

News to the churches • 23 June 2017 • Volume 122 • 12









'My church cared . . .'

by Pastor Peter Jeynes

hree barbaric acts of terror have savaged our nation in quick succession, claiming and maiming scores of innocent victims, and the outpouring of our collective sympathy and solidarity has been widely covered by the broadcast media.

There was one touching tribute, however, that seems to have been largely unreported except for a photo and brief mention in *The Manchester Evening News* of 2 June.* It involved the North England Conference Advanced Pathfinder Drill Team, the Midlands Drum Corps, members of Manchester North Church and several local pastors, all led by Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi (Conference Pathfinder Director). They took part in a march that culminated in a wreath-laying ceremony at St Anns Square in the heart of Manchester, near the location of the recent bomb attack there.

Rumbidzai Muchenagumbo, a young Pathfinder, was at the head of the procession, carrying a wreath which was laid among the thousands of balloons and floral tributes that were already there. At the time of the event Rumbidzai's best friend was still waiting for news of her sister and her sister's boyfriend, both of whom were still missing. Tragically, it was later discovered that both had died during the blast.

The drum corps and drill team marched to a very slow drum beat up to where the wreath was to be laid, as the crowds respectfully parted to make way for them. It was an

obviously moving event and a number of bystanders were soon in tears. The wreath was laid, heads were bowed for a short time, and then the ceremonial party retraced their steps, accompanied by applause from the crowd.

party retraced their steps, accompanied by applause from the crowd. A number of bystanders expressed their admiration and appreciation for what they had seen, with one man summing things up with these words: '*You've all done a good thing here*.' The local Adventists had responded appropriately to the national grief, and fifteen-year-old Rumbidzai was able to go home and let her best friend know that 'my church cared for you and your loved ones.'

*http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/sand-sculpture-st-annssquare-13126621

Remember the innocent . . .



Flower Festival Solí Deo Gloría TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY 14-16 JULY 2017 STANBOROUGH PARK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH 609 St. Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL VIEWING TIMES Friday I Iam - 5pm | Saturday 2pm - 5pm | Sunday I Iam - 5pm ADMISSION FREE SPECIAL EVENTS PREVIEW EVENING July 13 at 7.30pm Tickets e-mail: flowerfestival2017@outlook.com GALA CONCERT July 15 at 7.30pm - ADMISSION FREE GALA DINNER July 16 at 6.30pm Tickets e-mail: flowerfestival2017@outlook.com Profits to: Peace Hospice Care - Registered Charity Number 1002878 & Stanborough Church Refurbishment Fund For further details, contact Audrey: 01923 260270www.stanboroughpark.org

Let's get moving! - part 1 - brain boost

Having concluded our mini-series on healthy minds, we turn our attention once again to exercise and its positive impact, beginning with its benefits for brain health.

Health Ministries Director. BUC

Recently, I returned from a six-day health retreat for women, held at Aberdaron Camp in Wales. This event was part of our BUC Women's Ministries focus on well-being, of which exercise was a prominent segment during the week-long programme. On the daily timetable was a 30-minute morning workout session with lifestyle and fitness coach Eugenie Burton: in addition to which, attendees were invited to take part in a 45-minute walk after lunch each day. Needless to say, with this level of activity, healthy meals, excellent health presentations and ample opportunities for rest and relaxation, we all returned home lighter in body, mind and spirit, having shed much 'weight' in these key facets of our lives.

Recognising the power of exercise to boost brain health, the Mental Health Foundation has published a leaflet entitled: 'How to look after your mental health using exercise'. This can be accessed via their website at: https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/ how-to-using-exercise.

Other exercise-related research reveals the following:

Mood

Several studies have looked at different physical activities and their levels of intensity to ascertain the impact each has on the moods of people. One piece of research, entitled, 'Be Active and Become

Happy',¹ found that the beneficial effect of physical activity on mood was more prominent in individuals who initially recorded low moods.

Most research has found that low-intensity aerobics, undertaken for 30-35 minutes, 3-5 days per week for 10-12 weeks, worked best at increasing positive mood states such as enthusiasm.²

Dementia and depression

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc

Commenting on this latest research, Dr Justin Varney, lead for adult health and well-being at Public Health England, states: 'While every 10 minutes of exercise provides some benefit, doing 150 minutes a week cuts the chances of depression and dementia by a third, and boosts mental health at any age.'3

Mental alertness

A recent NHS Health Choices report carried the headline: 'Regular exercise for the over-50s "sharpens the mind" '.4 Findings revealed that aerobic exercise and strength training appeared to improve cognitive functions, including memory, attention, and how well people undertook tasks.

Get movina!

¹Kanning, M. & Schlicht, W. (2010), 'Be Active and Become Happy: An ecological momentary assessment of physical activity and mood', *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*, 32 (2), 253-261 ²Reed, J. & Buck, S. (2009), 'The Effect of Regular Aerobic Exercise on Positiveactivated Affect: A meta-analysis', Psychology of Sport and Exercise, 10 (6), 581-594 3http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-39693462 4http://www.nhs.uk/news/2017/04April/Pages/ Regular-exercise-for-the-over-50s-sharpens-the-mind.aspx

editorial

Are you familiar with the German term fremdscham? Probably not. Neither was I until quite recently. I stumbled on it while exploring the meaning and nuances of the word 'embarrassment'.

Plainly put, *fremdscham* refers to 'vicarious' or 'secondhand' embarrassment. It's that cringing shame many of us feel when we watch someone embarrass themselves in public. For example, although I enjoy good comedy, I experience an uncomfortable sense of *fremdscham* while viewing some of Rowan Atkinson's earlier Mr Bean productions - those full of scowls and 'low-voiced mumbling'. I have also felt 'secondhand embarrassment' while listening to a few of the recent preelection interviews involving prominent politicians – of all parties!

Forget fremdscham for a moment

The real reason I began exploring the meaning of embarrassment is not because of the failures of others, but my very own dusty catalogue of embarrassing sayings and doings.

