

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

# Messenger

News to the churches • 7 April 2017 • Volume 122 • 07



## Lifestyle centre launched in Derry/Londonderry

by Pastor Weiers Coetser

The Derry/Londonderry church launched a community project on Sunday, 5 February. Prehen Lifestyle Centre, based in the spacious church hall, and named after the area in the city where the church is located, will provide fitness and lifestyle-related services to the community.

Introducing the lifestyle centre's 'Get Active Programme', Rick Roberts, a fitness coach, said, 'Starting on Monday evening, we will be offering several guided group fitness sessions per week catering for a range of personal goals and interests.' The open evening became a taster session for the various fitness programmes on offer. Visitors were enticed to try out these energetic and fun-filled exercise routines, and some built up quite a sweat!

In addition to a structured fitness programme, the Prehen Lifestyle Centre also features the city's first 'light room', offering bright light therapy. Renata, church elder and lifestyle centre volunteer, waited at the door to coax visitors into the newly decorated and luxurious room. Two bright multi-spectrum lights were placed strategically in the room for visitors to gain maximum exposure and benefit. Renata listed the many health benefits of this therapeutic facility. 'The bright lights compensate for lack of natural daylight. Many people quickly notice improved energy and mood within a few weeks of regular use. Regular exposure to bright light combats seasonal affective disorder (SAD), fatigue, anxiety and certain sleep disorders. It also helps concentration and aids in adjusting to a night-time work schedule.' Visitors were able to spend time around the lights and enjoyed conversation with members of the Lifestyle Centre team.



'We've been dreaming about a project like this for several years,' said Gosia Geslak as she fiddled with one of the newly acquired gadgets of the centre. 'Now it is finally real and I am ready to invite visitors to step onto our electronic scale. This is not an ordinary scale. It links to your phone by Bluetooth and it measures not only your weight, but also your hydration levels, visceral fat, bone density, resting metabolic rate, and even your health age! We offer confidential health screening to everybody who participates in one of our programmes. While we do not offer medical advice, we are able to give people an insight into their personal health and set them on a course of action to develop healthy habits.'

How did the project come about? 'We

Continued on p. 2



**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  
Tel. +44 (0) 30 30 40 10 17  
Registered charity 1074937 (SC037726 – IOM1101)

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

are a small church and our members are scattered over a wide area,' explains Pastor Weiers Coetser. 'But we have a core group of active members in the city area. It is true that we have been dreaming about a project like this for a while, but we never really knew how to bring it all together. Then Richard qualified as a level 3 fitness instructor; Renata told us about her discovery of bright light therapy; the work situation of Gosia, a registered nurse, changed to allow her to commit to the planning process; and, to top it all, the Emerald Foundation, an American organisation that supports the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ireland, made it known that they would fund a creative outreach project. We submitted our proposal, and, after some refining and negotiation, the funds were approved to purchase equipment and pay for the fitness classes for a period of six months! One or two more volunteers were recruited, and from this moment everything was ready to get started.'

According to Pastor Weiers, 'We needed to renovate the light room and purchase equipment. Some doors were providentially opened. At the last moment we acquired the use of much more fitness equipment than we had anticipated in our original budget. This enabled us to set up a top-notch exercise room in our church hall.'

The opening night drew a handful of visitors from the community. Most of the visitors responded to direct invitations from friends, although Facebook advertising continues to generate interest around the city. The church was buzzing as members and visitors interacted.

'We can't wait to see how the programme grows over the next few months,' said Pastor Weiers. 'We actually feel sorry that it took us so long to organise ourselves to launch this programme! It is truly energising to start a new project like this. We hope that this is the beginning of a long-term contribution to the well-being of the community around our congregation.'

Visit the Prehen Lifestyle Centre website or Facebook page for updates on how the project is progressing at: [www.prehenlifestylecentre.com](http://www.prehenlifestylecentre.com) or [www.facebook.com/prehenlifestylecentre/](http://www.facebook.com/prehenlifestylecentre/).



## Enhancing Health

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

### Managing your well-being – part 3

Concluding this mini-series, we share some reports that have an impact on well-being.

#### Managing pain

Recent research indicates that our choice of pain medication may do more harm than good. Researchers found a link between cardiac arrest (heart attack) and ibuprofen use. This was the same for another type of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) called diclofenac.

The Danish study<sup>1</sup> analysed 29,000 people who experienced a cardiac arrest in order to ascertain whether they had taken NSAIDs. It found the risk of cardiac arrest was increased by a third for those who took ibuprofen in the 30 days before the cardiac arrest. The risk was doubled for those taking diclofenac, which is used to treat mild to moderate pain, or the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.

The following alternatives were suggested: • Try alternative painkillers like paracetamol. • Get physiotherapy for joint and muscle pain. • Gain advice from your GP or pharmacist for other suitable treatments.

#### Managing lifestyle

The General Conference Health Ministries Department has created CELEBRATIONS® – a comprehensive programme for healthy lifestyle management. CELEBRATIONS® is an acronym for 12 principles of healthful living: (1) choices, (2) exercise, (3) liquid, (4) environment, (5) belief, (6) rest, (7) air, (8) temperance, (9) integrity, (10) optimism, (11) nutrition, and (12) social support and services.

The programme is renowned for its excellent health outcomes.

### 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:*  
**BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney**

Please register your interest. All are welcome!

Contact details: [qstewart@spsch.org](mailto:qstewart@spsch.org);  
Tel: 01923 673268.  
Website: [www.spsch.org](http://www.spsch.org)  
Address: Stanborough School,  
Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JT



**Please note, . . . revised date!**

Accompanying the CELEBRATIONS programme book is a series of PowerPoint presentations. These can be used as a lifestyle intervention programme for personal health maintenance or as a series of 12 seminars for churches and communities. They are available at: [http://healthministries.com/celebrations\\_presentations](http://healthministries.com/celebrations_presentations).

#### Managing emotions and embracing happiness

An article entitled 'Positive Emotions and Your Health'<sup>2</sup> that appeared in *News in Health* highlighted a link between an upbeat mental state and improved health, such as lower blood pressure, reduced heart disease risk, healthier weight, better blood sugar levels, and longer life.

March 20 2017 was designated as the International Day of Happiness. The United Nations' fifth *World Happiness Report*<sup>3</sup> contained the results of its global survey on happiness, ranking 155 countries by their happiness levels and well-being outcomes. The report indicated that good mental and physical health and positive personal relationships were among the leading determinants of happiness: whereas workplace stress, unemployment, poor work quality and work-life balance were among the main causes of misery worldwide.

According to their results this is where the happiest people live:  
• 1 Norway • 2 Denmark • 3 Iceland • 4 Switzerland • 5 Finland  
• 6 Netherlands • 7 Canada • 8 New Zealand • 9 Australia  
• 10 Sweden

Wherever you live, may 3 John 2 be your reality.

#### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><http://www.nhs.uk/news/2017/03March/Pages/ibuprofen-claimed-to-raise-cardiac-arrest-risk-by-a-third.aspx> <sup>2</sup><https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/aug2015/feature1>  
<sup>3</sup><http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2017/>

# editorial

This morning my wife asked me an unusual question. She blurted it out soon after I wished her a happy Mother's Day, and just before she gave me a few hints on how she would like to spend her special day.

'Do you still miss your mother?' she asked. 'Yes, I do!' was my answer. That unexpected question, however, set my thoughts free to reflect on why I still miss my mother – 47 years after we laid her to rest. Here are some reasons that may resonate with your experience.

#### She was my best friend

I was 18 when she died, and busy developing some new, robust and lasting friendships of my own. But in the weeks that followed her funeral I became increasingly aware that I hadn't just lost my mother: I had also lost my best friend!

Like so many of our nation's mothers, she knew how to 'befriend' her children at each stage of their development. But our friendship ended far too soon. It ended so abruptly – the victim of twisted steel and shattered glass!

I had been robbed. We would never again chuckle and chat over the kitchen table. There would be no more letters, no long-distance phone calls. My heart ached for her friendship back then . . . and it ached again today.

