

Messenger

News to the churches • 24 March 2017 • Volume 122 • 06

Choose compassion, choose involvement, choose life

by Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.' Matthew 14:14 (NKJV).

We live in an age that is dominated by the desire for success and the need to be 'top dog'. We live in an age when if you are not considered to be the best, then you are not achieving all that you can be. We live in an age when selfishness has overtaken selflessness. But we also live in an age of enormous apathy, when individuals value self-protection from a cruel world rather than involvement in it. Were Dickens alive today he may describe the twenty-first century as 'the worst of times' because of its ruthless society, its 'fake' news and 'alternative truth' – largely the result of those who want to be on top and stay on top.

But while we, in Western society, struggle with the desire for world domination akin to those ruthless dictators we see in action movies, there are millions of people who are living in poverty. We watch the TV adverts that encourage us to give much-needed funds for those who are less fortunate than us and we simply pick up the remote and tune in to more pleasant viewing. We throw out the numerous mailshots asking us to give money for worthy causes, without even giving them a second look; similarly, we delete any emails or texts from charitable organisations because they're considered spam. Poverty increases around us – devastating and destroying lives while we enjoy our cosy lives and do nothing.

At times, I too am guilty of indifference, or maybe I should call it apathy, or maybe it's simply my attempt to avoid the reality of extreme poverty in the lives of people who live on the other side of the world. I recently watched a programme featured on Sky TV regarding the mining of cobalt, an essential component of batteries for smartphones and laptops. Most of the world's cobalt comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the research team found children, as young as four, working in all the mines that they visited. The work in these mines is back-breaking, the conditions are 'desperately dangerous' and the children earn around 8p a day. After what seemed like an eternity, I must confess that I switched over to watch a more palatable news story – one that didn't make *me* feel quite as bad or responsible for the suffering of these young children.

For a while, even as a Christian, a Seventh-day Adventist, a member of the clergy, the President of the British Union Conference and the Chair of the ADRA-UK Board of Trustees, I lost my ability to be compassionate



in a desperate attempt to disengage my sensibilities so that they stayed intact. I must, however, openly confess that my conscience keeps reminding me about Jesus Christ, the Man I seek to emulate.

After the death of John, Jesus removed Himself from the crowds to a solitary place, possibly to grieve and pray. When He returned, He saw crowds of people and He was moved with compassion by the suffering that He witnessed. He didn't ignore their plight. He wasn't just pragmatic, simply accepting this as the status quo; neither was He willing to use it as an opportunity to exploit their sad predicament. He restored health to their sick bodies, changing their lives through His healing touch. And imagine the difference that He made to them, not just that day, but for weeks and months and years to come.

I want to be just like Jesus. I choose compassion. I choose to change my attitude to those less fortunate than me. I choose to help others to live meaningful lives. The prophet Micah, centuries before the ministry of Jesus Christ, spoke about compassion. First he asks a question about the Father's requirements for His children and then he responds with this answer: 'Do what is fair and just . . . be compassionate . . . in your love, And . . . take God seriously.' Micah 6:8 (MSG).

This year I invite you to join me in participating in ADRA-UK's 2017 Annual Appeal. Be courageous and go door-to-door raising funds for those who live in extreme poverty, or take part in a sponsored activity or attend a fund-raising concert. This year, I invite you to help raise the much-needed funds to help suffering humanity. This year, I invite you to choose compassion over apathy, involvement over detachment, and life over death.

For further information on how to become involved in the 2017 Annual Appeal, please go to ADRA-UK's website: www.adra.org.uk or email: info@adra.org.uk or call +44 (0) 30 30 40 10 17.



ADRA UK
Annual Appeal 2017

Annual Appeal 2017

25 March – 9 April, UK
(extends to 16 April in London)

Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ, England
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Registered charity 1074937 (SC037726 – IOM1101)

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PHOTOS: DAG HUGSTMYR

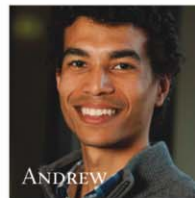


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The speakers will inspire and give you ideas to take back to your Pathfinder groups. **Gry Beate Marley** is the Family Ministries Director in Norway. **Andrew Campbell** is pastoring at the Adventist Church in Tromsø.



GRY BEATE



ANDREW

€ 80 masteryguidecamp.eu

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Enhancing Health

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

Managing your well-being – part 2

Welcome back to 'Managing your well-being'. In the last issue we listed some action points for you to implement in order to assess and monitor your health status and keep track of any health change. This segment highlights some media materials and potential technical resources.

Emerging research demonstrates that presenting health information in a visual format helps to get the message across, encouraging positive action and decision making around health choices. Dr Catherine Stone (School of Design, University of Leeds) uses 'infographics' in her work with Public Health England to make public health data have more impact. Infographics interpret statistical data and research by presenting them in a picture format that is easy for the general public to understand.¹

Health show

Our British Union Conference Health Ministries Department has produced a health show entitled *Enhancing Health*, which is currently being aired on Revelation TV. The six-part series covers diverse aspects of well-being, sharing the latest research and health tips for optimum health. Each episode comprises case studies featuring a specific health challenge where we answer letters from our mailbox in consultation with Dr Chidi, a Lifestyle Medicine expert.

Two practical segments of the show include food demonstrations and nutritional tips from nutrition consultant, Angelette Müller, and exercise sessions and fitness advice with fitness instructor, Joni Blackwood.

The current show focuses on the following:

- Boosting Immunity • Digestive Health • Heart Health • Mood and Menopause • Stress and Anxiety • Vibrant Living

You can access the show on demand via the following link:
<http://hopetv.org.uk/shows/episodes/ml/enhancing-health/>

Mobile apps

The idea of using technology to assess your well-being is well on the way. A *Telegraph* article published on 18 February 2017 carried the following headline: 'Smartphones to become pocket doctors after scientists discover camera flash and microphone can be used to diagnose illness'.²

Sarah Knapton, science editor, writes: 'Smartphones will soon become mobile laboratories which can monitor bone density, calculate red blood cell levels and even predict if an asthma attack is imminent.' Explaining the technology being considered, she adds: 'Scientists are repurposing the technology which already exists within phones, such as accelerometers, camera flashes and microphones, to use as medical tools.'

So how would this work?

In the same report Knapton highlights research that Professor Shwetak Patel from the University of Washington is currently undertaking. This involves devising an app to detect red blood cell levels by placing a finger over the camera and flash, allowing a bright beam of light to shine through the skin.

The next issue concludes with action health tips.

Good health!

