Now the hard work begins!

by Cathy Boldeau

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

'Thank you!' to all who have helped to gather funds for this year's ADRA Annual Appeal. We are thrilled by the reports of how many people have ventured out this year to collect to help people in East Africa, the United Kingdom and many other parts of the world. We, here at ADRA-UK, appreciate your dedication and commitment. We have heard many amazing stories about your fund-raising adventures, both about the door-to-door collections and the many other initiatives, and some of these will be featured in the near future.

With funds still coming in, ADRA-UK in Watford are still trying to take it all in: reports are being posted to us with fund-raising totals for the churches; payments are being deposited in our bank accounts; and Gift Aid donations are being registered and reclaimed from HMRC. We are starting to check all the record books; reconcile the amounts with what has been received in our bank accounts; and prepare all this data for our auditors. We are required by the Charity Commission to submit a full audit report for our door-to-door collection and this is what we will focus on in the next few months.

But the best part of it all is that we can start spending the money you have helped us to raise. We have already committed funds to help with the famine relief in Somalia, Kenya and South Sudan and this effort to help feed people is ongoing. We are also in discussions with Adventist Community Services as to how best to help churches with social





outreach programmes receive funding support from ADRA this year.

'I am really excited about this partnership with ADRA-UK,' said Sharon Platt-McDonald, Director of ACS. 'There are so many fantastic projects right here in the UK that would really benefit from this extra funding.' Details of how to apply for this funding will be available in due course. We are also very excited about this new opportunity to help people in the UK and to make a difference to the lives of the most vulnerable in the UK, especially those in poverty. ASNA, the Adventist Special Needs Association, will receive a grant from the Annual Appeal fund and we will financially support the Special Needs Camp in Aberdaron again this year.

While the famine in Africa continues, we will also maintain support for ADRA network relief projects. When disasters strike throughout the world, ADRA is there on the ground providing humanitarian aid, and thanks to money raised by the Annual Appeal we can immediately make a contribution from our emergency response fund.

A portion of the Annual Appeal fund is used to support the large development project ADRA-UK is engaged in. This is a new European Commission (EC) co-funded project in Sri Lanka entitled 'Assisting Communities in Creating Environmental and Nutritional Development' (ACCEND), which is starting soon. This new water sanitation and hygiene/nutrition project will contribute towards the improvement of the health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation of the rural and estate communities in the Uva and Central Provinces of this island nation.

This project, which is being implemented with co-applicant Oxfam Italy, will strengthen communities and public institutions towards an integrated, mutually accountable service delivery system in the WASH² and health sector. And the amazing news is that for every $\mathfrak L1$ we commit to this project, the European Commission is donating another $\mathfrak L9!$ What a fabulous return on our investment in helping people in need!

The monies from the Annual Appeal will assist in the funding of other projects such as those implemented in Nepal (DFID), Thailand (EC), Somalia (EC), Rwanda (HPA), and Swaziland (EC), with several others in the pipeline. We estimate that close to 1 million people will be impacted by our programmes funded through the Annual Appeal this year. Without your support none of this would be possible.

Once again, on behalf of ADRA-UK – thank you!

¹Pending signed contracts ²Water And Sanitation for Health



in consultation



with Lelita Saunders

This feature will appear periodically in Messenger, giving Sharon Platt-McDonald, our BUC Health Director, an opportunity to converse with various health professionals on topics that will interest our readers.

interview is with Lelita Saunders, Welsh Mission Health Sponsor. She has worked within the National Health

Service as a Registered General Nurse, Midwife and Neonatal Nurse for over 30 years. Lil is married to Erwin Saunders and together they have served the Welsh Mission for many years in the area of health ministry. Her hobbies are reading, meeting people and hosting visitors. She is also learning to play the piano.

Sharon: Lil. what is your professional background?

Lil: Hi. Sharon. I work as a Junior Ward Manager on the neonatal unit in Swansea. I have had this role since 1988.

Sharon: What inspired you to enter the health care profession?

Lil: My mother died during childbirth when I was 3 years old. As I grew up. I gleaned information about the circumstances surrounding her death, and this triggered my compassion for sick and marginalised people. I decided to follow a nursing career as a result.

Sharon: What have been some of the highlights of your work in this field?

Lil: I have had the privilege of working with a multidisciplinary team, caring for small babies weighing less than 500gms, and supporting parents through these difficult times. I also work with the team that transports sick babies between hospitals via ambulance and helicopter. One of the high points of my work is seeing the positive outcomes many of these children experience, especially when they revisit the unit later in life.

Sharon: Please give us an idea of your work as Welsh Mission Health Sponsor?

Lil: I have been involved in various health events, such as conducting 3 CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Programme) and several MicroChip programmes among our churches.

We have also conducted health expos throughout Wales, from Telford in the north to Newport in the south. Additionally, we have worked with the Cardiff and Newport minority ethnic community, conducting regular health screenings at least twice per year. We have also worked with the local health boards of Cardiff and Newport, providing screening programmes for carers and ethnic minority groups.

We have established the Wales Adventist

In this issue of Messenger our 'In consultation'

Lifestyle Team, which supports the churches in the Mission, especially where they want to reach their local community through health outreach but their membership is small.

A key aspect of my role is visiting churches and presenting health programmes. This also includes cookery demonstrations and invitations to local playgroups to talk about the benefits of fruits and vegetables in the diet. Another key invitation was attending a symposium at the local university to present the CHIP programme. We have also conducted about 6 health retreats, with visiting speakers from the BUC and the USA.

Sharon: You have clearly been very busy. What have been some of the highlights of your Health Sponsor role?

Lil: The CHIP programme. To be able to conduct one CHIP programme within the local hospital and then have a renal consultant as guest speaker at the graduation ceremony was a great experience.

A recent highlight was our January invitation to the mosque in Newport to conduct health screening. As a result, two men from their community now attend exercise classes at the local Adventist church.

Another highlight is being able to attend training events run by the church, both here and abroad: namely, the General Conference health symposium in Geneva, and the health training programme run by the North American Division in Florida, Participating in 'The Best Pathway to Health' in San Antonio. Texas, prior to the last General Conference session was another exceptional experience.

I am really pleased to see a lot more member involvement in the health work. along with more requests from churches for assistance with their health outreaches.

Sharon: That's great news. As a health educator, what would you say are the key health concepts for someone wanting to live a healthy lifestyle today?

Lil: Education and maintaining a balance in all

things. To recognise their own personal health needs and address them - and to accept that what is good for one person

may not work for another.

Sharon: Lil. please outline what you hope to achieve during this term of office?

Lil: I would say that my key objectives are to: Help all Mission members to embrace the

benefits of our health message and share them in their communities.

- · Provide training for those willing to become more involved in health ministry within the
- Connect with all the churches and groups in the Mission and work with them in their health projects.
- Provide health leaflets in Welsh, so more of our indigenous population will be able to participate in local projects.

Sharon: What advice would you give to local health ministries leaders or health professionals who wish to be involved in health outreach initiatives?

Lil: Today people are interested in health, food and exercise, and we have the knowledge. the resources, and the expertise to help them.

We should step forward in faith and collaborate with other voluntary agencies where possible. If we don't do the work, God will use others.

Sharon: Please give us an idea of the success you have with those programmes you have

Lil: With the aid of Brother Green in Newport we were successful in having one candidate baptised as a result of the MicroChip programme. He continues to embrace the lifestyle and is now a member of our lifestyle

Sharon: Lil, we praise God for that. What is vour advice to our members regarding the general improvement of their own health. especially if they currently have health challenges?

Lil: The evidence is out there, that even a small change in lifestyle can bring positive results. Ellen White reminds us in Counsels on Diet and Foods (page 32) that the Gospel and health go together.

I would encourage our members to take advantage of the health message and prove its worth for themselves, so they can be living witnesses for the Lord. Health is not just about diet. It's about our total well-being.

Sharon: Thank you, Lil. This has been an enlightening interview and we wish you well for the future.

editorial

Last week, after preaching at one of the Nottingham churches, I was enthusiastically approached by someone who said. 'That last hymn we sang today is my favourite!'

Now – off the record, of course – a preacher's hymn selection is probably not what he or she really wants to be remembered for! We would much prefer to hear positive comments about our sermons. Something along these lines: 'Thank you, Pastor; you were at your best again today! That was certainly a memorable sermon.

I took no offence, however, because that hymn is one of my favourites too. In fact, I would be guite surprised if it wasn't one of yours as well: for, in 2013, a nationwide survey by Songs of Praise ranked it in sixteenth place among the top 100 best-loved UK hymns.1

It gets even better than that

Yes, it gets even better than that, for according to www.allmusic.com 'Amazing Grace' is likely to be the most recorded religious song of all time, with more than 6,600 recordings to its name. Jerry Bailey, an executive at the performing rights giant, Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI), in Nashville (USA), went even further by saying, 'It may be the most recorded song on the planet.'2

Why?

What is it about this song that gives it such universal appeal? That question is partly answered by pointing to the successful pairing of John Newton's verse with a traditional tune known as 'New Britain' back in 1835, which is the combination we love so much today.3 There is another reason, however, and that lies in the lyrics. As one source aptly put it: 'Today, its lyrics still inspire, encourage, and instruct people about the radical reality of God's amazing grace.'4

I like the way that was put. For truly, in my mind at least. Newton's words bear testimony to 'the radical reality of God's amazing grace'. One sees it throughout, but particularly in those radical transformations found in the first three verses:

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! Lonce was lost, but now am found: Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved: How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

Newton portrays God's grace as the dynamic element that redeems him from his

Do you have a favourite?



Julian Hibbert

that taught my

Prom-ise

wretchedness, lostness and spiritual blindness. It also convicts him of his sins, then relieves him of the resultant quilt and fear. Finally, it is not only a saving grace, but a guiding grace as well – one that leads him safely home (into God's kingdom).

He wrote of what he knew

One of the reasons Newton's verses have

such power is that they speak of his own personal experience. The Dictionary of American Hymnology went so far as to describe 'Amazing Grace' as his 'spiritual autobiography in verse'.5

grace

man

By the age of eleven Newton was already at sea, and it didn't take too long for his life to take on 'a pattern of coming very close to death, examining his relationship with God, then relapsing into bad habits' again. He was by nature insubordinate and this got him into frequent trouble, to the point that he was eventually forced to join the crew of a slave ship.

To put it bluntly, John Newton's life was out of control. He feared no authority and provoked whomever he wished, from captain to ship's boy. 6 In addition to this he became notorious for his profanity: 'While aboard the ship *Greyhound*, Newton gained notoriety for being one of the most profane men the captain had ever met. In a culture where sailors commonly used oaths and swore. Newton was admonished several times for not only using the worst words the captain had ever heard, but creating new ones to exceed the limits of verbal debauchery.'7

His life was to have darker chapters still, but we should never underestimate grace. The fact that we cannot trace its movements doesn't mean it is not at work!

In March 1748, 'while the *Greyhound* was in the North Atlantic, a violent storm came upon the ship that was so rough it swept overboard a crew member who was standing where Newton had been moments before.' It was during that terrifying experience that he finally uttered those grace-invoking words, 'Lord have mercy upon us!'

From then onwards John Newton began to question whether he was 'worthy of God's mercy or in any way redeemable as he had not only neglected his faith but directly opposed it, mocking others who showed theirs, deriding and denouncing God as a myth'. Nearly a decade later he left seafaring for good at the age of thirty and was soon on the path to ministry: a ministry that, if through nothing else, has moved countless souls to discover that God's grace knows no bounds . . .

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! Lonce was lost, but now am found: Was blind, but now I see.

Do you?

 $\label{lem:http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/3DnJQz7zsF1JrB3rZ8yQ86w/the-uks-top-100-hymns $^{thtp://www.nhregister.com/article/NH/201011110/NEWS/311109963 $^{thtp:://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazing_Grace\#.22New_Britain.22_tune $^{thtp://www.share}$.}$ faith.com/blog/2013/08/top-10-popular-hymns-time-history/ 5https://en.wikipedia-org/wiki/Amazing Grace 5The lowest possible position on board ship, normally held by boys 12 years old or younger. *https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amazing Grace

¹ inspiration

Elizabeth's footprint

by Hélia Mateus and Pastor James Shepley (Cheltenham Church)





t was a cold Sabbath morning in mid-December. Church was coming to an end, when she appeared in the doorframe. She made her way in and sat down as the final hvmn started. I walked in her direction and asked the usual questions: 'Where was she visiting from? Was it the first time she was attending Cheltenham Church?' She dismissed my questions and asked me whether someone could pray for her, and then she added, 'My five-year-old daughter died this week.

After that, Natalia started attending Cheltenham Church each Sabbath and we became friends. She is a 41-year-old woman from Ukraine, who is separated from her English husband. Elizabeth's death left her bereft, and it was only when we attended Elizabeth's memorial service at the St Philip and St James church, which was packed out with local schoolchildren and their families. that we started to understand how much she was loved.

Elizabeth spent her last days in hospital at Bristol, before she succumbed to a rare condition known as HLH, and so Natalia decided that she would try and do something to help that hospital. So, with the encouragement of friends, on 14 February 2016, she set off from Durdle Door in Dorset on an epic walk around the coast of Britain to raise money for the Bristol Children's Hospital.

By 11 March, she had rounded Land's End. By 4 April, we caught up with Natalia in Watchet, a small fishing village south of Weston-super-Mare on the south-west coast, to join her on a leg of her walk. By then she had walked 600 miles. Only another 5,000 miles to ao.

That morning on the quay-side at Watchet

Harbour there were a number of people who came to meet her. There was a BBC Points West journalist and camera crew, who came to film her walk. There was a local photographer, who had organised a reception committee for her arrival the previous evening. There was a young lady who had lost her own son, ten vears earlier, who had walked with Natalia the previous day. She had seen Natalia's story on her website, *Elizabethsfoot* print.com, and she had come out of solidarity.

Natalia was looking fit and tanned. She walked with purpose. But as we walked along the pebble beach to the north of Watchet, with the BBC cameraman filming, the weather closed in and the rain lashed down. We had to scramble up the side of the bank and under barbed wire to get off the beach and continue the walk. We had entered Natalia's world: a world in which she walks 15-20 miles every day, except Saturday, rain or shine. A world of daily struggle, grief and pain, but in which she meets complete strangers who walk alongside her and who are helping her to do

something beautiful to remember Elizabeth by.

Our daughter Sarah was the only one of us who was able to keep up with her for a full day. That evening, in Combwich, we waited for her in the company of a young Hungarian woman who had never met Natalia, but who had read about her story, and who had offered to put her up for two nights in Burnham-on-Sea, as she continued her walk. Before leaving her, we stopped off in

the Anchor Inn, a local pub. We asked the landlord to switch on the BBC Points West news to see the local news items. But, when Elizabeth's picture appeared on the screen, Natalia was so moved that she could not watch it. This was when it hit home. For us. it was just one day. For her, it is a lifetime.

After we walked that day with her, last year, Natalia kept on walking, six days a week, resting each Sabbath. She often staved with people who agreed to be 'walk hosts'. We followed her progress online as she walked

around the coast of Wales, and then Scotland, and then down the east coast of England. Finally, nearly one year after she started, on 7 February 2017, Natalia was back at Durdle Door, having completed her 6.000mile round-Britain walk. What an amazing achievement! We were all so proud of her. She raised over £130.000 for the Bristol Children's Hospital. It is her faith in God, and her belief that she will one day see Elizabeth again, that helps her

keep going. It was a great joy to see her back in church again!

You may have missed Natalia's walk, but it is not too late to support her project. Simply go to the Elizabeth's Footprint website: http://elizabethsfootprint.com.





innovation







Children witness at the market

During a recent half-term programme the Welsh Mission Children's Sponsor, Eileen McKenzie, put Isaiah 11:6 into practice: 'a little child shall lead them' (NKJV) – her idea being that children should be taught from an early age that community outreach is important. On Tuesday 21 February she took the Newtown Church children out into the local Glanhafren Market Hall in Newtown's centre, where the children operated a stall under the supervision of their parents.

The 10 children created a buzz in the Market Hall where, supported by 10 youth and adults, they had two tables with health tips, children's books, give-away balloons and fun activities. Some passers-by stopped at the stall to ask the children questions about what they were doing. Others, under parental supervision, went around in the area distributing leaflets. Donations were requested in support of two local charities, Dial a Ride and Air Ambulance. The activities of the children and their conduct were noted by the general public and were very much appreciated by the market managers. An inviting atmosphere was created by the playing of hymns and gospel music by Omar Mckenzie, Newton Brown and Joshua Watt on the piano, and Sarah Watt and Olivia Brown on the violin. There was a surprising response as the people in the café clapped in appreciation. The children received a £10 donation from a member of the public.

The children and the other members of the group gathered round to take a picture with Richard Edwards, the Mayor of Newtown, He invited them to ask questions, among which was this one from the youngest member, Zinhle Moyo, just 5 years old, who asked, 'What is it like to be the Mayor?' He gladly answered her guestion and took down the group's contact details. They now look forward to working with him in

The children worked enthusiastically and the comments and responses they received were very positive, and the Market Hall organiser expressed appreciation for their presence there. EILEEN MCKENZIE



reform-a-nation



Radical reform

Lessons from the life of Asa

by Pastors Ian Sweeney and Eglan Brooks

s we write this article, the Hunited Kinguom is on all brink of an 'historic moment United Kingdom is on the from which there can be no turning back'. These words, uttered by the Prime Minister, Theresa May, refer to the reforms that Britain will undergo as we leave the European Union as part of Brexit. Article 50 has been 'triggered' and our nation will never be the same again. Here, in the twenty-first century, we are experiencing a political reformation that will affect the way that our country is run, our relationship with our European neighbours, and our trade with the world as a whole. It is unclear how this reformation will unfold. but it is certain that there will be a change.

The word 'reformation' is only mentioned in the Bible once. in Hebrews 9:10: '... until the time of reformation' (NKJV): but the concept of reformation is woven through the whole Bible, from the fall of Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis, through to the restoration of the Kingdom of God in Revelation. Reformation is defined as the 'act of reforming', a change from worse to better. It is seen as the correction or amendment of corrupt or wrong practices or lifestyle. The Greek word used in this passage of Scripture is diorthesis, which. etymologically translated, means 'making straight'.

The biblical restoration
narrative is only possible due to
the intentional transformational
acts performed throughout the
sixty-six books of Scripture. The
restoration of a new world after
the Flood was possible because
of the pleading and petitioning of
Noah to a corrupt nation. Even
though only eight people entered
the ark, without his radical
stance, the outcome might have
been very different. The rebuilding
of the temple by Nehemiah

demanded that a cupbearer sacrifice his position to take up a project-management position under challenging circumstances. And the restoration of the Kingdom of God – when He will say, 'Behold, I make all things new' (Rev. 21:5, NKJV) – is a result of the radical love of God, who wasn't prepared to allow the world that He created to plunge into darkness, so He sent His Son

to us as our Saviour.

One of the greatest and least-talked-about heroes of reform in the Bible was King Asa. Unfortunately, he is known more for the folly at the end of his life, where he failed to acknowledge the God of his youth, than for the great reform that he conducted early in his reign.

Asa was the great-grandson of King Solomon and reigned in Judah from 913 to 869 BC. He is introduced in the Bible as the monarch who 'did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God, for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars. . . . He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment. He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah ... and he built fortified cities.' 2 Chronicles 14:2-6 (NKJV).

When Asa ascended to the throne, he didn't operate like his great-grandfather and amassed neither wealth, nor wives. His behaviour differed from that of his grandfather, Rehoboam, whose 'reforms' placed an enormous burden on the people. To use one paraphrase of his own words, 'Your backs, which bent like reeds at my father's touch, will break like straws at my own touch.' This caused open rebellion, revolt and a split in the kingdom. And unlike his father, Abijah, whose

reign was characterised by conflict with the Northern Kingdom, Asa created processes that would reform-a-nation, and transform the lives of people all around him.

Asa's reforms consisted of seven key elements:

- He understood the difference between right and wrong,
 He commanded the people to
- seek the Lord,
 He *invited* them to observe the laws of God.
- He *broke down* the sacred pillars.
- He removed the altars of the foreign gods,

- · He built fortified cities,
- He 'reformed-a-nation'.

Over the next month, we will address all seven key elements based on the story of Asa as part of a series in the Reform-a-Nation programme. We trust that you will join with us, not only on this journey of exploration, but during the weekend of 11 to 13 August, here at Stanborough Park for the Reform-a-Nation celebrations. Posters and flyers will be in your church shortly and we would be grateful if you would promote this event and invite your family and friends.



communication



Jesus and social media – part 1

by Pastor Richard Daly, BUC Communication and Media Director

Reflect on this. What if Jesus Christ were on social media? Imagine that social media had existed when He was on earth. Do you think the greatest Communicator ever to have lived would have used a tool like social media to connect with people during His ministry?

What would Jesus' profile pictures have looked like?

What would His tweets have been like? What ideas, thoughts, and opinions would He have shared?

How many followers do you think He would have had? How

many would have deleted Him? Would 'Sermon on the Mount'

be a blog post on His website?
Would Jesus be on Snapchat?
How would He use LinkedIn to connect with professionals?

Would the resurrection of Lazarus have been streamed live on Facebook Live or Periscope by someone who witnessed it?

Imagine a YouTube video of Jesus walking on water. How viral would that go?

As followers of Christ, one thing we should do is try to model ourselves and our behaviour after that of Jesus. So.

imagining such scenarios is not blasphemous. In fact, one of the best ways to grow as a Christian is to imagine what Christ would do in circumstances that you face in everyday life.

Therefore, it becomes important to examine Christ's approach to ministry during His earthly life for principles that we can learn and apply in our present situation.

One thing for sure is that Jesus was innovative in His use of those methods that were available to reach the masses in His day. While the rabbis and teachers were teaching in synagogues and other such religious locations where people gathered on particular days, Jesus made a habit of preaching and teaching in the marketplaces where people gathered to work and do their daily business. Of the 132 public appearances of Jesus in the Bible. 122 were in the marketplace.1 That was where the people were. He reached masses of people in the common places of the time.

The content of His messages also made frequent reference to relevant life experiences of His listeners. Farming was one of the main economic activities of His day, together with fishing. It is little wonder, then, that Christ chose to illustrate many of His messages with themes drawn from these activities. He wanted people to relate to His messages in a practical way. He wanted them to understand biblical truths in the context of their everyday life. He was, therefore, not interested in hanging around grand and holy places all the time. He loved to be among the common people, sharing their everyday life situations and challenges. Christ was a practical, appealing, and relevant communicator.

The lesson for us today?

ministers), if we really want to make an impact in sharing the Gospel we need to have access to where the masses are. There is a strong place for social media to accomplish this. At the time of writing, out of the total 7.3 billion people in the world, 3.17 billion are on the internet and 2.3 billion are actively using social media networks.² I believe that Christ's challenge to us in this digital media climate is to bless people with life-changing messages and Bible-based teachings. We need to edify and encourage people with the principles of the Word of God. Just as in Christ's day, when thousands of people gathered in marketplaces, today billions of people gather virtually in electronic marketplaces using their mobile devices and social media apps. The truth is that many are searching for something that will give them relevance and hope for their lives in this world. Unfortunately, most are looking in the wrong places. While our spiritual enemy seems to have the upper hand in using this medium to draw people away from the truth, we also need to have a presence. We must provide an alternative option through which people can discover the real meaning of life. Social media is here to stay. It will get bigger and more people will get connected. We too need to be innovative, like Christ was, and be connected Christians.

As ministers (and we are all

So, is it possible to take the ancient biblical truths and customise them for the modern. digital age? Whenever new technology hits the market, the Church's first reaction is to think that it is relevant only for commercial purposes. It has happened with radio, TV and now with social media. There are many reasons why the Christian message and its biblical truths are well suited for social media. In my next article I will share these reasons and how to be in a connected church in this digital

¹http://www.marketplaceleaders.org/jesuswas-a-workplace-minister ²https://www.statista.com



discovery centre



The Adventist Discovery Centre* – a Bible school in every church

by Pastor Maureen Rock, ADC Director



n 1 February 2017, Pastor Maureen Rock was inaugurated as Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC). Previously a field pastor in the South England Conference, Pastor Rock expressed her appreciation to the outgoing principal, Pastor Des Rafferty. She also shared her belief that the work of the ADC plays a vital role in extending the Good News of Jesus' return to men, women, boys and girls across the UK, both inside and outside the church.

Pastor Rock, who studied at Newbold College and holds a BD (Hons) and MA in Theology, looks forward to working with the ADC team as they develop a five-year strategic plan to respond to the needs of the Church and the communities they serve.

Pastor Rock has so far visited several churches where she presented the work of the ADC and witnessed the enthusiasm of church members as they sample some of the centre's Bible and health-related courses. Members are telling her that they were not aware that such good resources existed and are praising the flexibility and accessibility of the lessons, which are perfect for introducing the Bible to those who already have a faith, those who are seeking to know God, and those who have a desire to change their lifestyle.

Following her visits, one local pastor is now planning to rotate three different ADC courses across his district; other churches want to use the courses in their children's ministries and baptismal classes; and still more requests are coming from churches wishing to use ADC materials at health expos and summer youth programmes.

Pastor Rock is confidently looking forward to partnering with more local churches, empowering members to study and





establishing a local Discover Bible School in every congregation across the UK.

New members join FIC via ADC courses!

London's Filipino International Seventh-day Adventist Church (FIC) has been running a local Discover Bible School using ADC courses, and in February they held their graduation ceremony. One of the graduates shared how he had found out about the Sabbath via YouTube, which led him to worship at FIC, where he joined the local Bible school. Many of the members at FIC shared that they had already completed ADC and VOP courses. Pastor Todd Frias, SEC Stewardship Director and FIC senior pastor, explained that once the members had completed their Bible studies they would immediately bring along their friends and family to join the next Bible classes.

Why not ask the ADC how they can help vour church run a Discover Bible School?

ADC health campaign

Is your church organising a summer health expo? How will you advertise it to your community? What resources will you share? How will you stay in touch with your visitors? We can help!

The ADC will be launching a health promotion from the end of April. Alongside a revised stress course, the ADC will have the following available to purchase: bookmarks,

postcards and 'peace in your pocket' cards. Banners and posters will also be available.

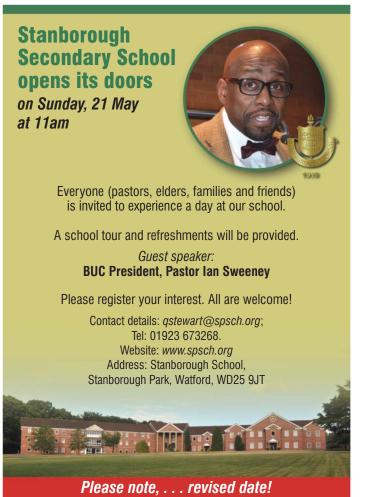
To order your resources or find out how we can help you impact your community, contact us on 01923672606 or email: adc@adventist.uk.

ADC at Lincoln Day of Fellowship

Pastor Andrew Willis, ADC course tutor, FreeBible administrator and online pastor, represented the ADC at Lincoln District's Day of Fellowship on Sabbath 25 March 2017. He was encouraged to find some of the youth looking forward to the local Discover Bible School reopening so they could finish their courses. After sharing some of the ADC's success stories, the members spent some time praying for the work of the ADC and their students.

If you would like someone from the ADC to visit your church and share how we can partner with you, call us on 01923672606 or email adc@adventist.uk.

*The Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC), previously known as the Voice of Prophecy (VOP), has been in existence in the UK for over 70 years and is a correspondence school offering Bible and health courses for use by local church Bible schools. Courses are also available to individual church members and the general public by mail or online.





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ABERDARON, NORTH WALES
21 July-30 July 2017

Camp Costs:

Adults £110 Children (12-17 yrs) £90 Children (5-11 yrs) £60 Children (0-4 yrs) Free

Accommodation Costs:

 Camping Pods
 £250

 8 person Tents
 £130

 Own Caravan
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 Own Tent
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Bookings will go live on
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Come to beautiful North Wales and enjoy 10 days of worship and friendship. All meals are included and are vegetarian.

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news

TED/NEC joint meeting

In the first meeting of its kind, officers and directors of the Trans-European Division travelled to Birmingham to meet the workers of the North England Conference.

The meeting on 17 January at Windsor Street Church was held at the invitation of NEC President, Pastor Richard Jackson, and aimed to help ministers develop the vision of working synergistically within their own ranks, within churches and within church departments.

Pastor Raafat Kamal, TED President, conducted the opening worship, in which he reminded staff that the real work of God happens at the local level as individuals work together.

The Ministerial Wives Sponsor, Angela Jackson, wife of the Conference President, said that the pastors' wives should work to develop their own PKs, who face those particular difficulties that often challenge so-called 'preacher's kids'. According to her, support mechanisms and teamwork will help these children develop into dynamic Christians.

Lungani Sibanda, the Communication Director, stated that his job was to 'demystify the NEC for our members', including the vision and values held by the leadership and directors. He believes that good communication is the key to facilitate great teamwork between the Conference, the pastor and each member.

Synergy requires a two-way transfer. Resources and ideas were shared by the Division staff, while those from the Conference passed on their invaluable experience gained at grass-roots level.

Torben Bergland, TED Health Director, highlighted the fact that teams of pastors working together was not just an efficient way to work, but also helped foster better mental health among the pastoral team.

Rose Gomez, a Bible worker working in Manchester, pointed out what she claimed was an excellent discipleship resource that she and others have been using. She recommended that the Division evaluate it





as a discipleship tool which could well be promoted at future Division training events.

Pastor Adam Ramdin, Conference Youth Director, showed a trailer for a new video series designed to teach members about the Reformation in 52 weekly episodes.

For Pastor Kamal, the day highlighted the importance of teams working together for mission across organisational levels and departments, and especially 'the important emphasis that we are pursuing, to focus on the local church.'

PETER JEYNES

Operation Upgrade

On Sabbath 11 February, the Bristol District held a District Day of Fellowship and Training. The speaker was Dr Balvin Braham, who serves at the Inter-American Division as Field Secretary and Assistant to the President for Evangelism and Leadership Development.

In the morning Dr Braham, whose expertise in training churches in church growth and evangelism is much sought after, outlined his strategic focus for the day around the five stages of being 'Transformed by His Grace'.

- Spiritual Connectedness only as we connect to Christ can we be truly transformed.
- Equipped for Service we need to recognise the importance of training that is suitable to people's talents and interests.
- Social Ministries we need to build relationships with individuals first, showing them genuine love and care, addressing their spiritual as well as physical needs.
- Soul Winning everyone has a role to play in reaching someone.
- Discipleship the importance of discipleship in terms of devotion, evangelism, fellowship, outreach and stewardship.

In the afternoon he elaborated on each of these stages as he challenged the three Bristol District churches. Local pastor, Royston Smith, also announced the launch of the 'Operation Upgrade' programme for the Bristol churches, which is a strategic initiative to develop the spiritual life of all members by having them live a life renewed by Jesus Christ (Romans 12:2), in line with the General Conference objective of total member involvement.

Dr Braham explained that an upgrade is something that is better, new and improved, something we desire; and we are all in need of a spiritual upgrade. A natural result of this would then be to influence others to accept Jesus and become His disciples.

Dr Braham then challenged the church to ask itself the question, 'Are



we a church *in* the community, *to* the community, or *with* the community?' He explained that too often we have separated ourselves and not engaged with our neighbourhood and community, or we have assumed we know what their needs are and gone out to deliver them without consultation or knowledge.

The day was summed up by the need to be transformed:

- 1. By our relationship with Christ:
- 2. By discerning Christ's righteousness;
- 3. By participating actively in mission.

Speaking after the training, Pastor Smith said, 'It was a beautiful and spiritual day. Members felt the urge and need to reconnect with God, themselves and their communities — a sense of total involvement. Personally, I see this as the catalyst for change in all three churches. I was blessed and look forward to growth in all aspects of our lives.'

IAN SABADIN (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, BRISTOL CENTRAL)



Ordination at Ystrad Mynach Church

It was a high day at Ystrad Mynach Church on 28 January when Jane Wells was ordained as an elder. The members and Jane's family and friends were there to witness this special event. Her father, Dr Brian Philips, related their family history and told how the presentation of the Gospel has been prominent through the generations. Pastor Jeremy Tremeer then invited the elders to come forward to participate in Jane's ordination.

Stanborough Primary teaches internet safety

The children of Stanborough Primary School recently participated in an internet safety week, organised by Deputy Head and Computing Lead, Mrs Madden. Mrs Madden has appointed and trained ten children to be digital leaders across the school, and these children led out in the various activities which included poster design, drama performances (videoed) and poetry writing. The workshop idea emerged from the facilitation of 'pupil voice' at the previous year's event evaluation.

Integral to internet safety is an understanding of the SMART rules which are well-embedded within the school and in the minds of the children, as the rules are revisited from year to year. They warn against giving out personal information online; promote the involvement of parents/carers in all online communication; give caution about accepting emails, messages or pictures from unknown sources, as they can contain viruses or unwanted messages; and explain that not all information is reliable and that individuals can misrepresent the truth about who they are. They also encourage children to tell their parents, carers or a trusted adult if anything makes them feel uncomfortable or if they or someone they know is a victim of cyber-bullying.

'The children were clearly able to demonstrate how to stay safe online and what to do if they receive a request from a stranger,' said Mrs Madden, while Adam in Year 6 said, 'I widened my knowledge on internet safety a bit more, in terms of why we should take care when posting images online. The group work also required me to think more deeply about the importance of staying safe online and the best way to share this information with others.'

As well as learning about internet safety, the children are ever conscious of the school values which underpin school life and identified that they had used independence, respect, co-operation, self-control, excellence and resilience during their internet safety week. In addition, leadership skills were further developed as the digital leaders rose to their tasks admirably. Our Adventist schools continue to prepare our children well to be the leaders of tomorrow, to be people of integrity who also have the necessary skills to navigate their way safely through

modern-day challenges. We accept the timely reminder and the resounding message from the children of Stanborough Primary School: Stay safe and be SMART online!





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SEC Women's Ministries Tea Party

It was 19 February and an air of excitement and anticipation filled the banqueting suite at the Balham church, as 65 women from Area 6B and beyond gathered around tastefully decorated tables, covered in white linen tablecloths, draped with purple, the official women's ministries colour, to experience the SEC's first Women's Ministries Tea Party. The floral arrangements, the fine bone china teacups and the teapots added to the grandeur of the afternoon. The tea and the mouthwatering delicacies prepared by Joan Hosannah and her catering team were enjoyed by all.

Elleni-Jaye Anderson-Grey welcomed the ladies, and as they settled down they were informed by Pastor Maslin Holness that, in keeping with the SEC's 'Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere' strategy of Restoration, the Women's Ministries Department has chosen to focus on women's health and emotional well-being; including those hidden hurts not often seen by the human eye. She also used the opportunity to launch the Re-For-M advisory team (Ready for Ministry).

Susan O'Brien-Coker, in her role as Area 6B Co-ordinator, explained that the Re-For-M was a think tank to assist and support women and women's ministries.

Susan also pointed out that the 'Great Commission' is just as relevant to women today as it has always been, and that God has equipped them with the skills needed to be 'champions' for Him.

The Moldova project

Plymouth Church has held another successful event to raise money for their mission trip to Moldova this August. The young people and their pastor, Clifford Herman, are eager to reach their £6,000 goal.

All funds raised will be used to help the less fortunate in Moldova. Projects will include health expos, evangelism, food and clothing distribution, messy church and two building and decorating projects.

On Saturday evening, 25 February, the team transformed the church hall into a romantic restaurant for their Valentines Banquet Fund-raiser. By 7pm the doors were open and the hall was soon full with couples and singles. A donation of £10 provided the guests with a three-course meal with waitress service, live music and entertainment. Further funds were raised by providing a makeshift photo booth with a polaroid camera, which proved very popular.

Pastor Clifford, host for the evening, provided a surprise solo of 'Moon River' and his talented son, Matthew, also performed on the piano. The musical entertainment continued throughout the evening with gifted sisters, Gemma and Jackie Hall, performing several songs. Musical brothers Daniel Costin (saxophone) and Denis Budaev (piano) also wowed the audience with their contributions.

After the meal a quick round of speed dating got underway, which the guests found very entertaining, with interesting and thoughtful questions provided

Pastor Clifford and his wife, Ophelia, then led in a Celtic group dance which got everyone up on their feet. The evening finished with a traditional Moldovan celebration dance called the 'penguin dance'.

Friends from as far as Yeovil joined in the evening, which raised nearly £300 towards Project Moldova.

Your prayers and any tangible support would be much appreciated. For more information on the project please visit www.plymouth adventist.org.uk.

JENNIE HALL



As Susan introduced the members of the Re-For-M team, honorary member, Dorothea Delisser, was remembered as everyone stood for a minute's silence in acknowledgement of her contribution to women's ministries over the years.

However, the event was not just about tea, cakes and fun. These were followed by presentations on three emotional health issues: anger, quilt and rejection.

Dr Sarah Itam facilitated group discussions on two scenarios pertaining to anger and guilt, after which Marlene Levy of Croydon Church, a very experienced counsellor, spoke about the three components of anger.

Rejection was discussed by the final speaker and author of this report, Leslene J. Peat-Brown. She noted among other things that it can begin in early childhood and continue into adulthood, causing a number of physical, mental and spiritual challenges. She reminded the attendees that Jesus 'came unto his own, and his own received him not'. John 1:11, KJV. Jesus suffered rejection and it was very painful. This, she stated, is one of the saddest texts in the Bible.

Although the tea party was an enjoyable and memorable event, the ladies were particularly challenged by both the presentations and the discussions – and are looking forward to the next such event.

LESLENE J. PEAT-BROWN





Health expo training for MTTC Birmingham

On Sunday, 29 January, the Area 5 (NEC) Mission to the Cities (MTTC) Health Committee ran a day of health expo training for all its churches. This was organised by Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell (MTTC health leader) and NEC Health Director, Grace Walsh. Each attendee was given a pack with the necessary forms, questionnaires and fliers along with the manual for health expos

After a devotional by Keiran McKenzie, Pastor Richard Jackson (NEC President) encouraged the attendees to work together as churches and to make themselves available for service in Birmingham, which has significant health and social care needs and faces cuts to funding. Pastors Nicholson and Iheoma, who are both strongly involved in the MTTC Birmingham project, were also present during the day.

There were more than 50 attendees from across Area 5, with others travelling from Wolverhampton, Worcester and Leeds to benefit from the day's training. Sisters Jennifer Distin and Lorraine McDonald showed them how to hire health expo equipment, personalise the banners for each event, organise effectively and advertise the events in advance using leaflets, radio slots, etc.

The members of the MTTC Health Committee were supported by other experienced volunteers as they explained the 8 stations of the NEWSTART programme, including massage and hydrotherapy.

During a delicious lunch attendees had a chance to network and exchange ideas, following which Sukhy Carev's cooking demonstration stole the day.

Attendee feedback was very positive and this comment by Pastor Obi Iheoma summed it up: 'It was very good to see the MTTC health team in action. Well done to you all for a great training day.'

MAISIE GABRIEL-ALLISON AND JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL







Exeter Students' Day

On 18 February Exeter Church enjoyed a Students' Day programme arranged by Henrietta Dalton, a third-year university student. She was assisted by Keriama David and a number of students from Exeter University. They led out in Sabbath School and a number of them acted as lesson facilitators. The older members enjoyed the discussion, as did a number of young people from Plymouth and Cornwall who came to offer support. A praise team led the singing between the services, and during the family service there were a number of musical items, which the young people from Area 1 had prepared. Matthew Herman beautifully accompanied the singing on the piano. Steven Hulbert was the guest speaker and his theme was 'The Race of Faith', which he based on Hebrews 12:1-3. He made his message pertinent to the university students, encouraging them to put aside things in their lives which weigh them down and to push forward with perseverance and endurance. He exhorted the congregation to lay aside what is behind, however terrible and traumatic, and to go forward with faith in Jesus. Steven asked the students to consider the future and whether their life choices would be in line with their faith.

There was a delicious fellowship lunch after the morning service, which had seen a huge attendance of seventy-three! The small church was packed and some people had to sit in the foyer! The normal attendance is around forty!

In the afternoon there was a youth programme during which Henrietta divided the church into four groups, each with a character

from the Hebrews 11 hall of faith to discuss. There were musical items from Gemma and Jackie Hall, and Steven and Jena Hulbert with their friend, Jake Jackson.

The day proved to be a blessing to the students and the older members who encouraged them. STELLA JEFFERY



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Brecon Camp 2017

Ordinary People ~ Extraordinary Faith



26 ~ 29 May, 2017

Pastor Dan Dachin has embraced his anointing to preach, teach, motivate, and encourage people to Christ. A happy husband and

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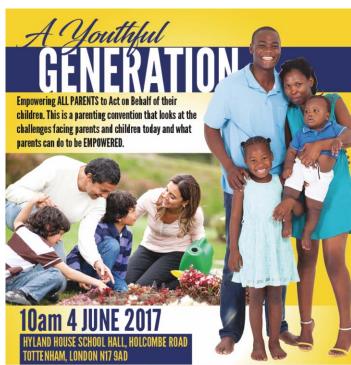
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CONTACT Ligia Buzac on 01923 232728 or REGISTER AT sec.adventist.org.uk/events





Stoke Newington honours its over-60s

At the end of last year the Stoke Newington church hosted a special dinner for its members over the age of 60 to show appreciation for the significant contribution they continue to make to the church.

The event began with a short thanksgiving service conducted by local pastor, Dennis Mingo, and then moved into the beautifully decorated church hall for the next session.

This consisted of an afternoon filled with laughter, poetry and quizzes, followed in the evening by a lavish three-course meal. It was also an occasion to celebrate the 98th birthday of one of the members, Levi Lawrence. An enjoyable time was had by all.



TCC's senior Christmas party

TCC (Training and Community Church) is a youth project supported by the SEC Youth Department and the LAAC. During this past December it conducted a special praise and worship service at which Pastor Kevin Johns was the speaker. He challenged the audience with a sermon entitled, 'Can they see Jesus in you?'

The service was followed by a special Christmas lunch to which the senior citizens of the local Adventist churches and the surrounding community were invited. Those who came, 20 in all, were treated to a three-course meal, carols and Christmas-themed games. They each received a gift and left looking forward to further events in 2017.

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 <code>js.bussey@ntlworld.com</code>. Thank you for considering this important cause.

obituaries



Isaac Joseph
Palmer (19292016) d. 11
December.
Wolverhampton
Central Church
grieves the loss of
one of its dear
members.

Isaac Joseph Palmer was born at Crofts Hill, Clarendon. Jamaica, to Joshua and Alice Maud Palmer. Isaac was the first in his family to migrate to the United Kingdom in 1952, where he lived for a short time in London before relocating to Wolverhampton. After Isaac settled in Wolverhampton he took up employment at Goodyear Tyre Company in 1955, and in 1957 he met Rhoda Elfreda Francis. whom he later married. They went on to have six children: Vivienne, Ian, Mark, Sharon, Clive and Donna.

Isaac was well known within the community where he lived and he had many friends.

He later joined the Wolverhampton Central church, where he worked hard as a deacon and would often visit members who were sick or 'shut in'. Even as his health declined he remained active in visiting and supporting others. He was known for his warmth, generosity and sense of humour.

Isaac was straight-talking and always spoke about God in his own unique way. He loved to read the Bible, in particular the books of Daniel and Revelation.

While Isaac was still active he became ill in April 2016 and he spent several weeks in hospital. Unfortunately his health declined again and in October he returned to hospital, where he sadly passed away on 11 December 2016.

Isaac is survived by his wife; six children; four grandchildren – Jordan, Aaliyah, Jada and Yasmin; his sisters, Kathleen and Mimi; and his nieces and nephews in the UK and abroad. Isaac was a much-loved member of his church and he remained faithful until his death.

He is missed by his family, church members and the local community, but he died in the hope that he would see his Lord at the resurrection.

The service was officiated by Pastors Richard Jackson (NEC President), Samuel Appiah, Jeremy Johnson and Jude Jeanville.

MCQUI GORDON

Ruth Phillips (1950-2016) d. 17 December. Ruth was born on 19 March 1950 in Nottingham. She

left school and went to work in a factory at first, but her heart was in nursing and she later went to Scotland to become a registered nurse and to train as a midwife. Ruth wanted to earn a degree and so she went to study at Newbold. Following this she returned to Nottingham, where she experienced being homeless until a kind member of Nottingham Central Church found her a residential placement. Although Ruth's faith sometimes fluctuated – as it does with many of us – she was a baptised member of Nottingham Central and knew the blessed hope we all have in the return of Christ Jesus. Her funeral service took place in her home church on 15 March and was conducted by Pastor C. Murphy. There were also tributes from her sister, Mary Phillips, and various members of the church family. Our deepest condolences go to all those who mourn her passing. DENNIS TAYLOR (COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT)



Christine Grace Hall (1925-2017) d. 31 January. Christine was the eighth of nine children born to Cecil and Celia Emm in Hampshire. Her

mother had become a Seventhday Adventist in 1921, much to the displeasure of her husband. The family's experience of church was organised by Mother, who arranged that her children conduct Sabbath School and Divine Service in their front room. Concerned that her daughter remain in the church. she planned a trip to Newbold College's wartime location at Packwood Haugh. Christine, blissfully unaware of her mother's idea, found herself and a suitcase on a train en route to a three-vear course of study!

During these years she made lifelong friends and met her future husband. Christine was in the 1946 graduation class, after which she was employed as a Bible worker in both Plymouth and London.

In 1947 Christine became engaged to fellow student Victor Hall: their wedding was held in the Reading church on 15 June 1949, only two weeks after Victor's graduation.

Victor's first assignment took them to Dundee, where their first son, Alister, was born, before a move to the northern lights of Aberdeen. Then, together with Mervyn, their second son, another relocation took them to Wimbledon. Here their family was made complete with the birth of daughter Shirley.

Christine's exemplary support for her husband in his ministry took on additional challenges when they were employed together, first at Stanborough Secondary School and then at Newbold College. As Matron of the Boarding School she cared for her charges with an intuitive instinct to their needs.

At Newbold College she taught dressmaking and cookery before being appointed Matron, in addition to supervising the campus kitchen. Christine's banquets were memorable occasions facilitated by her willingness to work throughout the night, leaving no detail to chance.

leaving no detail to chance.

The 1970s brought Christine and family back to Watford, where she entered nursing in the Peace Memorial Hospital. Her temperament and organising skills were eminently suited to this work. Her nursing expertise was employed in her own family when she cared for her mother, mother-in-law and finally her husband, all of whom she nursed at home until their deaths.

Seventeen happy and fruitful retirement years were shared by Victor and Christine in Scotland and Dorset. In her widowhood she maintained the tradition of providing a Friday evening meal for the family.

Christine's commitment to her faith was reflected in official responsibilities she held, including Sabbath School Superintendent at Stanborough Park Church for two years and later the Scottish Mission's first woman elder at the Crieff church. Here she kept a weather eye on the flock and delighted in participating in their annual flower festival.

Christine had a generous heart, caring for church members, providing ample food for fellowship meals and flowers for the sanctuary (real ones, not silk, all from her own purse).

The funeral was held on Friday 10 February in the Crieff church and was conducted by the writer, assisted by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda. She was laid to rest beside her husband in Comrie Cemetery with family and friends lingering at the graveside, surrounded by snow-capped mountains in the distance. Christine's birthplace was Enham, which in Anglo-Saxon meant 'an enclosure for the raising of lambs'. Now she sleeps in the ultimate safety found only in Jesus the Messiah, that great Shepherd of the sheep. PASTOR LESLIE H. HILL

player with enthusiasm for life and a smile on her face: a great asset in her congregation.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Special dedication for a special girl

Little Chiamaka Ngwaba enjoyed the privilege of being dedicated by Pastor Mark Finley on Sabbath 7 January, at the Stanborough Park church, watched by her proud adoptive parents who rescued her from the streets of Lagos.

JUNE COOMBS

Sister Black's 90th

On Sabbath 11 February Clapton Community Church celebrated Sister Black's 90th birthday in the company of a number of her family

members who were visiting for the special day. Sister Black is an accomplished harmonica 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 Printed in the UK.

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