Fortunately, time heals, allowing us to make new friends, from among whom we usually select a new best friend. That notwithstanding, I am sure that this statement sums up the way many of us will always feel about our mothers: 'First my mother – forever my friend.'

#### Jesus was her best Friend

It was my mother who led our family from nominal Christianity into Adventism, and I am sure that this is true for many of our MESSENGER readers. Although she had spent most of her secondary schooling in a convent, eventually becoming the head girl, Catholicism was not



## Do you still miss your mother?



**Julian Hibbert**  
Editor

for her. She was looking for something different and she found it in the preaching of an Australian evangelist, Pastor Raymond Kent.

After the evangelistic meetings were over both she and her mother received Bible studies and were baptised, with other family members following at regular intervals as a result of her influence.

If you have had the privilege of a godly mother you have something to rejoice over – something to remember with deep gratitude as often as possible, but at least every Mother's Day. Please make sure she knows that the flowers and gifts you give her are for everything she's done for you, but most especially for the light of faith she has helped ignite in your heart.

The night before my mother's death her Bible bookmark showed that she had been reading these words from the book of Joshua:

**'Be strong and very courageous.** Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.**' (Joshua 1:7-9, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

Two days later, as we sat in church enveloped in our sorrow, those words were like a legacy of encouragement to us. They pointed us to a Saviour who would be with us wherever we went, even through the 'valley of the shadow of death'.

Did your mother have a special verse, chapter or psalm? A portion of scripture that she knew from memory or often referred to? If she is still able to, it might be helpful to ask her to share her special scriptures with you. If they mean so much to her, they might just be what you need to steady your soul when life becomes turbulent, as it certainly will.

#### Mom kept us together

One of the things that mothers are usually gifted with is hospitality. The wonderful ability to draw the family together on special occasions to enjoy good food and each other's company. My mother did this on birthdays, at Easter, on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and for New Year. In fact, for a number of years we had four generations of our family around the table for all those events – from four to ninety-four!

I have seen this hospitality practised successfully, over and over again, by wonderful women from all segments of society. These women all have their own distinctive menus, their favourite, personalised recipes, and their own unique way of expressing their hospitality. There is one thing, however, that they all have in common: the ability to create an atmosphere in which the guests are able to celebrate their togetherness.

#### Do you still miss your mother?

You have read my brief answer to that question (bearing in mind that there is much I have left unsaid). Now it's your turn. What can you say about your mother? Or, if she is still around for you to do so, **what will you say to her?**

Life doesn't come with an expiry date. Its duration is uncertain. We may have it today, in all its fullness, but lose it tomorrow without warning. My mother's life ended without warning. For me there was no chance to say 'Goodbye!'

I am longing, however, to shout, 'Hello, Mom! I'm over here!' one day soon – when **'the saying that is written will come true: Death has been swallowed up in victory.'** (1 Corinthians 15:54, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)



# By 'mites' and 'acorns'

(A meditation based on Mark 12:41-44)

by Stuart Sly

It is the week of Christ's crucifixion. He is teaching in the temple complex, near where the offering box is located. He pauses to observe the people giving. The rich are there, outfitted in their finest clothes as they make a grand display of piling their money bags into the offering chest. For some it takes so long that a lengthy queue begins to form.

Hardly noticed among the ostentation of the wealthy worshippers is an elderly woman – a poor widow. She shuffles forward towards the offering box, stooped more by an awareness of her poverty and humility than by the burden of her years. Let Ellen White's book *The Desire of Ages* pick up the story for us at that point. 'She looked at the gift in her hand. It was very small in comparison with the gifts of those around her, yet it was her all. Watching her opportunity, she hurriedly threw in her two mites, and turned to hasten away. But in doing this she caught the eye of Jesus, which was fastened earnestly upon her.' (Pages 614 and 615.)

The story doesn't stop there: 'The Saviour called His disciples to Him, and bade them mark the widow's poverty. Then His words of commendation fell upon her ear: "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all." Tears of joy filled her eyes as she felt that her act was understood and appreciated. Many would have advised her to keep her pittance for her own use; given into the hands of the well-fed priests, it would be lost sight of among the many costly gifts brought to the treasury. But Jesus understood her motive. She believed the service of the temple to be of God's appointment, and she was anxious to do her utmost to sustain it. She did what she could, and her act was to be a monument to her memory through all time, and her joy in eternity. Her heart went with her gift; its value was estimated, not by the worth of the coin, but by the love to God and the interest in His work that had prompted the deed.' (Page 615.)

The Greek words that Mark and Luke use to describe the poverty of this woman may be paraphrased as '[one] in extreme want'; 'one who lives a hand-to-mouth existence and who must labour each day in order to have something to eat the next day'. The abject poverty of this widow stands out in bold contrast with the wealth of the other worshippers.

So how much did she actually give? What was the real value of those two mites? We don't have much use these days for mites or even farthings – they were before my time. Mites were the smallest Jewish copper coins in circulation. They were worth less than a farthing, which was worth two mites. A farthing, in turn, amounted to 1/64<sup>th</sup> of a Roman denarius, a day's wage in the time of Christ. Based on a denarius for a 12-hour working day she gave the equivalent of 11.25 minutes' worth of wages. To put it into today's values, she would be guaranteed the minimum wage rate of £7.20 per hour and her two mites would equate to just £1.35! It makes us pause and wonder what we would do if all we had in the world was £1.35 – nowadays probably enough to buy a loaf of bread, but with little left to keep us from starving tomorrow.

This makes sense of the following comment from *The Desire of Ages*: 'The poor widow gave her living to do the little that she did. She deprived herself of food in order to give those two mites to the cause she loved. And she did it in faith, believing that her heavenly Father would not overlook her great need. It was this unselfish spirit and childlike faith that won the Saviour's commendation.' (Ibid.)

A brief, simple, but expressive eulogy was pronounced in 1522 by Martin Luther about a pastor named Nicholas Haussmann. 'What we preach, he lived,' said the great reformer. It could equally be said of this poor widow, 'What we preach, she lived!'

And what an influence her 'living' has had upon the world: 'The influence of that little gift has been like a stream, small in its beginning, but widening and deepening as it flowed down through the ages. In a thousand ways it has contributed to the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel. Her example of self-sacrifice has acted and reacted upon thousands of hearts in every land and in every age. It has appealed to both the rich and the poor, and their offerings have swelled the value of her gift. God's blessing upon the widow's mite has made it the source of great results. So with every gift bestowed and every act performed with a sincere desire for God's glory. It is linked with the purposes of Omnipotence. Its results for good no man can measure.' (Idem, p. 616.)

We all want to make a difference in life, to know that with our passing we have somehow left the world a better place because of our having been here. Is it possible that we can also have something like the impact that widow has had on countless people by the way we live – by just being 'us' guided by the Holy Spirit? Can we make a difference in our little corner of the world?

In the chapter, 'The Acorn Planter', by Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R. (in his book, *The Sower's Seeds*), the following story is told:

In the 1930s a young traveller was exploring the French Alps when he came upon a vast stretch of barren land. It was the kind of place you hurry away from. Then, suddenly, the young traveller noticed that in the



'She looked at the gift in her hand. It was very small in comparison with the gifts of those around her, yet it was her all. . . .'

middle of this vast wasteland was a bent-over old man. On his back was a sack of acorns. In his hand was a four-foot length of iron pipe. The young traveller was curious and paused to see what the old man was doing in this bleak, forbidding place. The man used the pipe to punch holes in the ground. Then from the sack he would take an acorn

and put it in the hole. As he moved closer and met the old man the traveller was informed: 'I've planted over 100,000 acorns. Perhaps only a tenth of them will grow.' The old man's wife and son had died, and this was how he chose to spend his final years. 'I want to do something useful,' he said.

Twenty-five years later, when the now not-as-young traveller was again travelling through the same area, he was amazed by what he saw. The land was covered with a beautiful forest two miles wide and five miles long. Birds were singing, animals were playing, and wild flowers perfumed the air. A beautiful oak forest stood there now – all because someone wanted to make a difference to that desolate place.

We must admit that the world we inhabit is not in its first flush of youth – it is worn and decaying, more so as the years go by. It desperately needs those, like the widow and the bent-over acorn planter, who are willing to change it by mites and acorns!