¹<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/readwatchlisten/features/a-picture-of-health-design-led-approaches-to-improve-health-and-wellbeing/> ²<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/18/smartphones-become-pocket-doctors-scientists-discover-camera/>

editorial

The Sino-Indian War of 1962 lasted from 20 October to 20 November and cost 2,105 lives,¹ with much of the fighting taking place under harsh mountainous conditions 4,000 metres above sea level. 'A disputed Himalayan border was the main pretext for war,' but India's earlier granting of asylum to the Dalai Lama hadn't helped matters either.²

Although they had been planning the attack for some time, the Chinese chose to launch it while the Soviets and the Americans were involved in their infamous Cuban Missile Crisis standoff. This highly tense situation gripped the world's attention, leaving the Indian and the Chinese leaders to sort out this dispute themselves. Sadly, however, although this 'high-altitude' conflict was quickly over, it had harsh personal consequences for thousands of ordinary civilians.

In the month after the conflict ceased, the Indian government passed legislation that permitted the 'apprehension and detention in custody of any person [suspected] of being of hostile origin'. This effectively meant that you could be detained without trial for having a Chinese surname, Chinese ancestry or a Chinese spouse! Thousands of Chinese-Indians not only suffered detention because of this, but most had their properties 'sold off or looted' and many 'could not travel freely until the mid-1990s'.³

In this regard, however, there is one man who deserves our deepest sympathy. His name is Wang Qi, and his plight was highlighted in an online version of the *Independent* (31 January 2017).⁴ According to that report, it was not long after the Sino-Indian hostilities ceased that Wang (a military surveyor) lost his bearings near the border and accidentally crossed into India. This is hardly surprising due to the confusion over the Chinese territorial gains and the redrawn international border.⁵

This is how Wang Qi explained what happened next: 'I had gone out of my camp for a stroll but lost my way. I was tired and hungry. I saw a Red Cross vehicle and asked them to help me. They handed me over to the Indian army.'⁶ Unfortunately, the authorities promptly imprisoned him for seven years without even the semblance of a trial!

The decades passed . . .

Decades passed slowly for homesick Wang Qi. The authorities made little or no progress in helping him get back to his family in China. He did manage to speak to his mother over the telephone in 2002 but, sadly, she died in 2006, without seeing her son again. In either 2013 or 2014, the Chinese eventually issued him with a passport, fifty-odd years after his capture!

What happened next? Nothing! Well, nothing until 11 February this year, when an Air China aircraft arrived at Beijing airport with 77-year-old Wang Qi on board. At last he was to be reunited with his siblings.⁷ What a homecoming . . .

It doesn't need to take 54 years!



Julian Hibbert
Editor



Wang Qi, his son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter in China.

©Twitter

Yes, what a homecoming! The strange thing about life, however, is that the outcomes we long for often generate their own unexpected problems. Wang Qi, or Raj Bahadur, as he is known in India, now has an Indian family: a wife, adult children and a number of great-grandchildren. But the Chinese authorities have only granted them a two-year sojourn in China!

Why has it taken so long?

I think this is a fair question to be asked of the two governments involved. Why has it taken so long to arrange Wang Qi's homecoming? Red tape, bureaucracy, the desire for retribution, or simple contempt for universal human rights: you take your pick!

Perhaps we shouldn't be so hard on the Indians and the Chinese, however; for all around us there are *those who know they can and should go home but don't!* They know that *their* homecomings are long overdue. They also know why these reunions haven't yet taken place: not because of red tape or bureaucracy, **but because of the pride and stubbornness of their own hearts.**

There are some pining parents in our churches. Parents who have almost forgotten what the voices of their 'missing' children sound like. Then there are those 'refugee' children who would love to be welcome at home again, but they can't forget that last shouting match: the one that ended abruptly with those words, 'Get out and don't come back! You'll never be welcome here again!'

It's time to go home

Perhaps it's time for us to undo those deeds, words and attitudes that may be keeping us painfully apart from our spouses, families and fellow members. If so, I couldn't think of a better way of encouraging this than with these words of Paul in Ephesians 4:31-32 (The Message):

'Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another **as quickly and thoroughly** as God in Christ forgave you.'

It doesn't need to take fifty-four years!

¹http://www.war-memorial.net/wars_all.asp ²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Indian_War ³ibid. ⁴<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/chinese-man-speaks-to-brother-50-years-first-time-trapped-india-central-tirodi-village-a7555531.html> ⁵There is some dispute now as to whether Wang Qi was 'lost' or a 'deserter', but that doesn't really alter the dreadful injustice of his circumstances through the years. <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/The-curious-case-of-soldier-Wang-Qi/article17327100.ece> ⁶<http://www.indiatimes.com/news/world/this-is-wang-qi-the-chinese-man-who-has-been-trapped-in-india-for-almost-half-a-century-270653.html> ⁷<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/The-curious-case-of-soldier-Wang-Qi/article17327100.ece>

Lay-witnessing does work!

by Pastor Michael Walker

Izabela, who is now a member of our Great Yarmouth church, was introduced to the church by her fiancé a number of years ago when he was having Bible studies with the writer. She hails from Poland, and because of her staunch Roman Catholic background she told him at the time that she would never become a Seventh-day Adventist! She has, however, eventually yielded to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and changed her mind! Mike and Izabela were baptised together and married soon after. From that time they have both sought opportunities to share their faith in Christ.

Izabela met Tania at work around 2009. They both worked in a charitable organisation helping migrants in the UK. Izabela was assigned to support Polish clients while Tania was responsible for seeing Portuguese people. Before Izabela left home in the morning, she would pray for all her work colleagues and that God would somehow use her to bring them to the Lord. She tried to sow little seeds of truth when the opportunity arose.

Mike first met Justin when they went for a meal together after work, something they have been doing occasionally. In 2011, after completing her studies and qualifying as a social worker, Izabela left the charitable organisation but she and Mike remained in touch with Tania and Justin. After attending their wedding, Mike felt honoured in 2012 when Tania and Justin asked if he would be their daughter Shauna's godparent. That same year, Mike organised a birthday party in our church for his wife's 30th birthday. Church members were invited as well as friends that Izabela knew from university and work – among them were Tania and Justin.

It was after that event that Tania and Justin participated in the marriage enrichment course that the church sponsored, and started attending our bi-monthly vegetarian cooking demonstrations. Justin, a chef, even accepted the invitation to demonstrate a few dishes. When Izabela and Tania became pregnant they used to visit each other, which happened more frequently when their babies were little. This led to Bible studies in December 2014 and Izabela subsequently invited Tania to attend services in January the following year. She also brought her mum along. During that time Tania developed an absolute hunger for the Word of God; she could not put it down until she had read it all in a short space of time. The more she read, the more she wanted to learn.

Like Izabela, Tania was brought up in the Church of Rome, which enabled Izabela to relate to the many ideas she had about God and the Bible. The more she studied, the greater became her realisation that these were unbiblical.

At one point, however, Tania began to have some doubts, but she kept attending our church together with her husband and their two children. Tania then asked if she could help in practical ways in the church and volunteered to go on the cleaning rota. The doubts persisted but she eventually heard a voice saying: 'What are you waiting for?' She then decided to prepare for baptism and Pastor Rio Espulgar was asked to give her extra studies, which led to her baptism on 17 December last year.

