

Messenger

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Feeding the 5,000, . . . ADRA's response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau



John records Christ's feeding of the 5,000, and includes these words: ' . . . Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ' (John 6:8, 9, NIV-UK.)

The situation

Since 25 August, 2017, over 500,000 Rohingya refugees have fled across the border from Rakhine State, Myanmar, to Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, following the renewed conflict in the region.

Numerous mainstream news reports have highlighted their plight with stories of drownings, the birth of babies in the middle of the conflict and the international community's condemnation of the Myanmar government.

But behind these headlines is a humanitarian crisis affecting local host communities in Bangladesh, a country struggling with its own high levels of poverty. Due to the unexpected influx of refugees the existing basic services are now strained and aid agencies are struggling to cope.

The Rohingya refugees are highly vulnerable, living in makeshift and cramped conditions, exposed to the heavy monsoon rains and with little opportunity to gain an income or rebuild their lives.

The needs

The spontaneous settlements that have emerged from the crisis require proper planning to ensure basic shelter, safety and hygiene standards. The refugees need food security, emergency shelter, water and sanitation facilities, medical assistance and psychosocial support.

The response

ADRA is working in partnership with the government of Bangladesh and the Inter-Sector Co-ordination Group (ISCG) along with 34 other international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in responding to this crisis. The ISCG have developed a six-month response plan and are encouraging a two-to-five-year transition programme that will assist in providing community empowerment and self-reliance to these people in diaspora.

ADRA's role

ADRA's immediate response will include:

- Providing life-saving basic assistance in settlements, camps and hosting communities.
- Improving conditions in, and management of, both existing and new settlements, including infrastructure and site planning.
- Promoting safety, dignity and respect for the individual rights of Rohingya refugees.

As part of the short-term strategy ADRA will provide complimentary household food packages, immediate shelter assistance through the provision of tarpaulins, bamboo and sisal rope, and non-food items



such as water storage containers, basic kitchen utensils, blankets, mosquito nets and dignity kits.

Following the initial relief effort ADRA will engage, and partner, with other organisations to identify needs and gaps, as well as commence a co-ordinated programme to upgrade existing shelters and temporary facilities such as access roads, latrines and water points. Access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and personal hygiene facilities, specifically targeting women and children, are a priority for ADRA, as diarrhoea and cholera can spread very quickly due to poor sanitation and hygiene.

Over the next 12 months ADRA will continue working with the ISCG, anticipating a long-term co-ordination presence. This will include providing a two-year transition phase into protracted displacement, utilising skills in disaster risk reduction, providing women's empowerment activities and exploring opportunities for psychosocial first aid to vulnerable groups.

Your role

So many news stories. But those behind the headlines are real people with enormous needs. Living in a Western society, we have our own challenges, but mass displacement on this scale is not something that the majority of us will ever experience. The Rohingya have left their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs. They are now in a foreign country and are unlikely to return home soon (if ever). Effectively, they are at the mercy of those who are able to give them some assistance.

For the price of a soft drink or a bottle of water, you can assist the Rohingya. Why not, like the young lad in the story of the feeding of the five thousand, give the equivalent of a meal to ADRA to assist these refugees?

Please do everything you can by contacting ADRA-UK at www.adra.org.uk and giving a donation or by setting up a regular direct debit.

Help ADRA-UK to help feed the 500,000 Rohingya refugees!

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FRI 24th, 8.30pm: Radio Show, "What's in Store" live call-ins
SAT 25th, 9:15am: Registration
10:10am: Joint Praise & Worship
10:40am: Prayer School - How to Fight the Spiritual Battle - Sis Laura Osei
12:00pm: "We Declare War" - Pastor Hyveth Williams
2:00pm: Spiritual Warfare - "Let's Do It!"
SUN 26th, 8.00am: Celebration Brunch - Hyland House School

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editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Buddha would have helped!

practice, and discrimination in employment and access to social services.¹³

But why?

Back to that nagging question, then: why? Why are the Rohingya being treated like this? Why were the Jews, the Armenians, the Yazidis or the Tutsis (among many others) dealt a similar hand? Perhaps it's because that famous second paragraph of the *United States Declaration of Independence* got it horribly wrong:

'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, . . .'¹⁴

The reality is that human rights do not appear 'to be self-evident' for vast swathes of humanity. What matters to them are group rights, clan rights, 'my' rights and little else!

Can we change this?

What then is needed to change this situation? A global education drive to make human rights 'self-evident'? Perhaps the 'big stick' approach of immediate sanctions and a US carrier task force anchored off the coast of Rakhine State, or wherever else such violations take place? Boots on the ground? A barrage of Trump tweets?

To misapply Proverbs 14:12 (NIV-UK) a little, here is my honest answer: 'There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.' I am not sure that any of the above options, serious or otherwise, will actually make human rights universally 'self-evident'; for, at its very heart, humanity's poor record on human rights is nothing less than a rejection of the God of whom Scripture plainly says:

'And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, . . . as even some of your own poets have said, "For we are indeed his offspring." ' (Acts 17:26-28, ESV, emphasis supplied.)

In reality, then, if we deny the brother and sisterhood of man, we're probably not cheering for God's team, are we? Instead, if we are honest with ourselves, we are likely to be quietly jeering at some group, ridiculing someone who looks different to us, or worse.

Which brings me to what I see as the crux of the matter: the best way to protect human rights, and the dignity of all, is not to enact more laws, or refine the ones we already have – but to **transform human hearts**. Informed heads don't automatically result in **transformed attitudes**.

It's all about grace

Grace is what changes human hearts for the better, nothing else. Grace is what introduces us to the family of God and creates that 'family likeness of Christ' in us. Grace is what makes us respect each other's rights. Paul had that all in clear focus when he wrote:

'For now that you have faith in Christ you are all sons of God. All of you who were baptised "into" Christ have put on the family likeness of Christ. **Gone is the distinction between Jew and Greek, slave and free man, male and female – you are all one in Christ Jesus.** And if you belong to Christ, you are true descendants of Abraham, you are true heirs of his promise.' (Galatians 3:26-29, Phillips, emphasis supplied.)

*This editorial was written on 12 October.

¹<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/11/asia/rohingya-dalai-lama-myanmar/index.html>
²[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohingya_persecution_in_Myanmar_\(2016%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohingya_persecution_in_Myanmar_(2016%E2%80%93present))
³Ibid.
⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_men_are_created_equal



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Enhancing Health

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

Plastic – health and environmental risks – part 2

In a Sky News article, Thomas Moore, Science Correspondent, writes:

'A stranded whale that died with a stomach full of plastic has a message for us: we need to act. Our household rubbish is polluting every single part of our oceans, at every possible depth. And it is killing our marine life.'¹

Since the story of the stranded whale came to light earlier this year, it has received worldwide interest and media coverage with a call to action for us to clean up our oceans. The Sky Ocean Rescue project² is an intervention that seeks to tackle the problem head-on. Outlining their aims for the project they list the following:

- 'We're bringing to life our amazing ocean for millions of people across Europe and discussing the solutions.'
- 'Through our news channels, Sky News in the UK and TG24 in Italy, we are raising awareness of how plastics and other pollutants are affecting our oceans.'
- 'Through the campaign we're exploring the different ways people can help to make a difference and inspiring them to take action.'

Undertaking an analytical look at lifestyle decisions, their daily habits and purchase options, Sky share this determination to make us all mindful of everything we do that impacts the oceans. They report regularly on any actions by manufacturers and retailers to design

products with less plastic content and ensure that they are recycled. Taking bold action and practical steps to make this change, they list the following eco-decisions:

- 'Removing all single-use plastics is a significant step we are looking to take.'
- 'Removing all plastic water bottles, plastic cups and straws, and ensuring that our cutlery is made from corn-starch.'
- 'Looking at our supply chain and the products we make.'

Another action-oriented organisation is Plastic Whale,³ the world's first professional plastic fishing company. It is a social enterprise which carries the mission caption: 'Make the world's water plastic-free and create value from plastic waste.'

It began five years ago, and its challenge was to build a boat made of plastic waste. Today they have a fleet of seven design boats made from plastic dredged from Amsterdam's canals. They focus on a different perspective in regard to plastic. 'Plastic Whale wants to tackle this problem by showing people that plastic is not waste, but valuable raw material. That's why we build beautifully designed boats from plastic that we fish out of the water.'

This week, take stock of your plastic use and how you dispose of this 'waste' product.

Good health!

¹<http://news.sky.com/story/sky-ocean-rescue-a-plastic-whale-10917187>
²<https://skyoceanrescue.com/about-sky-ocean-rescue/> ³<https://plasticwhale.com/>



Whatever next!

by Sarah Jarvis



I don't think you'd find a less techy person than myself. I don't have a tablet. I don't have a smart TV. I don't have a smartphone. Yes, I have a mobile phone, but mine is for making or receiving calls and texts (now there's a novel idea!), and the prospect of fiddling with the thing hour after hour, as seems to be the case with many, not just youngsters, leaves me cold.

This means that I don't normally follow techy news, but, despite that, something recently caught my eye.

While looking at my emails (yes, I do have a PC!), I was advised to 'check out the sweater that changes colour depending on the weather'. It was accompanied by a singularly unattractive image, but the ad had done its job – it had caught my attention.