The Lord's tithe

Dear Editor,

As a teenager I once suggested to my church elder that maybe, to help the poor, I could give my tithe to ADRA. He said that shouldn't be done; tithe should go to the Conference in the normal way.

At the time I couldn't understand what difference it made: but now I do. You see, withholding our tithe from the Conference is not a 'victimless crime'. By giving what belongs to the Conference to other charitable causes, we are 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' – literally robbing the church, and even robbing God (see Malachi 3).

At last year's NEC Session I saw the pain on the pastors' faces as they debated what department could be cut to make ends meet. Youth ministries? Disability ministries? Do we make some pastors redundant? I later asked a retired treasurer why money was in short supply, and he said it was partly because not everyone's returning their tithe.

We're happy to receive pastoral visits, and worry if our pastor has too many churches to look after; our pastors conduct weddings and funerals on church premises free of charge for us – and we're happy to receive all these benefits. But the pastors still need paying if they're to do their work full-time, and evangelism needs funding too. True, God's resources are not limited – but He gives us the privilege of meeting His church's needs, and we are responsible if there's a lack.

Do we have so little faith in God's ability to provide for us that we're afraid to return a faithful tithe to His church? Is our thankfulness to God so limited? As Ellen White wrote, 'But how small the estimate; how vain the endeavour to measure with mathematical rules, time, money, and love, against a love so immeasurable and a gift of such inconceivable worth. Tithes for Christ! Oh, meagre pittance, shameful recompense for that which cost so much!' (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 188.)

In the end, the delegates voted not to cut any departments; even though we're getting in less than we need, we trusted God to provide – and He's depending on us!

ANDREW PUCKERING

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

**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



Children waiting for their gift boxes



Schoolgirls holding boxes



Young girl with her gift box



Volunteer with schoolchildren



ADRA-UK volunteers and ADRA Ghana refurbishing the classrooms

# Gift boxes for Ghana

by Sophie Gordon, Volunteering Programmes Officer

In February, ADRA-UK and a group of volunteers visited poverty-stricken areas in Ghana to distribute gift boxes and refurbish two school classrooms.

The gift box distribution project is an annual event, and for the ADRA-UK staff it is a privilege to see individuals who, prompted by the Spirit, participate in tasks outside of their comfort zone and entirely for the benefit of others.

With new volunteers attending each year, there is always a fresh experience, a tangible air of excitement and a few nerves before departure! Nobody quite knows what will await them overseas, how they will bond with the other team members or if they'll be able to survive the humidity!

On arrival, with over 5,000 gift boxes already packed and shipped in anticipation, the

volunteers met the wonderful team at ADRA Ghana and soon began their journey to the first few schools.

Although Ghana is a country with a rich business history, having enjoyed centuries of wealth and culture, the volunteers soon learnt that you need only travel past the familiar city sites, into the rural districts, to see the harsh realities of life. Emmanuel, a Ghanaian journalist who accompanied the team, made this unbelievable comment: 'You will see and speak to people who have never seen electricity with their own eyes.' To which Ernest, the official photographer of ADRA Ghana, added, 'I remember one of my first ADRA visits on which I met people who lived only thirty minutes from Accra [the capital city], who shared the same [drinking] water as their animals.'

Yet, not one of our volunteers was prepared for the happiness these unexpected gift boxes would bring to many in those impoverished communities. The children could hardly contain their jubilation as they jostled their way to the front of the queue, reaching with expectant hands to grasp what these foreigners had brought them from so far away. In these moments, as the heat of the sun illuminated the rudimentary school buildings; the red African earth burned beneath their shoes; and the ebony skin of the children glistened in the noonday sun, there was perhaps more joy among the team as they witnessed the elation these small, lovingly packed boxes were bringing to children in Ghana.

For the next few days the group continued their work, travelling long distances, visiting

school after school and forming orderly lines (well, as much as possible!), to give hundreds of children their presents. Not that this was easy work! There was strategy employed by the group, with each team member finding their role as the days progressed. Whether someone counted the shaven-headed tops of the schoolchildren, carried boxes to and from the truck, handed out boxes or flattened empty cartons – the group found their rhythm and were soon operating like a well-oiled machine.

By the end of the first three days, the volunteers had visited over 20 schools, distributing nearly 3,000 boxes – the largest amount ever to be given out during a trip!

For some of the volunteers, a unique connection was made with specific children. God

revealed to them, during their time abroad, why He had placed a calling on their heart to visit the continent of Africa. Thus, a few volunteers left with purposes set and promises made, intent on bettering the health and education of specific children in Ghana, once they had returned home.

Now the distribution portion of the trip was completed! Loading their minibuses once more, the volunteers took a four-hour drive to Cape Coast. Little did they know what awaited them during the classroom renovation! The school project soon became the highlight of the Ghana experience!

While travelling for hours each day across the country, the volunteers had shared their stories of life and love with each other, but it was at Nsawdir School that the team made real and lasting connections with the local children and their families. The schoolchildren could hardly contain their excitement at seeing the volunteers each morning, and eager smiles, waves and clapping hands greeted their arrival. One shadow often became two, as little eyes and ears were intent on seeing and knowing the new

strangers in their village.

The first experience in the community was one of extreme significance, as the volunteers met with the chief of the village. As the final seal of approval was given to the UK team, a heartfelt story was shared by the chief's secretary: 'Years ago, ADRA worked in our community and we knew them for building schools. However, when we asked them to build our school classrooms, they told us they were now focusing on providing food security. At that time, ADRA fed us; now . . . the volunteers are the answer to our prayer from eight years ago – our classrooms will be completed and we thank God.'

God is not slow in keeping His promises, and here the volunteers saw the fulfilment of this before their eyes! In the power of this answered prayer the group went forth, and with only four days to cement floors, create a porch, paint four classrooms and attach shutters – it was no easy task before them!

At least 15 to 20 local builders came to the project site each day to help. The builders started before the volunteers each



morning, and worked past the time they left in the afternoon. Yet, it was not just the volunteers whom the locals had come to help. Education is the main path out of poverty, and, with each load they carried, the builders knew they were contributing to the foundation and furtherance of their children, community and future.

It was with many tools, perseverance and much laughter that the work was completed. The volunteers learnt a few lessons along the way as well! One of the volunteers, a design and technology teacher in the UK, commented on the tenacity of the workers, their accuracy with basic tools and their ability to work hard, for long hours.

At the end of the project, ADRA-UK took part in a formal ceremony to hand over the classroom keys to the chief, the school and the community. Now it

was time for the celebrations to begin! With music and dancing, hugs and final photos, the ADRA-UK team bid farewell to people who would be far from them in distance, but not in their hearts.

Any story written to encapsulate the feel and experiences of an ADRA-UK trip will always be inadequate. Strangers on a minibus become family, day-to-day life is put in perspective, people are challenged to see their capabilities in a new light and God actively shows how He is working for His children all around the world.

This experience could be waiting for you too! ADRA-UK will be going to Nepal in September on their largest project yet! Join 30 volunteers in renovating a three-storey school building. Contact [volunteering@adra.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@adra.org.uk) for more information or to sign up now!

**DONATE**

[www.adra.org.uk/donate](http://www.adra.org.uk/donate)

**ADRA CONNECTIONS**

**LET'S GO TO NEPAL**

Do you and a group of friends fancy visiting Nepal?

Get involved in a real ADRA project  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sept-18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017

[volunteering@adra.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@adra.org.uk)  
or 030 30 40 1017  
for pricing and more details

Limited spaces!  
First come, first to Nepal!

ADRA UK

adra.org.uk | www.facebook.com/ADRAUK | teamadra | youtube.com/adrauk  
Registered charity 1074937 (SCO37726 - IOM1101)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

## Trans-European Division request GC-approved ministerial credential

by Pastor Victor Hulbert (TED Communication and Media Director)

On 15 February the Executive Committee of the Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists voted a strong request to the General Conference that consideration be given to issuing a single credential for those in ministry, or, alternatively, to amend existing credentials in order to make them more inclusive.