The Holy Spirit has worked through Izabela and Mike, but this is not the end of the story, because Tania is sharing her discovery with her family and friends. As a result, the pastor is now studying with her mum! Who knows just where this lay-witnessing will end?



Tania being baptised by Pastor Espulgar



Left to right: Mike Clarry, Justin and Tania Overton with their two children, Izabela Clarry with her son and Pastor Rio Espulgar



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICES

for the South England Conference
2017 Camp Meeting: 19 – 25 June 2017

For information and tendering criteria,
please contact Paul Lee at the following email address:
plee@secadventist.org.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

The Ringway Life Building (church) has once again found an attractive way to draw community attention to a portion of the Gospel message. Here is what the church members did.

The children at our church are 'angels', and to prove it we took some photos!

One innovative person at our church, Natasha Shaw, thought it would be a good idea to add a peepboard to our Christmas nativity display last year, and to invite the public to use it for photos of themselves and their children during the festive season.

Many stopped outside our Ringway Life Church and did just that. Now they have lovely family photos against a biblical background with our church's name and email strategically positioned at the bottom of each one!

Quite a number of parents took the time to explain who the various characters in the nativity



scene were, thereby telling their beaming children the Advent story!

The whole *tableau vivant* was beautifully illuminated at night and many passing motorists just

stopped to stare or take a quick snap from the roadside. Six of them were so impressed that they joined us for some of our special Christmas programmes in the church.

We hope we brought a smile to some folks this Christmas and left them with indelible memories – after all, a picture is worth a thousand words, isn't it?

PHILIP EMM

What a great tradition!

Cambridge Church have a tradition of collecting and donating Christmas presents to the homeless. This year their donation of scarfs, gloves, hats, toiletries, and so on, went to a hostel for homeless elderly people run by the Cambridge Cyrenians. The donation was given some time after Christmas, but that didn't matter to the residents, who were happy to receive their Christmas gifts at any time of year. Some of them were also quite happy to have their photos taken together with the presents. In the photo we have (from left to right) Rhegion, Geoff, John and Peter.

Pal Jerkenstam submitted this brief report and he is both the Volunteers Co-ordinator for Cambridge Cyrenians and a member of the Huntingdon Seventh-day Adventist group. If you need some more information on how to support the homeless men and women who are sheltered by the Cyrenians don't hesitate to contact Pal at either happypal@hotmail.co.uk or 07952 514726.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Janet's project was a winner

Christmas is associated with food and the giving and receiving of presents. With that in mind, Janet McConell, a regular visitor to Wolverhampton's Great Brickkiln Street Church, decided to do something a little different. Instead of buying Christmas cards, Janet decided to do a Christmas hamper and donate to someone in need, one of the elderly shut-ins.

What made this particular project stand out was the unexpected help from her work colleagues at Birmingham City Council. In their December team meeting Janet told colleagues, 'I don't do cards,' and then shared with them what she was doing. To her amazement some of them said they would like to contribute to her hamper. Some donated produce for the hamper and others gave her money to purchase a variety of food items. Janet ended up doing three hampers, which have been graciously received by other needy persons. Co-ordinating elder, Andrew Hazel, was impressed by her actions and made this observation: 'Jesus used a little boy's lunch to feed a multitude and point to Him as the Bread of Life; perhaps Janet's hampers will spark a recipient's interest in the same way?'

JOSEPH HIGGINS (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



Reform-a-Nation

by Pastors Ian Sweeney and Eglan Brooks



Celebrating **500** Years
OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Rediscovering
THE GOOD NEWS

11-13
AUG 2017

STANBOROUGH PARK
Watford, WD25 9JZ

PROFESSOR MARTIN LUTHER
10 November 1483 – 18 February 1546

Reform-a-Nation

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

On 31 October, 1517, Martin Luther published his ninety-five theses attacking a variety of papal abuses, including the sale of indulgences. Part of Luther's rebellion revolved around his belief, like that of the apostle Paul, that 'by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast' (Ephesians 2:8, 9, KJV). Historically, this revolutionary act is regarded as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation that changed the face of religion in Europe, the United Kingdom and the rest of the world.

Seventh-day Adventists are heirs of the Reformation. Ellen G. White, who devoted twelve chapters of her book, *The Great Controversy*, to the influence of the reformers in spreading the good news of the Gospel, states: 'The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement. . . . The important movements of the present have their parallel in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of

great value for our own time' – *The Great Controversy*, page 343.

October 31, this year, has been chosen to mark 500 years of the Protestant Reformation. The British Union Conference aims to lead the way in commemorating this event through a weekend programme, *Reform-a-Nation*, from 11 to 13 August this year. The aim of the programme is to acknowledge, highlight and share with our communities the positive aspects of the Protestant Reformation that are to be seen in the establishment and development of the Adventist Church. It is anticipated that during this celebration weekend there will be total member involvement in outreach activities, allowing our churches to become centres of influence in their local communities. It is hoped that our Union's vision of a unified approach to evangelism will capture the hearts of our members and stimulate our communities to take a second look at our church.

We are passionate that all our members participate in the evangelistic activities. It's high time that we leave the comfort of our cosy seats in church and go out to 'seek and save the lost'. It really is time that we stop ministering to ourselves and assist those in our local communities. And it's time that we see evangelism as the 'core' business of the church instead of just an 'add-on' to the many other programmes that we conduct.

The *Reform-a-Nation* weekend programme will begin on Friday evening with a service highlighting the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK. This will include both current and historical achievements. Our Sabbath morning programme will be a special service with a guest speaker. The Sabbath afternoon will feature a theological conference with some leading Adventist scholars, while in the evening there will be 'Hymns of Faith' – an outreach programme, featuring both ancient and modern hymns, for your friends and family who have a spiritual background.

The Enlightenment Festival on Sunday is a programme that will involve everyone. Stanborough Park will be open and there will be many stalls, displays, health checks, sporting and leisure activities for children and adults, a fantastic outdoor gospel concert, and tours of the BUC office. We are partnering with the Stanborough Park church and both the primary and secondary schools to host this weekend event. Every department represented at the British Union Conference will be present and the new team that you elected last summer are keen to work together, not only for the benefit of the membership but to reach out to those people who need to hear about Jesus Christ.

Every project needs to have outcomes that are sustainable and long-lasting. We are working together as a leadership team, along with the Stanborough Park church, to leave a lasting legacy in Garston.

Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation out of a sense of dissatisfaction regarding the then-established church. As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we want to intentionally start a reformation by each of us committing to get involved in evangelism. The apostle Paul writes, 'And be not conformed to this world; but be reformed in the newness of your mind, that you may prove what is the good, and the acceptable, and the perfect will of God' – Romans 12:2 (Douay-Rheims Bible).

We personally believe that we need to reform the view that our community has of our church. In order for us to accomplish this we need to reform our lives. Then, and only then, can we reform our habits, reform our lifestyles, reform our communities and *Reform-a-Nation*.

