Sutton, Maureen Hammond and Joan Moore, received awards for their long service to the church, presented by the Mayor of Grantham, Councillor Linda Wootten. The Mayor and her consort were in turn presented with a gift of books and flowers.

ELISABETH CARNELL

Councillor Linda Wootten makes her presentation to John and Esme Sutton.

PHOTOS: TREVOR HAMMOND, DANIEL HAMMOND & DAVID BELL

## Hackney author honoured

Joan Reid, a member of the Hackney Seventh-day Adventist church in Haggerston, scooped the Physical Development for Girls Award for her book entitled *Girls, It's Time for a Change*. The book (available on Amazon) is a girl's guide to puberty, and, for Joan, the inspiration behind the book was her daughter. 'I wrote the book as a gift to my teenage daughter, Taymah, as I couldn't find one which gave a no-holds-barred approach to the subject of puberty and all the changes she would encounter as she entered that challenging time,' said the 53-year-old, who also works as a microbiologist and sexual health advisor within the NHS.

Joan, who collected the award for her book in Amsterdam, Holland, in November 2016, was understandably elated. She said: 'At first I was really surprised when I was told I would be receiving this award, and then humbled when it was finally presented to me in Holland. . . . It is, however, rather encouraging to be recognised in this way and to know that something you have written has helped another person.'

A former student of Stanborough Secondary School and NCU (Northern Caribbean University), Joan has no plans of slowing down, having already started work on her second book.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to World Vision – a charity which, among other things, provides sanitary wear for those in Third-World countries.

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)



## Harvest Festival in Wycombe

Wycombe Community Church celebrated the goodness of the Lord with a Harvest Festival programme on 15 October last year, organised by the Community Ministries Department.

The pulpit area was beautifully decorated with a display of fruits, vegetables, tins and dry goods. A harvest loaf sponsored by The Farm Shop in Wiltshire took centre place.

During Sabbath School, the children led the Harvest Festival programme in praise and worship; the younger children performed a short skit and participated in reading Bible scriptures and poems; while the Sabbath School lesson was presented by the young adults.

Gail-Ann Balcombe DaSilva, an elder, preached a sermon entitled 'The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved', drawn from Jeremiah 8:18-22.

Later in the afternoon, the children accompanied the adult members to deliver the food baskets to at least twenty people in the local community. One recipient said she had been praying for a miracle as she had no food in her pantry. Many others were thankful and appreciative.

SONIA LEE



**Glen Eugene Tyson (1959-2016).** The Bury St Edmunds Adventist church grieves the loss of one of its cherished members: the smiling, loving and lovable Glen Tyson.

Glen was connected with the Anglican parish church in Stowupland, and later with the Pentecostals before he drifted away. As time went on he married, had children and was a successful businessman. Unfortunately he tasted the fleeting pleasures the world has on offer and forgot about God. But God did not forget him.

The time came when he began to feel an emptiness in his life which no amount of money, success and pleasure could fill. In desperation he turned to God, pleading with Him to send him a Christian woman who could help him get his spiritual bearings.

His daughter Melissa, a devout Christian, was in the background praying for her dad and encouraging him to the best of her ability, but it was not until an Adventist lady showed up in his life that things began to happen.

She was instrumental, by God's grace, and a wholesome friendship, in turning his life about over nearly four years of their friendship. He was baptised in the Bury St Edmunds church in January 2016.

Sadly, though, tragedy struck. Five months later he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, which led to his death on 28 October 2016. When he breathed his last, his much-loved Bible was next to him – a precious gift from our dear sister.

Glen was a passionate follower of Christ, who once wrote this to his head elder, Richard Shone: 'I want to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and help non-believers to enter into a personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour.'

The vicar of the Holy Trinity church was most gracious in allowing us to play a significant role in the funeral service. The writer delivered a biblical message of hope to a church packed with Glen's family, church members and friends who came to pay their last respects.

Glen spoke directly to them in an email he had sent to his daughter Melissa, which was read to the congregation: 'I have, and cannot stress enough to all of my family and loved ones: Receive Jesus Christ into your life and you will have eternal life.'

**Ana Franco Da Silva (1931-2016) d. 10 October.** It is with sadness that we record the death of Ana Franco Da Silva. She was born on 8 June 1931 to farming parents on the island of Madeira, the youngest of eight children. Early in life she became a skilful seamstress, teaching knitting, crocheting and dressmaking. She fell in love with a devout Christian, Francesco Da Silva, who worked as a civil servant in the coroner's court, Madeira, and they married on 21 June 1959 in Santa Lucia Church, Madeira.

In 1961 they moved to St Helier, Jersey, where Ana worked as a hotel chambermaid and Francesco as a waiter. Later they lived and worked in Conway, North Wales. Ana's oldest sister, Eugenie Beach, was also working in North Wales. Through the friendship of Etrick Whiting, Eugenie joined the Adventist Church. Ana and Francesco then moved to Bournemouth, where she worked as a chambermaid in the Norfolk Royale Hotel. Later she became an auxiliary nurse in the Furze Maternity Home in Madeira Road, where she loved caring for the new babies and their mothers.

In Bournemouth Church she was a lively, loving and loveable Christian and was baptised by Pastor Ian Lorek on 14 May 2005. Ana was a gifted gardener, growing a wide range of flowers and vegetables. She and Francesco loved listening to Portuguese radio and television programmes. At Christmas their home was richly decorated with lights and nativity scenes. She nursed Francesco until his death on 26 May 2015, aged 88.

Ana missed him deeply. When she fell ill her daughter, Maria, and her niece, Ana Tarrant, nursed her until she died on 10 October 2016 in the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. The funeral was on Friday 21 October 2016 at Bournemouth Church, and was attended by her family and friends and led by Pastor Daniel Thompson. Maria, her daughter, recalled that she had read one of Ana's favourite texts, Psalm 18:1-3, to her as she fell asleep in Jesus. Ana's niece and god-daughter, Maria Teresa Caldeira, read this scripture in Portuguese. Ana was then laid to rest, united with Francesco, in Bournemouth North Cemetery, there to await the call of Jesus to life everlasting.

PASTOR RICHARD L. VINE (BOURNEMOUTH COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)



**Frank Wood (1925-2016) d. 11 November.** Frank Wood was born in Failsworth, Greater Manchester, on 1 September

1925, the youngest of six children in a lively and musical family. He grew up close to the vast Marlborough cotton mill where his father and eldest brother were in charge of the carding section. When his mother, Annie, joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church after attending the meetings of a Canadian evangelist, she took Frank and his sister, Mabel, to the Parkfield Street Adventist church. Frank was given piano lessons by the church organist, Mr Halstead. Frank and his friend, Tommy Harlin, often had to work the bellows of the organ for Mr Halstead and would mischievously sometimes allow the supply of wind to fail at crucial moments!

Frank showed little early appetite for education when he started at Mather Street School, but it was there that he gained his love of literature from his English teacher. The church pastor encouraged Frank to attend Newbold College to complete his secondary education. His arrival there on 1 September 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland and two days before Britain entered World War Two, marked the beginning of a lifelong association with the college and the beginning of many precious friendships.

During the latter years of the war he attended a tribunal for conscientious objectors and was assigned to land work, which he undertook for three hard years.

Newbold College moved to Binfield in Berkshire in 1946 and Frank was one of its first ministerial students, finishing his course in three years and going straight into the ministry in Liverpool. A year later, he was called back to the college to be Preceptor at Binfield Hall for six years. During this time he completed his BA in Theology and a course in Speech at Trinity College in London. In 1956 Frank went to the US for an MA in Theology at the Adventist Seminary in Washington, DC, and to teach English at Columbia Union College. In 1958, after gaining his MA, Frank accepted a call back to Newbold to teach Theology and English and later Speech.

He later married Christine Emerson, who had earlier been one of his students. Frank continued with his college

teaching and Christine taught at Newbold Primary School. Their daughters, Catherine and Fiona, were born in 1965 and 1967 respectively.

In the early '60s Frank became Registrar at the college, and for nearly 30 years, with the help of various efficient secretaries, his department helped thousands of students to complete their studies. His door was always open to help and advise them, and his keen sense of humour was an asset to all in times of pressure and stress, especially on registration days!

Frank enjoyed participating in the drama productions and singing groups at the college, while at Newbold Church he served for many years as an elder and often preached in the local churches. His hobbies were gardening, walking, playing the piano, singing, and collecting stamps, coins and interesting antiques.

Frank retired on 1 September 1990, his sixty-fifth birthday, having worked all but three years of his working life at Newbold, where his service to our young people will not be forgotten. On the lighter side, who could forget his skills as a raconteur, his keen sense of humour, his hatred of pomposity and stuffiness, and his amazing memory for people's foibles and funny sayings.

After his retirement the Woods moved to Finchampstead, and for seven years, while Christine continued to teach, Frank cared efficiently for all the needs of the home and garden. Catherine and Fiona married American brothers John and Dan Wilcox and settled in the States, producing three grandchildren (Adam, Kate and Ella) between them.

Frank was a true Lancashire lad, proud of his roots, hard-working, conscientious, generous, kind and caring. Sleep well, dear Frank, till the resurrection morning when all is made new.

HELEN PEARSON

**Charles Henry Toms (1937-2016) d. 2 December.** On Monday 12 December last year the Bodmin church said farewell to a friend who, although he had only been with them for a couple of years, had found his way into their hearts. Charles Toms was born on 28 July 1937; grew up during the turbulent years of World War Two; and spent 12 years serving in the RAF. His service ended at St Mawgan in Cornwall, and so he came to settle in Bodmin, where he and his wife Pat raised their family.

Charles had always been a follower of the Lord, but it was only a couple of years ago that he

FINALCALLPRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

AND THERE WAS WAR

Written & Directed by Jermaine Wong

18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

BERNIE GRANT ARTS CENTRE  
TOWN HALL, APPROACH ROAD, TOTTENHAM GREEN, LONDON, N15 4RX

DOORS OPEN: 6:30PM PERFORMANCE: 7:00PM

ADMISSION £15 CONCESSION £12

BOX OFFICE: +44 (0)208 365 5450  
BOXOFFICE@BERNIEGRANTCENTRE.CO.UK

www.finalcallproductions.com

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



## 90 and she still plays the organ!

The Middlesbrough Church family celebrated the 90th birthday of their oldest and much-loved member, Josie Powls, on 8 October last year.

Her service to Middlesbrough Church, alongside her late husband George, has been steadfast and faithful throughout her life. Josie has held many positions in the church and

always carried them out with efficiency and enthusiasm. In fact, on most Sabbath mornings she still plays the organ as she leads us in songs of praise to the Lord.

After church a special lunch was enjoyed by the church members and Josie's children and grandchildren who had travelled to Middlesbrough for the celebration. Gifts of appreciation were presented to Josie from the church family.

JOYCE GILBERT (MIDDLESBROUGH CHURCH CLERK)

found the Adventist message and was baptised into the Bodmin church. Sadly, he passed away after a short illness on 2 December. His funeral was conducted at the Bodmin church by the writer and attended by members of his family and friends from the Bodmin Christian Fellowship, with whom he had remained in contact, as well as members of the church. Charles was then laid to rest at the Bodmin cemetery.

PASTOR CHRIS PEAKE

FINALCALLPRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

AND THERE WAS WAR

Written & Directed by Jermaine Wong

28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017

THE CRESCENT THEATRE  
25 SHEEP COTE STREET, BRINDLEY PLACE, BIRMINGHAM, B16 8AE

DOORS OPEN: 6:30PM PERFORMANCE: 7:00PM

ADMISSION £15 CONCESSION £12

BOX OFFICE: 0121 643 5858  
BOXOFFICE@CRESCENTTHEATRE.CO.UK

www.finalcallproductions.com

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

## Publisher's reminder

Those who submit date-sensitive adverts or notices to the Editor for publication in *MESSENGER* must ensure that these reach him in time to make sure that they will appear well before their due or closing dates. The 2017 publication schedule for all issues of *MESSENGER* is available on request from Elize Hibbert at [editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk).

### Messenger

Volume 122 • 02 – 27 January 2017

Editor: Julian Hibbert  
Design: David Bell  
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 4 – 2 February 2017

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *MESSENGER*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: [editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk)

Send high-resolution pictures to:

[dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk)

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700

Mon-Thurs only, 8am–5.30pm.

[www.stanboroughpress.org.uk](http://www.stanboroughpress.org.uk)

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For general enquiries, email:

[info@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:info@stanboroughpress.org.uk)

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)

ISSN 0309-3654

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

	London	Card	Nottingham	Edin	Belf
Jan 27	4.41	4.54	4.40	4.36	4.53
Feb 3	4.54	5.06	4.53	4.51	5.07
10	5.07	5.19	5.07	5.06	5.21
17	5.20	5.32	5.21	5.22	5.36

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS  
Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.\*  
\*Postage will only be charged for single copy subscriptions and overseas airmail.

**BOOKSALES**

Order on our Sales Hotline  
**01476 591700** [sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk)

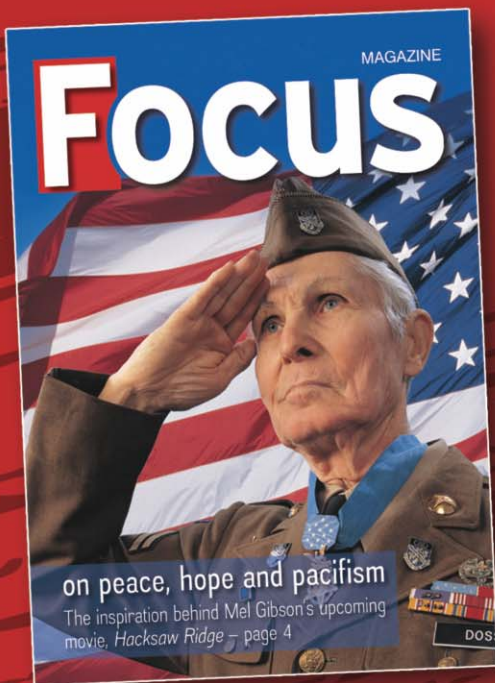
**January**  
29 Nottingham Central 10am-2pm

**February**  
12 Hyland House 10am-2pm

**ABC Shops**  
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.  
01923 893461  
Birmingham, Aston-Newton, 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

Adventist Book Center.com





# Hacksaw Ridge\* launches in UK cinemas this weekend

Hopefully it will win respect for our church and awaken much curiosity about our beliefs too.

This is what the critics have had to say:

## *The Telegraph* . . .

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

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

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

## *The Guardian* . . .

Andrew Pulver wrote:

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

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

**This is an opportunity for you to give your loved ones, friends, neighbours and work associates something positive to think about. Let them have a copy of this *FOCUS* magazine.**

Now available for only 20p per magazine (while stocks last). Postage/delivery costs as scheduled below:

**For up to 50 magazines:**

• 1-5 copies £1 • 6-10 copies £1.25 • 11-20 copies £2.75 • 21-40 copies £3.85 • 41-50 copies £5.50

**For more than 50 magazines:**

**For multiples of 50 up to 600 magazines £5.50**

**Quantities in excess of this will be quoted for on an individual basis**



Call 01476 591700, email [sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk) or speak to your PM secretary today to procure your copies!

\* Date of UK premiere 27 January 2017.