The request, voted unanimously, comes after months of careful consultation, listening, advice seeking, and prayer; all this within the context of the very complex and challenging situation the Church finds itself facing in secularised Europe.

The preamble to the request includes a commitment to respecting and upholding decisions made by the General Conference in Session alongside a recognition that decisions made at the highest level need to be implemented within a local context.

The decision in San Antonio generated many discussions within the Trans-European Division territory and raised issues of conscience. This has given rise to unintended and, at times, undesirable consequences. This includes, but is not limited to, women pastors and women elders being told by well-intentioned members that they may no longer speak in church. Since then the TED and local unions have spent considerable time affirming women in ministry and their God-given calling. (See links at end of article.)

The committee noted that the amount of time and energy consumed by dealing with the fallout from the San Antonio vote is distracting us from the mission of the Church, is alienating many young people and is increasingly damaging the image of the Church in the societies that the Church in Europe is trying to reach.



would request that consideration be given to:

- A single ministerial credential which is issued to all who are engaged in pastoral ministry, so bringing Working Policy in line with Fundamental Belief 14. This would entail amending Working Policy by deleting the parenthesis and footnote to BA 60 10 and/or amending/deleting E 60 to reflect a single credential.

Audrey Andersson, TED Executive Secretary, explained, 'This is within policy. ]We cannot create a new credential ourselves, but we can recommend [it] to the GC.'

There are also alternative options for the GC to consider, including enhancing the role of a commissioned minister or developing a new, gender-neutral credential. The recommendation is not proscriptive but, according to Raafat Kamal, TED President, 'It opens the door for positive dialogue and solutions.'

The TED has a long history of valuing all who are called to ministry. This latest request combines that context with the pragmatic needs of various unions within the TED while keeping in harmony with the voted decisions of the World Church. [TEDNEWS]

See also:

- <http://ted.adventist.org/news/1007-ted-seek-unity-within-diversity-of-cultures-and-perspectives>
- <http://ted.adventist.org/news/991-ted-responds-to-unity-in-mission-document-voted-at-annual-council>
- <http://ted.adventist.org/news/850-ted-affirms-women-in-church-leadership>
- <http://ted.adventist.org/news/830-response-to-%E2%80%98no%E2%80%99-vote-on-women%E2%80%99s-ordination>
- <http://ted.adventist.org/news/532-ted-executive-committee-recommends-inclusive-ministry-without-gender-distinctions>

While steps have been taken to follow the model of the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), there was a strong emphasis by the committee that the Church must continue to strive towards an understanding of how issues of conscience and faithfulness may be resolved.

For the TED that context includes differing interpretations of equal opportunities legislation in several countries, together with some issues of variance within church governance and policy documents. Legal opinions received by four unions, based on national and European Union law, present a challenging picture.

The aim of the committee is to work closely with the GC to find a solution that will both fit within the needs of national legislation and resolve those variance issues. Within that remit the committee also requested unions within the TED to put on hold any variation to working policy in regard to credentials while discussions are in progress up until the time of the GC Annual Council.

The voted document states:

- Recognising that the current system of ministerial credentials (ordained) and commissioned credentials function for most of the church, and wanting to respect the decision made by the General Conference in Session in San Antonio, we



### 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](mailto: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.



### Couples' retreat

Coventry Central Church's Family Life Ministry Department recently held a couples' dinner at Jury's Inn Hotel in Hinckley. The theme of the evening was 'To Have and to Hold', and it was attended by 18 couples from Coventry Church and two from the community. The couples were enriched by Pastor and Mrs Liburd, who were the speakers for the evening. The couples had a chance to rekindle relationships, and before the evening ended they were able to renew their vows to each other in a moving ceremony.

The feedback from the non-member couples was very positive. 'Thank you for the lovely time we had; we learnt a lot and are waiting for another invite soon. Keep up the good work!'

COVENTRY FAMILY LIFE TEAM

### Newbold Diversity Lectures

If you are interested in listening to the February lecture by Dr Torben Bergland entitled 'Moving beyond immature faith – a psychiatrist's perspective', please apply for a link by writing to: [bstoykov@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:bstoykov@newbold.ac.uk).

The March lecture on 'Free speech for Christians in a secular world' by Dr David Landrum, Director of Advocacy at the Evangelical Alliance, is also available at: <https://www.facebook.com/newboldcollege/>.

## NEWBOLD'S ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE

WE CAN'T LOOK AWAY  
THE CHURCH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

SABBATH 6 MAY, 2017 | 01344 407492  
NEWBOLD.AC.UK/BIBLE-CONFERENCE

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT, BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE



6-13 MAY 2017

In a Location  
Near You!

London  
Reading  
Scotland

Rediscover Our Essential Doctrines...  
While not forgetting the Christ-centred  
elements of each doctrine...

For info contact Kerrine on 01923 672251 or email  
[kerrineguthrie@adventist.uk](mailto:kerrineguthrie@adventist.uk)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



### 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](mailto:plee@secadventist.org.uk)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

# SEC CAMP MEETING

19-25  
JUNE  
2017



# PREPARATION FOR THE HARVEST

PONTINS PRESTATYN SANDS, CENTRAL BEACH,  
BARKBY AVE, PRESTATYN LL19 7LA



**BIBLE STUDY SPEAKER: DR DANIEL DUDA**



**HEALTH SPEAKER: DR CHIDI NGWABA**



**YOUTH SPEAKER: PASTOR ANTHONY FULLER**



**YOUTH SPEAKER: PASTOR PAUL GRAHAM**



**JUNIORS SPEAKER: PASTOR KARYLE BARNES JR**



**TEENS AND PRAYER & PRAISE SPEAKER:  
PASTOR CARLOS PATRICK**

DAILY WORSHIP SERVICES • PRAYER & PRAISE SERVICES • DEVOTIONALS  
HEALTH PLENARIES • BIBLE STUDIES • WORKSHOPS • YOUTH, TEENS AND  
JUNIOR PROGRAMMES • CHILDREN AND CRADLE ROLL PROGRAMMES



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



## 2017 SEC BOOKING FORM

Please complete this Booking Form and send it directly to:  
Pontin's Ainsdale House, Shore Road, Ainsdale, Southport. PR8 2PZ  
TEL: 0871 2220201

Accommodation:											
Booking ref _____	Holiday location <b>PRESTATYN SANDS</b>								Number of apartments Club: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Arrival date <u>19 June 2017</u>	Departure date <u>25 June 2017</u>		Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		Classic: <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"/>		Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday)								Self Catering:		Budget: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Total	60+	45-59	26-44	18-25	12-17	8-11	5-7	2-4	Under 2	X	
										Budget: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
										(B) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm	

Prices	C1 Club	C2 Club	K1 Classic	K1 Classic Studio	K2 Classic	B1 Budget	B2 Budget
	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	1 Bedroom Studio for 2 persons only	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)
Discount to 31/3/17	£425.00	£595.00	£330.00	£230	£475.00	£205.00	£330.00
From 1/4/17	£450.00	£620.00	£355.00	£255	£500.00	£230.00	£355.00

Party Details:									
Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*	Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*

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

Address of First-Named on Booking Form:	
Name:	Home Tel:
Street:	Business Tel:
Town:	Email Address:
County:	Post Code:

Special Needs/Requirements Section:

Wheelchair Accessible apartment

Ground Floor apartment

Please note all requests will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

**\*\* OFFER CODE: SDA17 \*\***

Nb. 1½% admin charge applies to all card transactions.

### Declaration:

I agree on behalf of all persons named above to abide by Pontins' conditions. I accept the charges for accommodation and agree to pay the balance 58 days before the holiday date. By entering into a contract with you I understand that the details I provide will be used in booking and providing my chosen holiday. **(PLEASE sign here)**

Local Minister's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Ministers Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Suzanne George and Darell Philip outside Vue Cinema in Central London.

## Hackney and Hacksaw Ridge

Members from the Hackney church braved the cold weather to give out 100 copies of a special edition of *Focus* magazine to those attending the screening of *Hacksaw Ridge* on Thursday 16 February at the VUE cinema in central London. The film tells the story of Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist medic who saved the lives of 75 soldiers during World War II.