When one of our national leaders was recently asked the question, 'What is the most embarrassing thing you've ever done?' the answer was slow in coming. If faced with the same question, how would you have answered? With a stony silence, or a hardly audible 'No comment'? Would you have felt too embarrassed or ashamed to give a truthful answer?

My first brush with embarrassment

My first memory of personal embarrassment was while travelling with my parents on a trip that required an overnight stop. In the mid-1950s not many of South Africa's small-town hotels offered en-suite facilities. You had a choice between what was at the end of the passage, or what was compactly stowed under the bed! I chose the room at the end of the passage, and all went well until

He's not with me!

that another

I got back to our

room and found

pyjama-clad four-year-old!

That event, my first brush (or should I say 'blush') with embarrassment was caused by ignorance and innocence. But what happened years later at Harare International Airport was very different. I had flown in from Johannesburg, collected my luggage from the carousel, cleared customs without incident, met Elize in the car park, and made it through the city's quiet streets to our home. Then, in the bright light of our bedroom, I had a gut-wrenching shock. The bag I had brought home was identical to mine in every respect, but another person's name was on the tag! I phoned the airport and they confirmed that a very worried lady was hoping that somehow her bag would turn up safely. It was an embarrassing evening and all I could say was a profuse 'sorry'. It was all my fault. I had been irresponsible. The days of ignorance and innocence were

long gone!

A 'tap' on the shoulder

I find that the memories of those embarrassing things that I have said and done periodically tap me on the shoulder, especially those foolish, malicious, intentional, impetuous and angry things that I know have caused pain and discomfort to others. And now that I have discovered a new word, fremdscham, I wonder how uncomfortable God feels as He watches us embarrass and shame ourselves. Does our behaviour make Him cringe and turn away? Do I upset Him, just as Mr Bean upsets me? And is this why David cried out like he did in Psalm 27:9 (KJV): 'Hide not thy face far from me'?

Whv?

Why do our embarrassing failures occasionally come back to haunt us? Is it because our faith is weak? Don't we pray hard enough? Or are we somehow misunderstanding the meaning of texts like Micah 7:19 (GNT): 'You will be merciful to us once again. You will trample our sins underfoot and send them to the bottom of the sea!' If this is how it ought to work, then why is my memory periodically fishing down there? David made a similar comment about God's way of dealing with our sins in Psalm 103:12 (GNT): 'As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins from us.' But was he right about that, and if so, is it really working?





Julian Hibbert

'mommy' and 'daddy' had moved in - and they definitely weren't ready to 'adopt' a strange

Amnesia or forgiveness?

What do these texts actually promise us? Amnesia? No, I don't think God is promising us memory loss. Were that to be true, why would Paul make a comment like this: 'The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost' (1 Timothy 1:15, ESV)? Long after his conversion, Paul was obviously still convinced that he was a sinner - at least by nature, if not by practice. He knew he had done some awful things while he was Saul of Tarsus. There was his relentless persecution of Christians, his role in the barbaric execution of Stephen, and then, well after his conversion, that flaming row with Barnabas in Acts 15. The way I see it is that these easily misunderstood texts are telling us about a **forgiven life**, not a **forgotten one**! These descriptions about our sins being so radically separated from us speak about what God does with our quilt, not our memories. He buries that quilt in the ocean of His grace. But let us not forget that there is a vast difference between a pervading sense of quilt and the occasional recollection of what He has delivered us from.

To be honest, I no longer mind if He taps me on the shoulder with embarrassing memories. Why? Simply because they keep me humble; help me see if I am making any progress in the Christian life; and remind me of His amazing grace. Hopefully, you and I together are helping in some

tiny way to diminish our heavenly Father's feelings of fremdscham.

reform-a-nation



ave you ever had a meal that lacked something? Maybe the salt was missing from a dish that demanded it, or the chef omitted lemon juice or ground gloves while marinating a piece of fish. Or maybe you had some fresh juice, but it was missing the essence that would normally give it that unique and delicious taste. A culinary experience can be marred when a vital ingredient is missing from vour food or drink.

As Christians, we speak about the need for revival and reformation, but often seem to believe that this will take place simply because we desire to have a deeper walk with the Father. It is as if we think we will somehow miraculously – have a new spontaneous passion for God and that our churches will suddenly be transformed into dynamic centres of influence. Unfortunately, if we believe this, we are fooling ourselves.

In order for such a revival and reformation to occur, not only in our churches but in our lives too, we will need to be intentional, and one of the first things that we need to do is to seek God in prayer.

Habakkuk was a man of praver and a prophet who was constantly talking to God. A contemporary of Jeremiah, he wrote a book of three chapters two in which he documents his conversations with the Almightv. and a third where he offers a praver of petition for revival. reformation and restoration, while accepting the fate of Judah for not heeding the word of God.

He says, 'LORD, I have heard the news about you: I am amazed at what you have done. LORD, do great things once again . . . ; make those things happen again in our own days' (Habakkuk 3:2, NCV). Great things happen when sincere prayers are offered. Revival occurs when we set aside our own agendas and seek the

The vital ingredient Prayer as an essential tool for revival and reformation

by Pastors Ian Sweeney and Eglan Brooks

Lord with our whole heart. It happens when, corporately, we not only desire change but are willing for change to occur.

Somewhere along the line we have lost our vision for mission. Yes, we talk about it, preach about it, and some may even do it, from time to time. But as a body of people, we often seem no longer to be enthused about the souls of the lost. Maybe it's because we are so caught up with the politics in our churches; absorbed by the numerous church building projects; preoccupied with various theological and cultural issues; or perhaps enjoying such a spiritual high every week, that the commission of Jesus Christ to 'go into all the world' is hidden away under all the other 'church iunk'.

Randy Maxwell, in his book, If My People Pray, illustrates the point of spiritual drvness by referring to desert plants that have shallow roots which quickly absorb moisture from 'heavy dews' and occasional rains. According to him, 'Desert plants have a way of adapting to drought,' and he believes that there are 'desert-adapted' Christians who are content to accept the spiritual drought in many of our churches. He recommends that the antidote that vital ingredient needed to reform and transform us into dynamic plants, hungry for the Word and willing to 'bear fruit' is prayer.

