

# Messenger

News to the churches • 7 July 2017 • Volume 122 • 13



Grenfell Tower fire – 14 June 2017.  
Falling burning debris at the scene of a huge fire at Grenfell tower block in White City, London. The blaze engulfed the 27-storey building with 200 firefighters attending the scene.

Guilhem Baker/LNP/REX/Shutterstock

## Grenfell Tower

**Pastor Richard Daly (BUC Communications and Media Director)**

**T**he scenes at the Grenfell Estate around 4.30pm on Wednesday 14 June were both horrific and numbing.

People, who were either residents of the flats or those who had to be evacuated nearby, sat along the concrete pavement in dismay, some being comforted, while others just stared in bewilderment.

In the vicinity there were numerous charity and community organisations providing supplies of food, water and clothing. Their upbeat army of volunteers helped to lift the gloom a little and bring a bit of hope and cheer to the bleak scene.

The stories of those displaced by the disaster were harrowing. One lady, five

months pregnant, stood staring at the smoking building wondering if her mother had made it out. She said, 'I just came back from holiday this morning and I came straight here. The last time I spoke to my mother was 11.30 last night. Since then I haven't been able to get through on her phone.' A middle-aged man shook his head in disbelief: 'I can't believe it,' he said, 'my family lived up on the twenty-first floor; I have checked all the hospitals nearby and no one knows where they are.'

Such stories and many others like them make the reality of what happened there so real and tragic.

Among the number of charity organisations

on the ground was our very own SEC Community Services Department – they were on the scene by lunchtime and were able to distribute food and clothing to those made homeless. Community Services Director Malika Bediako said, 'We have been inundated with people asking about what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is doing. I want to assure them that we got here as soon as it was possible and the response has been very positive so far. We plan to be on site every day for the rest of the week.'

ADRA-UK was also involved by providing financial support to buy the necessary supplies. Sharon Platt-McDonald in her role as BUC Community Services Director approached ADRA-UK for financial aid and £2,500 was immediately released to help those in need.

Something we can all do is pray for those who have lost loved ones and will be coming to terms with their grief, pain and loss for a long time to come.

The Stanborough Press **OPEN DAY** will be held on Sunday 3 September.  
*Guest speaker: Dr George Knight. Plan to be there.*



1960s  
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Reconnect and reunite during this special weekend which will include sermons from Dr Jan Paulsen, an evening concert with the Wedgwood Trio, an excursion to Virginia Water, and a boat trip on the River Thames. All-inclusive packages are available for £99 for one or £189 for a couple, or you can purchase accommodation, meals, or tickets to the excursions individually.

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

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## Enhancing Health

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

### Let's get moving! – part 2 – exercise lengthens life

A great deal of attention is focused on the aesthetic aspect of human physiology – looking good on the outside. However, research now demonstrates that looking good on the inside is far more important, as that gives a better indication of your length and quality of life than how you look externally. Recent studies demonstrate that exercise not only enhances 'good looks' internally: it can actually lengthen life.

New research from Brigham Young University, Utah (USA), has revealed that one type of ageing – the kind that happens within our cells – can be slowed down by becoming more active.<sup>1</sup>

Exercise Science professor, Larry Tucker, lead researcher, states: 'Just because you're 40, doesn't mean you're 40 years old biologically. We all know people that seem younger than their actual age. The more physically active we are, the less biological ageing takes place in our bodies.'

It was found, however, that this was not the case for occasional exercise or low-level activity.

'If you want to see a real difference in slowing your biological ageing, it appears that a little exercise won't cut it,' Tucker said. 'You have to work out regularly at high levels.'

The study, published in the medical journal *Preventive Medicine*, revealed that people who have consistently high levels of physical activity have significantly longer telomeres than those who have

sedentary lifestyles, or even those who are moderately active.

Telomeres are segments of DNA (protein endcaps) found on the end of our chromosomes. Telomeres function to:

- Assist in organising each of our 46 chromosomes in the nucleus (control centre) in our cells;
- Protect the ends of our chromosomes by forming a cap (like the plastic tip at the end of shoelaces);
- Allow the chromosome to replicate properly during cell division.<sup>2</sup>

We lose a tiny bit of endcap each time a cell replicates. Telomeres are correlated with ageing and act like our biological clocks. This means that as we age, our telomeres shorten.

Analysing data from 5,823 adults, Tucker found that adults with high physical activity levels daily (30 minutes of jogging for women, 40 minutes for men, five days a week) 'have telomeres with a biological ageing advantage of nine years over those who are sedentary, and a seven-year advantage compared to those who are moderately active'.

Tucker states: 'We know that regular physical activity helps to reduce mortality and prolong life, and now we know part of that advantage may be due to the preservation of telomeres.'

#### Get moving!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170510115211.htm>  
<sup>2</sup><http://www.yourgenome.org/facts/what-is-a-telomere>

# editorial



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## Every child needs a hero

The Australian Childhood Foundation is an independent children's charity working to prevent child abuse and reduce the harm that it causes. In 2006, the foundation published *Every child needs a hero*, a report that tracked what it called 'Australian children's concerns and attitudes about childhood'.<sup>1</sup>

Their research revealed something that may come as a surprise to some of us, especially in a world where teenagers appear to have their choices influenced mainly by their peers and, of course, the latest fashion and entertainment icons.<sup>2</sup>

#### Living with the Taliban

You, like many other parents, may actually feel sidelined by these influences. You may even have reached the place in your parenting experience where you feel quite ineffectual, unable to guide your children away from attitudes, situations or relationships that you know to be potentially harmful. Or, worse still, you may have reached the low point that Kathy Lette had reached when she wrote this in *The Telegraph*<sup>3</sup> a few years ago: 'Living with a teenage daughter is like living with the Taliban.'