By the end of the movie, viewers had clearly been touched by this story of a man who, despite the severest of battlefield conditions, did not back down from his personal convictions and religious beliefs. One of the patrons, Paul, aged 57, said: '*Hacksaw Ridge* is an amazing film. What I'm taking away from it is that there are many who serve but only a few men that are extraordinary.' The film also resonated well with the younger generation. '*Hacksaw Ridge* was well shot with emotional performances and a respectful portrayal of Desmond Doss,' said 19-year-old Edward Whitlock. Also watching the film was Hackney member, Suzanne George, who said: 'The gory war scenes were at times hard to stomach but what a brave hero Desmond Doss was – makes me proud to be an Adventist.'

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT)

**NEWBOLD COLLEGE**  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**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](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/1960s-reunion), or call us on +44 (0)1344 407492.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Some of the Edmonton members dress in US Army uniform.

## Nothing stops Edmonton's 'officers'

When denied permission to hand out *Focus* magazines about the movie *Hacksaw Ridge* in a cinema foyer, a band of street evangelists from Edmonton Church decided to do it in the street instead.

That, however, was not their only challenge. It took them less than 15 minutes to travel to the cinema from Edmonton Church, where the weather was close to perfect. But by the time they began parking at the Cineworld Enfield, dark clouds had mysteriously gathered overhead. As they unpacked the *Focus* magazines and books from their cars it began to rain – a rain that soon developed into heavy rain, with hailstones. As they huddled in two groups outside the cinema, they realised that it was time to pray and demonstrate the faith of Desmond Doss.

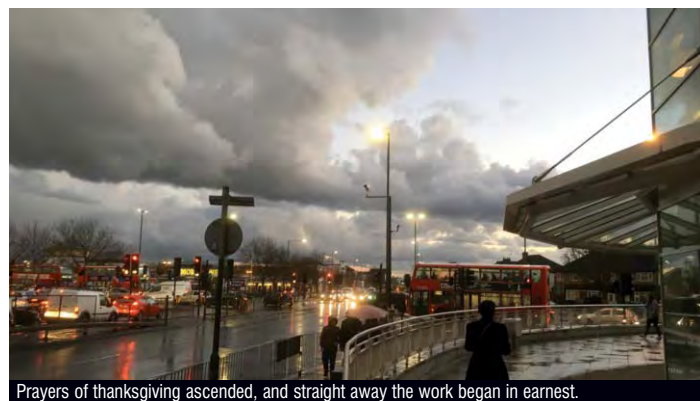
Within five minutes the rain began to subside and the sky cleared above them! That is what prayer can do!

That evening the team of young people handed out over 300 *Focus* magazines and 100 *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge* books to cinema-goers!

Some of the group donned US Army uniforms, kindly lent to them by Sarah Baker of St Mary's Little Parndon Church in Harlow. This resulted in some members of the public calling them 'US officers' – to which they received a book or magazine in return.

The group were thankful to God for this remarkable opportunity to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The story of Desmond Doss is one that is so powerful that we should not limit the spotlight on him just to the few weeks that the film was on the cinema circuit. We should continue using this story as an evangelistic tool for as long as we can.

ALEX NSIMBI



Prayers of thanksgiving ascended, and straight away the work began in earnest.

## 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](mailto:js.bussey@ntlworld.com). Thank you for considering this important cause.



## Veteran ingatherer's challenge

Each year we receive some encouragement from Hubert Smiley, urging those who can to collect as much as possible for ADRA during the Annual Appeal. He started collecting in 1960, and that year his total was six shillings! Since then he has raised as much as £3,500 during a single year! Unfortunately, Hubert is no longer able to walk as he did because of a serious circulation problem in his left leg. That is why he is challenging you to step up and do 'his' bit this year.

EDITOR

## Aberdeen ordination

The afternoon of Sabbath 11 February was set aside for the ordination of three deacons and two elders at the Aberdeen church. We were blessed to have Pastor Paul Tompkins, the Scottish Mission President, along with his wife Dawn, attend to perform the ordinations. The candidates set aside to be deacons were Luke Searchwell, Ekeoma Akataobi and Gordon Scott. The elders were Kenneth Onyegbule and Astel Fearon. Astel



Left to right: Luke Searchwell, Ekeoma and Precious Akataobi, Gordon and Judith Scott, President Paul and Dawn Tompkins, Astel Fearon, Chidinma and Kenneth Onyegbule, Mthoko and Pastor Njabulo Ndlovu. Picture quality as supplied



## ADRA-UK commits funds to East African crisis

On 20 March the board and trustees of ADRA-UK voted that 20% of the funds received through door-to-door fund-raising from this year's Annual Appeal should immediately be used to alleviate hunger in Africa. This is in addition to the 20% that has already been committed to projects in the United Kingdom.

The UK media are currently focusing on the conflict-induced famine that is threatening more than 20 million people in East Africa. According to UNICEF, 1.4 million of them could starve to death this year.

'The El Niño-driven crisis has increased the malnutrition rates of rural children, and driven up food prices for urban residents. Livestock deaths and fire sales have slashed the asset wealth of pastoralists, and cumulative bad harvests will make recovery all the harder for small-scale farmers.'

'In the worst cases, where conflict has made farming impossible and reduced humanitarian [aid] access, there will be famine.' This currently applies to South Sudan, Somalia and Nigeria, with similar problems looming in Yemen.

However, there are currently '17 countries' in Africa that are suffering from 'two consecutive years of drought, which has left more than 38 million people at risk this year'.

Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Madagascar are facing the greatest risks. (For more information see: <https://is.gd/8QSZ0F>.)

The ADRA network is working hard to build resilience against the effects of climate change: not just for now, but for the future. ADRA's projects in Africa are helping farmers to combat drought and escape famine.

Our Annual Appeal fund supports multiple network emergency projects across the world and helps to save tens of thousands of people every year. A portion of what will be collected during this year's Annual Appeal has already been committed to help in South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya and Yemen.

ADRA believes that fighting climate change requires a concerted long-term effort and continues to advocate for this at all levels. As a preferred partner of the World Food Programme in many African countries, ADRA is responding as soon as it can.

Your help in raising funds for our Annual Appeal this year will help us continue to support the network as it helps people to escape drought and famine across the African continent.

is currently the leader of our sister church in Bucksburn. The service closed with a prayer that the Lord would continue to use these men to help finish the work in this area of His vineyard.

JANICE SAVIZON

## Deaconesses ordained

On 14 January three members of Manchester Southern Asia Church, Shushma Morapudi, Diamond Sathe and Selvi Balakrishnan, were ordained as deaconesses – something they have accepted as a wonderful privilege.

DIAMOND SATHE





# Extending God's Kingdom

CAMP MEETING 2017  
26 JUNE - 2 JULY  
PONTINS • SOUTHPORT



## Nurturing Each Other and Winning Another



PS GLEN SAMUELS  
MAIN SPEAKER

PS JASON SLIGER  
YOUTH SPEAKER

## Guest Speakers



DR BERTRAM MELBOURNE  
BIBLE STUDY SPEAKER

PS KEITH MORRIS  
POWER HOUR SPEAKER

DR MAGNA  
PARKS-PORTAFIELD  
HEALTH SPEAKER

PS SAM GUNGALOO  
TEENS SPEAKER

PS DAMEIN JOHNSON  
YOUTH SPEAKER

PLEASE CALL PONTINS ON 08714 742765 QUOTING NSDA TO MAKE YOUR BOOKING OR SEND YOUR APPLICATION FORM DIRECTLY TO PONTINS. PRICES ARE DISCOUNTED UNTIL 31 MARCH 2017. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK OR CONTACT THE NEC OFFICE ON 0115 960 6312



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



# Adventist Book Center.com

## April Specials!

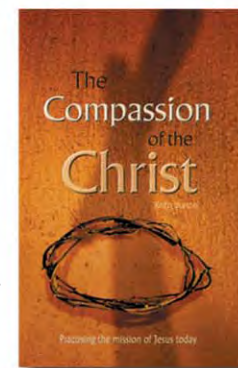


Activity Bible Series (Activity Bibles for Younger and Older Children, Explorer Bible, Bible Read & Play)  
**£5.95 each: buy 2, get one free**  
Bright, colourful and crammed with activities, colouring, puzzles and stories. Guaranteed to keep your children entertained for many hours.