Reform-a-Nation

FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 2017

19:30 - 20:30 | Thanksgiving Service

Venue: Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, Watford, WD25 9JL

SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2017

11:00 - 12:30 | Worship Service

(Lunch Provided)

15:00 - 17:00 | Theological Conference

19:00 - 21:00 | Hymns of Faith

Venue: Marquee Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ

SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2017

12:00 - 19:00 The Enlightenment Festival featuring stalls, displays, health checks, sports day, an outdoor gospel concert, BUC office tours.

Venue: Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ

Celebrating **500** Years
OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION



For more information contact British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Tel: 01923 672251 Web: www.adventist.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Vacancy: Part-time ICT Teacher

Stanborough School, an independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and a family atmosphere, seeks to employ a part-time ICT teacher to commence 1 April 2017 at a salary of £16,426.

General responsibilities

1. Teach Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 ICT.
2. Provide learning support to all learners.
3. Undertake Form Tutor responsibilities.
4. Will have staff duties at break and lunch times.
5. Participate in all school activities.
6. Undertake additional duties as required by the Faculty Leader and Head Teacher.

Qualifications:

- Applicants should have:
1. An ICT degree
 2. A teaching qualification
 3. Relevant experience, and
 4. Authorisation to work in the UK

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

Interested applicants: please contact the PA to the Head Teacher for the application package at email: mmumbo@spsch.org; tel: 01923 673268.

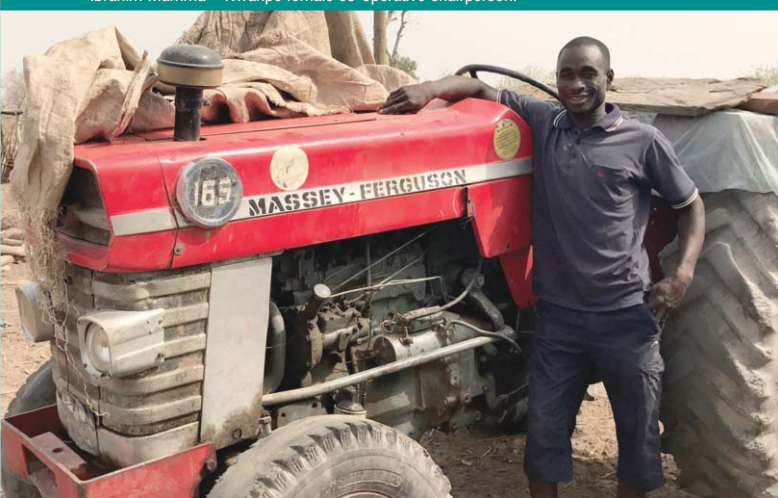
The offer of employment in respect of this post will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as the CRB).

The advert will run until the position is filled.

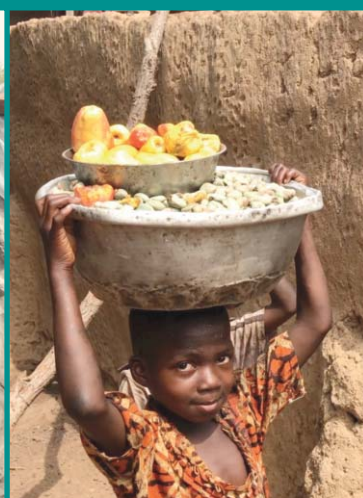




Ibrahim Mamma – Nwanpe female co-operative chairperson.



Sulemana Issah, from Bilisikura in the Central Gonja district, with his tractor.



Cashew nuts harvested (diversified crops).



Store room with bags of maize.



Leadership of the Damango co-operative: an umbrella farmers' organisation representing 938 farmers.

DONATE
www.adra.org.uk/donate



Farmer Wio Nterre on his new MotorKing.



seven years ago when most families in the region were depending on constant assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP) to survive.

The project has also significantly impacted the beneficiary households in terms of the education of their children. At a cost of £200 per year, children are now attending schools. Previously, this was not possible. Farmers were keen to point to how well they are living, referring to the aluminium roofs fitted to their houses, and in some cases the new brick houses they have built. Others have invested their profits in small motorbike trucks or even larger vehicles to aid transportation and increase their profits. Some have even constructed houses in nearby towns for rental purposes in order to diversify their income generation. Still others have invested in poultry and livestock to generate further funds.

The key to the success of the project was the formation of the farmer groups or co-operatives. Most of these groups are still functional, with the farmers working together and continuing to benefit from the EC project. In some of the districts, farmer groups have merged to create umbrella organisations (secondary farmer-based organisations) to streamline input purchases and market outputs.

So, how do the beneficiaries feel five years after the completion of the project? One farmer who had been farming for 30 years said that before ADRA came he was 'unable to make ends meet'. Now, he is not just surviving, he is thriving – he is helping his family and contributing to his community.

*'ADRA: You gave us food!
 You gave us life!'*

You gave! We did!
 If you helped during the 2010 and 2011 Annual Appeals; if you donated money; if you raised funds through organised or sponsored activities during this period, YOU have made a lasting change in the lives of the farmers in northern Ghana.

It works. Remember, a life does not get better by chance. It gets better by change.

You gave! We did! It worked!

Thank you for helping to make lasting changes to so many lives.

You gave! We did! It worked!

A special report by Bert Smit, CEO, ADRA-UK

Food on the table. Surplus to sell. Children in school. Livelihoods changed.



In 2009 ADRA received approval for a food security project in northern Ghana. Climate change and extended periods of drought had adversely affected the food situation in that part of the country, causing farmers and their families to experience extended 'hunger months' from January to April. In the face of this challenge ADRA decided to try to make a change.

With a budget of €1.3m co-funded by the European Commission and ADRA-UK, the Northern Ghana Food Security Resilience Project (NGFSRP) commenced on 1 January 2010 and was completed in August

2011. This project was supported by £130,000 raised through the 2010 and 2011 Annual Appeals. *'ADRA changed our lives.'*

You gave! We did!

The primary aim of the 20-month project, which was executed by ADRA Ghana, was to reduce food insecurity for 10,000 resource-poor, vulnerable, small-scale farm households, thereby supporting 70,000 people in the process. Another intended outcome was to increase the coping strategies of the direct beneficiaries of the project against soaring food prices through building the capacity of client farmers, agricultural input

support and market links. The 10,000 direct beneficiaries from 190 communities included widows and those who were visually challenged. They were organised into 342 groups, including 44 male groups, 39 female groups and 259 mixed groups. About 40% of the project beneficiaries were women.

The beneficiary farmers received improved seeds, ploughing services and fertilisers to cultivate one acre of either maize, groundnut or soybean. They also received training in crop production and soil fertility improvement practices; understanding group dynamics; the drafting of business plans;

and group constitution development, as well as HIV/AIDS education. To ensure the sustainability of the project, the beneficiaries were encouraged to pay back to their groups the support received. This was to be done in kind after each harvest and used as a revolving fund for the input procurement in subsequent years, and to encourage the farmers to learn financial prudence.