This autumnal-looking sweater will help you set your inner chameleon free' was the strapline. But it was the image that was most striking. 'A colour-change sweater which morphs from yellow to orange depending on the air temperature,' the ad continued, 'is now on sale.' The Ice Knit comes from tech-loving clothing brand Stone Island, and is also available in emerald green, which turns to military green, and ivory, which transforms into a grey, officially called anthracite.

Previous colour-change technology, such as '90s' mainstay Global Hypercolor, reacted to the wearer's body temperature. (Thinking about that for a minute, that sounds singularly undesirable!)

But the Ice Knit is different because it reacts to the external temperature.

A Stone Island spokesman said: 'Garments are created with a double knit construction: the outer face is made in an exclusive thermo-sensitive yarn that drastically changes colour when exposed to cold, while the inner one is in pure wool.'

It means there are no awkward

sweat-patch shapes in the contrasting colours, although it is still possible to make hand prints. As well as the sweater, Stone Island's autumn/winter '17/'18 range includes a zipped, hooded cardigan and a beanie hat. Clever, maybe – but I don't think I'll be rushing out to buy any!

Looking at the subject of something changing got me thinking about people who change. We can be very changeable – our moods, like the sweater, changing with the weather. But don't we feel happier, more at ease, with those who are dependable, constant, faithful, steadfast?

How about some biblical examples of both types? Never mind an individual: the whole nation of Israel was like a yo-yo in its attitude to God. No dependability whatever. When in trouble, turn to the Lord; when not in trouble, don't bother. Over and over and over again.

But then there were many individuals on whose constancy God could rely. Daniel and Joseph spring to mind. In the face of all their vicissitudes, the attitude was the same: keep trusting.

Then there are others who are sometimes dependable, sometimes not. Elijah, a fierce defender of the faith at Mount Carmel in the face of a host of enemy prophets – and then a cringing coward when threatened by a woman. Peter, an ardent protector of his Lord when the guards came to arrest Him (remember the ear incident?), but on the same night denying all knowledge of Him.

While we'd all aspire to identify with Daniel and Joseph, isn't there something of this chameleon-like nature in all of us? What advice does the Bible

offer us on this topic?

Well, let's focus first on our ultimate example. Of Himself, God says: 'I am the LORD, I change not' (Malachi 3:6), and 'Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8). And aren't we grateful for that? Where would we be if God suffered from mood swings like His errant children?

Paul offers us advice on the subject: 'Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable' (1 Cor. 15:58), and James roundly condemns the 'double minded man' who is 'unstable in all his ways' (1:8).

The writer George Matheson recognised the human propensity to change or vacillate in his hymn, 'Make me a captive, Lord'.

'My heart is weak and poor / Till it a master find; / It has no spring of action sure – / It varies with the wind.'

And he realises that the only answer to the problem – the only way to change our changeability to steadfastness – is to rely on the never-changing One.

So, then, not all change is bad. Change is sometimes a vital thing. We're all works in progress: day by day, God, if we allow Him, is changing us. Here's Paul again: 'But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are *changed* into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord' (2 Cor. 3:18, emphasis supplied). Changing us bit by bit to be like Him: isn't that an amazing and wonderful thing!

Being constantly consistent (consistently good, cheerful, positive, that is) is not easy,

but the example of the sweater reminds me of a solution. Remember, it had two layers – the outer one changing, but the inner, insulated.

We need to be insulated against the 'slings and arrows' life throws at us: insulated by fuelling ourselves with God's Word and inviting the presence of the Paraclete, the One called to come alongside us to be our Help and Comforter. With this insulation, we'll be less likely to react negatively when stormy weather comes.

We'll then be able to echo the words of another famous hymn, this one by Horatio Spafford: 'When sorrows like sea billows roll – Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.' Then we can aspire to Paul's attitude: 'I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances' (Phil. 4:11, NIV).

Then, if during our sojourn here we allow God to work this change of behaviour in us, we can look forward to yet another change – a true metamorphosis.

'Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.' (1 Cor. 15:51-52.)

I can't wait for that day. How about you?

Scripture quotations in this article, except where otherwise indicated, have been taken from the King James (Authorised) Version.



Is salvation really free?

by Pastor David Neal, TED Stewardship Director

My teen years were quite turbulent theologically, particularly listening to a community of faith that seemed to talk endlessly about the role of the law and grace in relation to salvation. The result was that church meetings often ended up being dour. The pastors were cheerful enough, preaching the goodness and grace of God, but with some members the theology of sin was big on the agenda, with a capital 'S'. Not far behind was a closely connected, and incredibly nuanced, end-time timetable. The more we studied the timetable, the bigger the 'S' problem loomed.

It almost seems slightly comical to remember how things were. But there's a serious and tragic side to this memory. The 'S' problem caused too many souls to sink, go under and drown spiritually, wondering if God really loved them.

It was during this time that I discovered Edward Vick's book with the title, *Is Salvation Really Free?* which was (by coincidence or not) the critical question stirring in my mind. Vick's refrain was 'from first to last, all is of grace' – beautiful!

Seventh-day Adventists make two very bold claims about the Reformation story. First, it is incomplete; and second, they are its spiritual descendants. They make these claims based on their understanding of Holy Scripture. Martin Luther's 'Dare to be a Daniel' stand against powers that sought, and still seek, to distort the truth about God is at the core of their spiritual DNA.

The intent of the Reformation was to rekindle the flame of first-century Christianity, a flame that during the Middle Ages had almost gone out, leading to a remote, distant, and exacting God. The simple Gospel story about the life and teachings of Christ was hidden behind the authority and practices of the Church, who'd become keyholders of God's revelation in a time when few could read the printed word, scarce as it was.

It was a wealthy church, but its stewardship of holy funds seemed to benefit not the proclamation of the Gospel, but those entrusted with it, leading Bernard of Clairvaux to complain: 'There is as much difference between us and the men of the primitive church as there is between muck and gold.'

That Reformation stirrings arose in the mind of Luther was as much about the abuse of money and power as it was about doctrine. As the Church expanded across Europe,



building churches and monasteries (not least of which was St Peter's in Rome), it turned to the banks for funding, who were eager to lend with interest to such a more-than-safe borrower.

But it was the security for the debt, the sale of the indulgence, zealously preached across Germany by 'pardoner in chief', Johann Tetzel, that particularly troubled Luther. Salvation, far from being free, could be bought from the priest. To the ignorant worshipper great comfort was found in Tetzel's catchy verse: 'When a penny in the coffer rings, a soul from Purgatory springs.'² Salvation came with a cost.

Luther was not the first person to be troubled by a gospel with a costly price tag, monetary or otherwise. 'But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed' (Galatians 1:8, ESV). To the apostle Paul, it was more than a problem; it was a matter of life and death.

As we remember Luther's contribution to restoring the biblical Gospel, it seems appropriate, once again, to ask the question, 'Is Salvation Really Free?' If members of a specific community of faith make claim to be spiritual heirs of the Reformation, then it's also appropriate to check their understanding of the Gospel of Christ, in both faith and practice.

Luther's contribution to the restoration of the Gospel can never be diminished. But it was the beginning of a story, not the end. Because of his aversion to salvation through

'good works', he would never accept the letter of James as part of the biblical canon. His attitude to 'others' was less than Christlike (notably his hatred towards Jews), even though he claimed to have discovered the grace of Christ. Like his personality, his writings were direct and hard-hitting and at times extreme. 'I am hot-blooded by temperament, and my pen gets irritated easily,' he wrote in 1520.

What do we learn from his experience? With a similar 'Dare to be a Daniel' gene in our spiritual DNA, what does it mean not only to have a 'full understanding' of the Gospel, but to 'fully live' it? I continue to be mystified as to why we Adventists do not display the words of Paul in the boldest of letters on every sanctuary wall, with the corporate signage, and on every website in our name:

'For I am [we are] not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith" ' (Romans 1:16, 17, ESV).

If we are not able to preach and live with absolute evangelical conviction that from 'first to last, all is of grace', then our claim to be heirs of the Reformation deserves to face a challenge.

¹*Is Salvation Really Free?* Edward W. H. Vick ISBN: 9780816346578/124 pages/Pacific Press Publishing Association/Copyright 2014 (republished)
²www.britannica.com/topic/indulgence/ref#837959



Refurbishments and rhinos! – ADRA-UK takes volunteers to Nepal

by Sophie Gordon

In September, ADRA-UK took 28 volunteers to Nepal with the hope of refurbishing a three-storey rural school building.

The trip was part of ADRA Connections, a short-term volunteering programme run by the charity, in which volunteers raise funds to travel internationally and complete projects that will benefit entire communities.

The Nepal volunteer assignment was the charity's largest to date, with nine classrooms, three hallways and an endless number of benches to prepare and paint in only eight days! The school in question, the Shree Machhindra Secondary School, is home to over two hundred students and the project was a welcome gift to the teachers and students who were still suffering the effects of the 2015 earthquake.

Vital funding raised by the ADRA volunteer team, in excess of £30,000, allowed the school to provide greater access to education and a chance for those living in poverty to have a better future. The volunteers spent their breaks taking pictures with the children, and learning about their culture and their hopes and dreams. The path to 'success', however, is much more of an abstract notion to children in Nepal than it is for our youth living in the UK.

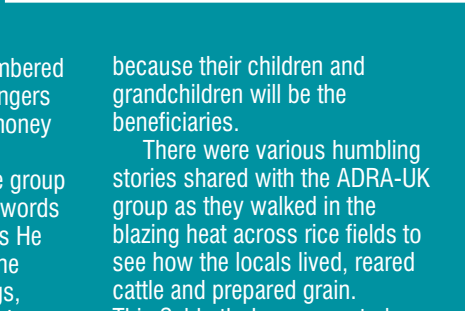
For many of the students at the Shree Machhindra School, the idea of being a teacher or travelling the world is an impossibility. Many of the children shared stories of wanting to further their education, yet not receiving the pass mark for a scholarship. This was a rude awakening to the volunteers who – ranging in profession from teachers to students, budding architects, builders and entrepreneurs – had always been told that their options were limitless, that they could in fact be anything they dreamt of. Fine

for them, but for millions around the world living in poverty this is not the case.

Many of the children would say, 'I will never have the chance to visit you, so come back and see me – and, if not, remember me.' These words were indeed heart-wrenching to hear, but the children said them with smiles on their faces. It was as if everyone knew that this encounter, with these people, was an experience to be remembered with joy: a time when strangers sacrificed their time and money to help those in need. The selflessness shown by the group is truly reminiscent of the words of Christ in Matthew 25, as He recounts those to whom the kingdom of heaven belongs, people who are willing to give their time and resources to those in need because they have compassion for them.

Later in the week the team spent their first Sabbath hiking to a rural mountain community, where they were welcomed by a women's co-operative group who had been saving money for the past seven years to improve their community, lend money to their fellow villagers and provide a future for their children. Having had their major water source destroyed by the 2015 earthquake, the women now had the hard task of walking for at least one hour each day to bring clean water to their families.

The co-operative had begun a fund for a new water pump costing over \$10,000. They were saving \$5 a month in their community and one villager remarked, 'I will not see the building of the pump in my lifetime.' Nevertheless, they continue to work and save



because their children and grandchildren will be the beneficiaries.

There were various humbling stories shared with the ADRA-UK group as they walked in the blazing heat across rice fields to see how the locals lived, reared cattle and prepared grain. This Sabbath day was a stark reminder of how grateful we should be for all God has blessed us with, especially in the Western world.

This is not to say the trip was a time of heavy contemplation and sadness! Many a day you would hear the hallways of the school ringing with melodious song as the ADRA team sang their way through the long hours of work. There were three teams who worked simultaneously on each floor, cleaning, sanding and painting their way through the multi-storey renovation. With local labourers looking on to instruct and help, the team made ADRA proud by perfecting what they had gotten wrong the previous day.

It was humorous to hear how a team that worked so well together also had so many fears before embarking on the trip: would they find a friend among the group, what would be the group dynamics, would they

remember all the names? While names were surely mixed up, the bond among the team members was one of the biggest highlights shared by all. With people joining us from the Netherlands, Austria and Spain, this was a diverse trip, for sure! Yet young and old spent their days (and probably one too many nights) sharing life and laughter.

The unity of the volunteers was no more apparent than when the group completed the project one day early! All that was left was for Shree Machhindra School to host their first and unforgettable closing ceremony. The students showcased the very best of their singers, dancers and martial artists! Hugs and tears were shared on this final project day, as the schoolchildren and volunteers of ADRA-UK parted ways, perhaps never to see each other again.

Now it was time for the next



phase of the trip!

Uniquely, not only are ADRA Connections trips a time to help those in need, but they are also an opportunity to see some of the sites of the country. The sightseeing portion of the experience is a much-needed respite after the project work; therefore, with bags in hand, the volunteers travelled to the jungle of Chitwan in the south of Nepal. At a safari hotel the group took part in elephant rides and canoe river tours and visited crocodile farms, and some even crouched in long grass watching rhinos at play!

After Chitwan there was time for one last Sabbath at the Banepa Memorial Hospital, a medical centre that was started by Seventh-day Adventists some 60 years ago. As the team were given the grand tour by the hospital CEO they were astounded by how much was achieved with so few resources. With fewer beds, equipment and staff than needed, it was very apparent that God was involved in their daily work – filling in the gaps when money was short and making a way when human hands could go no further. For all

the joy, kindness and hospitality that were lavished on the group by the Nepalese, the hospital was a reminder of the day-to-day realities of poverty, with babies in outdated incubators and a ward of women who had tried to take their own lives due to the harsh pressures of daily living. The head of the hospital remarked, 'When my wife and I first came here, after the first few weeks we thought, "What have we done!" . . . but I tell you, we saw more miracles here in the first week than we did in a decade back home.' How true this is for us as well, that God often takes us to a place where we can only rely on Him, where nothing but His intervention can help, and suddenly we see miracles happen.

There is so much to be experienced on an ADRA Connections trip and we can only reiterate time and time again that words and pictures can but poorly encapsulate the memories made and shared by our volunteers. Among those who travel with us are some who attend church, some who are of no fixed faith, those who need to kick-start their life after a trying



experience, and those who simply want to help because they can. We at ADRA-UK know that God is bringing people together to share one common purpose – to actively love those on whom



life is hard, to let individuals know they are loved and cared for and that we are indeed our brother's keeper, whether that be in our local communities or in a village thousands of miles away.

Our next ADRA Connections trip will be to Nepal in 2018 (our trips to Rwanda and Cambodia are already full for next year)! For your chance to see the world, take an active part in the work of ADRA and help a community in need, contact us now at volunteering@adra.org.uk. What are you waiting for?

Stanborough Secondary School scholarships and bursaries registration is now open!



Once again, Stanborough Secondary School has worked hard to secure additional funding for its Scholarship and Bursary Fund, to enable more pupils across the British Union to benefit from the good educational programme it offers.

The scholarships and bursaries examinations in Maths, Science and English will be held on 11 January 2018 from 9.30am to 1pm for prospective students entering Years 7, 8 and 9 in September 2018. **The maximum award is worth a 50% reduction on tuition fees** (boarding fees are excluded). **Seventh-day Adventist parents of successful candidates will obtain this tuition fee reduction in addition to their 30% denominational discount.** Awards are multi-annual.

Candidates must register (deadline: 15 December 2017) and pay an administrative fee of £10. You can download the application forms from the school website. If you have any questions please contact Mrs Sonia Poddar: spoddar@spsch.org, or call 01923673268.

Stanborough School would like to thank the alumni and friends of the school for making this support possible. If you have benefited from Seventh-day Adventist education or feel that God is impressing you to help make Adventist education more accessible, please contact the BUC Treasury Department and ask how you can support the Stanborough Secondary School Scholarships and Bursaries Fund.

youth in action

Project Moldova – a Plymouth youth adventure

by Jennie Hall

'Project Moldova was a great experience. The two weeks gave us an insight into their way of life and culture and the homemade food will definitely be missed. Although working on the houses was tiring it was also much fun to work as one with the group and do new things like making cement and cutting through bricks. It was hot and dirty but worth it, knowing we've contributed, if only a little, to the families we helped. I would definitely recommend it to anyone thinking of doing a mission trip!' – Kit

After a year of planning and fund-raising the team of 12 from Plymouth Church, led by Pastor Clifford Herman, flew out to Moldova on 17 August for two weeks of hard work and adventure. We were warmly greeted at the airport by Pastor Simion Sprinceana and his daughter, Natalia, who spent the last few days of her holiday showing us around and flawlessly translating for us.

We stayed together on the top floor of a large house owned by Pastor Sprinceana's sister. This was a blessing, as it meant the team were able to start and end the day together in worship.

Pastor Clifford Herman remarked: 'My lasting impressions will be about a team who had never really "camped" together before, but gelled with each other from day one, and stayed like that until the final minute. . . . Mission trips tend to do that to people when they focus on blessing someone else: a principle for all relationships.'

Before travelling to Moldova Plymouth Church worked hard raising over £6,300 towards Project Moldova through fund-raising concerts, meals, car boot sales and sponsored walks. Each member of the team paid for their own flights, food and travel within the country, so every penny raised went to help the people in Moldova.

The team comprised Pastor Clifford Herman, his wife Ophelia and children Matthew and Meghan, Glessy Guillas, Clishlyn (Kit) Portunova, Jackie Hall, Jennie Hall (writer), Bruce Daka, Jordan Masuku, and sisters, Kelly and Shirley Manungo. We were later joined by Daniel and Alex Costin, Denis Dubaev and Violeta Dulgher.

We visited all three of Pastor Sprinceana's churches, Molești, Costești, and Ialoveni, as well as the Costin brothers' home church in Ghidighici. We contributed to each service with a special item and Pastor Herman preached with the help of translators.

After each service the group split into two teams to conduct a health expo and messy church. Church members and friends from the local community came for the simple health checks and advice. The programme ran smoothly with the aid of translators and was well received by everyone. While the adults were having their health checks the children were being entertained with crafts. The younger children did a series of crafts based on creation and even had a colouring book translated into Romanian to complete, while the older children intricately painted T-shirts. It was refreshing to see how much the children appreciated the simple crafts.

Glessy commented: 'Doing this mission trip gave all of us a push to venture out of our comfort zones, which has helped us build up our teamwork and our personal confidence. Giving free health checks to the adults felt very fulfilling as we were able to give them an insight into their well-being, since, for these people, such common services come as a privilege. The children became creative by making artwork and painting T-shirts, which they totally enjoyed. Communication was difficult because of the language barrier, but making a connection with the people was never an issue. Each day was tiring but, at the end of it, seeing the smiles of the people we helped made it all worth it.'



Meghan (centre) making friends with Xenia and Nashta



The team at work



The team in uniform

The majority of the money raised was for building projects to benefit two very needy families, one in Costești and the other in Ialoveni. Seven days were spent working at the two houses, which meant early mornings, and eventful busy bus rides to and from the sites.

The house in Costești was home to Elena and her three young children. Her husband was abusive and non-supportive so the courts banned him from seeing her or the children. Now she holds down two jobs but still struggles to make ends meet. The initial project was to build her a new kitchen with solid foundations; however, due to the house's poor design its wastewater ran straight into the foundations. This necessitated a change of plan: to dig around the house and replace the original mud/hay/manure render with a coat of concrete to weatherproof the walls; then lay a drainage pipe. Members from the local church skilled in rendering over a layer of metal mesh nailed to the outside of the house came to help every day. One of the team's main responsibilities was to keep them supplied with concrete, a task that was very tiring and repetitive. While there the team also helped with clearing the garden and started rebuilding the porch.

The youngest member of the team, 10-year-old Meghan, commented: 'Going to Moldova on a mission trip was a lovely experience. I would recommend it to anyone. It made me realise we shouldn't be unhappy with what we have, as some are happy but have less than we do. I would definitely go on a mission trip again.'

The second project was in Ialoveni and home to Helena and her granddaughter, Andrea. They live in half of a house that was split when Helena separated from her husband, because she could not afford the whole house. At the time she could not afford to finish the house so her daughter and husband helped her purchase some windows and doors.

When her daughter became ill with dementia her husband left and took the doors and windows with him. Since then the local church has been able to buy some cheap windows and doors as a temporary measure. While there the team's job was to remove the old wooden windows and doors and replace them with plastic ones. As Moldova has such extremes of weather, +40°C in summer and -30°C in winter, windows, doors and solid walls are essential for insulation.

Unfortunately not all the work was completed while we were there, but the funds raised will be used to finish the bathroom and kitchen under the direction of Pastor Sprinceana. The team plan to continue raising funds to help finish Helena's house and make it a home.

It was a tiring but rewarding two weeks. For many, like Jackie, it was their first mission trip: 'Not only was it great to get to know each other on a new level, but the experience of getting stuck in and working hard for the benefit of others, whether it be shovelling cement or running the health expo and messy church, was incredibly rewarding. It was a fantastic two weeks and I've come away with so many great memories; I would recommend such a trip to anyone, even if you've never done anything like it before.'

Jordan commented, 'After living in England for 17 years, it was a really exciting experience to go to Moldova. I really enjoyed seeing their culture and their way of life, and it was great to experience it with such an amazing group of friends. I really enjoyed doing activities like the health expo because it made me feel really good to be able to help other people, and even though the language barrier made it difficult I couldn't stop smiling the whole time. The work we did on the two houses was tough, and, even though I'll never be able to look at cement again, it was truly fulfilling to be able to help people and do God's work.'

We felt incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to go to another country and help others. Here's what Matthew and Ophelia had to say: 'Definitely an amazing trip. Even though there was a lot of making cement and other hard work I enjoyed working on the houses as I was helping to make someone's life better. I also enjoyed experiencing a different culture through being at church, eating their food and sightseeing.' (Matthew)

'Would I do it again? Definitely. With the same group? A resounding YES! Why do it again? I learnt to be thankful in all circumstances; to smile, no matter what; to make new friends and learn more about my own group; to mix cement; to enjoy the smiles of those we helped; and to trust in God to get the job done.' (Ophelia)

More photos can be found on the Plymouth Church website: plymouth.adventistchurch.org.uk.

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we pay respects . . .

Adventist publishing companies the world over are institutions where employees often build up lengthy service records. One reason is that the printing and publishing environment requires specialists, men and women with unique skills: skills that take time to develop, to hone . . . and to replace.

Today, the *MESSENGER* team wish to pay their respects to an unsung hero, one of those skilful men who literally left his mark on its pages for 46 years.

Barrymore Mountford Bell, better known as Barry, was born on 13 September 1936 to William and Nathleen Bell of Wallsend, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

William was a sheet metal worker, and during the war years the family moved around a lot because of his work. At some stage he worked for Marconi, but eventually the family settled in Horseshoe Lane, Watford, where he worked for the De Havilland Aircraft Company Limited, who produced the famous Mosquito, and, after the war, the first commercial jet airliner, the Comet, which William worked on as an engine inspector.

When Barry was 7, in 1943, he gained a brother, Graham Martin Bell, known always to his friends and family as Martin. Sadly, Martin passed away in 2011.

Barry must have moved schools quite a lot during his young life due to his father's work, but eventually he settled at Stanborough Park School. Upon leaving school, Barry started an apprenticeship at the nearby Stanborough Press, where he worked in what was known as the 'Comp Room', training as a compositor. Today this is largely a forgotten skill, but until the latter half of the last century most of the world's books were composed by men like Barry.

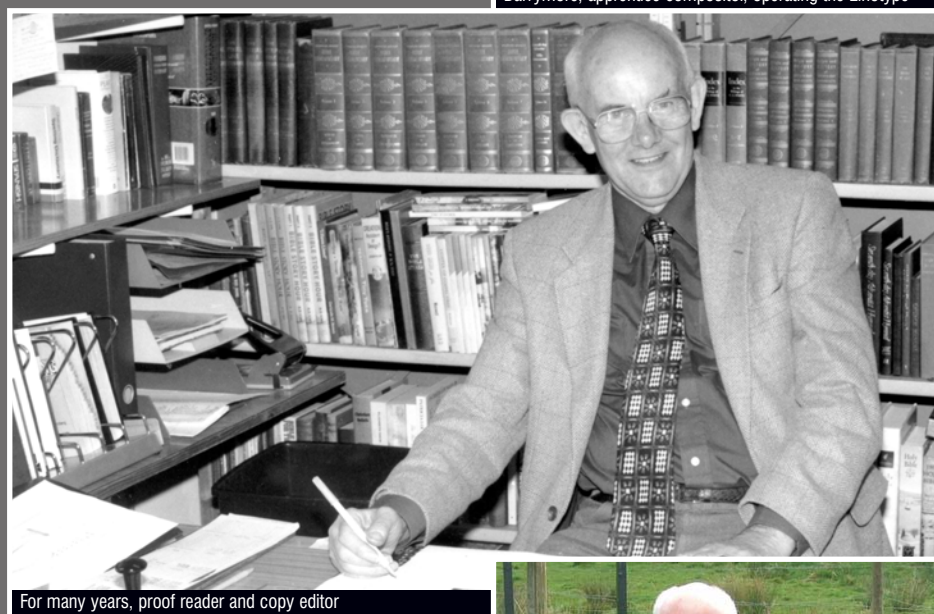
He learnt to take the final typewritten copy for books and magazines, and compose it by hand using individual metal letters, spaces, punctuation marks, and so on – a job that required both speed and accuracy.

Barry also learned 'hot metal' typesetting using linotype machines that speeded things up by moulding complete lines of lead type at the same time. These machines, although faster, were a health and safety hazard when there were volatile impurities in the molten lead!

After his apprenticeship, Barry (a pacifist) was posted out to work on the land near the small village of Crocombe in Somerset, about 3 miles from the City of Wells. It was here that he met Beryl, who became the love of his life, and they married at Crocombe Adventist Church on 12 June 1960.

Barry returned to work at Stanborough Press after his National Service, and typesetting *MESSENGER* became one of his routine tasks. His heart lay in publishing. He wanted to play a practical role in spreading the Gospel, and he did.

In January 1964, a devastating fire ripped



For many years, proof reader and copy editor

through the Stanborough Press, destroying a large part of the building. Within a matter of days, however, the staff had tidied up to the extent that some sort of production could resume. But it was soon decided that the company would relocate to the small market town of Grantham, and so in 1966 the Bells moved again. By this time, Stephanie (now Anderson) and David had 'joined' the family.

Barry's work evolved as technology changed, and he was soon exposed to computerised typesetting. Shortly after this he moved into the Proof Reading Department, where he eventually became the publishing house's sole proof reader and copy editor, for which his eye for detail and strong command of English stood him in good stead.

Barry retired from the Stanborough Press in 1998, after a lifetime in publishing, finding time at last to pursue things at his own pace. Sadly, this ended when he passed away peacefully in his own home during the early hours of Sunday 6 August, with Beryl still faithfully at his side after 57 years of marriage!

At each stage of his career Barry had some important role to play in the publication of *MESSENGER*. Now it's his son's turn.

David Bell has been involved with the preparation of *MESSENGER* since shortly after he started working at Stanborough Press in 1980, and for the past 16 years he has been the magazine's sole designer (layout artist).



Barrymore, apprentice compositor, operating the Linotype



Barry enjoyed a very full and active retirement



David Bell, Barry's son and the *MESSENGER* designer

Like father, like son . . . with 82 years of loyal service to *MESSENGER* between them!

THE EDITOR

a church involved

A frank community conversation

by Adrian Roberts

Recently we heard the depressing news of the stabbing of a 14-year-old black teenage male in Forest Gate, London. Sad as that was, it is encouraging to know that a community meeting was held in the Pendeford area of Wolverhampton to address the issue of gang violence, particularly in the black community.

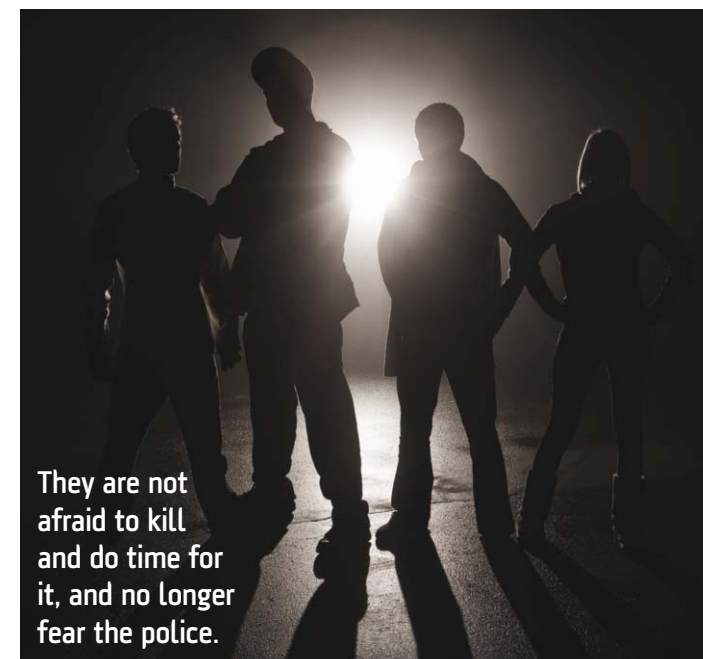
The meeting was convened by Jenny Taylor, High Risk Mediator and Director of EYES (Engage Youth Empowerment Services) and Director of the Wolverhampton-based Community Reference Group, one of the foremost champions of youth causes in Wolverhampton, particularly among black youth. She is also a passionate believer in doing redemptive work for young people and bringing out the best in them.

The meeting was held at Pendeford Church, where Dr Patrick Herbert is the pastor, and hosted by Joe Jackson of the New Testament Church of God, and entrepreneurial

businessman and youth motivator, Leslie Fairclough. Also present were two high-ranking community police officers, church leaders, educators, local council representatives, parents and (most importantly) young people. As a result, this was not merely a meeting of concerned others. The organisers, like the parents, had the good sense to bring young people to the meeting so it was not merely a meeting 'about' young people but an inclusive meeting 'for' young people. In fact, they went even further, bringing two ex-gang members: one an articulate young man from London, now residing in the West Midlands, who had seen things no ordinary person should see. The other was an 'ex-postcode' local gang member from Wolverhampton, who has been incarcerated four times. Both spoke of the disturbing evolution of gang violence to the point that members are wearing garb disturbingly reminiscent of certain terror groups – their faces masked, save their eyes, and carrying swords dipped in acid, machetes, and sub-machine guns. They are not afraid to kill and do time for it, and no longer fear the police. Apparently, there are even some areas that the police have abandoned because they are being targeted and shot at. They charted their journey from hopelessness to redemptive triumph, giving glory to God and their fiercely determined parents who would not let go. What was most shocking was how young they were.

It was an engaging meeting with many passionate exchanges. There were parents present, particularly struggling single mothers who voiced their frustration in no uncertain terms about being labelled pejoratively as single parents when they are 'present' parents. They were angry that the police targeted their sons unjustly and let it be known in no uncertain terms. A police commissioner presented the uncomfortable statistic that, after having reviewed hundreds of cases of shootings and stabbings, black young men were disproportionately represented as perpetrators.

One grandparent very active in Wolverhampton and with a deep interest in the welfare of the black community, Claudette Mitchell, stated that the place to start is with the youngest generation coming up, and she challenged the local government representative present to put more money into saving and educating the nascent generation of youth, instead of merely focusing on police fighting the problem at the coalface. Others joined in to support her and a dark warning was given



They are not afraid to kill and do time for it, and no longer fear the police.



that if the rising generation is not saved then the future will look even worse.

A doctrine of shock therapy was also recommended in that a way should be made for young teenagers to make visits to prison, as in America, and have selected inmates address them in a preventative manner to heighten their understanding of consequences.

One of the ex-gang members said what turned him around was suddenly realising what he was doing to his parents and how his actions were affecting them, his mother in particular.

The one group that was not mentioned in any big way was the church and the contribution it could have. Yet the meeting was convened by a woman who was raised in the church; the meeting was hosted by a devout Christian; the grandmother who spoke out is a regular churchgoer; pastors were present; and the meeting was held in the Seventh-day Adventist church hall in the Dovecote community centre, Pendeford. This shows that the church is already there on the ground and involved, but it is clear that more needs to be done by all. Pastor Herbert stated that he was happy for the church to be used for more meetings like this, to which Joe added that it is interesting that God has His churches planted in areas of the city where they are needed most to provide assistance.

Convenor and mediating director, Jenny Taylor, plans to convene another, bigger meeting in the not-so-distant future, first giving an opportunity for some of the solutions to be put into practice.

Perhaps other churches could do something similar.

Biggest NEC youth camp in years

NEC Youth Camp at Aberdaron is the place to be these days, and this summer was no exception. Fifty-four youth attended – the highest turnout for a long time. A number of those who attended were students who needed a break from the stresses of study, while others took a week off work to enjoy fellowship with their fellow youth.

Throughout the week there were various adventure activities such as high-speed jet skiing, kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding. We also played team-building games and did arts and crafts – which included everyone making their own custom-printed Aberdaron T-shirt. Bike rides to the Point, Abersoch and Whistling Sands were made each day, sometimes even before breakfast. When it rained many of the campers amused themselves with games of Uno, with the (un)disputed champion being Pastor Andrew Davis.

Pastor Andrew Davis from Newbold College Church was the worship speaker for the week and he did an excellent job of it, encouraging the youth to give their lives to Jesus and dedicate their talents to Him. One worship during the week took place in a local village church, which provided a lovely atmosphere and special surroundings.

Youth Camp provides a welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of life, the chance to make new friends, to enjoy the great outdoors and to connect with God, through His Word and



nature. This year, during the Wednesday night vespers at the Point, we were blessed to find another Christian group of about 100 who were also camping in the area and had gone to the Point for vespers. We had a great time singing together, before the padres of both camps gave a short message each, and then we had the chance to exchange contacts with our new-found friends.

We were blessed with

delicious food cooked by Cheryl Banton and her team – something enjoyed by all. Prince Ayeh from Bournville Church, who was attending Aberdaron for the first time, said: 'As an individual who loves sports and the outdoors, Youth Camp was the perfect break for me. I had an amazing experience, not just trying out new things such as paddle boarding and archery, but also in creating new friendships and

strengthening old ones. I left camp not just physically rejuvenated but also spiritually inspired, with those great morning and evening messages having challenged me spiritually.'

We thank all the volunteers who made this year's camp run smoothly – it is greatly appreciated. Photos of the week can be found online at www.facebook.com/necyouth.
PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN

Tuckley. Pastor Obi also joined in the fun of kite-making and ended up competing against a child by the name of Jason. Pastor Obi declared Jason Dewa the winner and the 'best kite-maker' in the NEC

as his kite soared above that of Pastor Obi. On the Thursday a coach trip was organised to the train station with the longest name in the UK, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwilllantysiliogogoch, and then on to Beaumaris Castle. It was an experience that would not be forgotten by any who attended. Everyone voiced their praises for a very successful camp and all are looking forward to being back next year.

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS



Channel Islands' first camp meeting

Guernsey and Jersey are two among the several islands that form the Channel Islands. Often known for being tax-safe havens for numerous off-shore accounts, these islands that form part of the South England Conference may seem far from the minds of members within this territory. However, with the demand for qualified accountants and taxation specialists, in recent years there has been a surge of overseas personnel filling these positions. Among these are Seventh-day Adventists from Zimbabwe, Uganda and South Africa, with the result that there are now over 30 Adventists worshipping together each week.

So, from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 August, for the first time Adventists from both islands held a spiritual retreat on the tranquil island of Herm under the theme – 'Pioneers, glow in the dark'. This was a special time for members to commune with God in nature, away from the everyday hustle and bustle of the city life and the distractions that come with it. Under the guidance of Pastor Richard Daly from the British Union Conference, the two-day programme was enjoyed by all.

On the Friday almost all the members and other visitors from Jersey and Guernsey arrived in Herm on the mid-afternoon ferry. Setting up the campsite was quickly completed, leaving the rest of the afternoon for friends to catch up on things.

The children were happy to be able to play without any hindrances. By sunset all was set for the vespers service, which was held at St Tugual's Chapel. Members were delighted to witness a beautiful sunset over the ocean – a credit to the handiwork of God. The Sabbath morning devotional started at 6am with members thanking God for the day and praying for His guidance of its activities.

More campers arrived from Guernsey, plus some day visitors. With singing only allowed after 10am, the second programme for the day, at 9am, was the Sabbath School lesson. Later, as songs of praise resonated from the small chapel, various visitors to the island could be seen peering through the chapel to witness this jubilant congregation offering praise to their God.

Pastor Daly then preached about prayer, using the example of how

A harvest/birthday celebration in Exeter

Harvest Festival was celebrated in Exeter Church on 9 September. Romolà Lorek and Stella Jeffery prepared the church by arranging the donated food and flowers. The non-perishable food was later given to St Petrock's, which is a charity helping the homeless in Exeter – one that is supported by the church on a regular basis. A basket of fruit was also taken to the Lilacs, a residential home where our members conduct services on special occasions during the year.

Pastor Lorek's service of praise was inspiring and he based his thoughts on Psalm 145, concluding with some thoughts on the final spiritual harvest.

After the service there was a celebratory fellowship lunch in the church hall, both for the physical harvest and for Pastor Lorek, who had celebrated his 60th birthday the Sunday before. The Exeter church expressed their appreciation for his life and ministry. Stella Jeffery described him as a 'dedicated and sincere minister with the heart of a pastor'. She presented him with a birthday cake and a book on the photography in Cornwall and Devon on behalf of the church. The church members wish him God's continued blessings in the years ahead.

STELLA JEFFERY



couples engage in conversation, then going on to teach about the levels of communication which should be applied in our prayer life and the related distractions that we have to guard against. He also emphasised the need for persistence in prayer, as depicted in the story of the unjust judge of Luke 18:1-8.

After lunch, the lessons were in the sunny outdoors. Adventurers and Pathfinders embarked on a Bible-themed treasure hunt with clues scattered across the island, while the adults had their Bible study, led by Pastor Daly, on how to be better marriage partners. After the lessons, the group had the opportunity of a nature walk to explore the beachline.

Back at the campsite, it was now time for the men to prepare dinner, giving the ladies a chance to relax. They lived up to expectations, producing a delicious meal of chapatti and beans.

With the approval of the campsite owners, the day ended on a high note as the closing service was held at the campsite in front of the other campers. Pastor Daly called on our members to give personal testimonies as a way of thanking God for all His providence, which seemed to be well-received.

On Sunday morning the early devotional was presented by Chido Chibaya, who spoke on being light bearers in our different walks of life so that we may lead others to Christ through our conduct. After breakfast it was time for the final meeting: a message by Pastor Daly based on 2 Kings 6:24-7:20. Then, after packing and saying their 'goodbyes', the group left for home.

This was truly a blessed time together and the members are looking forward to next year's camp.

GARETH AND TAPIWA

An opinion . . .

Dear Editor

I recently read in the *Adventist Steward* magazine that in many African countries people pull out their mobile phones in church, when it is offering time, and pay their tithe and offerings at that very moment. Although I am not sure whether I would be entirely happy with that, I feel that we do need to encourage the use of that technology. It would help to reduce the large amounts of money that have to be carried to the bank each week. I feel that we in the NEC are well behind in that respect. Many times as church treasurer I get asked, 'How can I pay my tithe direct to the Conference?' I know it can be paid by direct debit, but not everyone has the same wage every payment day. It can also be paid by credit card by contacting the treasurer, but again not everyone is happy with that.

A further quote from the same magazine: 'In today's world, there is a continent that did not exist in Jesus' day, i.e. the digital continent. The world has changed, and, if we are to be obedient to the Great Commission, we need to go where the people are. The wise use of technology is therefore an imperative.'

JOHN MCGOLDRICK (BRADFORD CENTRAL TREASURER)

Holloway strives for 'inclusivity'!

On 22 July all Holloway Church members – both able and disabled – rejoiced at the progress their church has made in making itself and its mission inclusive.

That Sabbath the church received a practical demonstration of inclusivity as members facing neuro-physiological challenges 'stepped up' to participate in songs, readings, poetry and preaching.

It was also a day of good news when Pastor Vince Goddard informed members that the church had successfully purchased a vehicle equipped to transport less able members and those using wheelchairs. This had been on the agenda for many years and the news was well received.

Not only was it a day of participation and good news, but it was also a day of rejoicing as Pastor Goddard baptised Ben Ridgwell, with family and friends looking on. Ben made



contact with the Holloway church through his search of the internet to find a church which followed the Bible and its teachings.

The service was augmented with messages from the SEC President, Dr Emmanuel Osei; the SEC Church Growth Director, Pastor Brian Martin; and the SEC Director for Disability and

Diversity, Sophia Nicholls.

Holloway is trying to meet the needs of all: it has a loop system for those using hearing aids; is busy developing a team for British Sign Language (BSL) users and a system for 'befriending'; and is refurbishing its building to allow comfortable access for all who wish to worship.

EMEKA NWOKOYE (COMMUNICATIONS)

Wolverhampton Teens' Day

On Sabbath 29 July, Wolverhampton Central held its Teens' Day, using the theme, '23:59 – It's Almost Time'.

The day 'kicked off' with a discussion of the potential challenges teens face when sharing the Word of God.

Jabari Douglas, a local teenager, then preached on what teens need to do to be ready for the end times, using Matthew 25:1-13 to illustrate his message.

In the afternoon we looked at what things teens may face during the end times and our ultimate aim of reaching the kingdom of God. The teens were also tested on their knowledge about the end times and those things that were learnt throughout the day. This was done in the form of a quiz using the Kahoot app, and also through a skit by the teens.

The day concluded with an evening of praise during which a variety of musical items brought glory and honour to God.

A number of teens said how good the day was, using comments like 'enriching and we gained a blessing'; 'It was good seeing our own age group put on a great day'; and, 'It was good to see teens take an active role in church.'

CALEB TAYLOR-GRANT



Visit of Dr Clarence Ing, MD

Dr Clarence Ing, MD, and his wife, May, spent one week touring seven venues in Birmingham during the National Diabetes Week (11-17 June). They shared valuable information and gave hope to many suffering modern lifestyle diseases, especially type 2 diabetes.

Dr Ing is the Medical Director of the Weimar Centre of Health and Education's NEWSTART lifestyle programme, and board-certified in ophthalmology and preventative medicine. He has developed corporate wellness programmes for a number of large organisations with the objective of improving fitness in the workforce.

He and his wife gave helpful presentations to groups of Adventist members and visitors from the community who had been engaged through door-to-door visiting, leaflet-dropping to homes close to the various venues, etc.

Many of the volunteers engaged in various events that are part of the Mission to the Cities (Birmingham) had also given flyers to health expo attendees, family, friends, work colleagues and other community contacts who they felt would benefit from increased knowledge on how they could better control and potentially reverse type 2 diabetes.

Dr and May Ing's series of inspirational presentations has encouraged this team to run more health-related events, including



diabetes-reversal and weight-management programmes and cooking classes, all of which will enable the cycle of friendship to gain momentum.

JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL

Barbara turns 90

On Sabbath 2 September St Austell Church were delighted to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of our oldest members, Barbara Leigh, who has worshipped with us for many years. Despite being unable to come to church so often, her flower arrangements regularly add to the blessings of our worship. Pastor Alan Hodges, an old friend, preached in the morning and later spoke about her wonderful hospitality towards him and others when she was living and working in Watford. Her long-time friend, June Slarke (née Meredith), sat by her side.

The occasion was celebrated with a lovely lunch, 90th birthday balloons, and Barbara's cutting of her cake.

It's always a pleasure to have older members with us who continue to serve the church and participate as much as they are able.

FRIDA PEAKE



1960s Newboldians reconnect

Over 100 former staff and students travelled from as far away as Australia, the United States, and across Europe to attend a 1960s reunion at Newbold on the first weekend of August. The event attracted over twice the number of attendees as had the 1960s reunion in 2013.

The weekend opened with a campus tour hosted by College Principal, Dr John Baildam, who pointed out recent renovations and campus developments, including the installation of biomass boilers, and spoke about planned improvements and enhancements to the campus. He also updated attendees about what each building is currently used for, the programmes we offer and where they are housed.

The Friday evening programme opened with a welcome from Dr Baildam, who highlighted changes at the college since 2013. Dr Baildam spoke about the college's current leadership, and updated the group on Newbold's partnership arrangements with external universities as well as the college's accreditation awarded by external bodies. He also spoke about recent campus renovation projects, several of which had been made possible through donations and bequests from friends, alumni and a former colleague, and he announced plans for the refurbishment and upgrade of the ground floor of Moor Close to provide improved dedicated conference facilities (subject to approval from the Listed Buildings authorities) – also thanks to a bequest.

Dr Jerry Hoyle, 1960s alumnus and President of the Newbold College Council, also spoke to the group. He outlined the inception of the council, which exists to advise and

consult with the principal, to assist in the development and the enhancement of the college, and to promote Newbold as a higher education institution. Dr Hoyle also outlined several projects at the college that had benefited from funds supplied by the council, including Moor Close Lodge and the Smith Centre.

During the Friday evening programme attendees also had the opportunity to share their memories with the group, with stories ranging from a Mini on the stage in Salisbury Hall to Marmite being mistaken for chocolate spread!

A special round of applause was given when the group realised that Dr John Woodfield, former head of the college's English Department, who was to celebrate his 101st birthday in September, was in attendance.

Sabbath was opened with prayer and praise through song, performed by Valerie Fidelia (née Westwood) and accompanied by Mark Bond, a musician visiting with the Wedgwood Trio. This was followed by a meditation about 'leaving home' and 'coming home' from Helen Pearson (née Cooper).

During the formal Sabbath School programme Garth Anthony spoke about his time in mission service, giving examples of the way that various communities he had worked with had created their own missions, and emphasising the need to rethink mission.

The speaker at the main service was Dr Jan Paulsen, who spoke on the theme of how to relate to and deal with unsettling things in the Church. He gave examples of discontent and conflict and emphasised the need for us to see ourselves as pilgrims, and explained



Drs Paulsen and Woodfield

that the Church is a house for sinners to which all can belong as we search. Dr Paulsen stressed that 'He will teach you if you don't construct roadblocks [such as criticism, anger, perfectionism, etc]. The Church is meant to be a place of healing, safety and security. . . . Discovery of truth is a task God gave to all of us. We need openness, freedom, mutual respect and a safe place to learn. God is a God of second chances.'

The service also featured special music from a choir made up of around 25 alumni, led by Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett, Head of Newbold's Department of Business and Humanities, and from Seka Bečević (née Dedić), former music teacher at the college, on the organ.

Iconic Adventist musicians and Newbold 1960s alumni, the Wedgwood Trio – Jerry Hoyle, Bob Summerour, and Don Vollmer, accompanied by Mark and Conna Bond – gave a concert on Saturday evening, which was open to all. The first half of the concert was held in a worship style, but after sunset attendees were also treated to a wide selection of lively music.

On Sunday the group travelled to Windsor for a boat trip on the Thames, as the weekend came to a close after lunch.

KIRSTY WATKINS (PUBLICATIONS AND ALUMNI RELATIONS CO-ORDINATOR)



Reconnecting with the family of God

'Reconnection with the family of God' was the theme of Hackney Church's Homecoming Day on Sabbath 26 August. The special day was held at the All Saints church – just a stone's throw away – in anticipation of a bigger congregation, as many had been invited. A mime performance by Hackney's children to the gospel song 'Changed (Never Going Back)' had the audience captivated, while a rendition of 'Amazing Grace' sung by Joel Otokpa, accompanied by his twin brother, Daniel, on the trumpet, prepared hearts and minds for the message which followed.

In a passionate message entitled 'From Egypt to Canaan' Hackney's pastor, Joojo Bonnie, encouraged those who had returned home to never look back, but keep their eyes firmly focused on the One who redeemed them from sin.

The Hackney choir then sang the soul-stirring 'The Potter's House', which reminded the audience that they are to give the Potter (God) the fragments of their broken lives knowing that He, as Creator, wants to put the broken pieces back together again.

The day concluded with a musical based on the story of the prodigal son, but with a twist – the prodigal being a pastor who, having spent most of his time with his flock, failed to realise his neglect of his family and the adverse impact it would have on his ministry and home life.

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

Dr Herbert preaches abroad

Watershed Camp Meeting in Zimbabwe (13-19 August) was a Spirit-filled experience with the theme, 'Reach the World: Live With Hope', and attended by more than 650 people.

There were six visiting pastors who spoke to different groups. Among them was Dr Patrick Herbert of the North England Conference, who spoke to both the youth and adult audiences. While her husband preached, Ann-Marie Herbert sang songs that helped convict the heart and lead people to Christ.

The highlight of the camp was Dr Herbert's Sabbath morning sermon, during which 20 people publicly accepted Jesus. That very afternoon 18 people were baptised, for which we glorify God.

PASTOR TATENDA MACHAMIRE (EAST ZIMBABWE CONFERENCE)



Celebrating milestones

Within the North England Conference (NEC), Sabbath 2 September was a time for churches to pause and praise God for our children. It was a time to celebrate milestones, with special emphasis being placed on Year 7s 'Coming of Age': for at this stage the 11-to-12-year-old child will usually experience a period of physical growth at a faster rate than any other time in life, except infancy. This will be accompanied by a series of major bodily and hormonal changes in preparation for puberty, as well as increasingly advanced cognitive skills and emotional maturity. At this time they will have an amazing capacity for learning and the ability to think hypothetically, reason and use the skills they develop.

'Among the Jews the twelfth year was the dividing line between childhood and youth. On completing this year a Hebrew boy was called a son of the law, and also a son of God. He was given special opportunities for religious instruction, and was expected to participate in the sacred feasts and observances.' Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 75.

God directed me to write and launch the Coming of Age Programme in 2015. Three years on and I praise Him for the impact it is making on children and, indeed, the entire church family. It is an annual programme, a time to engage in prayer, sharing, reflecting and instruction. Each child is presented with a 'Coming of Age' pack consisting of six books:

1. *What We Believe: Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs for Teens*
2. *The Desire of Ages: Humble Hero*, by Ellen G. White
3. *Guide's Greatest Mission Stories*, by Lori Peckham
4. *Jesus*, by Christine Miles
5. *Body Beautiful: A Concise Book of Health for Teens*, by Sharon Platt-McDonald
6. *God's Little Book of Bible Promises*, by Richard Daly

Following a year of study the children will graduate at the next 'Coming of Age' service. This programme helps children to understand their identity as children of God. Praise God, it has resulted in children accepting God into their lives more readily.

PASTOR PATRICIA DOUGLAS

What is your name?

What is your name? We all have names, and our names have meaning. Our names tie in to our identity, and this was the theme of Children's Day at Camp Hill on 2 September.

The Children's Department put on a lovely programme that was filled with a lot of content, not just good for the children but for the adults/parents in the congregation too.

As per Children's Day tradition the children led most of the programme. They sang, did a play and took part in Sabbath School, and the Young Hope choir took care of all the singing items. The children also led the song service. They encouraged the adults to stand and do the actions with them and they never ran out of songs to sing throughout the day. It was a blessed experience, as we are to be like children (Matthew 18:3) and this service reminded us of *why* and *how*.

The children are also going through changes: entering Reception, Year One and Year Seven. You will remember that these are all transition years, years when you encountered something new and it was all a little scary. For this reason the Children's Department dedicated parts of the programme to introducing the children to their new school year, and gave them special packs and some well-needed advice. In the afternoon the Year Sevens received further advice from adults in the congregation and got to hear the experiences of the children who were now going into Year Eight.

The event enhanced the feeling of family in the church, reminding the church that our children need their prayers and support as they encounter new challenges.

Pastor P. Douglas, NEC Children's Ministries Director, was the speaker for the day, and her sermon was on the importance of names. She spoke about Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah and the importance of their names, and the difference in meaning when those names were changed. When in Hebrew their names spoke of God, but when in Akkadian they spoke of the Babylonian gods. She highlighted how identity is tied to our names, but how, even so, God is in control, and that with prayer we may be used by God.

Clement Morgan made this perceptive comment about the event: 'We always say our children are the future of the church – that statement is true, but insufficient. Our children are part of the church – now – and we'll lose them if we don't minister well to them today. This means we have to give them the best.'

CLIFTON HAYDEN (CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADER)



Camp Hill children



Camp Hill children – Noah's Ark



Camp Hill's platform party with an enthusiastic Pastor Patricia Douglas



Camp Hill's very own cherubs



Bradford's 'Coming of Age' programme

This year our special 'Young Girls' Coming of Age Programme' was held on Sabbath 9 September and organised by Bradford Central Church's Women's Ministry and Children's Ministries Departments. Our theme for this year was 'Declaring the Goodness of the Lord' and was attended by 17 girls aged between 11 and 18, led by three staff members who are really passionate about making a difference in the lives of young girls (Bekezela Kweswa, Ottilia Tozana and Gloria Manchisi).

Several topics were discussed, including 'Jesus and Me'; 'Confidence' (being who you are); 'Focus' (school and your future); 'Healthy Esteem'; 'Self-love and Appreciation'; 'Goal-setting and Discipline'; 'Social Media'; and 'Boys' (how the girls should relate to them).

The event also included a fun-filled sleepover, inspiring singing and a devotional.

RUDO CHENGETA (WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADER)



Bournville VBS

Bournville Church held a Vacation Bible School for local children at West Heath Community Centre from 24 to 27 July. The theme for the week was 'God the Creator' and the purpose of the VBS was to help the community's children learn more about their Maker. The programme was opened by Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma.

Throughout the week the children lustily sang choruses and hymns that reminded them of their Maker during the devotional periods. Besides this the days were packed with exercises, nature walks, craft activities, and help with various subjects (literacy, numeracy and science) to aid with their summer homework.

Parents and carers were kept busy helping the children with their activities and ensuring that the environment was conducive to the learning process. The children spent Monday to Wednesday at the community centre and on Thursday they travelled to Thinktank in Birmingham. The museum was packed with different items that could be interpreted to support the various days of creation, of which the planetarium show was a highlight for the children. The VBS climaxed with graduation on the Sabbath, and we thank God for His grace and mercy throughout the week, and for the visiting children and parents who attended.

SHARLENE SMITH-GRIFFITHS (CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER)



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Coming of Age Service at Manor Sheffield

On Sabbath 2 September, Manor Sheffield Church celebrated a *Coming of Age Service* for the first time. Pastor Ikwisa and his family joined them and his sermon dealt with ensuring that Jesus was at the centre of our living. We thank God for our young people and the life they give our church.

ANDREW YESUDIAN



'Going for Gold'

'Going for Gold' was the theme for Pendeford Church's week-long holiday playscheme that got off to a 'winning gospel aerobic-style' start led by Dionne Augustine. Children explored the race recorded in 1 Cor. 9:24-27 under five headings – Prepare, Choose, Endure, Focus and Success (and nothing less) with God as the ultimate coach.

They also learned about British athletes such as Eric Liddell, Harold Abrahams, Laura Trott, Andy Murray and Mo Farah, who all overcame much to achieve gold medals. The theme song – 'Now we're running the race with Jesus' – helped embed this message in the children's minds.

Working with her team of 15 CRB-checked volunteers, Anna-Lee Fyffe's vision of successfully connecting with families from the local community was realised. About 33 youngsters aged 6-14 attended the playscheme from 10am to 3.30pm each day to enjoy a programme that featured arts and crafts such as the making of badges, T-shirts, bags, cars, scrapbooks, and the baking of cookies and the blending of healthy smoothies. The children were kept active with Olympic-style games and swimming, and the highlight was the creation of feature films and photography led by Dalton Sutherland and Paul South, respectively. That brought lots of laughter and truly captured the fun that was experienced by all.

One parent gave her feedback: 'Your playscheme is fab and all your staff are so friendly. If you do this scheme again next year our kids will come again!'

So if you are on the lookout for an awesome summer holiday playscheme in the Wolverhampton area that is affordable, with very good to excellent ratings, come rain or shine – then register your interest and join the waiting list via email to going4gold7@gmail.com.

ANNA-LEE FYFFE

Stratford Church's Funday impact

On Sunday, 6 August, Stratford Church Community and Health Ministries, in association with Newham Council's team, once again took to the streets of Stratford to serve the local community.

Services offered included blood pressure, BMI and dental checks, CPR training, peak expiratory flow evaluations, free 100%-natural juices, and nutritional advice. T-shirts were for sale for Grenfell Tower, food and drinks were sold for a donation, and there was face painting for the children. If this were not enough to bring out the crowd, there was also a stage show which included aerobics, salsa lessons, the Hyland House mime group, Ella and Eva Dawson, and acts from the Area 6C School of Music, along with our very own gospel DJ.

With nobody being able to walk past us without pausing for the free services, to buy some food or watch the live performances, approximately 600 members of the community were able to access what we had to offer, along with approximately 400 goodie bags we gave out. We would like to thank all our sister churches in London for all the help and support that made this day the success that it was. *SACHA GILLIN*



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obituaries

Brenda Youngman (1930-2017).

Brenda Youngman was born in Bournemouth on 25 March 1930, to George Norman. She was the sister of two brothers, Allan and Gerald, both of whom became pastors. In like manner, Brenda felt called to a life of service for the Lord, and attended Newbold College between 1944 and 1953, taking time out in-between to care for her sick stepmother. It was not until 1954 that she graduated from the Bible Instructor's Course and commenced employment with the South England Conference, working at the London New Gallery Centre with evangelists Elmer Folkenberg, Russell Kranz, and Victor Hall.

While serving at the New Gallery Brenda met George Youngman, and they were married at the Holloway church in 1957. They were blessed later with two daughters, Jean and



Sheila, and settled in Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire. During the 1970s Brenda served for a time as the cook at Stanborough Park School, and the couple became charter members of the St Albans church.

George and Brenda's dream was to serve and grow their church. Brenda demonstrated her love for and knowledge of Scripture while serving as an enthusiastic Sabbath School teacher who gently prodded her class to grow in faith. In her role as deaconess, she touched many a life by her care and prayers.

A caring listener Brenda was, without doubt, but she combined this with a terrific energy that was punctilious and industrious. Her faith held 'constant' even when life situations became fragile. The greater the challenge, the more she served. One year, fifty mittens were knitted for children in Rwanda, not to mention those knitted for every child born within her sphere of influence: in addition to which, family, friends and neighbours

(not forgetting Stanborough pupils) frequently enjoyed the best of her meals.

As family and friends gathered together recently at the St Albans church to celebrate her life, they heard Pastor Patrick Boyle share words of hope from Revelation 21, reminding them of the promise that Brenda would soon meet the Person who was the Source of, as one friend described, 'her great kindness and generosity to everybody'. She was a reminder of this oft-quoted statement in our community of faith: 'The badge of Christianity is not an outward sign, not the wearing of a cross or a crown, but it is that which reveals the union of man with God. . . . The strongest argument in favour of the gospel is a loving and loveable Christian.' (Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 470.) Brenda was just that.

PASTOR DAVID NEAL

Leta Kathleen Bunker (1925-2017) d. 18 June. Leta Kathleen Bunker (née Bishop) was born in Plymouth on 31 May 1925 and died on 18 June 2017 at her home in Tavistock, Devon, after a relatively short illness. Leta was the oldest of two sisters born to Bill, a self-employed builder, and Leta, who kept a dairy business.

Leta's primary education was at Fletewood School in Plymouth, where she first became acquainted with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and finished her secondary education at Plymton Grammar School. With the advent of World War II Leta joined the WAAF, training at

Cranwell and having postings as a teleprinter operator in Northern Ireland and Bristol, achieving the rank of corporal before demobilisation.

When Leta's sister died at 17 she returned to Plymouth on compassionate leave to help support her parents. After the end of World War II she came home to Plymouth and became a secretary at Reid's, the main Ford dealership, followed by bookkeeping for the Bunker family motor business, where she met her future husband, Ken.

Leta took a short break from work in Plymouth to work at the Granose health food factory (Watford), and attended the Stanborough Park church – where she sang in the choir and enjoyed a wide circle of lifelong friends. She and Ken kept in touch by frequent letters and the occasional visit to Watford!

Back in Plymouth, after a couple of years in Watford, Leta enjoyed further church-associated social gatherings, especially Leigham Camp, where more lifelong friendships were made.

Ken and Leta were married on 19 July 1949 in the Plymouth church, the service conducted by Pastors Ronald Bonney and Gordon Hyde (she used to joke that it took two of them!), and Ken's organ teacher played the organ. Moving to Grenofen and later in the 1950s to Tavistock they continued the motor business, with John joining the business in 1970. Leta kept the accounts until her fairly recent relinquishment of those duties at the age of 91! Ken died in 2006,

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just short of 57 years of marriage.

The Bunker family attended Plymouth Church until the early 1970s, and then Liskeard Church, where Ken became the organist, and Leta, in the mid 1980s, the church treasurer. She also took the responsibility of arranging the flowers for church services and the making of the bread for communion very seriously. Leta was nursed through her illness by her daughter, Penelope, son, John, and his wife, Tina. Attendance at the funeral held in Tavistock Methodist Church showed the love and esteem in which Leta was held by her family and her community. The service was conducted by the writer with the participation of Pastor Clifford Herman and a Methodist minister, the Reverend Paul Smith, before interment in the family grave at Tavistock Cemetery.

The family wish to thank relatives and friends for all their support during Leta's illness and since. We can with confidence look forward to the soon return of our Saviour Jesus, at which time Penelope, John and Tina will be reunited with Leta and Ken among the resurrected of all ages.

PASTOR R. J. B. WILLIS



Esther Baker (née Woodhouse) (1915-2017) d. 9 August.

Esther was one of nine children born to Albert and Laura Woodhouse on 29 March 1915 in Edmonton, North London.

Her parents became Seventh-day Adventists in 1910 after a dear old gentleman came to their door with a little paper called *Present Truth*. They opened their home for meetings and 18 Bounces Road became their church until 1931. The church was supplied by ministers from the Conference and also mature students from Stanborough Park College, which was 16 miles away. They often stayed to lunch and joined the family around the big table for a meal.

Esther was baptised in 1929 by Pastor Roy Alan Anderson during his evangelistic campaigns on Wood Green Empire, London. Most of Esther's brothers and sisters were also baptised.

One Sabbath Pastor George Keough came to preach, and over lunch asked Mr Woodhouse if he would be willing to send two of his daughters to college. The college was moving from Stanborough Park to Newbold Revel in Warwickshire and could take more students, so Mary, aged 19, and Esther, aged 16, had the

privilege of a year there.

It was there that Esther met Harold, who became her husband for 69 years until his death in 2004. Esther and Harold were married by Pastor Robert Joyce, and Pastor Baylis was best man. Esther and Harold then moved to Newport in South Wales, where his parents lived. They soon settled into the church there and made many friends. In 1937 their daughter was born, whom they named Avril. Three years later John was born, followed 10 years later by Stephen. These children brought much joy into the family.

Esther was very active at church, where she served the Lord in many departments: organist, deaconess and children's teacher.

The past few years have been difficult for Esther and she had to have care due to her ill health.

She passed away peacefully on 9 August, aged 102 years.

The funeral took place on 30 August at Newport Church and the service was conducted by Pastor Paul Lockham, assisted by Brian Phillips.

Esther was loved by many; she was a quiet, kind lady whose greatest joy was serving others and the Lord.

She was laid to rest at Christchurch Cemetery beside her husband Harold, awaiting the call of the Life Giver on that glorious day when she will be reunited with her loved ones.

AVRIL BELL (DAUGHTER)

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Celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation: with all its good intentions, can religion be misleading?

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500 years later, each individual in this world is able to share their religious convictions with the whole world through YouTube and numerous other social media tools.

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LAURA FULLER

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