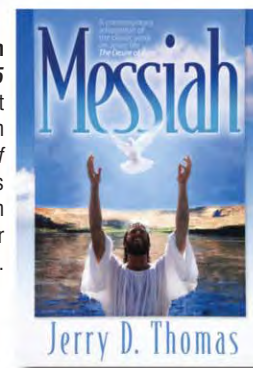


**They Knew Him**  
*New title*  
**£5.95**  
Anita Marshall has been seriously in love with Jesus for over 55 years. She shares her favourite stories of men and women who have walked with Him throughout history from biblical times to the present day.

**Compassion of the Christ**  
*Was £6.95, now £4.50*  
Author Keith Burton seeks to answer difficult questions such as: Are Christians still called upon to evangelise those who have not accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour? Do Christians have a right to condemn those trapped in sinful habits? How can we practise the mission of Christ in the twenty-first century?

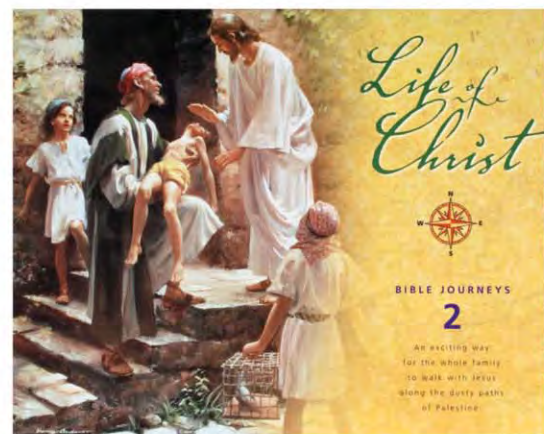


**Messiah**  
*Was £3.95, now £1.75*  
An eloquent modernisation of Ellen White's classic *Desire of Ages*: Jerry D. Thomas makes the beauty of Ellen White's message easier than ever to understand.

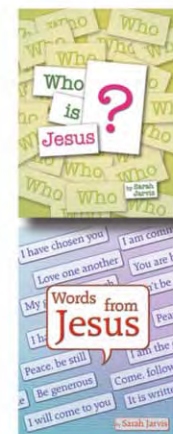


**Hurry as offer ends:  
1 May 2017**

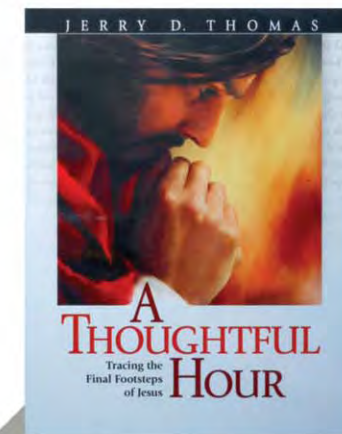
**Thoughtful Hour Vol. 1**  
*Was £6.95, now £4.99*  
Makes it easier than ever to set aside a thoughtful hour to read and study the gospel accounts of Jesus' life.



**Life of Christ (board game)**  
*Was £13.25, now £9.99*  
An exciting way for the whole family to walk with Jesus. Perfect for a rainy Sabbath afternoon. For 2-6 players.

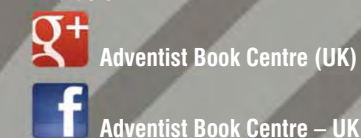


**Words from Jesus and Who is Jesus?**  
*Get both for £1.99*  
A pair of little books filled to the brim with inspirational and biblical quotes. The perfect gift for a friend or colleague.



Order on our Sales Hotline  
**01476 591700**  
sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Find us on:



All prices are subject to Postage + Packing charges





## High day in Zion

It was a great Sabbath, full of worship, singing, learning and fellowship for those who attended the Zimbabwe UK Seventh-day Adventist Day of Fellowship at Luton on 18 February. ZUSDAF, the fellowship for Zimbabwean UK-based Adventists, meets three or four times a year, and this time attracted nearly a thousand people. The guest speakers were Dr Jerome Hurst and his wife, Dr Caroline Hurst, from Allegheny West Conference, Ohio, USA. Dr Jerome preached an encouraging sermon in the morning while Dr Carolyn gave an insightful presentation on the sanctuary message in the afternoon.

Pastor Pardon Chenjerai from the NEC's Huddersfield district led a moving prayer session in the afternoon, which saw many going forward to be prayed for. The music in the afternoon was uplifting as singing groups and the congregation took turns to sing with enthusiasm. Herbert Pfende, an elder from Milton Keynes, concluded the day with a powerful vespers sermon that challenged everyone to be ready for the Lord's return. It was indeed a great day in Zion. To God be the glory!

ZUSDAF COMMUNICATIONS

## Luton Central baptism

It's every girl's dream to grow up, graduate, fall in love, get married and have kids. Nashauna plans to do it all: in that order! Her first step, and one that she considers the most important, was to publicly demonstrate her commitment to Christ through baptism with six others on Sabbath 7 January.

Her cousin Lauren, the youngest of the six candidates, was the first to enter the pool. 'It's hard to believe that just a few years ago her life hung in the balance as she battled leukaemia,' remarked one onlooker as Lauren's mother spoke about her daughter's difficult journey. But there were smiles, as well as tears of joy, as the girls celebrated with proud families and friends.

Marjorie Hanson, affectionately known as 'Grandma', let some secrets out of the bag, concerning a run-away and a call to the police station. Another spoke of being astonished when Abigail voiced her decision to be baptised: 'I thought she was already baptised: the way she conducts herself, her enthusiasm and maturity. I'm so glad she is taking this step today.'

As these six special girls begin a new and challenging phase of their journey with Christ they are encouraged by one of their chosen texts: 'My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever' (Psalm 73:26, ESV).

EVERY DAVIS



Halle Samuels, Lauren Cummings, Abigail Wright-Stephenson, Glory Samuels, Nashauna Hanson-O'Connor and Alisha Gardiner



## Disability Awareness Day

The Stoke Newington Adventist Church in London held a Disability Awareness Day on 3 December last year. It was organised by Sanjo Jeffrey, the church's Disability Ministry Co-ordinator.

The church service was set up to be inclusive and showed that all can use their talents in the worship service. For example, a deaf man, who is a lay leader in his church, signed songs in BSL; a hearing lady, whose four-year-old daughter has cerebral palsy, told a children's story using creative visual aids; and a newly baptised deaf lady welcomed the congregation in sign language.

In the afternoon a deaf lady from the community, who is President of the BDA (British Deaf Association), gave a lecture on the UK's lack of resources for the deaf due to budget cuts by the Government – for example, not enough interpreters.

Pastor Jeff Jordan, from the USA, who is deaf himself, preached the worship hour sermon. God has led and is still leading in his life as a deaf person who is now ministering to the deaf. He encouraged and motivated the members to continue learning BSL to 'address the shortage of church interpreters and to develop relationships with their deaf members'.

His wife voiced his sermon into English, and then the BSL interpreters, in turn, signed into BSL for the deaf. A total of 15 deaf Adventists and non-Adventists from various Seventh-day Adventist churches attended the event. Garfield, a deaf theology student from Newbold College who wants to minister to the deaf, was also present.

(BASED ON A REPORT BY PASTOR JEFF JORDAN)



## HUB baptism

On Sabbath, 4 February, the HUB church plant in Watford held its second baptism, that of Claire Sobkowiak and Tony Austin. Many family, friends and church members turned out to witness this wonderful event, held at the Stanborough Park church. Pastor Colin Stewart conducted the baptism, assisted by Ray Stewart (an elder). The HUB will endeavour to give Tony and Claire as much support and guidance as possible in the days ahead. We would like to thank Stanborough Park Church for allowing us to use their baptismal pool.

RUTH STEWART (CHURCH CLERK)



## Youth Day of Fellowship

It's time. It's time for change. It's time for open conversations.