Things had reached the place where her daughter (13) was the one providing the 'guidance', with scant regard for Kathy's feelings. Here is an example of what she had to contend with. It happened as Kathy was about to enjoy an evening out:

*'What the hell do you think you are wearing, Mum? You are not going out dressed like that. Go back to your room and change immediately!'*

*'But . . . I can still wear short skirts, can't I? I mean, my legs are all I've got left.'*

*'It's not the legs, Mother. It's just that skirt doesn't go with your face.'*

One has to empathise with Kathy when she says, 'Low self-esteem is hereditary; you get it from your kids.'

#### What did they find?

Well, let me not keep you in suspense about



what that Aussie research concluded about teenagers and the influence we can exert in their lives. When tallied up, the responses to their survey provided this somewhat unexpected result: 'Children's heroes are their mums (42%) and dads (31%), who were clearly ranked as 1 and 2 in the list of the three most admired people by children.'<sup>4</sup>

It may not appear that way. But unless a number of those teenage respondents were telling fibs, parents in general still have a lot of positive influence over their children. Take heart, my fellow parent; all is not lost!

#### There was more . . .

Yes, there was more, but I can't put it better than the authors of the report did, so let me quote them again with some boldface emphasis from my side:

'Children admire people who they directly know and engage with over pop stars and sports stars. This finding **confirms the critical importance of relationships with children** and the role that parents, siblings, other relatives, friends and teachers play in the lives of children. **In the hectic pace of daily life, it is easy to lose sight of the important contribution made by real people in the lives of children.**'<sup>5</sup>

The parents of the children who were surveyed didn't pull all those supportive votes for doing nothing. They quietly invested their time, effort, enthusiasm and love in those parent-child relationships: thereby proving that 'real people' can actually trump 'pop stars and sports stars' when it comes to being a positive influence in the lives of their children!

#### I have an interest

I have an interest in heroes and heroism, and have been collecting books on this theme for some years. More often than not, the heroes (and heroines) depicted in them have caught the authors' eyes for their acts of bravery – often during a single event, or in a sequence of philanthropic activities.

There is another category of hero, however: the 'quiet' ones whose heroism may easily pass unnoticed. They are the people who uncomplainingly do a variety of routine but supportive tasks, day after day, year in and year out, whether appreciated or not. If such heroes have one outstanding quality it is their 'boring' dependability when it comes to doing those everyday things – the tasks which, if neglected, would soon make our lives a chaotic mess. This fact matches the report findings: 'It is the **everyday things** that significant adults do **that become heroic in the eyes of children and worthy of admiration.**'<sup>6</sup>

Parents (and grandparents), how are we doing with those everyday tasks that give us hero status in the eyes of our children?

#### Adult worries

The report revealed that our children's 'uncertainty about the future makes them take on adult worries':

- 49% are worried about facing cancer when they get older.
- 39% are worried about the threat of terrorism.
- 31% are worried about being a victim of crime.
- 27% are concerned that the world will end before they get old.<sup>7</sup>

They cannot escape the harsh realities of 2017 any more than we can: which suggests that our everyday tasks must include opportunities to address their fears as honestly as possible, but always from the perspective of our personal, unshakeable trust in a caring and gracious God. Let's help them personalise that faith for themselves . . .

**'I've let Jesus have all my worries and cares, for He is always thinking about me and watching everything that concerns me.'** (Adapted from 1 Peter 5:7 [TLB].)

<sup>1</sup>For more research by the Australian Childhood Foundation, including the next report in their research on 'heroes', please see the following website: <http://www.childhood.org.au/for-professionals/research-and-advocacy/research> <sup>2</sup>The survey respondents were equally divided between two age ranges: 10-13 and 14-17. <sup>3</sup>Ibid., page 9 <sup>4</sup><http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/10004199/Kathy-Lette-the-perils-of-living-with-teenage-daughters.html> <sup>5</sup>*Every Child Needs a Hero*, Australian Childhood Foundation, July 2006 <sup>6</sup>Ibid., page 16 <sup>7</sup>Ibid., page 12

# reform-a-nation



## Jesus – Radical, Revolutionary, Reformer – part 2

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,  
Personal Ministries Director of the British Union Conference

'Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you.' These words of Jesus were radical in His day and remain so in the twenty-first century. The teachings of Jesus caused consternation among the scribes and Pharisees because they cut across their long-held interpretation of the Mosaic laws which had been taught and practised for centuries. The 'eye for an eye' concept taught by Moses provided the people of Israel a system of judicial regulation after they emerged from Egyptian slavery.

However, when Jesus arrives on the scene, He gives them new instructions: 'Love one another.' This means loving regardless of race, gender, age, sexual preferences, etc. Yes, and even your enemies. You reform-a-nation by loving your enemies.

Loving your enemies is not a concept that we talk about often. We rarely hear sermons to that effect and it's certainly not taught in schools or practised by governments. Even in our so-called democratic societies, we may find the use of retaliation and retribution as an integral aspect of foreign policy. Parents tell their young children to defend themselves: 'If he hits you, hit

him harder.' If someone hurts you emotionally there is an urge to reciprocate, to ensure that they too suffer pain; and the recent spate of terror attacks in London and Manchester is often cited as retaliation for the wrongs of one people group or another.

Loving your enemies doesn't mean that we deny or ignore wrongdoing, but that we refuse to take revenge against its perpetrators. Loving your enemies means finding ways to do good to them instead, even when we really don't feel like it. Loving your enemies demands a prayer life that allows the Father to dictate the agenda instead of your own suffering, pain, anguish and anger.

And Jesus didn't just talk about loving your enemies in times of peace; He practised this in times of deep crisis. While on the cross, His hands outstretched, intense pain ravaging His body, His heart breaking as the crowds mocked Him, He said, 'Father, forgive them.' At the time when He was hurting the most, He demonstrated a love that offered everything in return for nothing.