The Protestant Reformation, the Second Great Awakening in the first half of the nineteenth century, which gave rise to Adventism, and the Welsh Revival of 1904-1905 were movements that began with praver. The Day of Pentecost, possibly the greatest movement of revival and reformation, was started with 40 days of prayer.

As part of the Reform-a-Nation initiative to be held over the weekend of 11-13 August, we would like to encourage all our

congregations in the territory of the British Union Conference to join together in prayer for revival and reformation here in the United Kingdom. The General Conference has set aside 1 July as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Revival and Reformation around the world and we would like to take this opportunity to join them in prayer. God is waiting to pour out His Spirit in a mighty way, when we, together as Christians, not only join together for a special day of prayer, but continue praying for revival and reformation.

Lord, we know that You have done some awesome things in the past – lives have been

Celebrating 500 Years OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Reform-A-Nation

healed, and others have come to know You in large numbers, right here in the United Kingdom. We've heard the stories, but have not seen so much of this ourselves, and so there are times when we are unsure if this can ever happen today in an age of secularism and cynicism, in a society that believes more in social media than it does in You. during times that are terrifying and fraught with danger. Through our earnest, corporate prayers on 1 July this year, start a revival in the United Kingdom, and by the Reform-a-Nation initiative may our local communities come to understand more about You and desire that You save them.

Rediscovering THE GOOD NEWS

STANBOROUGH PARK

Watford, WD25 9JZ

changed, people have been



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Dear reader, you should have received a copy of the latest Focus magazine with your MESSENGER. If not, kindly ask your PM secretary for one today.

Focus is designed to be a non-offensive tool for use in witnessing to family, friends and associates. Each issue covers a theme related to a particular subject of national or international interest. In this one we are dealing with the theme of Emotional Health: Finding the balance and have chosen to feature articles that touch on topics like stress, anxiety, depression, fear and the fact that our future is secure if we trust God.

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It doesn't need to happen!

Finding the balance

How to deal with **depression:**

a personal perspective

01476 591700



by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt

ell, that special day has come and gone for another vear – Father's Dav! For some that probably meant breakfast in bed, as was my wonderful experience two years ago. It was my two 'princes', my sons Akeal and Eashay, along with my dear wife, Andrea, who prepared an exquisite spread of morning nibbles for me to enjoy. Well, if you missed a treat on Father's Day, don't despair because there is always next year to look forward to.

It was Lionel Richie and the Commodores who sang a song by Heather Headly entitled 'Jesus Is Love' back in the 1980s. It begins as follows:

'Father, help Your children And don't let them fall by the side of the road And teach them to love one another That Heaven might find a place in their hearts.'

> The powerful influence of a father To me these few words

sum up the powerful influence that fathers have – a wonderful opportunity to develop and nurture their sons and daughters through positive parenting. Sadly, the role of fatherhood can too easily be downplayed.

Withdrawing from fatherhood

It has been said that a child's best place is with its mother. As a result men will often act out this maxim by withdrawing from intentional activity and long-term engagement with their children. The result is that Mum is then left to take care of everything. Sadly, this has become the accepted norm for many families, with little effort being made to engage fathers in anything more than just making financial contributions, if that.

Furthermore, men easily reinforce this narrative by their conversations with one another. which are seldom about their parenting or fatherhood roles. As a result of this absence of meaningful conversation about their parenting roles, men subconsciously perpetuate the idea that fathers are not crucial to the raising of children. When this occurs three things happen. The first is that men lose out on a vital aspect of their role and identity, thus leaving themselves partially unfulfilled. The second is that when women are left to

parent alone they are likely

to become exhausted, experience feelings of isolation, and end up frustrated with men because they are left to cook, clean, care for and discipline the children (and in some cases the husband too). The third consequence is that the children are deprived of the invaluable influence of a father figure, while internalising the impression that 'my dad is not interested in me' and that males simply don't have to get involved much in parenting. Thus, the die is cast for the next generation and the cycle continues!

So what can be done: how can we make a change? Perhaps we can learn something from a few biblical characters such as Noah, Mordecai and the father of the demon-possessed boy.

1. Create opportunities to spend time together.

Now. I might hear you say. 'Noah?' Didn't his fatherhood end with him being drunken, helpless and naked before his sons, who had to cover his shame? Then, despite their effort to treat their father with dignity, he turns around and curses one of them. Well, yes, that is true, and that is why we can learn from him. Noah was a man who possessed some highly admirable qualities, but he had weaknesses too, which is true for most of us. Therefore, having accepted his human weaknessess, let us now look at his fatherhood strengths.

Noah, having won the respect of his three sons and his daughters-in-law, invited them to help him build the ark. Thereby he created an opportunity for them to do something that would bind them together, something that we should strive to do with our own children. Such activities must involve their input and could include gardening, painting the house, cooking dinner or washing the car. They could also include hobbies, sports, DIY projects and much more. When we create such opportunities we are investing in bonding and connecting with our children.

2. Tell your children that they



are beautiful, handsome, charming, and adorable.

For this strategy let us consider Mordecai. Mordecai was the older cousin of Hadassah, who became known as Esther. Now the Bible doesn't provide a verse where Mordecai told Hadassah that she was beautiful or anything like that. However, the fact that she won a beauty contest suggests that she had a humble yet confident self-image and an awareness of her beauty. That would only have been possible through the Lord's leading and the affirmation she received from Mordecai.

So, fathers, be intentional about letting your children know that they are remarkable, capable, wonderfully made, intelligent, charming, handsome, beautiful and adorable. Send your child a text, write them a letter – yes, a real pen-and-paper, envelope-and-stamp letter – tell them in the car, tell them at home, make it clear without a shadow of a doubt that they are valuable in your eyes (in God's eyes too).

Make her feel like the most

beautiful girl in the world. Those of us who have daughters can take them out on a date. Plan it with them and let them know that they should dress up and look amazing. Take them out to a proper restaurant, which means that McDonald's and KFC don't count! Remember to open the car door for them, seat them at the table, tell them how good they look, listen to their jokes, make them laugh, and tell them how proud you are of them. Then, before the evening is over, find the opportunity to pray a prayer of blessing over them. The benefit of all of this is that it will strengthen your relationship and really make your daughter feel valued and affirmed.

3. Be there and involved when your child is unwell.

Children need their fathers as well as their mothers. The role and value of a mother can't be denied or overestimated, especially where the child's health and well-being is concerned. This is true, mind you, of fathers too. However, the tendency is for men to leave the 'sickness thing' to Mum. Once when one of my boys came home with a headache I made the mistake of saying (to my shame), 'Ah, go and tell Mummy.' I later redeemed myself on another occasion – when he needed to go to hospital I was right there all the way.

Sadly, my first reaction was similar to that of the father of the Shunammite woman's son (2 Kings 4:17-19), who, when he was unwell, ordered his servant to take him home to his mother for comfort and help. Unfortunately, this father's actions reinforce the idea that comfort and healing come through the mother. However, I would like us to consider the action of the unnamed father in Mark 9, because it models how fathers are to be involved in the provision of care for ill children.

In this story, the father takes his son, who is in dire need of help, to the Lord and His disciples in the hope that He can find a cure. The passage is well known for the father's response to Jesus: 'Lord. I believe: help thou mine unbelief' (Mark 9:24, KJV). Yet there is something else to recognise here: how the father demonstrates that fathers have an important role to play in dealing with sickness, care, nurture and healing. For here is the father who brings the child to Jesus, the father who explains the history of the illness and distress, the father who pleads for help. the father who sheds tears for his son: thereby showing how instrumental men can be in the care and healing of an ill child.

Affirming all positive father figures

Now it is important for me to note that fathering doesn't always mean that one has to be the biological father. Fathering responsibilities can also be bestowed on us through fostering, adoption, the church family and mentoring. Therefore, allow me to affirm all the biological fathers who do get involved, who do care, and who invest heart and soul in their children. Well done to you. Then to those men who are 'fathering' children who are not your biological offspring, well done to you for caring enough to extend yourselves in this way. Keep up the good work. Yet there is more to be done by others.

Be proud about the importance of fatherhood.

Over the years of my varied ministry, a cry that I have constantly heard is, 'Where are the fathers?' For the simple reason that, although society may present the idea that fathers are not so crucial to the development of a child, nothing could be further from the truth. Studies have shown that where a father or father figure positively engages with children their educational performance, self-image. emotional stability, ability to form social relationships, and respect for the opposite sex are all likely to improve, as is their personal success in life.*

The point is clear: fatherhood is a vitally important role and something we should be proud of doing to the best of our ability at all times.

'The father's duty to his children should be one of his first interests. It should not be set aside for the sake of acquiring a fortune, or of gaining a high position in the world. In fact, those very conditions of affluence and honour frequently separate a man from his family, and cut off his influence from them more than anything else. If the father would have his children develop harmonious characters, and be an honour to him and a blessing to the world, he has a special work to do. The Signs of the Times. 20 December. 1877.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the role of positive fathering is so essential that it can't be emphasised enough. The sense of self-value that a positive father figure can help a child develop goes beyond the words of this article. It is my prayer that if you are a father (biological or other) you will be able to take vour fatherhood to the next level. In closing I use the words of a father who, after being estranged from his child and following a successful negotiation to gain access again, said, 'Being a part of my child's life [again] is the best thing that has happened to me for years: I think my child likes it too.' Go ahead, fathers, be fulfilled . . . and I know your children will like it too.

*Taken from Psychology Today, 23 June 2011, 'The Importance of Fathers': https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/ the-long-reach-childhood/201106/theimportance-fathers

Views expressed in the Perspective pages may not always be those of Messenger staff or the BUC. i c r r r i t

inbox

Dear Editor

Sonia Munroe's report on Dr B. Kavaloh's presentation at the Advent Centre (*MESSENGER*, 26 May 2017) should be taken seriously. Hitherto we have tended to envisage an end-time scenario in which the Sabbath is the bone of contention. However, if developments here and elsewhere provide any clues, it would seem that every Creation ordinance is under attack.

The family is under attack on such fronts as the right of parents to reasonably chastise their children where necessary; the right to transmit their faith to their children; and the right to include their children in religious observances. The very definition of 'child' has been so stretched that in theory it might even be possible for a secular humanist-dominated state to forbid parents to give even the smallest degree of religious instruction to their offspring if they are even a day under 18.

Back to the main point! A six-hour restriction on out-of-school religious instruction could end up curtailing aspects of our church's many children's and youth-related activities.

As for the Government's so-called 'Counter-Extremism Strategy', it is surely one of the most ill-conceived ideas of government if it involves the de facto restriction, even suppression, of activities that involve religious instruction of children in the atmosphere of their parents' place of worship. It would surely make Robert Raikes, founder of the Sunday School movement, spin in his grave if he knew.

Oh – and what about our schools? I recall a non-Seventh-day Adventist girl telling me how she admired the moral standards of Stanborough School; she was there from 1979 to 1984. I am sure that she wasn't the only one! Rather than breeding supporters or sympathisers of this 'extremism', it is the correct religious upbringing of children that is the greatest counter to it. BARRY GOWLAND

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*



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



Driving instructor receives £3,000 'speeding' endorsement

Andrew Rock, from the Reading Central Seventh-day Adventist church, completed a 13,000ft skydive on Sunday 28 May, as part of ADRA-UK's Annual Appeal. Cathy Boldeau caught up with him at the Hinton Airfield at Brackley, near Northampton:

CAB: Andrew. vou've just completed a 13.000ft skydive for ADRA. What made you consider something so adventurous? **AR:** In 2016, when ADRA's marketing team were promoting the tandem parachute jump as a method to raise funds, it piqued mv interest. Unfortunately. I was already committed to sponsorship for the annual ADRA 10k Fun Run. I'm no distance runner. but the 10k turned into a half-marathon, so having achieved that I thought I'd challenge myself even further this year. I was also inspired and encouraged by a number of 'ordinary' people who had done the jump before.

CAB: Talk us through the process you had to go through in order to participate in the skydive. **AR:** The tandem parachute jump was not being promoted by ADRA this year so I contacted them and they linked me into Skyline. the company responsible for organising such events. I registered with them, paying the necessary deposit, with the agreement that the cost of the jump would be covered as long

as I raised a minimum of £400 in sponsorship. Medical forms needed to be completed, and due to high blood pressure I had to get my doctor's consent as well. **CAB:** Were you provided with some on-the-day training? **AR:** There was a briefing session before the jump, during which they outlined the process and gave us some assurance of the safety mechanisms that were in place. We were also informed about what to do at each stage of the jump: for example, to keep our arms crossed and heads back at the time of jumping from the plane.

CAB: When did you start to feel nervous?

AR: I felt nervous, but not afraid. at two stages. First, when I arrived at the airfield. I could feel my heart beating in my chest as if about to explode, but this subsided when it was time to suit up and board the plane. The second time was when the door of the plane opened and I felt a strong rush of wind – then the reality of what I was about to do kicked in! CAB: What thoughts were going

through your mind immediately before your jump? **AR:** It was a case of putting my trust in the lead instructor, to whom I was firmly attached. remembering to follow the briefing instructions, and staying calm! I felt completely safe, but I was looking forward to being back on the ground. **CAB:** The actual jump took around 5 minutes, right? How did you feel physically during that time?

AR: The feeling was absolutely awesome. The initial tumble out of the plane and free fall duration was shorter than I expected and there was no feeling of vertigo. The 'flight' phase was incredible, and the view took my breath away . . . I was 'flying'! On the parachute descent I did experience some queasiness in my stomach, but I believe that was due to not having eaten much prior to 'take-off'. **CAB:** What was the first thing you wanted to do when you were back on 'terra firma'? AR: Kiss the ground, followed by my wife and daughter; but my wife might not have appreciated

being kissed with muddy lips, so I thought I'd greet her first. After all, she deserved it with the amount of support she gave me even being prepared to 'pick up the pieces' if anything were to have gone wrong. CAB: How much money did you raise for ADRA-UK from your skydive? AR: To date I have been

supported by over 70 people to the value of £3.140, with further pledges promised.

CAB: What spiritual lessons did vou learn from this experience? AR: I was initially challenged by Michaela at ADRA-UK to raise £1,000. I wanted to surpass that challenge, so I decided on £2.000. However, the Holv Spirit had other ideas, and to prove how big God is He decided to add our goals together, and so the target was set at £3,000. But the Holy Spirit didn't stop there: He also gave me the courage to achieve the goal. And then, to prove how awesome He is, He pushed past the goal with the projected final amount likely to be around £3.500.

As a result of this event I have

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ADRA UK

a deeper faith in God and a areater degree of trust in His plans for my life. Recently I've been looking back over my life and can trace His leading and how He has brought me to this point, including the wonderful people He has brought into my

Never have I experienced so much concern, love, support and encouragement from so many people. I have truly experienced the love of God through the many friends and family – both blood and spiritual family - who have been there for me.

CAB: I understand that there were some Bible promises you claimed before the jump.

AR: Yes, Cathy, and one of them was Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' (NKJV). CAB: Andrew, were there any other lessons or benefits that you gained from this experience? AR: Yes. I learned that our positive actions can inspire others to get up and do something for charity. This experience has also enabled me to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones, and I have come to value and care about

them and my family in a way that I never thought possible. CAB: Finally, would you do the skydive again? AR: I would definitely do the jump

again, and if I were to do so I would like it to be somewhere exotic or tropical. CAB: Andrew Rock. on behalf of ADRA-UK, thank you.

Newbold



Quality of Newbold education on par with state-funded universities

ewbold College recently underwent its N quadrennial Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), the body appointed by the Government to assure the quality of higher education provision throughout the UK.

A new framework put into place by the QAA since the college's last full review in 2012 meant that Newbold was measured against the same criteria that apply to large, state-funded providers – and the results were gratifying. The college was found to meet every expectation of the Quality Code for Higher Education, receiving, with only one minor exception, the lowest possible category of risk for each.

A reading of the QAA reports of state-funded universities shows that Newbold has outperformed some much larger institutions, many with teams dedicated to ensuring that QAA requirements are met a huge accolade for the college.

Because the college does not receive government funding, Newbold was additionally subject to a Financial Sustainability, Management and Governance check, and the college's arrangements in these areas were affirmed.

The full report, which was formulated following a three-day visit in February by four QAA reviewers, was made public in May and reflects intensive discussions with staff and students and a detailed exploration of the college's robust self-evaluation document and over 300 annexes.

The QAA noted that the college met UK standards in the four key areas, namely:

• The maintenance of the academic standards of the awards offered on behalf of its degree-awarding bodies;

Were you once a member or regular visitor of Chatham Seventh-day Adventist Church from the 1970s onwards? If so, we would like to hear from you very soon. We would like you and your family to join us at Chatham Church's 'Homecoming Day' on Saturday 22 July 2017.





- The quality of student learning opportunities;
- The quality of its information about learning opportunities; and
- The enhancement of student learning opportunities.

In particular, the QAA review team affirmed the following actions which the college is currently taking towards making academic standards even more secure and improving the educational provision offered to its students:

- The steps being taken to ensure that the development of new programmes follows a robust and systematic approval process:
- The steps being taken to develop an enhancement policy, and to explicitly embed enhancement in the strategic framework of the college: and
- The establishment of a new strategy group with a focus on enhancement that includes staff and aovernors.

The college was also commended for its comprehensive approach to identifying, analysing and meeting the learning resource needs of students.

The manager of the review team was particularly complimentary about Newbold's overall support of the review process and the willing co-operation of the staff and students who participated in discussions with the panel.

In these days of intense regulation and accountability, the result of this review is particularly pleasing for the college. The full report can be accessed at http://www.gaa.ac.uk. DR .IOHN BAII DAM

Calling all ex-members/ex-regular visitors of Chatham Seventh-day Adventist Church

A warm, loving, homecoming welcome awaits you.

Please contact either Mr S. Tshabango (Communications) on 07908 629864 or Mrs T. Morgan (Family Ministries) on 07400 802694.

news

Being the sermon every day

Plymouth Church recently ventured into the community for a second time to 'be the sermon' in the local area.

For Global Youth Day (18 March) their youth visited two nursing homes to share musical talent, as well as pairs of socks as small gifts for the residents. Several well-known hymns were sung accompanied by Matthew Herman on the keyboard and Daniel Costin on the saxophone. With songbooks at the ready the residents too enjoyed singing along to 'Amazing Grace', 'How Great Thou Art', 'To God Be the Glory' and other songs. As an interlude Daniel and his brother Denis Budaev (keyboard) performed several songs, much to the delight of the residents.

It was nice being able to spend some time socialising and getting to know everyone, and they insisted that we should come back again soon.

The next week (25 March) we all met at the local Shekinah drop-in centre. The charity is Devon-based and provides opportunities for people in recovery or seeking recovery from homelessness, drug and alcohol issues, offending behaviours or mental ill health. At the centre we cooked and served a vegetarian hot breakfast which included hash browns, quorn sausages, fried eggs, mushrooms, beans and toast, as well as hot drinks and fruit. We served around 30 homeless people, providing them with the hot meal and drink as well as conversation, musical entertainment and a few small gifts. The regular staff greatly appreciated the break and said we could come back any time.

Both projects were very rewarding for everyone involved. Kit Portunova commented that 'it was great to have the chance to be able to give back to the community. It was a gentle reminder of the situations of other people and made you aware of circumstances that they were going through to change your perspective and be more grateful of the little things we take for granted. Hopefully we can do more for the community in the future.'



The youth greatly enjoyed themselves and we felt we had made a difference, and in doing so learnt a lot. Otniel Rodrigues remarked, 'Helping those who are struggling and don't have the basic things that we have in our daily lives, most of which we don't value, made me realise how ungrateful I can sometimes be for God's daily blessings.'

Plymouth Church feels that 'being the sermon' is not just for one day, but is something to live by all year round. We have many projects this year, including health expos, Messy Church programmes, charity garden projects and our much-anticipated mission trip to Moldova to look forward to. More photographs and information on future events can be found on the Plymouth Church website: *www.plymouth adventist.org.uk. JENNIE HALL*



There was great excitement as CMFL (Curative Music Foundation Limited) hosted the annual Mauritius Independence Day charity event. The Edmonton church hall quickly filled until there was standing room only. We were all there to help CMFL towards their vision of building a music centre for disadvantaged and orphaned children in Kenya. (This dream was born when Fifi McKenzie-Cook, a director of CMFL, visited Kenva and identified a huge need.) We were treated to Mauritian music, food and culture. A special quiz was set to test knowledge of the Indian Ocean island and there was also a special auction of an extremely wonderful surprise basket.

The laughter flowed as the afternoon progressed and everyone enjoyed the 'eat as much as you can' buffet, all for a very reasonable entry fee of £5. Many people from the local community attended and the overwhelming response as people left was, 'I can't wait for next year.' You can visit the CMFL website at *curativemusic* foundation.co.uk. SHERBILLE HYATT







North Wembley baptism

North Wembley Community Church were joyful as they witnessed the baptism of Glester Byfield on Sabbath 25 March. Glester had been brought up in the Church of God of Prophecy and he recalls his mother praying daily that he would be baptised. However, life took him on a different path and in recent times he and his wife started attending North Wembley Church, where, he recalls, 'the whole "Saturday" thing took a lot of getting used to as it seemed so unnatural to attend church on a Saturday when everyone goes on a Sunday.' Glester realised that God had been calling him for a long time and that it was time for him to give himself to God. He says he was excited to be given the opportunity to have a baptismal service all by himself where he could select his own songs and have people sing for him. He says he has no regrets about giving his life to God as he looks forward to taking on whatever roles God wants for him. The baptismal service was conducted by resident minister, Pastor Kwesi Moore. NORTH WEMBLEY COMMUNICATIONS

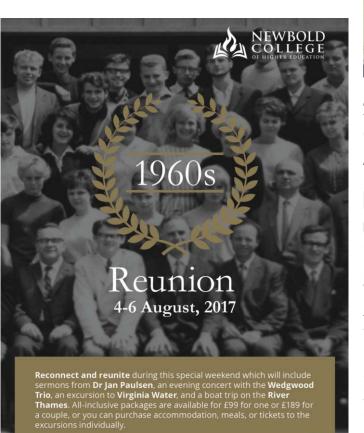




Nottingham Central report

On 25 March Pastor Curtis Murphy baptised three precious souls in the Nottingham Central church, to the delight of his members. They were Hanna Christie-Phillips, A. Kinlock and D. Bolton.

On the same day the church also recognised the outstanding contribution of Sister Anderson to their over-60s club by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers. DENNIS TAYLOR (COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT)



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



Colchester investiture

On 28 January this year, South England Conference Area 8 Pathfinder leader, Tyronne Waldron, invested the Pathfinders and Adventurers of the Colchester church.

They were all excited to receive their various pins and honours after all the hard work (and fun) of the past year. They particularly enjoyed the camps and special crafts – with string art with Coralina Lewis being a real favourite!



A double blessing

The Stoke-on-Trent members were blessed to receive a new minister earlier this year, Pastor Ian Philpott, and an inspiring visit from Pastor Richard Jackson, the NEC President.

Northfield's WIP day

On 4 March Northfield Church members and their friends packed the church to celebrate Women's International Day of Prayer. Men were not left out, for we were reminded that when women pray men too are blessed. We were all certainly blessed by Pastor Obi Iheoma's sermon, which provided inspiring examples of women who poured out their hearts to Cod for His intervention in their li



God for His intervention in their lives and the lives of those around them. After a wonderful fellowship lunch there was a vibrant, interactive programme for all led by Gloe Brookes, during which all were challenged to give their personal devotional time a creative and innovative makeover.

MAISIE GABRIEL-ALLISON (WM LEADER)

The campaign against knife crime

The third and penultimate leg of the Knife Crime Church Tour was hosted at North Wembley Church on Sabbath 1 April, featuring presentations by Paul Frempong, a Youth Offending Officer, and Mark Prince, founder of the Kiyan Prince Foundation.

The tour began in March and ended in May, addressing and responding to the knife crime epidemic within London's inner-city communities.

The presentations addressed issues such as why young people carry knives, the legal implications of carrying weapons, the impact on the victims of knife crimes. proposed solutions and recommendations of how churches, families and communities can reduce knife crime and violence.

Mark spoke about the difficult experience of losing his talented son, Kivan Prince, in 2006 through a fatal knife incident. He spoke about the perpetrator's attitude, his own struggles in coming to terms with his loss, and how he had experienced peace through forgiveness.

The programme culminated with a questionand-answer session where concerned friends and family were able to get help from Mark. Paul and Clarke Collins (London Youth Federation Area Co-ordinator).

North Wembley hope to host follow-up programmes on safeguarding young people. The SEC Family Ministries Director, Augustus Lawrence, was also in attendance. NORTH WEMBLEY COMMUNICATIONS





Small home groups in North **Wemblev**



On Sabbath 8 April the Personal Ministries Department of North Wembley Church launched the beginning of its home-based small groups outreach initiative, which is a project to reach the non-churched people of North Wembley, London. PM director, Xoli Belgrave, who has

enthusiastically promoted this form of outreach, set up several house groups and facilitated training

sessions, invited the entire church to embrace this project too. Guest speaker Mervyn Weir preached on the topic 'Not a fan, a

follower', based on Luke 9:18-27, during which he encouraged the members (using the example of Peter) to stop being spectators and get involved with ministry such as small home groups. Mervyn used analogies from the sporting world and even stripped off his 'church clothes' to reveal his Grenadian football shirt. His sermon was preceded by a meditational song by Natasha Mirilov.

In the afternoon a small home group (based in the Chiswick area) inspired the congregation with their interesting programme of puppetry. poems, talks and music. The group started almost 20 years ago and each Christmas they sing carols in the street outside their venue. Last Christmas some 150 people turned up to enjoy the event. NORTH WEMBLEY COMMUNICATIONS



'It Is Written' visitor in **Central London**

On 4 March Central London Church was delighted to have renowned speaker Pastor John Bradshaw and his family as guests. Pastor Bradshaw leads the 'It Is Written' media ministry in the US, which airs on the Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN).

Pastor Bradshaw preached the sermon and also told about having left New Zealand as a young DJ in search of truth. He explained to the congregation that 'trying to be good' doesn't work, as only God is good, and that righteousness is to be found in Christ through faith.

After lunch. Pastor Bradshaw took to the pulpit once again on the topic of 'When your best isn't good enough', drawing on the apostle Paul's message in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 about 'running a race'. It highlighted that, when it comes to salvation, our goodness will never be good enough. He explained that we must believe that we are ready to meet Jesus, not hope that we will be ready. CHRISTINA AGBODZA



The love of Jesus is so wonderful

During the four days of the Praver & Faith Conference (13-16 April) organised by the South England Conference 150 teens were in attendance.

Pastor Paul Smith, the event's main speaker, currently serves as the associate pastor of Toronto West Church in Canada. His vouthful mannerisms enabled him to easily relate to and bond with the young people, who thoroughly enjoyed his challenging messages and personal life lessons.

The conference was buzzing with workshops and Bible studies by the newly appointed South England Conference Teens Director, Pastor Juan Patrick, whose warmth towards the teens was clearly evident, even though this was his first conference. He relates well to the teens and obviously understands their times and struggles. His workshops focused on relationships, dealing with depression, suicidal thoughts and much more. Other workshops were presented by the Cornerstone Counsellors in an interactive and engaging series entitled 'What is counsellina?'

The battles our young people face are real and need our urgent attention. The devil knows the power these young people have, and at



by an inspiring testimony service during which the congregation had their faith strengthened and their spirits lifted.



Prayer & Faith Conference we are continually reminded of his diverse plans to derail their lives. The teenagers were keener than ever to testify, and welcomed prayer, anointing and blessings.

Newly elected South England Conference President, Pastor Emmanuel Osei, joined the conference on Saturday evening and shared an encouraging message with the young people. He encouraged the teens to allow God to work through the struggles they faced, while also reminding them of how treasured they are by the SEC.

One of the teens attending from Milton Keynes Church, Georgia Boafo, reflected, 'I was touched on a spiritual level. I related so much to what the pastor was preaching. I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders; so as I go back home

I just pray that I can take the advice they have given us here and put it into practice.'

By the end of the conference more than 15 teens had decided to give their lives to God and be baptised. The love of Jesus is wonderful! In October we celebrate our 10th anniversary, an occasion not to be missed! We look forward to seeing you there. GEORGE OSEI-BONSU

To view a selection of photos from the April Praver & Faith Conference, please visit the SEC Teens Ministries Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pg/SECTeensMinistries/photos, ?tab=album&album id=1343255302409710.



eft to right: Beckie Karim (Staff Nurse); Laura Beady (Staff Nurse); Sister Amanda evan-Webster; Mr Ian Palmer; Marva Williams (HCA); Dr McBride (Consultant).

Local church supports hospital

A gospel concert, organised by Hannah Gaynor, Paul Munroe, and Ian Palmer of the Wolverhampton Central church, was held on 18 February at the Life Spring Centre in Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton. The event raised £710. £310 was used to purchase a specialist fan for the Stroke Unit and £400 to purchase outdoor toys for the garden area of the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital.

According to Ian Palmer: 'As a congregation, we wanted to support members of our community and identified the Stroke Unit and the Children's Ward as an opportunity to help as wide a cross section as possible.' COMMUNICATIONS



East Kilbride achievement

On Sabbath 11 March, it was with admiration that East Kilbride Church saw five of its members, along with Pastor Paul Tompkins (Scottish Mission President) and his wife Dawn, receiving their certificates in Deaf Awareness and Communication with a special module in Deaf Awareness in Church. These church members have now taken the first steps in learning British Sign Language.

This course was taught by Paulo Dias, one of their church members, who is NVQ Level 6 British Sign Language gualified and a signatureapproved teacher with many years' experience in the Deaf Community.

East Kilbride Seventh-day Adventist Church requests that if your church has a disabilities ministry, a Deaf ministry and/or Deaf members please contact us as soon as possible at maggie.addup@ virginmedia.com. MAGGIE ROBERTSON (ELDER)





GBK welcomes new pastor

Pastor Dr Patrick Herbert and his wife Anne-Marie Herbert were welcomed as the new pastoral couple in charge of Great Brickkiln Street Church on 7 January this year by Charles Bramble, NEC Treasurer, His inaugural sermon at GBK was provokingly entitled 'The Blues??' during which he challenged the congregation that though some of us go through the blues of depression, blues of fear, and so on, God is able to deliver us out of every situation. PAMELA WALKER (COMMUNICATIONS)





Fartown's Children's Day and **Thirteenth Sabbath Programme**

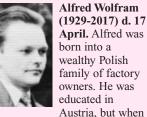
The Fartown church held its Children's Day and Thirteenth Sabbath Programme for the guarter on 25 March, during which the Primary and Kindergarten classes performed a play based on Jesus' parable of the wise man and the foolish man, complete with the sound effects of the wind and rain. The juniors shared their favourite lesson for the quarter and what they had gained from it, reminding the church that the closer we get to Christ the more like Him we will be.

The children led out in the worship service, even to the point of doing an 'adult story' instead of a children's one.

The guest speaker was Pastor Michael Simpson, Personal Ministries Director of the North England Conference, who engaged the children in moulding something out of play dough. He then used their models to illustrate his sermon, which was based on Romans 12:1, 2 and was about not conforming to the world or allowing the world to mould us in the wrong way. He also admonished the church to provide strong family values and reminded them that God is the Potter; we are the clay, and He wants to mould us all into His image.

Special music for the day was provided by a young group from Leeds Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. VERONICA WHITTLE

obituary



the Second World War broke out

the family business was destroyed

Poland. He joined the Polish army

and at the end of the war came to

He began work as a waiter

entertainment he would go to the

cinema. On one such occasion he

went to the New Gallery Centre

on Regent Street. It was there that

he found faith in Jesus and joined

Church. He was an outstanding

the Seventh-day Adventist

Christian, kind, helpful and

Alfred went to study at

Newbold College in the late

1950s. At this time he was

fortunate enough to own a

motor vehicle and he showed his

Christianity in a practical way by

helping Mr Crocker, the college

farmer, whose only daughter,

Greta, was ill and needed to

attend hospital three times a

week. Fred loaned his vehicle

to Mr Crocker for these three

days every week for a couple of

months, refusing any payment for

Years later, when Alfred was

living in Watford, he attended the

Stanborough Park church, which

his daughter and her husband.

was also attended by Mr Crocker,

committed to his Saviour.

during the German invasion of

England with a friend.

in the Savoy Hotel. For

When some trees in Alfred's (1929-2017) d. 17 garden blew down it was Greta's April. Alfred was husband who took care of his problem, refusing any payment for his good deed. What goes around comes around!

While at Newbold College Alfred served as a colporteur. Upon leaving Newbold he worked for a tailor. His good fortune was to be introduced to a beautiful Polish girl, Halina, by a Polish pastor, and they were married in 1966

In 1975 they moved to Watford to provide a Christian education for their son Eric, who attended Stanborough School.

Leaving tailoring he joined the engineering firm of Babcock & Wilcox as a book-keeper. When the firm moved office he took redundancy and worked locally. Retirement eventually allowed him time to enjoy one of his hobbies, gardening. He had two allotments where he grew large quantities of vegetables and fruit.

He liked riding his motorbike but advancing years moved him to pedal power. He was a familiar figure in Garston, riding his over-laden bike with goodies from the soil. In the last couple of years his memory began to fail and he fell asleep on Monday 17 April in his home.

Alfred was in every sense of the word a true Christian. He served in Wood Green and Stanborough Park Churches as deacon, elder and in various other offices.

Ever willing to help, he frequently assisted the late Alf Kelly and later his daughter,

Dedication

his kindness.

Gideon Chike was born to proud parents, Chike Dimgba and **Onvinyechi Grace** Chike, on 4 February this year. They were both thrilled to have their son dedicated to the Lord on Sabbath

13 May by Pastor Paul Dhanarai at Harlestone Road Church. Northampton.

Chike and Grace are blessed with other children: David, Samuel, and Jessica Chike, who were also blessed at the ceremony.

ANASELIA MORRIS (COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)



turned 90 on 16 May and he was honoured for this clerk. Lorna Harris.

vears. JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL

Camp Hill honours John **McIntyre** One of Camp Hill

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As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Pat Walton, in the Welfare Department. Of Alfred it could be said he was like the man described in Psalm 1, who avoided evil companions, loved his Saviour and delighted to meditate on His law.

Alfred was laid to rest in North Watford Cemetery after services which were led by Pastor Philip Anderson, assisted by the writer.

achievement and presented with a gift by church

He joined the church 60 years ago and has served as an elder for many years. John's wife, Olwen McIntvre, was a Bible worker for many, many

His wife and son wish to express their gratitude and thanks to all who helped during his illness. PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE

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Jul	7	9.18	9.30	9.30	9.57	9.59
	14	9.12	9.25	9.24	9.50	9.52

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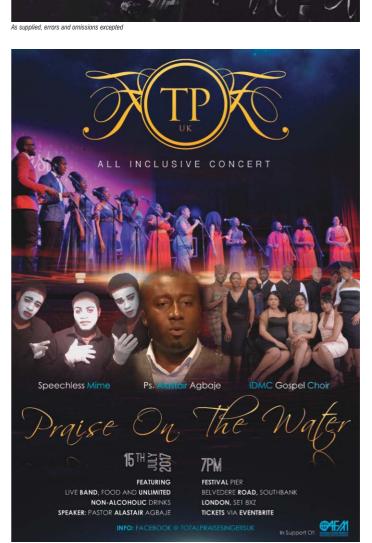


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