'It's Time' was the theme of the first Conference-wide Youth Day of Fellowship for the South England Conference this term, which was held at the Dominion Centre, London, 28 January.

Youth leaders said that the concept 'It's Time' could be used at any level as they encouraged young people to fill in the hashtag (#itstime), and create their own definition of what they saw was necessary in the church or in their personal lives. Just by scrolling through social media, it was evident that attendees actively did so.

This was the first step to rebranding the concept of the Day of Fellowship, since the department's research showed them that young people, especially millennials, didn't respond well to the terms 'youth day' or 'day of fellowship': and it encouraged those in charge to move away from how things were done, to how things should be done in the future.

With powerful speakers and inspirational music, the audience was uplifted. South England Conference (SEC) Acting President, Pastor Osei, was pleased that the day tackled really sensitive issues that young people face today, and described the day in one word: 'Awesome.'

'We were able to have an introspective look at ourselves,' said Pastor Osei. 'It's one thing to wear the pastoral robe and church clothes, but today we were forced to look within ourselves – to see just what we really are.'

Many attendees admitted that they were ready to do something new for the church. One of them, Albert Gardiner, Area 2 Youth Co-ordinator, put it this way: 'Within the room we are an army and I think it's time for us to re-energise and actually take the South England Conference by storm and win souls for God's Kingdom.'

Youth leaders admitted that they had not expected such a good attendance – 2,500-plus in a venue that can hold 2,000 people. Sadly, some could not be seated and had to leave. According to SEC Youth Director, Anthony Fuller, 'It's a good problem, and one that we are looking to tackle.'

The evening concluded with a 'throwback concert', trying to get the youth of today to remember where they came from. Fuller said the aim was for millennials to see that they can step on the older generations' shoulders to move forward.

For friends Simone (Reading Central) and Blake (Enfield), it was a nostalgic experience seeing the groups sing songs from both older and younger generations. It was also a chance to reunite with old friends and make new ones. When given the hashtag #itstime, Simone finished the sentence by saying: 'It's time to get back to our purpose, to get back on the journey, to get back to God.'

While Blake simply said, with a smile on her face, 'It's time to do it again.'

NATASHA MIRILOV



SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT PRESENT

RECONNECT 1

29 APRIL

7:30PM

FRIENDSHIP

Barquet

A SINGLE ADULTS EVENT TO FOSTER MEANINGFUL FRIENDSHIPS RECONNECTING WITH ONESELF, OTHERS AND GOD

register at [sec.adventist.org.uk/events](http://sec.adventist.org.uk/events)

THE IRISH CENTRE, 50-52 CAMDEN SQUARE, LONDON, NW1 9XB

For more info contact Ligia Bucac | [lbucac@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:lbucac@secadventist.org.uk) | 01923 232728

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



# Aberdaron

Aberdaron Camp, for over 50 years the home of happy memories – of family, youth and teen camps and various reunions – has introduced seven new exciting residential retreats for 2017.

Each retreat is a blend of presentations and practical one-to-one guidance from an expert in their own area of specialisation, combined with quality food, good accommodation, relaxation/social times, and an opportunity to individually recharge in the peace and tranquillity of this area of outstanding natural beauty.

For enquiries and bookings please contact the Aberdaron management at 01758 760281 or [enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com).

## The first two for 2017

### Sharon Platt McDonald\*

Sharon is the Director of Health, Women's Ministries and Community Services for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles.

As a motivational speaker, mentor, editor and author of over 20 books, Sharon is enthusiastic in sharing the message of health, hope and healing, and guiding others to follow God's directive for emotional, physical, spiritual and social well-being.

\*RGN, RM, RHV, MSc, HS, Dip HS, BCS HS, CACP

### Sara Naumann:

Sara's mantra is, 'Let's make it easy.' Through her books, blog, videos and TV appearances, Sara's goal is to make crafting techniques easy.

She is a guest demonstrator for 'Create and Craft' TV, where she appears regularly to showcase her card-making techniques. Her media links include:

• [www.saranaumann.com](http://www.saranaumann.com) • [www.facebook.com/saranaumannstudiosn](https://www.facebook.com/saranaumannstudiosn) • and <https://twitter.com/saraCnaumann>.

## 'Ladies only' getaway 21-26 May (5 nights)

A retreat designed to pamper and recharge stressed ladies, to include body massage; 'Colour Me Beautiful'; health/diet advice; craft work; and cake decoration, plus relaxation, socialising, coastal and beach walks, peace and tranquillity. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£275 per person. Full details on application.

## Papercraft with Sara 4-9 June (5 nights)

Learn from the expert in papercraft: how to make cards, die cutting, stamping, colouring techniques, embossing, etc. Relax, socialise and enjoy the natural beauty and peace of the area. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£245 per person. Full details on application.

BOOKSALES

**April**  
9 Leicester 10am-2pm  
23 Lewisham 10am-2pm  
23 Swansea 10am-2pm

**May**  
7 Plumstead Community 10am-2pm

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

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

**Adventist Book Center**  
[www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org)

# obituaries



**Doreen Clement (née Wren) (1914-2016) d. 2 October.**

Doreen was born and schooled in Watford, and then trained as a stenographer and bookkeeper at college. In 1931, aged 17, she joined the staff at the Stanborough Press until the start of World War II. During the war Doreen worked as a 'land girl' and loved to reminisce about driving tractors and ploughing fields.

In 1947 she married John Allen Clement, who became the Secretary-Treasurer of the SEC, a post he held for many years, before moving to the NEC for two years and retiring in 1969. During this time Doreen worked in the Conference offices as a secretary.

Following retirement, Doreen and Allen moved to Paignton, and became active and invaluable members of Torquay Church, until Allen's death in 1995.

Doreen was a key figure in establishing Coniston House, and became the first resident to move into one of the flats in

1997. She loved gardening, and was a great walker.

At age 90, she walked the 6 miles along the coastal path from Paignton to Brixham with a friend as a birthday treat, then along the breakwater (another mile), before returning home on the bus. Doreen loved going on trips, and meandering down country lanes. Aged 94 she enjoyed a stay in the caravans at Chapel Porth, but on one retirees' trip to Cyprus she fell on the first day, fractured her shoulder, spent the rest of the holiday in hospital and returned home with her own personal medical escort.

Over the last few years Doreen's health has gradually failed, resulting in a couple of falls in August from which she never fully recovered. She died peacefully in her sleep on 2 October 2016, knowing that she will see Jesus, her beloved Saviour, face to face on that final, glorious morning. *RUTH MORRIS*

### Constance Olga Beetison (1925-2016) d. 21 December.

Constance (Connie) was born in Birmingham on 27 April 1925. Her father was a tailor, and it

must have been from him that she learned her dressmaking skills and sense of fashion. At age 15 Connie met Lawrence Beetison (she told him she was 16) and they became friends. Laurie was in the forces and they were parted when he was shipped overseas, but on his return at the end of WWII they renewed their friendship and were married in September 1946, celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary in 2016.

Their marriage was blessed with three children: Ian, Andrea and Elaine. After enjoying a holiday in Weston-super-Mare, the family decided to move there to live in 1966. When Pastor Islwyn Rees became Weston Church's minister in 1997, and upon learning that some years previously Connie had had contact with the Adventist Church, he visited her. Both Connie and Laurie welcomed him and Bible studies followed, leading to them both being baptised on 25 April 1998.

In recent years Connie was often in pain with arthritis, her sight deteriorated and she became profoundly deaf, but despite all this she faithfully attended church until a few months prior to her passing. In October Connie was taken into hospital for a few weeks, returning home to be lovingly cared for by Laurie, with the help of carers and family, until she passed peacefully to her rest on 21 December.

Her funeral service on Friday 20 January, at Weston Adventist Church, was taken by Pastor Islwyn Rees; church elder, Leonard Sitton; and former

Weston pastor, Wayne Erasmus.

During the service, Pastor Rees reminded Connie's family, church members, friends and neighbours of Jesus' promise in John 6:40: 'For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day' (NIV).

Pastor Erasmus conducted the committal service at Weston Crematorium. Connie will be remembered by all as being a faithful, friendly, cheerful lady. Our sympathy and love go to Laurie, aged 96, now living alone; their three children; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Connie now sleeps, having believed Jesus' promise: 'If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.'