Loving your enemies means giving everything and expecting

nothing in return with a heart of humility and understanding. It's loving because it's the right thing to do. It's loving when everyone around you hates you. It's giving up your rights so that 'Right' can triumph. It's looking at the life of Jesus and desperately seeking to be like Him.

If we really started to practise the art of loving our enemies, our children would notice and emulate our behaviour. Our neighbours would notice that we don't retaliate with nastiness, even when they are obnoxious to

us. Our colleagues who have stabbed us in the back would wonder what makes us smile at them, even when they've damaged our reputations. And our nation would change. We would reform-a-nation just by the way we deal with our enemies.

Are you willing to be like Jesus, the Radical Reformer? Are you able to love your enemies? Can you do good to those who hate you? Start today. You never know, but this could mark the start of a marvellous revolution.

**BOOKSALES**

**July**  
9 Spanish booksale (Advent Centre)  
30 Croydon 11am-3pm  
10am-2pm

**August**  
17-20 Ghanaian Camp Meeting (York)

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

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Reform-A-Nation

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# testimony



## An answer to prayer

A somewhat shy and hesitant Karen Richards gave an inspiring testimony on Sabbath 3 June during an interview with head elder, Richard Russell, as part of the worship service. Karen explained that her

faith had been tested when her father fell unexpectedly and gravely ill on Easter Monday, just seven weeks earlier.

A Birmingham Windsor Street member, Brother Richards had contracted an acute, life-threatening illness with multiple complications that developed very rapidly – especially for a fit man who regularly tended his allotment and drove his car with competence.

He was given only 24 hours on life support before the doctors, in spite of a second opinion, had given up hope and were ready to switch off the equipment. It was the pleas of her nephew that eventually persuaded the doctors to allow more time for his grandfather's recovery. The professor and consultant reluctantly agreed to keep her father on life support for 24 more hours. As professionals they personally had no hope and indicated that he was too unwell to survive the medical intervention they thought was necessary.

That day and the next night Karen Richards did not sleep. She did have hope, and together with her family she prayed earnestly for his recovery. Then, by God's amazing grace, Brother Richards progressively recovered, leaving the medical staff flabbergasted. They

reportedly could not believe his recovery, which was only considered physiologically possible for a young child. It was so remarkable that they didn't recognise him when he attended an outpatient appointment a short time after his discharge.

God is good! Karen's father is now back at his allotment, attending church regularly and once again driving independently. He did not require the various high-tech procedures that the hospital staff had said would be needed for his survival.

Karen's testimony resounded in the hearts of the members, friends and visitors present, reminding us that prayer, open-hearted communication with God, is an imperative aspect of our Christian journey. As James wrote, 'Pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.' James 5:16, NKJV.

DR JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL

# outreach



## A novel outreach . . .

Jose, from Venezuela, is the ideal reader of *The Great Controversy*. He is young, open to new ideas, electronically savvy, miles from home and has a Seventh-day Adventist friend back home. It is a good job that Jose, from Venezuela, met a Londoner in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and was offered a copy of the book on the last Sabbath in March.

Yobel Ministries, which hail from London, were invited by Francisco Curiaquita, leader of the Newcastle Personal Ministries Department, to help kick-start the year's outreach activities. Paul Day, from Bethel Church (SEC), and his team encourage people to share free copies of *The Great Controversy* with the public.

Sabbath morning was spent in training. The safe and effective giving of the book is not a haphazard activity. Donors were taught what to say as well as how to respond to key questions. The witnessing activity took place in one of the largest, busiest public spaces in the town centre. A table was set up and a portable PA system was used for an effective public presentation, while both seasoned and unsure evangelists began to greet and meet people on the sunny and warm streets of Newcastle.

It is true that one lady was highly displeased with our activities; it is also true to say that everyone else was really happy to have a book, some approaching our desk for their copy even after we had given away all the stock. Local member, Maynard Hallasgo, found himself deep in conversation with a man who believes that we are all gods. A few well-chosen, humorous but pointed words encouraged this good man to read a good book with new facts and new ideas that might help him understand the world in a new way.

After the event the excited team gathered back at the church for extra teaching and guidance.

Yobel, in the title used by the team for their supporting ministry, comes from the Hebrew term for the blast of the ram's horn, an instrument used in Bible times to sound an alarm or announce good news, which was done most effectively in Newcastle's Eldon Square that Sabbath.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

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

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

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## A 'cheeseburgers' ministry

There are over 100 homeless people on the streets of Reading.

During the Ten Days of Prayer 2017 the members of Reading West prayed for those sleeping on the streets in the cold and wet of mid-January.

This had the effect of motivating a small group of them to go onto the streets to feed the rough sleepers the next evening.

That feeding programme is now run every Monday evening. Each week the group find between 10 and 18 of them on the streets and buy cheeseburgers and hot chocolate for them.

In Reading a person has to have lived on the streets for 5 years before the council will provide accommodation for them, so they depend on churches and charities to provide food and emergency accommodation for them during this time.

Reading has had two soup kitchens running at Reading West Church and Reading South Church Plant, feeding the homeless on Saturdays and Sundays, for a number of years.

On Monday evenings when they buy food from McDonald's it also provides a weekly opportunity to witness to the curious staff.

The funding for the project is from church members who believe in the ministry and give by direct debit to the church account. The homeless are always appreciative of what they receive and the time taken to talk and pray with them. It is surprising how quickly relationships are built up. Group members are able to name all of those who are fed each week – 'they look for us and we look for them.' Take for instance Mel and Josh, both in their early 20s. Mel never takes food if she doesn't need it. One evening she was so sick with flu that it brought the group to tears. They prayed for her and by God's grace the next week she was well again.

'Helping those in need makes Christianity come alive,' says Brother Thomas (an elder); 'It is a privilege to follow in our Master's footsteps.'

If you would like to sponsor a cheeseburger and hot chocolate at £2.50 each month for the homeless please contact Pastor Trevor Thomas on 07777697154, who will connect you with the local treasurer.

GEORGE DE SOUSA (ARTICLE AND PHOTO)

## BUC directorship changes

On Thursday 15 June, the British Union Conference Executive Committee appointed Pastor Eglan Brooks as the Ministerial Director of the Union. He has served as Evangelism and Personal Ministries

Director for the past two terms and responded this way about his new appointment: 'It has been a privilege to serve the BUC as the Evangelism and Personal Ministries Director. One of my greatest desires is to see



# perspective



## Go on . . . give them a chance!

Some of my agnostic/atheist relations occasionally make sharp comments about religion, such as those that follow: 'Religious people are selfish: they sing songs like "Jesus saved *me*", and "*I* am so happy". 'They also have split personalities as they always talk to their "imaginary friend"! 'Religious

people always sit in church singing together to get this warm fuzzy feeling but don't care about anyone else because of their "we are saved, we are alright" attitude.'

Do we recognise this caricature of ourselves? Do we sit snugly in church every Sabbath having a wonderful time? Do we have this fuzzy feeling because we have the Bible truth; or because the atmosphere was wonderful, the sermon just right and that 'awkward' person was not in church today?

Over the years I have met a number of ex-members. When we get talking I often find that they want to apologise for leaving the church, and that they have since gone back to their old Sunday-keeping churches or the pub. The reasons given for leaving include their not feeling happy with the politics in the church, a harsh word that was said to them or cultural differences that made them uncomfortable. Some of these people mention having experiences where others have criticised Adventists and their beliefs, and they have defended their former faith by explaining our viewpoints and God's plan as described in the Bible!

The fact they had left the church they loved and went to a different church, or stopped attending any church, doesn't automatically mean they have stopped keeping the Sabbath at home or given up all their Adventist beliefs. Believe it or not, some of them find themselves explaining Bible truth to people who otherwise will not hear about it because we who are still in the church have no contact with them. It may well be all right for us, the 'saved' ones, to worship on Sabbath in our churches and come home feeling encouraged and strengthened for the week ahead, as we anticipate a future with Jesus on the earth made new. But we mustn't forget that there are people out there who haven't heard that good news yet and would also love to be part of this future eternal life with Jesus, if only someone would tell them.

Although it has been alleged that it is not wise to gamble, I would like to leave this with you. Let's assume there is a secret code that, when used in a famous lottery, will give a massive payout. It can be used just the once, guaranteeing you that super-large win if you use it followed by your national insurance number. . . . You have tried it yourself and you got such a massive payout you never have to play the lottery again. Would you tell your family and friends about it? Would you talk about it at work, in the gym or in the club? The message of Jesus is much better than a lottery win! Go on: there are 65,000,000 Brits out there; give them a chance!

COR SANDERS

our church working in unity; ministers and laity working side by side to fulfil the great commission. . . . I count it a privilege to work with our ministers, elders, deacons and deaconesses. I hope the Lord will take delight in using me for His glory in the Ministerial Department.'

In his place the committee appointed Dr Kirk Thomas, who has served as the SEC Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Director for two terms. He is a natural choice to replace Pastor Brooks and this was his response: 'I thank God for inspiring the BUC Executive Committee to ask me to serve in the capacity of Evangelism Director for the Union. I never wanted or expected such a position; that is why I believe it is God's will. My family have pledged their support and by God's grace the same enthusiasm and energy I worked with in the South England Conference will be transferred to the Union. . . . I know the best days are ahead as we work with God to spread the good news of salvation to every person in the British Isles. Go BUC!'

PASTOR RICHARD DALY (BUC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DIRECTOR)

# ADRA

## Europe Regional Office Job Announcement

### Communication and Advocacy Co-ordinator

**Job title:** Communication and Advocacy Co-ordinator (m/f)

**Reports to:** Regional Director

#### Résumé of the job:

1. Be responsible for the internal and external communication strategies of the ADRA Europe office.
2. Co-ordinate the advocacy and policy work of the European ADRA country offices at the European level, keeping a strong link with EU-based NGO platforms.

Percentage of time: 100%

#### Job description:

- Develop and implement communication strategies.
- Co-ordinate the production and writing of communication and fund-raising materials with the ADRA network.
- Organise training and information-sharing systems on ADRA Europe issues.
- Develop and nurture relationships with key stakeholder groups.
- Facilitate the operation of internal working groups in the fields related to his or her functions.
- Organise and motivate the participation of ADRA Europe members in the several working groups of the platforms of which ADRA Europe is a member.
- Represent ADRA at European Union events and consultations.
- Represent ADRA Europe at NGO platform meetings, contributing with critical thinking for the discussed thematic.
- Write position papers with the contribution of ADRA specialists.
- Organise and motivate the participation of ADRA Europe members in network advocacy campaigns.
- Organise the participation of ADRA Europe in thematic exhibitions and public events.
- Co-ordinate communication efforts during European emergency ADRA responses.
- Co-ordinate the public relations element for ADRA Europe.
- Monitor and communicate current trends in the human rights, development and emergency assistance arenas.
- Provide support with the CORE programme.
- Actively collaborate in the general operations of the office.
- Perform other duties as designated by the Executive Director.

#### Education of the candidate:

- Advanced degree in Communication, Public Relations, International Development or any related field
- Fluency in oral and written English
- Knowledge of any other European language(s)
- Sound working knowledge of Microsoft Office, internet tools and image and video software

#### Competencies:

- Five years or more of experience in senior positions in the fields of communication, advocacy work or public relations
- Relevant experience in the human rights defence, development or humanitarian fields
- Understanding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisational system
- An interest in and aptitude for cross-cultural ministry
- Ability to create communication materials that can be shared with the network
- Capacity to write position papers with the contribution of different experts
- Capacity to co-ordinate regional advocacy campaigns
- Critical capacity to understand and contribute to the most recent development trends
- Competence in creating synergies between different actors to information and communication material-sharing
- Knowledge of the European institutions and their relevant legislation
- Initiative and self-motivation
- Willingness to be guided by transparency and accountability principles at work
- Excellent oral and written communication
- High level of problem-solving skills with the ability to work under pressure
- Excellent time-management skills with the ability to plan ahead
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a team
- Updated knowledge on new communication tools

#### Travel:

- Frequent international travel required, approximately 30% of time.

#### Mental/emotional requirements:

Must be able to work in a fast-paced and customer service-oriented environment; to perform duties under pressure and meet deadlines in a timely manner; to work as part of a team as well as to complete assignments independently; to take instruction from supervisors; to exercise problem-solving skills; and to interact with co-workers, supervisors, network employees, donors and the public in a professional and pleasant manner.

#### Remark:

As the strategy of ADRA Europe is still being designed by its members, the successful candidate must be ready to have some flexibility on the above job descriptions and tasks and be prepared to perform other tasks as required.

#### Physical requirements:

Person must be able to perform essential job functions with or without accommodation. Incumbent should be in optimal health for difficult and temporary below-basic living conditions at overseas location and for field travel in general.

**Remuneration and benefits:** According to experience and SDAC wage scale

**Contract term:** Definitive after 6 months of experience

**Deadline for applications:** 31 July 2017

**Address for applications:** [info@adra.eu](mailto:info@adra.eu)

# London Ghana celebrates 25 years of organisation

by Nana Sifa Twum



The robes bore Adinkra symbols signifying good fortune, high quality and God's protection



Councillor Joy Laguda MBE



Lyn Brown MP



Pastor Don McFarlane



The London Ghana church celebrated 25 years of church organisation on 22 April, with members and non-members alike having travelled from around the globe to converge at the church in Plaistow in East London.

It all started as a Bible study group in their local dialect, some fifty years ago. Four staunch Ghanaian Adventists set to work running a series of evangelistic programmes, and by 1992 49 souls were available to start the first-ever non-English-speaking church in the United Kingdom, but not without opposition from where it was least expected.

Twenty-five years on, there was so much to celebrate, not the least of which is visible growth to over eight hundred members in the London Ghana church, the 16 other Ghanaian churches around the UK and another 25 on the continent.

Indeed, it was the largest gathering of these members so far, with almost everyone

wearing specially designed blue outfits.

In the words of the special preacher for the occasion, the former president of the British Union Conference, Pastor Don McFarlane, 'God has a special purpose for the establishment of this group within the church in this part of the world.'

Pastor McFarlane praised the Ghanaian Adventists for their high level of involvement and their significant contribution towards the furtherance of God's work within the BUC. He also lauded the pioneering role of the very first elders and appealed to the youth not to lose their spirit.

One of the congregation's pastors, George Okumo Kamarra, said that the church had lived up to its aspirations of witnessing to non-English-speaking people within their catchment area.

The President of the South England Conference, Pastor Emmanuel Osei, said the role of the church in the Conference is a

unique one because it targets the unreached in the area. He also praised the members for their spirit of sacrifice, which has often seen the church leading in tithing and gift aid contributions.

The church pastor, Fergus Owusu-Boateng, expressed the hope that the church would continue to advance the original purpose of the pioneers to ensure that many more people are reached with the Adventist message in the language they understand.

The Member of Parliament for West Ham, Lyn Carol Brown, commended the church members for helping to improve the living standard of the people in the area. She mentioned, in particular, the church's establishment of a food bank and the outreach programmes, and challenged other religious groups in the area to emulate this.

The chair of council and civic leader in Plaistow North, Joy Laguda MBE, was of the view that the church could partner with the council to help restore hope to the desolate in the society.

The event, which was watched on various social media platforms by over five thousand people, also saw certain pioneers of the church and other dignitaries such as the former executive secretary of the General Conference, Pastor M. A. Bediako, presented with gifts.

## news



## Jersey's special visit

On 22 April the Jersey and Guernsey small groups, who had gathered at the small parish of St Helier on Jersey, were blessed by a visit from the South England Conference (SEC) trio of Pastor Douglas McCormac (Executive Secretary), Pastor Simon Martin (Church Growth and Advent Mission), and Mavis Bramble (Secretary to Personal Ministries, Sabbath School, Church Growth and Stewardship Departments).

For practical reasons, the Guernsey members had taken a boat ride to Jersey on the Friday for a 'Big Sabbath', island-style! When you are accustomed to worshipping with a group of between 8 and 15 adults, 40 seems to be a huge number and it was a refreshing change for the Channel Islands groups.

Pastor Martin started off the day with an interesting presentation for the children, after which Pastor McCormac addressed the adults, speaking on Nehemiah 8:1-12.

Pastor Martin was the worship hour speaker and he drew his inspiration from 1 Samuel 14:6 (AMP): 'Jonathan said to his young armor bearer, "Come, let us cross over to the garrison of these

uncircumcised men; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For there is nothing to prevent the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." ' His message truly made the islanders feel that God has placed them on these islands so that His truth may be shared with hungry souls.

After a delicious lunch served by the Jersey ladies Pastor Martin again spoke, this time on the 'Five Missional Habits of Effective Adventist Disciples'. This was followed by a seminar on 'Personalities' presented by Pastor McCormac, who also conducted a communion service to close the day.

This was all followed by a games night filled with musical chairs, rhythm challenges, miming and charades.

It truly was a remarkable weekend, and the members in the Channel Islands were energised and invigorated by the visit.

RICHARD MUKUNGATU (JERSEY GROUP LEADER)



### The enemy has a plan for your marriage: do you?

'A woman can say, "I have nothing to wear," but she means, "I have nothing new,"' shared Pastor Leslie Ackie, British Union Conference Family Ministries Director. 'Yet a man can say, "I have nothing to wear," but means, "I have nothing clean."'

The importance of clearly communicating your needs, desires and thoughts to your spouse was one among many marital building blocks explored at Willesden Church's Intimate Allies Marriage Retreat (5-7 May) at the picturesque De Vere Estate in Chesham. The church had arranged for Leslie and wife, Irma, to share their experiences, knowledge and strategies for a healthy marriage with twenty eager couples.

The length of the marriages of those present ranged from two to fifty-four years, with many in between celebrating special milestones in their relationships. The caring duo from the BUC presented several segments over the three days, touching on topics such as 'Spiritual Intimacy', 'Love and Respect' and 'Sacred Sex'.

'The family is such an important aspect, not only of the church, but

of society at large. So, as goes the family, so goes the church. Marriages are in trouble and we've realised that we can do our little bit to improve the quality of marriages within the church, and that will improve the quality of relationships in society in general,' explained Leslie Ackie. Irma added, 'It's not saying that everybody's marriage is in a terrible place, but we can always learn things to make our marriages better and that's what this weekend is all about.'

A special, catered banquet was held on the Saturday evening, with all the couples dressed beautifully. The evening was a time to socialise, reflect and share stories of how each relationship had begun. There were tears of laughter and emotion as stories unfolded and love was expressed, with some surprise vocal tributes too.



KATIE ALLEN

### Rekindle the Spark 2017

This year Rekindle the Spark celebrated their fifth annual couples' retreat with 75 couples in attendance at the beautiful Horsley Park Estate in Leatherhead. Numbers are a little lower this year because the North England Conference delegates are hosting their own retreat for 2017. Dr Charles Wesley Knight and his wife Stephanie from the USA were the event speakers and they explored what it means to have a 'grace-filled marriage'. Each seminar was biblically based and attendees were challenged to reflect on their own relationship with God in order to understand how we relate to each other. Interesting practical activities were included within each session and there were also some excellent praise and worship opportunities, during which those present were taken to the gates of heaven in Spirit-filled praise.

These retreats would not be the same without the highly anticipated 'date night' on the Saturday evening, during which the couples dress in their finest gear for an evening of light entertainment while professional photographers capture their precious moments. The highlight of the evening was to hear the beautiful tributes that wives gave to their husbands and husbands to their wives. There wasn't a dry eye in the room as these were listened to and thoroughly enjoyed.

We are proud to announce that we have now partnered with the SEC Family Life Department in order to facilitate our retreats and we can confirm that the next retreat will be held from 25 to 27 May 2018 and will be facilitated by Pastor Fredrick Russell and his wife Brenda from the Atlanta Berean church, who are experienced relationship coaches. You are invited to sign up for what is going to be yet another memorable weekend. To register your interest, email [rekindlethespark.rts@gmail.com](mailto:rekindlethespark.rts@gmail.com).

NOZI CONNOR



# The Stanborough Press Open Day

Sunday 3 September



#### Guest speakers

**Dr George Knight.** George Raymond Knight is a leading Seventh-day Adventist historian, author, and educator. He is emeritus professor of church history at Andrews University, and as of 2014 is considered the best-selling and most influential voice within the denomination for the past three decades.

**Dr Chidi Ngwaba.** Dr Chidi is one of the world's premier 'Lifestyle Doctors', and holds degrees in both science and medicine from

Cambridge and University College London (UK), and Johns Hopkins (USA). Many have already benefited from his life-changing medical ministry. He will conduct a set of interactive seminars on how to prevent and reverse chronic illnesses like diabetes.



#### Live music

Paul Lee, well-known international solo artist, will be singing gospel favourites and original songs from his latest album.

#### Kids' corner

Fun activities will be available for your children.

#### Food demonstrations

These will be presented by Susan Kirlew (aka Kirly-Sue), a vegan cook, TV presenter and author who is helping to change the image of vegan food with her wonderful recipes.



#### Exhibition marquee

There will be space in an exhibition/vendors' marquee for those who respond early and meet our terms and conditions. Official permits may be obtained from Elizabeth Parkinson (01476591700 or [eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk)) by not later than 30 August, and are subject to availability. They will be issued on a first-come-first served basis. No displays or vending will be permitted on The Stanborough Press property without an official permit obtained in the above manner.

#### Catering

Provision has been made for an authorised caterer to supply a variety of tasty meal options at reasonable prices. **No other food or refreshment vending will be permitted.**

**Don't miss this open day! We look forward to seeing you there!**



## Sigma Beta Delta roll increases at Newbold

Newbold added another three students to the roll of the international business honour society, Sigma Beta Delta, at an on-campus ceremony on 28 April.

Melinda Yatz, Mikki Mathias Risager, and Brandon Melic (in absentia), final-year students who are expected to graduate over the summer, were invited to join the society in recognition of the high academic standard (GPA over 3.50) and leadership they demonstrated throughout their undergraduate business studies at Newbold.

'It is a great honour to become a part of the Sigma Beta Delta Society,' said Mikki. 'It is a mark of distinction, and a reward for all the hard work I have done.'

The society was established in the United States in 1994 for exemplary students studying business, management and administration, 'to encourage and recognise scholarship and accomplishment among students of business, management and administration, and to encourage and promote



Left to right: J. C. Crissey, Marinko Markek, Melinda Yatz, Dr Päivikki Kuoppakangas, and Mikki Mathias Risager

aspirations towards personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honourable service to humankind'.

'The fact that Sigma Beta Delta is an external and internationally recognised organisation that focuses only on business students adds recognition to our programme,' said outgoing chapter president and Newbold business lecturer, J. C. Crissey. 'It has helped to further what the School of Business strives to achieve in educating and nurturing

students, not only for personal and academic achievement, but also for service to Christ and the wider community.'

Dr Päivikki Kuoppakangas, Interim Head of Newbold's School of Business, who joined the college in September 2016, is also a member of the society. As a faculty member Päivikki will serve as the chapter treasurer and secretary for the remainder of the academic year, and will take over as president in the new academic year.

KIRSTY WATKINS



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## Wolverhampton shows appreciation

In recognition of their invaluable spiritual role, and practical role, Wolverhampton Central held a celebratory weekend to honour their over-65s on 18 and 19 March.

Pastor Cecil Perry, retired BUC president, was the guest speaker and he emphasised that our seniors need to use their minds creatively and seek new goals in life regardless of their age. His clarity of speech, his ability to draw from personal experience and his relaxed manner off the pulpit made an impression on all who attended.

On 19 March our seniors were treated to a red-carpet event – a three-course meal in their honour. As well as various tributes and musical items given in recognition of their selfless commitment, a professional photographer was also on hand to capture this beautiful event and to ensure that everyone received a photographic keepsake at the end of the evening.

Wolverhampton Central would never have lasted for over 55 years without the faithfulness of our seniors, and for this reason we decided that they should 'receive flowers while they can smell them'!

MARK PALMER

## Do you know this person?

The country director of ADRA Uganda would be grateful to receive any information about John Palmer, who once served in that capacity. If you are related to John or know of his present whereabouts please contact Pastor Charles Ed II Aguilar at [cd@adraUGANDA.org](mailto:cd@adraUGANDA.org). The local union wishes to honour him for his contribution to the work of ADRA in Uganda.

## New pastor at Dudley

It was with heavy hearts that the Dudley Church family bade farewell to Pastor Dan Majaduon and his family after seven years of faithful service to their congregation. We then waited with anticipation to welcome our new pastor and his family. On Sabbath, 4 March, Pastor Rainford McIntosh and his family arrived, and the following Sabbath he preached his first sermon, which was entitled, 'Good News'. He mentioned that, in spite of the spread of 'fake news', we are commissioned by Jesus to bring the 'good news' of salvation to humanity. He spoke in the context of the Mission to the City (Birmingham) Initiative and challenged the membership to become totally involved in the project.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



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## International Day 2017

Those attending Sutton-in-Ashfield's recent International Day on 22 April were captured on film as a reminder of the diversity of their happy fellowship.

MORAY STEWART



PBE is a programme in which the Pathfinders must learn appointed portions of the Bible and reproduce that information in a test setting. The objective for this is for children to gain Bible knowledge. This year the contestants studied the books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy, with the help of the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* introductions to each book. The result is that 'you can have an intelligent, informed conversation with them about the Bible,' said Pathfinder leader Margaret Johns.

When it comes to studying for the PBE testing, it becomes somewhat of a church affair. The kind of learning required for this programme is memorisation. However, these Pathfinders not only memorise but also put their Bible knowledge into practice. Gene Clapp, PBE Co-ordinator at the NAD, said that it 'changes the church, because the kids are being coached by the parents and the church. The parents are involved in Scriptures, and learning some of the same things.'

He revealed that many children have also changed in their personal lives due to PBE.

Clapp claimed, 'It has changed them, because they have found that not only do they learn Scripture, but they learn how to study. When they study that means they get better grades in school.'

'If we catch these young people, hopefully by the time they get to that age they are not leaving the church. They must have that relationship with Christ and I think basic Bible study and getting to know Christ is a foundation. The PBE is a very good way of doing that,' said Mrs Johns.

After going through several testing levels in the Conference, many Pathfinders claimed that the trip to Chicago was a treat for all their hard work and efforts. However, this trip was not only about arriving at the testing event and performing; it was about experiencing something bigger: most importantly, visiting the Historic Adventist Village in Michigan. This is where the home of James and Ellen G. White stands, the first Adventist school is located, and many more homes and a church of the Adventist pioneers can be visited.

After this wonderful visit and great achievement at the testing, Julia Cabral said that she would like to encourage more Pathfinders to join the PBE track, since she has seen how it has impacted herself, her fellow Pathfinders and her church.

If you are interested in joining or starting a PBE track in your church, get in touch with your local Pathfinder leader. You don't want to miss the next NAD Division testing event on the books of Daniel and Esther in Orlando, Florida.

NATASHA MIRILOV

## SEC Pathfinders win first place

All eight South England Conference (SEC) Pathfinder teams received first place at the sixth annual Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) North American Division (NAD) testing event in Chicago, 22 April.

This was the largest group yet, 107 people including children and adults, to visit the United States of America for their Division testing. The teams had a chance to visit the city and do some sight-seeing and shopping in the area, but according to the Pathfinders and their leaders the highlight of the whole trip was the testing event.

The SEC teams were:

- Blessed Hope Team 1 – first place
- Filipino International, FIC Osprey Team 1 Amethyst – first place
- Filipino International, FIC Osprey Team 2 Sapphire – first place
- Filipino International, FIC Osprey Team 3 Topaz – first place
- Filipino International, FIC Osprey Team 4 Jasper – first place
- Lea Valley – first place
- Stanborough Saints – first place
- Stanborough Stars – first place

SEC Pathfinders are the only ones that learn the Pathfinder Bible Experience track in their region, which requires that they join the NAD for Division-level testing. Pastor Kevin Johns, SEC Pathfinder Director, would like to see this change in the future.



## Second GYC Focus

Between 28 April and 1 May, the North England Conference Youth Department partnered with GYC (Generation of Youth for Christ) Europe to run their second 'Focus' event, a residential at the beautiful Alton Castle in Staffordshire. Simply entitled 'Searching the Scriptures', the aim was to get the youth into their Bibles during the weekend and to give them the tools to search the Scriptures when they returned home.

Of the hundred-plus people who attended, a large group came from the North and South England Conferences, but there were others from countries such as Holland, Portugal, Austria, Germany, Romania and France. The speakers for the weekend were Pastor Justin Kim, editor of the *Collegiate Quarterly* at the General Conference; Eugene Prewitt, missionary to Malaysia; Pastor Daniel Perl, from Norway;



Pastor Justin Kim, editor of the *Collegiate Quarterly* at the General Conference



Eugene Prewitt, missionary to Malaysia

and Graig Gooden, NEC PEACE Director.

The weekend's workshops were well received and included: 'How to Study the Bible', 'What Is Our Adventist Identity?', 'What Role Does Ellen G. White Play Today?' and 'What Is Truth in a Postmodern Age?' On the Sunday, the youth went to the local city centre to knock on doors, sing and pray with the local

population. This was a great experience for all to put theory into practice.

The diverse attendance made for great fellowship and there was rich spiritual food coupled with the delectable cuisine provided by Cheryl Banton and her team.

Encouraging the youth to read and study their Bibles is a key goal in the NEC, and events such as these are designed to help those who attend to dig deep in their Bibles and have the confidence to share God's Word in their sphere of influence.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN AND LUNGANI SIBANDA

## Invitation

Bethel Church invites all to its one-day seminar on 'The Dangers of Eastern Meditational Practices and Spiritualism'.

### Presenter:

Kok Tho Yip from Singapore, with 30 years of public speaking experience on related topics.

### Date:

Saturday 15 July 2017.

### Time:

11am-1pm and 2.30-4.30pm.

### Venue:

The Roundhouse Hall, Cardinal Bourne Street, Bermondsey, London SE1 4EJ.

### For more information contact:

David Ansu Conteh (elder) on 07721614182; or email: [dansu.conteh@gmail.com](mailto:dansu.conteh@gmail.com).

## Vacancy for Biology Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher at Stanborough School

Experienced Biology Teacher required for September 2017, to teach Biology at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Applicants should have a Bachelor's degree in Biology and an appropriate teaching qualification. Teaching experience within the UK is preferable. The successful applicant will be required to take up the Assistant Head Teacher role as well. Salary range is up to £35,000.

Stanborough School is a co-educational independent school with students from ages 11 to 18. For more information about the role and Stanborough School, please visit our website at [www.spsch.org](http://www.spsch.org).

Applicants should send their CV and letter of application to: Mrs M. M. Mumbo, PA to the Head Teacher ([mmumbo@spsch.org](mailto:mmumbo@spsch.org)). The position will remain vacant until filled.

# obituary



Gladys Norma Adshead (1923-2017)

d. 11 January.

Gladys' last testimony: 'My Bible'

'This is my Bible, and I love it so. No other book can take its place. It has been with me from the '70s, its print is a decent size and I treat it with respect, always putting it down carefully and turning its delicate pages with care.

'From its pages I have read precious promises giving me strength and peace and encouragement, especially in the time of sorrow. It is so good to know from my little Bible that nothing can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. God will bring back into our memory what we have read, and in old age struggle to remember.

'Like me, my little Bible is now old, and held together with glue and sticky tape, but the messages are still there, and so we travel together along life's journey till God pulls down the curtain on my Bible and me.'

Gladys was born in Allahabad in India. Owing to ill health she attended school from 11 to 16 years. During the war she joined the Women's Royal Army Corps, where she met and married Bert in 1944.

In 1952 they attended a tent meeting led by Dan Sherman Harris. Gladys accepted the message and was baptised, with Bert following a year later.

It was not long before she helped teach in the Calcutta church school. She took an active part in church life as Dorcas leader and Children's Sabbath School Superintendent, and sang in the church choir.

In 1959 Gladys left India with her children, Heather and Raymond, and made the three-week voyage to England to join her husband, Bert. Reunited, the family settled in Newark, Nottinghamshire, where she secured permanent employment at the town's local ball bearing factory. Such work made her fingers sore, but she never complained.

When her mum and her husband Bert died she keenly felt their loss, but managed to cope with the help of her Bible, family and friends. She remained cheerful and, as her son, Ray, put it, 'Her laughter identified her.'

She was a good cook and everyone loved her curries. Gladys was always busy. Outside of work she painted and decorated, varnished a lectern and made nativity figures, attended the gym for the elderly for a short time,

went to drawing classes and taught children's Sabbath school. Gladys never missed birthdays. She supported various charities and made scrap books from cards, health recipes and religious articles of interest, which she gave away. With determined effort Gladys attended the weddings of two of her grandchildren. She loved her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren dearly – all her family, for that matter. Gladys had great dress sense that fitted all occasions.

The highlight of her week was the Sabbath, which she wholeheartedly embraced. She said nothing would stop her from going to church. As ill health came and her eyesight failed, the church family made sure she attended church. She loved reading her Bible and enjoyed spiritual discussions, until she eventually passed away peacefully at home.

Her funeral service was conducted on 2 February at Hawtonville Methodist Church, Newark, with Pastors Ron Edwards, Sam Gardner, John Ferguson, Peter Sayers and Richard Jackson officiating. The committal that followed was led by Pastor John Ferguson and her ashes were interred with those of Bert at the Newark Cemetery on 8 March.

She is survived by Heather, Peter, Ray, Liz, Mark, Monica, Ethan, Deborah, Claire, Emma, Mark and Daniel, who all look forward to the resurrection morning.

PASTOR PETER SAYERS



## A special dedication

On Sunday 26 February, Erdington Church hosted the dedication of Naphtali Lloyd Hutchinson to the Lord by Pastor Steve Palmer. Many friends and family members filled the church to witness this wonderful occasion.

During Pastor Palmer's dedicatory prayer Naphtali's bubbly personality shone through when the young baby tried to grab the microphone away.

REBEKAH ECCLES



## Happy seniors!

Here are Nottingham Central's happy over-sixties club members together with their active and enthusiastic over-sixties pastor, Curtis Murphy.

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	London	Card	Nottingham	Edin	Belf
Jul 7	9.18	9.30	9.30	9.57	9.59
14	9.12	9.25	9.24	9.50	9.52
21	9.04	9.17	9.15	9.40	9.43
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