The post-project impact studies conducted in December 2012 indicated that all the beneficiaries were food-secured. However, to really evaluate if a humanitarian project has a long-lasting effect more

investigation than that is necessary. At the end of the project, in August 2011, three ADRA-UK trustees visited the project to develop a personal interest in it and understand its longer-term impact on the people in north Ghana.

*'Thanks to ADRA,
 we now have a future.'*

You gave! We did!

Prompted by the trustees to assess the success of the project and its sustainability level, Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK, re-visited the project site from 21 to 25 February this year, more than five years after its completion.

The long-term impact indicators are very encouraging. During the assessment, we visited six groups spread across the Bole, Sawla-Tuna-Kalba, West Gonja and Central Gonja districts. These communities represent a

total of nearly 1,200 beneficiaries or an actual sample of 12% of those involved in the original project.

Evidence suggests that those farmers that have continued to use the methods of farming – such as row planting, fertilisation, timely weeding and harvesting, etc. – that were taught by ADRA have almost eliminated hunger. Harvests have increased by an average of 300% and many farmers have prospered enough to increase their acreage.

One story that particularly touched me was of a farmer, Sulemana Issah, from Bilisikura in the Central Gonja district. Since the project began he has increased his land ownership from one acre to fifty acres. He was able to purchase a tractor with a loan secured on a 20% deposit, and now he provides ploughing services to other

farmers. His achievements have been so phenomenal that he received the 'best farmer' award in his district in 2016.

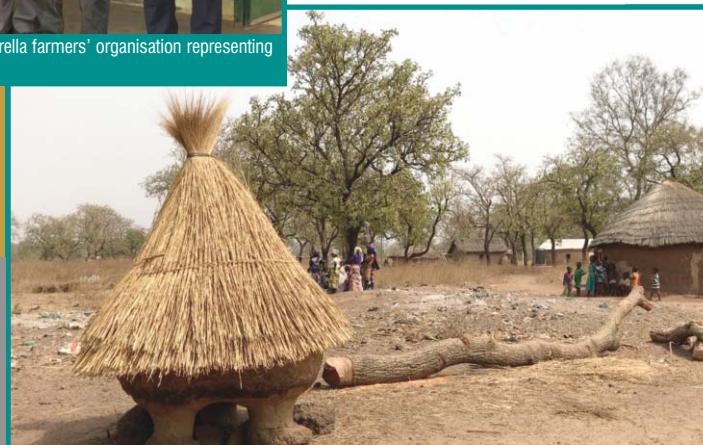
All the farmers that we visited showed us their stocks of maize, even though we visited in the dry season – previously known as the 'hunger months'. Some households still have the previous season's crop as well as their harvest from the new crop.

Instead of 3 bags per acre, households now harvest up to 16 bags per acre of maize. With food needs at 3 bags per family per year the surplus crop is for selling, investing in the revolving fund, education and healthcare.

'Thanks to ADRA, we no longer know what hunger is.'

You gave! We did!

The challenge most farmers now face is how to store their surplus harvest! What a change from



Left and right photos: Silos for storing maize (contain 1,000kg each).



was able to attend on the Sabbath and encourage the students. He stressed the importance of campus ministries and said, 'Don't just pick the university that's best for you academically, but find one that will strengthen you spiritually and where you can minister for God.' He went on to affirm that 'the development of campus ministry is very important to the strategic direction of the NEC in terms of nurturing. It's important to create an environment so that when our youth get into university their spiritual, social and emotional needs are being met. We are hoping that parents will choose these universities as their first choice because of the nurture that these societies can provide. Our children are here not just for education, but also that they may live a life in preparation for heaven.'

Further information
For more information on the Adventist Students on Campus ministry in the NEC please visit www.necyouth.org.uk or email the Youth Director, Pastor Adam Ramdin, on aramdin@necadventist.org.uk. Later this year there will be an ASC training retreat at Aberdaron (6-10 September) where students will be trained and equipped in campus ministries. For those who wish to read Ellen White's counsel on this subject see *Selected Messages*, volume 3, p. 231, entitled 'Attending Colleges and Universities of the Land'.

NEC ASC Societies & Presidents

Visit www.necyouth.org.uk for society contact details



 University of Derby Aurelija	 University of Wolverhampton Clement	 University of Liverpool Nothando	
 Sheffield Hallam University Desire	 Keele University Bonie	 University of Leeds Abel	 University of Birmingham Eberechi
 University of Hull Rejoice	 Coventry University Abigail	 University of Manchester Timothy	 Loughborough University Shaumelle
 De Montfort University Kallie	 University of Bradford Leah	 University of Central Lancashire Natalie	 University of Law, Birmingham Oyin

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NEC Campus Ministries

Often, when a parent drops their child off at university for the first time, they will show him or her where the local church is and then hope and pray that their child wakes up on Sabbath morning and makes their own way from the university halls to the church. Many young people do make that journey, but unfortunately many of them do not. Campus ministry aims to make that journey shorter and easier and provide a campus presence for the church so that amid the new sights and activities on campus they can find something familiar.

Campus ministry involves a two-pronged approach. One aspect of it is to nurture and strengthen the spiritual lives of these Seventh-day Adventist students, and the other is to help the Adventist students to be missionaries on campus, like the Waldensian students of centuries ago.

In the NEC the Seventh-day Adventist student societies are part of a network called Adventist Students on Campus (ASC), and it is the goal and mission of ASC to have a Seventh-day Adventist society on every campus in the NEC where there is an Adventist student. We started this four-year term with twelve societies, and now that number is up to fifteen, with a sixteenth on the way. This has been possible through the great work and support of the NEC Student Advisory, which is composed of former students who assist the work on the local campuses. Each society is supported by the Student Advisory on a monthly basis and submits a monthly feedback form so that we are kept abreast of the activities on each campus and can provide support where it's needed.

West Midlands Students' Weekend (3-5 February)

The first West Midlands Students' Weekend took place at Windsor St Church as students from around Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry and Stoke-on-Trent gathered together for fellowship, inspiration and training. This was in line with one of the goals of the MTTC project that is taking place in Birmingham (2017-2018). The NEC Youth Department has actively been seeking to increase the Adventist presence on the public universities in Birmingham. In 2015 there were no official Adventist societies, but today, thanks to the diligent work of some students, there are now two official societies at the University of Birmingham and the University of Law, with another group meeting regularly at Aston University.

As there are multiple churches and universities in Birmingham, it was the plan to pull all the students together for them to plan and network. The speaker for the weekend was Sam Walters, a recent graduate of Keele University, who was involved in campus ministries as a student. He is currently an elder in his local church and works as a pharmacist. On Friday night just over 30 students gathered together and on Sabbath the church was full to capacity with over 100 students and youth from around the area. In the afternoon further ASC training took place, followed by each campus group meeting to envision and strategise for their respective universities. On Sunday further training took place, tailoring the cycle of evangelism to the academic calendar.

NEC President, Pastor Richard Jackson,



purified and refined, that does not exalt self, but, by beholding Christ, reflects the long lost image of divinity.' Ellen White, letter 16, 1902, quoted in *Evangelism*, p. 135. What a beautiful thing to aspire to! This does not negate the value of academia or the need to develop our various skills, but speaks to an essential ingredient for this collaborative teamwork.

Additionally, our music teams must engage in methods of evangelism that reflect the one modelled by Jesus Christ. Failure to do so has served to propagate a comfortable, mundane and false Adventism. After all, Christ's second coming is imminent, and that fact is what this movement is about. Christ's method is the only one that will yield true success.

*Kendol Bacchus, MS, Dip ABRSM, has served as an evangelism and music facilitator in the BUC and has over 12 years of mission experience in Korea.

BOOKSALES

March
26 Wolverhampton Central (TBC) 10am-2pm

April
16 Lewisham 10am-2pm
23 Swansea 10am-2pm

ABC Shops
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm, 01923 893461
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm, Sunday - 11am-3pm, 0121 3286380
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset, 0207 7236849



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Evangelism and music – part 1

by Kendol Bacchus*

The challenges of evangelism in the urban and cosmopolitan settings of today certainly test our conventional methods of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It appears at times that we confuse the idea of true success, as described and demonstrated by Christ's method of reaching people, with baptisms. A rethinking of what our statistics actually show, and a clear distinction between church attendance and baptismal records, should send us back to the drawing board.

This brings us back to the question: have our past methods of evangelism simply solidified members into mundane church fellowship, or have they inspired them to adopt the mission-driven lifestyles of our early Adventist believers, who were on fire for God and felt a burden for the salvation of those outside our church walls?

My aim, as a third-generation Seventh-day Adventist, has always been to use the spiritual gift I was entrusted with as a church musician. I have, however, been forced over the last two decades to rethink what my role and practice in a true worship setting should be. In doing so I have come to see how compartmentalised the different functions surrounding worship have become. Not only do the players of different instruments seem to speak a slightly different 'language' to each other, but so do singers and sound and audio engineers. The levels of understanding also vary widely between those whose backgrounds are professional and academically informed and those who might be ear-playing, or have learnt their music in less formal or systematic training programmes. Once you factor in the varying levels of talent and musical intuition, along with the dedication to facilitate congregational worship versus the desire for personal artistic fulfilment, you see the potential for divisiveness.

I believe that the teamwork that fosters a good music and worship atmosphere does not begin with the worship service, but rather with good Christian relationships and fellowship where we seek the good of each other. Sound and audio engineers coming out of their booths, musicians away from their instruments and singers away from their microphones, must intentionally foster healthy relationships with each other. A nurtured atmosphere of trust and respect as the backdrop for the execution of music in the church often teaches some of the deepest lessons about appropriate music making. This attitude and atmosphere is even more crucial in congregations where integration is a reality to consider. Remember, the great commission was given in a cosmopolitan setting.

There is a tendency to replace healthy relationships between the members of our music teams with social media contact behind mobile and other interfaces. When Christ's method is fully appreciated, however, and we see ministry rather than performance as the bigger agenda, we will take time out to spend together and respect the value of being in connection for each other's good. Our congregations will become places where fellowship does not stop at the closing prayer. Neither will such relationship building supplant dependence on Christ and a focus on mission.

Music for the ambitious and artistically driven can become overly complex. This complexity does not necessarily yield the best results and humility is essential to an appreciation of that. 'God often uses the simplest means to accomplish the greatest results. It is His plan that every part of His work shall depend on every other part, as a wheel within a wheel, all acting in harmony. The humblest worker, moved by the Holy Spirit, will touch invisible chords, whose vibrations will ring to the ends of the earth, and make melody through eternal ages.' Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 822, 823.

And speaking of worth, which is often confused with intelligence and musical genius, 'Christian worth does not depend on brilliant talents, lofty birth, wonderful powers, but on a clean heart – a heart

SEC CAMP MEETING

19-25
JUNE
2017



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2017 SEC BOOKING FORM

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Arrival date <u>19 June 2017</u>	Departure date <u>25 June 2017</u>				Club: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
No. of nights <input type="checkbox"/>	Total persons <input type="checkbox"/>		Total no. apartments/rooms <input type="checkbox"/>		Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					
Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday)										
Total	60+	45-59	26-44	18-25	12-17	8-11	5-7	2-4	Under 2	Self Catering: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>										
(B) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm										

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* Please note - first named person must be over age 18. Special requests not guaranteed. Maximum persons in 2 bedr'm Apartment is 6.

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Ground Floor apartment

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Signed: _____ Date: _____

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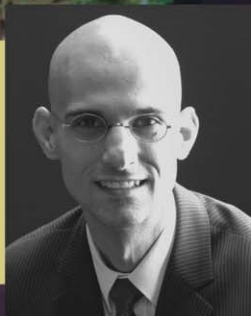
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Catering at NEC Camp Meeting

Here is some great news.

You can relieve the stress of cooking at Camp Meeting by popping into the canteen – breakfast, lunch and supper – for a nutritious and delicious meal. Meal packages for the week are also available. You might not know who he is, but I am sure you have tasted his culinary skills at some point. Michael Graham is a well-known chef in the North England Conference and has catered for many weddings, banquets, baby blessings and countless other events, including camp meetings (NEC and SEC), ARME Bible Camp, Pathfinder camporees and Aberdaron Earliteen Camp. Please contact the NEC office on 0115 9606312 for more information.



North England Conference vacancy PEACE Outreach Co-ordinator

Closing date for applications – 12pm Friday 31 March 2017

An experienced, friendly and energetic person is needed for the full-time position of PEACE Outreach Co-ordinator.

Applicants must be gifted in and have experience of the following:

- Evangelism • Bible work • Teaching outreach

They must have extensive experience in community outreach and soul-winning, be flexible, and have good organisational skills, as well as the ability to work within a small team. The role may involve working flexible hours and applicants will need to be adaptable, meet deadlines, and be prepared to assist the Director with logistics and planning. Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request.

The NEC office is committed to good working relationships, Christian service and the values of the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

If interested, request an application form by contacting:
Pastor Alan Hush (Executive Secretary)
North England Conference
22 Zulla Road, Nottingham, NG3 5DB

Email: ahush@necadventist.org.uk
Telephone: 0115 960 6312

Could you spare a week?

Could you spare a week – 2 to 9 July – to support the Special Needs Camp at Aberdaron? We need someone who holds a Food Hygiene Certificate and has experience in catering for large groups to lead the kitchen team this year. If you are that person, or to find out about other important roles where you could help, please contact Joy Bussey as soon as possible at js.bussey@ntlworld.com. Thank you for considering this important cause.



12th June - 10th September 2017

Location: Birmingham

Cost: £1600
Cost includes:
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You can now attend PEACE during your University break.

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AREAS 5 & 6 prayer conference

each one reach one

'each one reach one through prayer'

Guest Speaker:
Pastor Jude Jeanville
Pastor of Tottenham SDA Church

Date:
Sabbath, 1 April, 2017

Venue:
Winson Green Seventh Day Adventist Church
Bishop Latimer Memorial Church,
36 Handsworth New Road, B18 4PT

Time:
9.30am-6.00pm

attendees bring your own lunch.

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Stanborough Secondary School opens its doors

on Sunday, 21 May at 11am



Everyone (pastors, elders, families and friends) is invited to experience a day at our school.

A school tour and refreshments will be provided.

Guest speaker:
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Please register your interest. All are welcome!

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Website: www.spsch.org
Address: Stanborough School,
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Please note, . . . revised date!

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PRESENTER - DR JASMINE RHAMIE. Dr. Jasmine Rhamie is Principal Lecturer and Deputy Director of the School of Education, University of Roehampton. She has worked as a qualified teacher and has taught in Adventist and state schools in the UK and Caribbean. She has been an education consultant to a number of local authorities and is the author of *Eagles who Soar: How Black learners find paths to success* (Trenton Books). Jasmine has published widely on matters related to social justice, race and ethnicity and teacher education. She was the Co-Convenor of the British Educational Research Association's Race Ethnicity and Education Special Interest Group (2013-2016). Jasmine has been involved in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) for over 10 years. She has run parenting workshops in the US and UK. She has two children, Serena and Jonathan. She brings her wealth of knowledge and experience to supporting and guiding parents in developing their children educationally and spiritually.

ORGANISED BY THE FAMILY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

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Fiji comes to Dundee

Fijian families from all over Britain came to Dundee on Sabbath 5 November, not for Bonfire Night, but to witness the baptism of GG (Talica) and Mac (Iliavi) Macawai, and the dedication of their two children, Tu Tu (Ilaisa) and Lewa. I had the privilege of studying with GG and Mac while my wife, Paula, and Mrs Jane Walton shared the joy of teaching the children Bible stories and helping them with related crafts. Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, assisted by myself, performed the baptism. The Macawai family join a growing number of Seventh-day Adventist Fijian military families stationed in Scotland, and we are privileged to have them as members of our church in Dundee.

PASTOR NEIL ROBERTSON



Women, men, 'fire' and children!

North Wembley Community Church ended last year with a trilogy of events to which the local community were invited: their annual Women's Day, Men's Day and their children's Christmas play.

The Women's Day delivered an outstanding worship experience, which included an inspiring sermon by guest speaker, Pastor Winsome Brown-Baadjes. This service was unexpectedly interrupted by the fire alarm, which led to the evacuation of the premises and the customary investigation, before worship was resumed.

The Men's Day was held the following Sabbath (26 November), and it involved an awesome blend of study, praise and worship, during which visiting speaker, Adrian Roberts, admonished each of the men to 'be a watchman'. Dr Adam Ibrahim from the Wimbledon church presented an interesting afternoon seminar on men's mental health issues.

The children's Christmas play, entitled 'Heaven and Nature Sing', was held on Sabbath 17 December, and provided a theatrical feast in which the story of the birth of Jesus was viewed creatively through the eyes of a young angel.

COMMUNICATION TEAM



Worship leaders

Worship Leaders' Conference

For the first time, the South England Conference Music Department brought together pastoral and music ministries for the purpose of creating a closer working relationship and equipping both groups with concepts and skills that will enhance our worship experience. The Ministers' Convention and the Worship Leaders' Conference took place at Newbold College from 19 to 22 January.

More than seventy pastors and laity attended the event and the key message to the pastors was that they are the ultimate worship leaders and the musicians are there to assist. The key message to the worship leaders was that 'worship is more than music.' Throughout the weekend pastors and laity alike took part in Spirit-led worship services that served as object lessons of what can be reproduced in their local churches.

'Change will not happen in the local church unless the pastors and the elders are on board,' said SEC Music Director, Mike Johnson. He went on to say that 'our partnership model is based on 2 Kings 3:15 (NIV) where, "while the harpist was playing, the hand of the LORD came on Elisha"': suggesting that when musicians prepare worshippers' hearts for the word, the message will be well received. Throughout the weekend, worship leaders were encouraged to be worshippers first, to prepare themselves for the Spirit's directions.

'It's one thing to be able to play with skill, but for the best results skill needs to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit,' said Johnson. 'The challenge is to encourage our musicians to know Christ and the Scriptures for themselves so they won't be taken by surprise by anything.'

With this essential spiritual preparedness, musicians will only play or sing music that is in agreement with our Adventist beliefs. One key point the director wanted attendees to take back to their churches is that neither they nor the members can simply show up at church on Sabbath and expect to worship. Worship must be a week-long experience and everyone should bring their worship experience with them to church on Sabbaths.

'Sometimes worship can become a sort of performance. And we become critics and judges. Because everyone has different preferences, likes and dislikes, we can never unify,' said theology student, Adriel Mingo.

Attendees were led through the seven forms of worship, which include: offering a sacrifice, physical movement, silence and meditation, testimony, prayer, a holy life and music.

For Paulette Martin, member of the Music and Worship Academy team, it was about 'why we worship' and 'in what way to worship'. 'We worship when we come through the doors; we worship when we sit in the pews; we worship in silence and we worship in praise. Each one of us has the choice to exercise that innate part of us which wants to praise and worship. The question is, "Do we want to?"'

Mike Johnson summed it up as follows: 'Since worship can be expressed in a variety of ways, worshippers should be patient with how others express what God has done for them. The worship leaders are there to encourage all worshippers to express themselves.'

NATASHA MIRILOV



SEC Music Ministries Director Mike Johnson

1960s

Reunion

4-6 August, 2017

Reconnect and reunite during this special weekend which will include sermons from Dr Jan Paulsen, an evening concert with the Wedgwood Trio, an excursion to Virginia Water, and a boat trip on the River Thames. All-inclusive packages are available for £99 for one or £189 for a couple, or you can purchase accommodation, meals, or tickets to the excursions individually.

Register now at www.newbold.ac.uk/1960s-reunion, or call us on +44 (0)1344 407492.

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For more info contact Ligia Buzac | lbuzac@secadventist.org.uk | 01923 232728

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2017**

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St Albans Youth
Basketball
FESTIVAL

5X5 - FULL COURT
Price: £30
Time: 12:00
Hertfordshire Sports Village

To register your team contact:
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Highly Fabulous 2017 Womens Conference

This unmissable women's conference will be held in the heart of London's theatre land, Covent Garden, at the beautiful Strand Palace Hotel on Sunday, 28 May, at 12.30pm.

With 'A-list' speakers from Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Connecticut, Brighton and London, it promises to be a fabulous event, covering such topics as 'Relationship Goals', 'Women in Business', 'Healthy Living', 'Discovering your Purpose', 'Entrepreneurship', 'Overcoming Obstacles and Succeeding in Life', and 'Growing in Faith'.

Confirmed speakers

Pastor DeVon Franklin of the SDA Church, Los Angeles (California), and his wife, actress Meagan Good – authors of the *New York Times* bestselling book *The Wait*.

'The choices you make in love can alter the course of your entire life.'
DeVon Franklin.

Felicia Phillips of the Berean SDA Church in Atlanta (Georgia) – she has been successful in business for over 20 years and shows women not only how to build a business, but how to create an empire. Creator of the PinkPreneur Network, Felicia is known as the Pink Mogul.

'Most entrepreneurs never see their dreams or their desires. The reason for this is because they do not truly believe in their own vision. Success can only be achieved if you can see your vision with your eyes shut. Let your mind embrace your victory, then you win.' Felicia Phillips.

Susanne Kirlow, a TV chef and *Pride Magazine* food columnist from the SDA Church in Holloway (London) – Susanne has appeared on Adventist TV channels globally.

'I will talk about the journey up the corporate ladder and the challenges I had to overcome. I could write a book just on that. I want to help other women who are trying to make it in the corporate world and show them how to be leaders in that environment.' Susanne Kirlow.

Tera Carissa-Hodges from Atlanta (Georgia) is a minister and international life coach – one of the most influential voices today among women – and her ability to clarify things is second to none. If you want truth you can take to the bank, Tera is the one.

'If you are trying to live right, you will have an opponent, and any time you have an opponent, you must have a coach. Some things can't be preached. They have to be taught. Jesus was a Teacher, and, as His disciple, it is my honour to teach women how to find the purpose in their pain, as He has shown me.' Tera Carissa-Hodges.

Diane Robertson Martin, CBE, from Ireland, is an 'influencer' who survived being tricked into prostitution in her late teens and has spent nearly 20 years supporting women who want to exit this oldest of professions. Diane works with both government and local agencies to develop and improve policy, service development, prevention and exiting options. Diane was awarded the CBE by the Queen in 2013 for her work with vulnerable women in prostitution.

'I look forward to encourage and inspire by what God has done in my life, not just in terms of my backstory but in how God has taken me forward as a social entrepreneur in developing services and being an activist to speak truth to power.' Diane Robertson Martin, CBE.

Dorothea Barnett from Connecticut (USA) is CEO and Editor-in-Chief of *BIW Magazine*. Dorothea speaks on succeeding in business and managing one's personal life. She shows how the wrong relationship can have you running for your life. Her story is powerful, particularly as she talks about having to leave behind everything in order to survive, and what she had to do to make her way back.

'Make sure you are very courageous. Be strong. Be extremely kind and most of all be humble.' Dorothea Barnett.

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a special tribute

A tribute to Laverne Byng



It is with sadness that we announce the death of Laverne Byng on 23 February 2017. She was born in Trinidad to Gloria and Henry Byng, on 19 September 1962,

the seventh in a family of twelve. She 'never gave any trouble and was always helpful', recalled her mother fondly. In 1985 Laverne left Trinidad on a scholarship to England, to obtain her ACCA qualification in accounting. Laverne then worked at the Allied Irish Bank and at the BBC in London, prior to joining Stanborough Secondary School in September 2010, as Accountant and Bookkeeper. Here Laverne immersed herself in the life of the school, where her passion and talents were appreciated by staff, pupils and parents alike.

Laverne had a love for music, and nothing delighted her more than to praise God . . . whether in the praise team, which she led on the PTA Days of Fellowship, or participating in special items – music was a central theme in her life. In Chiswick Church, as far back as the eighties, Laverne introduced many wonderful choruses to the congregation: choruses that are still sung today.

Laverne ran health weeks for staff and students, inspiring several individuals to make positive lifestyle changes. Having also trained as a fitness instructor, she ran keep-fit classes at the school, which several primary school staff also attended. With such displays of energy and enthusiasm, it was at times easy

for us to forget the daily pain and difficulty she was living with. Despite her health challenges of 20 years, Laverne had a deep-seated joy in the Lord and knew how to make each day count by living a life of dedicated service, never missing an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, both spiritually and physically.

Laverne led out in assemblies and was always willing to step in and cover as the need arose. The children were greatly motivated and encouraged by her. She assisted boarders (especially Year 10 and Year 11) by coaching them in Maths and Business Studies. She also ran CAYA (come as you are), encouraging boarders to come together to sing and worship. Laverne was a prayer warrior and part of a group that would meet weekly to pray for both the primary and secondary school and the leadership. Her social leader role, which emerged naturally from the love and care she had for staff, saw her organising anything from pampering evenings to maternity farewell gifts – all well received and appreciated.

Laverne was full of life and laughter, and the image imprinted on the hearts of those who knew her is that of her smiling face accompanied by the sound of laughter. Her influence was far-reaching, and she played an important role in the establishment of the Adventist Muslim Relations (AMR) ministry. She worked alongside Conference leaders, such as Oscar Osindo, to generate interest in this new ministry, and in the early years of its

existence she was arguably the most dependable and energised lay-member of AMR. She formed many friendships with women of the Muslim community, who, as a result, attended various Adventist-sponsored events.

With great impact comes a sense of great loss, and sometimes the question, why? At such times, we may instead ask why we were so privileged to have known an individual such as Laverne and why we were blessed to have had her touch our lives in so many ways. Some erect statues in honour of those who have passed, but we can better preserve the memory of a loved one by adopting the positive qualities so well articulated in a life committed to God.

Younger brother Henry said of Laverne that he would always remember her for her Christ-like qualities and the fruit of the Spirit that she so beautifully exemplified, not least her complete and overwhelming sense of peace. Younger sister Diana spoke of Laverne's effervescence, her joy and her desire to always be involved in a variety of church activities. The family have been touched by the outpouring of love for Laverne. They are very appreciative of the support and prayers that they have received and are thankful for the kindness shown to them at this time.

Whether family, friend, colleague or acquaintance, we can all take comfort in knowing that, one day soon, 'God . . . will wipe away every tear . . . [and] there will be no more death . . . or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things [will have] passed away' (Revelation 21:3, 4, NIV).

KATHLEEN HANSON (BUC EDUCATION DIRECTOR)

Men learn new skill!

Men's Ministry has taken a new turn, with seven Bournville Church men acquiring a new skill. It was fun-filled learning on Sunday, 8 January, as Bournville's Men's Ministries group met to reflect on better ways to understand and manage their role as priests of their homes.

Pastor Obi, their minister, was invited by the enthusiastic men to share his bread-making skills with them. Each of them received a mixing bowl and all the necessary bread-making equipment and material to make his first loaf of bread. While waiting for the bread dough to rise, the men shared their experience on how to enjoy a healthier relationship in marriage.

By the end of the evening these men were not only wiser husbands, but each one also had a delicious loaf of bread to take

home to his family. The men are now so inspired that they have planned in principle to bake for the next church potluck – and are even considering a possible community bake off event when the opportunity arises.

PASTOR OBINAYIA IHEOMA



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31	7.32	7.45	7.38	7.49	7.59
Apr 7	7.44	7.56	7.50	8.04	8.12
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