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



**Violet Langskaill Buchan (1920-2017) d. 16 January.**

It was with deep sadness that Aberdeen Church bade farewell to its oldest member, Violet Langskaill Buchan, on Thursday 2 February. Violet, affectionately known as 'Auntie Vi', left school at the age of 14 and married her husband, Benjamin (Ben) when she was 24. They first met when Vi was 12 and Ben was 16, while he worked as a deck hand on his dad's trawler, and that day he marked her as his future wife. The couple had a daughter, Liz,

and a son, Joe, and were blessed with both grand- and great-grandchildren. They lived in Aberdeen before moving to the Moray Firth, then back to Aberdeen. Towards the end of her working life, Vi worked as a counsellor for alcoholics, some of whom stayed in touch with her for years after completing the programme. Following her counselling career Vi worked in a coffee shop where her pancakes became a winner.

Vi became a member of the Aberdeen congregation after attending a film about Martin Luther at the church. Pastor Edgar Hulbert, the late father of Pastor Victor Hulbert, studied with the family each week and Vi was baptised by Pastor Emm on 11 July 1964 at the age of 43.

Over the years Vi was very active in the church, especially in hospital visitation. Outside church, Vi was an active volunteer with CLAN, a cancer support charity, for over 25 years. She offered her support by visiting its members and taking along her famous pancakes. Vi was not just well-loved for her friendliness and her cooking skills; she was a keen knitter and a dab hand on the computer. Even up to the age of 93 her emails travelled the planet. In 2010 a collection of her poems called *A Pearl of Great Price* was printed. Originally compiled for dying cancer patients, a portion of the five thousand copies printed were given to the Aberdeen church members to share freely among their friends and family. A copy even made its way to the Queen.

Vi was very active and walked

everywhere. It was not unknown for her to climb Bennachie, the highest mountain in Aberdeenshire, on a regular basis while in her 80s. After the death of her husband, Ben, Vi became a lone traveller. She visited such places as Thailand, Egypt, Canada and the Philippines. However, despite her vibrancy, Vi's health eventually failed and on 16 January she died at the age of 96. A packed church heard special tributes from the first elder, Devon Searchwell, and her daughter, Liz, plus a life sketch from her son-in-law, Harry. Songs sung included a rendition by Victor Igwe of one of Vi's poems, 'Everlasting Arms'. The service was conducted by the local pastor, Njabulo Ndlovu. Following her cremation and committal a reception was held and there was an opportunity to donate to either of Vi's favourite charities: Cancer Research UK or CLAN Cancer Support.

The Aberdeen members are very grateful to God for the vibrant, Spirit-filled life of Vi. In 2013, when Vi celebrated 50 years as an Adventist, Pastor Victor Hulbert likened her to the great men and women of faith to be found in Hebrews chapter 11, who, like the apostle Paul, can say, 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.' Now she rests peacefully until the day of Christ's return.

JANICE SAVISON

Three Angels Farm

Phone: Justin 07729 884 057  
Rossana 07548 684 466  
eMail: [threeangelsfarm@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:threeangelsfarm@hotmail.co.uk)

**Health & Training**

## 2017 PROGRAMMES

April	May	June	July
Herbal Medicine 16th - 21st	Agriculture & Country Living 28th - 2nd June	Medical Missionary Training 4th - 11th	Wellbeing Retreat 9th - 16th
Wellbeing Retreat 30th - 7th May	Wellbeing Retreat 18th - 25th	Adventist Education 23rd - 28th	
August	September	October	
Wellbeing Retreat 13th - 20th	Wellbeing Retreat 3rd - 10th	Wellbeing Retreat 1st - 8th	
	Cooking School 17th - 22nd		

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION  
SORN, AYSHIRE - UK | [WWW.THREEANGELSFARM.CO.UK](http://WWW.THREEANGELSFARM.CO.UK)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

## Alan Redfern turns 80

At 80 Alan Redfern is still in full-time employment as Assistant Director of the General Conference Auditing Service (GCAS) at the Trans-European Division office. He is also a very active first elder at his church.

Alan, who has worked for GCAS since 1990, was born in Manchester on 7 February 1937, and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1960. By 2002 he was Assistant Director at GCAS and by 2011 had become Senior Regional Manager.

Married to Joyce, his wife of 52 years, he rejoices in two children, Ian and Kristina, along with six grandsons. With all that he still finds time to learn new languages, read, play the piano, and increase what his son Ian calls 'his truly encyclopaedic knowledge of a remarkable number of subjects'. His is the first name on the team sheet for any quiz or game of trivial pursuit!

Why is he still working at 80? Ian says, 'I think Dad's main motivation is enjoying his work and enjoying helping people.' Colleagues would agree. During a surprise TED staff celebration his current boss, Sandra Grice, talked about his 'good spirit' and how he is 'always willing to learn and grow – and share his knowledge with others'.

Vera Gietzmann, a PA in GCAS, said, 'He is the most amazing colleague I've ever worked with.' She noted his patience and calmness, 'even when he may need to explain something for the thousandth time!'

Alan's favourite Bible passage is: 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.' (1 Corinthians 2:9, KJV.)

'With that promise,' he said, 'I am now ready to face the next 20 years.'

VICTOR HULBERT



## Messenger

Volume 122 • 07 - 7 April 2017

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

COPY FOR No. 9 - 20 April 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	Notf	Edin	Belf
Apr 7	7.44	7.56	7.50	8.04	8.12
14	7.56	8.08	8.03	8.18	8.25
21	8.08	8.20	8.15	8.32	8.39
28	8.19	8.31	8.28	8.46	8.52

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

**APRIL 9  
2017**

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

StAY  
St Albans Youth

# Basketball FESTIVAL

To register your team contact:  
NIGEL DONGA: 07737 682 087 or nigel@stayouth.com

SEVENTH DAY  
ADVENTIST  
CHURCH

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

**ADRA CONNECTIONS**

# LET'S GO TO NEPAL

Do you and a group of friends  
fancy visiting Nepal?

Get involved in a real ADRA project  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sept-18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017

[volunteering@adra.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@adra.org.uk)  
or 030 30 40 1017  
for pricing and more details

Limited spaces!  
First come, first to Nepal!

**ADRA UK**

adra.org.uk | www.facebook.com/ADRAUK | teamadra | youtube.com/adrauk  
Registered charity 1074837 (SC037726 - IOM1101)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

**peace**  
centre of evangelism

**12th  
June - 10th  
September 2017**

Location: **Birmingham**

Cost: **£1600**  
Cost includes:  
• Accommodation  
• Travel whilst at PEACE  
• NEC Camp Meeting

Course: **3 months residential**  
You can now attend PEACE  
during your University break.

Email for more information: [info@peacecentre.eu](mailto:info@peacecentre.eu)  
To apply visit [www.peacecentre.eu](http://www.peacecentre.eu) and click on 'Apply'.

Design by T.C. Enterprise ©  
www.kendrianevangelism.com

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Carmel Greystone & Agape Theatre Company  
presents

# ASYLUM

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARK GREY

*"Theatre's great secret is out.  
Mark Grey is one of London's best kept secrets."*  
- Kentish Times -

*"A moving play. It touches a nerve  
with the issues of bullying and  
mental health...Intriguing..."*  
- L McDonald

*"A very real and touching story,  
you could feel the passion throughout,  
and was played brilliantly by all."*  
- J Reid

*"The atmosphere was electrifying.  
Well done!"*  
- JL Brown

**THURSDAY 13TH. - SUNDAY 16TH APRIL**

Thursday All Tickets £10  
Friday - Sunday £15 / £12  
Thursday - Saturday 7:00 pm  
Sunday 6:00 pm

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

**THE COURTYARD THEATRE**  
Bowling Green Walk,  
40 Pitfield St. N1 6EU

**BOX OFFICE: 0844 477 1000**

[www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk)  
Booking Fee Applies

T.U.F.  
SUPPORTED BY  
SEC WOMEN'S MINDS FIRST DEPT

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted