



Better together

With many UK cities currently facing a homelessness crisis, and at a time when division and mistrust among people are high, we share with you a report from High Wycombe of members recently recognised for bringing communities together.



For seven years running, Wycombe Community Church has opened its doors to be a safe environment and a haven for the homeless during the winter months, from January until the end of March.

Each Monday evening, the church provides approximately 12 male and female guests with warm beds, hot drinks and a cooked meal, plus breakfast. Together with other local churches, members volunteer to work in shifts, giving their time and care to interact with the homeless guests in the evening. The night volunteers stay awake during the night to ensure the safety and well-being of the guests.

Joel Williams, the coordinator from Wycombe Community Church, said: 'This is a great success.' He continued to say: 'It gives me great satisfaction knowing that, when the homeless come to us, we can help them to keep safe and provide hot meals and a warm bed.' Recently interviewed on BBC Three Counties Radio, Joel gained this response from the host of the show, Edward Adoo. 'We live in crazy times where religion divides us for the best and worst reasons, but this, in particular, has brought everyone together in High Wycombe to support the homeless.'

At the recent South England Conference Evangelism Expo in January, Wycombe Community Church was one of 14 churches presented with a certificate of distinction by the Community Services Department of the British Union Conference.

Wycombe Community works in collaboration with The Wycombe Homeless Connection (WHC). The WHC is a registered charity tackling homelessness in High Wycombe, providing support for all High Wycombe churches.

SONIA LEE



Edward Adoo

'Faith operates in two different ways in the world today. One is as a source of compassion, and the other is, "This is my faith, and if you are not like me then you're my enemy."'

*Tony Blair,
Ridge on Sunday,
10 February 2019*

'Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:40, ESV



ADRA UK
Annual Appeal 2019

Annual Appeal 2019
30 March to 14 April, UK
(21 April in Greater London).

Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ, England
Tel. +44(0)30 30 40 10 17
Registered charity 1074937 (SC037726 – IOM1101)

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The therapeutic benefits of kindness – Part 4

Social and spiritual impact

This final article on the health benefits of kindness highlights some key social and spiritual outcomes.

As you read, please pause to contemplate those kind acts you may have undertaken or been the recipient of, and the impact they had on your relationship and interaction with others. Also think about how they may have impacted your expression of faith.

Relational benefits

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German writer and statesman, described kindness as *'the golden chain by which society is bound'*.¹

In analysing the social effects of kindness, research has revealed how relationships can be positively impacted. One report makes the following evaluation: 'The positive effects of kindness are experienced in the brain of everyone who witnessed the act, improving their mood and making them significantly more likely to "pay it forwards"'. This means one good deed in a crowded area can create a domino effect and improve the day of dozens of people!²

The Mental Health Foundation, in their report entitled 'Doing Good Does You Good', highlighted the fact that kindness helps improve relationships by reducing the distance between individuals.³

In the same report, the following observations were made:

- Kindness brings a sense of belonging and reduces isolation, especially when one is part of a social network.
- Face-to-face activities such as volunteering at drop-in centres can reduce loneliness and isolation.
- Kind acts can improve confidence, self-control, happiness and optimism among individuals.

- Acts of kindness are contagious. They can encourage others to repeat the good deeds they have experienced themselves. This contributes to a more positive community.

Spiritual benefits

In the book *The Healing Power of Doing Good: The Health and Spiritual Benefits of Helping Others*,⁴ principal author Allan Luks and supporting author Peggy Payne highlight the increased happiness levels in faith groups who express kindness.

Psalm 41:1 mirrors this:

'Oh, the joys of those who are kind to the poor! The LORD rescues them when they are in trouble.' (NLT.)

As an expression of our faith and Christian virtue, Galatians 5:22, 23 lists kindness as a fruit of the Spirit.

The ultimate act of kindness was expressed through God's unconditional love for us through the gift of His Son Jesus, who gave His life for us, so we could be saved eternally. God wants us to exemplify His love to others also. Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) states: *'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.'*

Good health!

¹ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/98567-kindness-is-the-golden-chain-by-which-society-is-bound>

² <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/the-science-of-kindness>

³ <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/doing-good-does-you-good>

⁴ https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/692153.The_Healing_Power_of_Doing_Good

3

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WELSH MISSION: David Rancic, 07837195381, drancic@adventist.wales

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North England Conference Vacancy

Internal Financial Controls Officer

Closing date – 12 noon, Friday 31 March 2019.

JOB PROFILE This is a new role which reports to the NEC Treasurer. Its main focus is to strengthen the existing governance of financial management and to review the day-to-day internal financial controls, to ensure that we adhere to policies and procedures that achieve and maintain the highest standards expected of our organisation. Recommendations will be made by the officer in line with best practice and statutory requirements, supporting the NEC Treasurer to control internal operations. Key competencies include delivering improvements, providing relevant guidance to the NEC officers, directors and employees, and leading by example.

PERSON SPECIFICATION The officer will be a baptised member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with a good understanding of its organisational culture and structure. He/she must be educated to degree level in accounting, finance or business, or hold a related professional qualification and have experience of working in a corporate environment. Up-to-date practical working knowledge in the areas of expertise as outlined above is key. He/she will have sound numeracy and communication skills, as well as being proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. The successful candidate will have line management experience and leadership qualities to delegate for the Treasurer as required.

APPLICATIONS

For full details of the position, please email: Alan Hush, Executive Secretary: ahush@necadventist.org.uk. Interested applicants should email their curriculum vitae in the first instance to Alan Hush.

Please note: the interview process will be a three-stage process.



Just one suitcase . . .

Packing, leaving, moving, arriving and unpacking – this is a ritual that our church's pastoral and missionary families just have to become accustomed to. For example, since Elize and I began our ministry in 1974 we have moved 14 times, with 7 of those moves in the first six years!

These *relocation rituals* are generally hard on spouses and children. They disrupt schooling and usually have a negative effect on the social life of older children and teenagers. They, more often than not, play havoc with the spouse's career prospects and the family's finances, not to mention the development of a negative attitude among pastoral families towards individual 'administrators' and 'the organisation' in general!

Relocation has an upside . . .

I believe, however, that, despite the obvious drawbacks of frequent moves, the process of **packing, leaving and moving can be therapeutic!** 'Really?' I hear you say.

'Yes!' is my emphatic answer – even if you're not part of a pastoral family – and here's why.



They only take what they can carry.

It forces us to 'take stock' of what we own and the condition that it's in.

According to one definition of 'stock-taking' or 'inventory checking', it is 'the physical verification of the quantities and condition of items held in an inventory or warehouse'.¹ At first glance it may seem like a rather pointless exercise to count boxes of screws, tins of beans, or pairs of socks. However, that is a critical part of the process by which businesses determine their **net worth**. Based on the results of such stock-taking, managers can also make informed decisions about the **present profitability** and **future viability** of their businesses!

The process of packing for a move is an opportunity for personal 'stock-taking': the chance to open up our lives to objective scrutiny. Each time I've packed to move, I have been forced to make decisions about the intrinsic value of what I possess, values that are established in response to questions like these: *'When last did I wear these clothes? Don't they look dated? Why are we keeping this food mixer? Its bowl is missing! Do we still need this stained table cloth? And these boxes of old motoring magazines – am I ever going to read them again?'*

Those spanners . . .

Many years ago, a kind elderly gentleman gave me a large wooden box full of well-used tools. I proudly took them home, with every intention of using them for DIY. I soon realised, however, that many of the spanners in that 'Pandora's box' were designed for industrial use – not fiddling with domestic fittings. Well, as the wise among you know, men and their tools are like boys and their toys – inseparable! The result was that I kept those tools far too long – until I had cause to use one of the large spanners and found that they were all forged to long-outdated imperial measurements!² These largely useless tools had followed me around for the best part of two decades! At the next move the box stayed behind – **how therapeutic it was to be rid of those spanners.**

We're about to move again . . .

Our enjoyable stay in the UK is drawing to a close and we will soon be packing for our fifteenth move – this time to retirement in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. All of which reminds me of just how fortunate we are that our employer will ship our belongings there for us: for many do not enjoy that privilege. Around the globe today there are millions on the move. According to *The Guardian*: 'There were 25.9 million refugees and asylum seekers in mid-2017. But registered refugees represent only a fraction of all those forced to leave their homes for reasons spanning from war to environmental crisis. **In total, at least 66 million people globally are experiencing forced displacement.**'³

Just a suitcase . . .

When desperate people suffer forced displacement they usually travel light. All their earthly belongings will be stuffed into a single suitcase or a battered backpack. They only take what they can carry. And, sadly, sometimes they are forced to flee with **only the clothes on their backs.**

As I see the media's images of displaced people trudging through nameless villages and across foreign borders, I wonder if they are not a metaphor to reflect on? Something visible and tangible that speaks to a greater religious and deeply spiritual reality. After all, the history of God's people is largely **a saga of displacement** – either forced on them by their enemies or directed by God-appointed leaders like Moses – which is so clearly confirmed in Hebrews 11:8-10 and 13 (NIV):

'By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, **even though he did not know where he was going.** By faith he made his home in the promised land **like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents. . . .** For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. . . . All these people [the others he mentions] were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, **admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth!**' (My emphasis.)

L. E. Froom was right when he described our denomination as a *Movement of Destiny*, for we are just that.⁴ We too are part of God's great family of displaced people: for which reason we cannot become too attached to anything on this fragile planet, not even to those few prized things that we could fit into a suitcase. **The only thing God requires us to have is the right clothes on our backs!**

'I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, . . .' (Isaiah 61:10, NIV.)

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stock-taking> ²The only three countries still not using the metric system are Liberia, Myanmar and the USA – <https://www.zmescience.com/other/map-of-countries-officially-not-using-the-metric-system/>

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/sep/10/migration-how-many-people-are-on-the-move-around-the-world>

⁴ *Movement of Destiny* by LeRoy Edwin Froom, Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1971

Time to meet our new editor

I know that many of our readers are eager to learn more about our new editor, Pastor David Neal, who will take up his duties formally at the end of this month when I retire. Here is your chance . . .



Julian: David, please tell our readers about your early life?

David: From an early age, I wanted to be a pastor. Church was an enjoyable place to be. I learnt in Sabbath School, marched in Pathfinders, and loved summer camps. The pastors preached to the times as well as being kind and caring. I watched, I listened – I wanted to be like them, which resulted in my being ‘a bit keen’ about church. At school I was the ‘odd bod’, the lad with the strange faith, who, strangest of all, wanted to be a vicar (their label).

My parents became Adventists in the 1960s from a Salvation Army background. By the 1970s we lived near Oxford, where we attended church with my younger brother. Our church was small and diverse, with about 50 members from all walks in life, many from different parts of the world. Some would be in Oxford for postgraduate study, mainly from the USA or Australia. I found it interesting to watch enquiring minds connect with faith and conviction.

We were a warm, happy church family, who worshipped together and greatly supported each other through the joys and challenges of life. Our pastors served with excellence, each with their unique gifts and styles. My dad served as Pathfinder Leader; my mum, as Welfare Leader. Sabbath School was a dynamic place of learning and spiritual growth with dedicated teachers. Local mission involved distributing tracts, selling magazines door-to-door, and not forgetting the major church calendar outreach event – Ingathering! It was ‘church with

purpose’, all the time quietly shaping me into a confident and, I trust, thinking Adventist. Aged 14, I committed to following Christ.

Julian: You had an early interest in Adventist magazines: why?

David: It started in 1968, on a Sabbath afternoon while my dad was reading the *Adventist Review*. What more can I say? I could hardly read, but those grainy black and white *Review* pictures from distant places began to stir a story about a church with a global reach. When Pastor Ray Vine became the Oxford pastor (a former Stanborough Press editor) he told story upon story of his Stanborough Press years, all in the context of the British church from long ago. We quickly learnt how the publishing ministry was vital to expanding the Kingdom of God. Pastor Vine was also passionately convicted about Adventism’s Reformation heritage. Within walking distance of our church, the Oxford Protestant martyrs (Latimer, Cranmer and Ridley) were burned at the stake. Like the Daniel of Scripture, they were our more recent heroes of faith who stayed faithful to biblical truth. We were to do likewise. A worldview and an identity were forming.

Julian: How did you enjoy your Newbold experience?

David: Julian, in the years immediately running up to Newbold, for whatever reason, I’d become quite arrogant about my faith. All was black and white, with no grey areas. In a reactive way, I felt called to ‘defend the faith’,

more as the result of ego, I think, than the prompting of the Spirit.

Thankfully, through the commitment of theologically balanced teachers (with many years of experience in pastoral and evangelistic ministry), I was helped to re-calibrate my faith to a deeper level. As with many who grow up Adventist, the ‘law and love combined’ still confused me. For the first time, however, I began to understand the Gospel that is placed at Adventism’s heart in both word and deed. Little did I know then that, within a couple of years of graduating and entering ministry, the beauty and truth of the Gospel would be challenged to the core. Thank you Newbold.

Julian: David, I believe that you began your ministry in the heart of London?

David: I interned as a pastor at the New Gallery evangelistic centre, Regent Street, London. By its very name, the centre had a clear mission and purpose – to reach London people. It was an aim my senior pastor, David Cox, always kept in focus. Every worship service was designed to be visitor-friendly, a value I caught and continue to cherish. At times, we’d have no idea who’d turn up to church from one week to the next. The youth group at the Gallery at the time was the best in the world – not least because that’s where I first met Marci!

Julian: I understand that, in Marci’s case, ‘pastoral visit became pastoral care’?

David: Yes! That’s how my best man at our wedding described the story. Marci, originally from New Zealand, was on a working holiday to London at the time. Having now been on a journey together for 31 years, we have two adult children, Tom and Marc. Tom’s married to Cathy with a one-year-old daughter, Amelia. They live and work in Northern Ireland. Marci’s currently studying in Coventry.

Julian: And from there?

David: From London we moved to East Anglia to serve the Lowestoft and Gorleston district. My ministry moved immediately from looking outward to inward, even though every gene in me wanted to keep focused on mission. However, in reality, holding the church together from one week to the next became the major focus of ministry. Almost 30 years later, it’s a joy to know that both Lowestoft and Gorleston today are vibrant and thriving churches. It’s amazing how the Lord works.

Julian: David, tell us about your lengthy stint in the Irish Mission . . .

David: Yes, fast-forward to serving the Irish Mission. I hope both Marci and I helped grow the work: but I do know with certainty that it grew us – significantly closer to the Lord. I learnt that administrative church leadership without a daily conversation with God is impossible. How do we solve this problem, Lord? What do You really want from this difficult situation? How can we best keep members together? Is the plan on the table in line with Your plan for the Mission? Administrative leadership is a heavy role.

The day my term ended, I definitely felt lighter in spirit. Lifting up our leaders in prayer must be a priority, for the sake of the church. Now, every time I read an article submitted by *Irish Mission News*, my heart misses a beat, and I identify with Paul’s words to the Philippian church, ‘I thank my God every time I remember you’ (Phil. 1:3, NIV). They were truly among the best times of our lives.

Julian: I’m glad that you are my successor; how do you feel?

David: To serve as a pastor is my life aim. As your successor I hope I can be a pastor to our readers, just as you have been. For me, as for any preacher, words are important because they can heal or tear down.



Pastor Ronald V. Edwards (Retired)

Destiny

Life is a journey to a destination, the place to which we intend to travel. Destiny is arriving at our destination, and we decide what that will be. (Read Genesis 24:1-7, 10-21, 23-27, 57-59; it is inspiring!)

When Rebekah awoke that day, things appeared as normal as ever, and I imagine that she committed herself to God’s guidance, as she always did, without question, asking Him to enable her to fulfil faithfully all the duties that the day would bring.

Then she performed her daily tasks with diligence and care, aware that God was guiding her in all she did, and blessing her endeavours.

In the evening her final task was to set off to the well, carrying a heavy water pot. She did not engage in gossip or frivolity as she made her way to the well. She was the first to arrive, and went directly to her appointed task.

Rebekah was completely unaware that this was the day when her life’s destiny would be determined. She simply maintained the constant habit of her life: of cheerful, willing, diligent service.

So it is with us all: *destiny may meet us unannounced – but should not find us unprepared*. Her preparation had been every moment of her life’s experience till then, which had been shaping and fitting her for the destiny to be revealed to her that day. Her attitude, her interests, her actions, her response to others’ needs . . . how nobly were these all displayed as she was confronted by Abraham’s servant and his camels that evening hour.

Camels can drink a lot of water after a journey of over 400 miles; and there were 10 of them! Thirsty camels meant hard work for Rebekah! But that is how destiny presents itself: through opportunities that challenge one to exertion and hard work, demanding effort and commitment.

Do you want to climb a mountain? It will take hard slog and perseverance: higher and yet higher and higher still, and still higher – till eventually you reach the peak. It is a long way to the top! But it really is worth it when you finally arrive! Every joule of effort is repaid a thousandfold by the satisfaction of having made it to the top. The fainthearted are content to watch the struggles of those courageously ascending towards the sky; but they consider it too great an effort to expend, and they remain below. Opportunities are always challenging, or should be; and they present themselves as hard work. How are we shaping up in our day-to-day responsibilities, the calls upon our time, our interests, our service?

Rebekah was not searching for her destiny (she had not come out on a hunt for a husband!) . . . she was simply engaged in her daily duties, which she heartily and conscientiously fulfilled. As we do the same, our destiny will seek us out. Don’t look to do something special or spectacular: do those duties immediately at hand, and more than is expected of you; and your destiny will seek you out, and certainly discover you, as you persevere. There is no greater certainty of your destiny than to do faithfully, diligently and without procrastination the present task confronting you, to the best of your ability.

How willingly and faithfully Rebekah served! How wonderfully and timely God’s providence sought and called her to His chosen destiny for

I don’t think I am speaking out of turn if I sense that, among all the great things going on, there’s also some confusion, misunderstanding, hurt and pain. If there’s a common question I hear above all others it is this: ‘Is there still a place for me in my church?’ I would like *MESSENGER* to be the magazine that answers that question positively.

Julian: David, thank you very much for opening up your heart

to us in this frank and interesting way. Now I am sure you will join me in honouring those men of the pen who have preceded us, not the least of whom was Dr David Marshall.


David: I certainly will, as I am sure many of my pastoral colleagues and our church members will.

Julian, can I also thank you for the opportunity I have had to serve as your ‘apprentice’, albeit for just a few months? It has been invaluable.



her life. Through her descendants our Saviour would become incarnate, to the ultimate blessing and redemption of humanity. What higher destiny could anyone aspire to, or desire to fulfil?

As we fulfil God’s calling in the present moment with integrity and resolution, God Himself commits to care for our needs, and to guide us to that destiny He has in mind for us. Don’t look too high, or too far ahead, but to this present moment, and think: *How can I serve God and my fellow-man just where I am?* Then do so. Think, and pray, till something comes to mind; then act on it each new day. Our destiny is our own choice and decision; it will demand everything we have; but it will be worth it! What a view awaits our efforts and our perseverance! For: ‘Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off’ (Isaiah 33:17, KJV).



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Head Teacher

Required for September 2019

Stanborough Secondary School
Stanborough Park, Watford,
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The British Union Conference invites applications for the position of Secondary Head Teacher, for September 2019.

This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic Head Teacher to be instrumental in leading Stanborough Secondary School through its next steps towards excellence. Stanborough School is an independent co-educational school which has been operating under the motto, 'God is the Master of Our School' since 1919.

It has approximately 40 different nationalities represented among the student body. It promotes values such as respect, courage, resilience and excellence. Parents recognise the school's commitment to holistic teaching and are supportive of the school. The pupils are keen to succeed, and staff continue to work to ensure the best possible outcomes. Many of the school leavers have gone on to follow a variety of distinguished careers and serve in the Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world.

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- Demonstrate understanding of and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy and practice of education.
- Possess good communication and interpersonal skills.

Further details and an application pack are available from:

Kathleen Hanson
Education Director
British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. WD25 9JZ

Tel.: 01923 672251

Email: khanson@adventist.uk

Closing date for applications: Friday 22 March 2019.

Pioneer Taskforce Volunteers wanted!

*The North England Conference
seeks volunteers for the following:*

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Applicants must have a well-rounded knowledge of Seventh-day Adventist teachings, accept them fully and reflect them in their lifestyles. They should also be good communicators (fluent in English), be able to conduct Bible studies, seminars and evangelistic meetings, prepare contacts for baptism and have the ability to minister cross-culturally.

These are voluntary positions for which a stipend will be provided.

Starting date: 17 March 2019.

Minimum term of service: one year,
subject to applicant's suitability.

Closing date for applications: 10 March 2019.

Apply online: email: msimpson@necadventist.org.uk;

Tel: 0115 9606312;

Or, write to: Pastor Michael Simpson, North England Conference, Church Planting Department, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB.



An invitation to express interest

The Stanborough Press Ltd. has a coming vacancy for a **Production Manager**. The board seeks to appoint a person with experience in Publishing, Logistics and Organisational Management.

In order to match the unique requirements of this task with the abilities of aspirants, the management of The Stanborough Press would be pleased to entertain **expressions of interest** in this regard. These may be made in writing to the General Manager at: The Stanborough Press Ltd., Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL; or electronically via eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk.

Please respond by 20 March 2019.

VICTOR PILMOOR, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

2019 ADRA APPEAL

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£200 Will provide outreach and counselling support for **12 women** living with HIV/AIDS in shelters and safe houses.

THAILAND



The Corner Shop Lady

In a Terai village in rural Nepal, a traditionally male-dominated society, Prashina is making her mark. After ADRA provided entrepreneur training, she started a small corner shop in her local village.

'Because we are women, we are often criticised for what we are doing. We are expected to stay home and do housework,' she said.

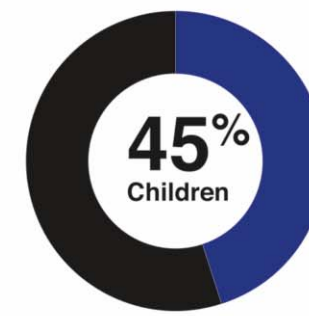
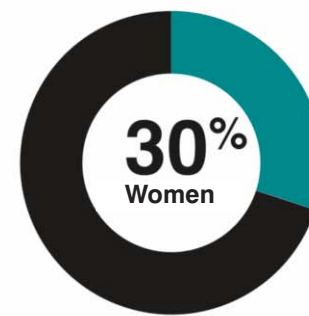
Prashina wants to make a difference in her community by teaching children the importance of equality. 'I used to be very shy and found it hard to speak up; but now I feel confident. I feel like I have found my voice,' Prashina says. 'I want to inspire other women who are currently limited to housework to become entrepreneurs and run their own enterprises.'

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Change in Eswatini (Swaziland)

Sifiso Mkhonta, 69, lives in the Shiselweni region of Eswatini. Sifiso faced challenges accessing seed inputs for his 1 hectare of land, as they were very expensive. Through the ELIVES project, he was able to pay a small price (E250) for inputs worth ten times the amount. His yield was 36 50kg bags of maize, when previously it had been 16. Now he could feed his family of 6, sell the surplus bags to pay for school fees for his grandchildren, and buy inputs for the following year.



Change in Myanmar

Ten-year-old Naw Mu dropped out of school to look after her younger brother and sister at home, taking on more chores such as fetching water and firewood, cooking, washing and so on. 'She is an active and intelligent student at school,' said her former head teacher. 'If my parents can get better jobs and earn more money in the future, I would like to continue my studies and I want to become a teacher,' says Naw Mu. With ADRA's help, Naw Mu will soon go back to school again.



Change in the UK

'John' attended a winter shelter in East London, run by the Stratford Seventh-day Adventist church in partnership with the local council. 'I am homeless,' said John, 'but am grateful for a warm bed, a place to stay and a nice hot meal.' ADRA-UK provided support for this project that gave shelter to 125 people in the borough of Newham.

A life does not get better by chance: It gets better by change.



Change in Thailand

Myint Tun is a refugee migrant worker from Myanmar who lives in Thailand. Working at a mill one day, he lost a finger. His employer did very little to help and eventually fired him. ADRA's project in the region helps migrant workers to have a voice and stand up for their rights. Thanks to ADRA, in the face of adversity and loss, Myint Tun is becoming an empowered advocate for better and safer employment conditions, helping many others.



Change in Sri Lanka

'Two years ago I was admitted at the Dickoya Base Hospital, and I had such a bad experience. The toilets were inaccessible by wheelchairs, there was no water and you could smell the toilets from the next ward. This time, when I fell ill again, I was worried I would experience the same, but I was very pleasantly surprised, since for the first time I could take my wheelchair inside the toilet and use all the facilities with minimal help from my caretaker, and I find this very dignifying. Thanks to ADRA I am no longer worried to go to the bathroom.' - Anuradha



Change in Rwanda

Diane Nyitegeka is 14 years old. In school, her teacher noticed that Diane was not able to read and write in Kinyarwanda. Her teacher put her forward for remedial classes provided by ADRA. Now Diane is able to read and write not only Kinyarwanda, but also some English words. She enjoys reading, and even takes her books to practise writing at home.



Vegetarian Christmas dinner at the Cuisle Centre

A vegetarian Christmas dinner, organised by the Cuisle Centre in Dublin, offered opportunities to build new friendships and to reflect on the importance of telling the story of Jesus again and again, because there really are people who have never heard it before.

Building on a successful Christmas event the previous year, Cuisle Centre staff issued an open invitation to people living in the community around Dublin Ranelagh to attend a Christmas dinner with a vegetarian twist on 19 December.

'Whenever we hold an event like this, we are quite unsure about what attendance we can expect,' says Heather Keough, director of the Cuisle Centre. At 6.55pm there were many seats empty, but then the doors opened, and the visitors piled in. We had twenty-six visitors who have connected with the Cuisle Centre during the year or were friends of some of our regular attenders.

reminded of all the good things in life.'

While in conversation with Pastor Adam, a visitor informed him that her niece had returned home from school and asked, 'Who was this Jesus person that people talked about?' She had never heard of Jesus before. A meaningful conversation followed between Pastor Adam and the visitor. He later remarked that this was a reminder that people really need to hear about the Gospel. We have a very important message for those around us.

'It was so wonderful to see our church members sit with the visitors and truly engage in building relationships and friendships,' reports Heather. 'The evening was a huge success, and we were blessed by all who attended. While we went home exhausted, a fire burns in our hearts to continue to reach out to those around us. I am so thankful to all the volunteers who help at the many different activities in the Cuisle Centre, and look forward to what 2019 has to bring our way. Please pray for our ministry in 2019.'

IRISH MISSION COMMUNICATION WITH HEATHER KEOUGH

A life does not get better by chance: it gets better by change!

How can I help?

- During the ADRA Appeal you can go door-to-door and collect funds, provided you have registered with your local church ADRA agent during the allocated time period.
- You can organise a local fund-raiser, such as a concert or bake-off, or participate in a sponsored sporting activity.
- Alternatively, you can donate funds with a special envelope through your local church, or send in a donation directly to us, or donate online at www.adra.org.uk/donate/.
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Contact

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030 30 40 10 17

Materials

Contact us for our posters, invitations, and sponsorship forms, as well as branded materials that are available for sale.



Because together you make a difference



Hackney delivers Christmas cheer

Hackney's Community Ministries Department ended 2018 by bringing a little Christmas cheer to others. A special Christmas dinner was taken to the homeless and those in need. More than 120 individuals benefited from the hot meals, drinks, blankets, quilts, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and gift bags of toiletries that were distributed, all of which was rounded off by a mouth-watering bread pudding along with traditional mince pies with custard for dessert.

'At this time of year, Christmas can be a joyful occasion for many, while for others it can be a sad and lonely time,' said Vilma Williams, Hackney's Community Ministries leader, adding: 'The community are important to us, and we have been commissioned in Matthew 28 to go to all people; so we see it as our duty to go out and help others less fortunate than ourselves, spreading some Christmas cheer along with the good news of salvation, that Jesus loves and died for us all.'

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

THE NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

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Stanborough Schools' centenary celebrations

Sabbath 6 – Sunday 7 July 2019

On Sabbath 6 and Sunday 7 July 2019, the British Union Conference will be joining Stanborough Primary and Secondary Schools in celebrating 100 years of Adventist education.

In the autumn of 1918, Stanborough College (forerunner to Newbold College) opened an elementary department for the children living on the Stanborough Park estate. The Watford church formally adopted this elementary department and turned it into a church school. When the school opened on 13 January in 1919, thirty-one children presented themselves for enrolment. The school was divided into two divisions and all standards were represented, with a grammar school curriculum followed in the upper division. (*The Missionary Worker*, vol. 23.) The school has continued to serve the church workers and members in the locality, as well as those travelling from further afield.

The purpose of the centenary celebrations is to:

- Celebrate Adventist education and the successes and achievements of Stanborough School, past and present
- Promote Stanborough School and its vision
- Connect past, present and prospective staff, pupils and parents with the church and local community
- Inspire through worship, excellence, creativity and relevance
- Engage through variety, fun, food, friendliness and fellowship for all the family . . . all to the honour and glory of God.

We extend a warm invitation for all past and present (and future) pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school to join us for this special occasion on Stanborough Park.

Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stanborough-schools-centenary-celebrations-tickets-55275091286> to secure your free place and meal for the Sabbath celebration. There will be a variety of food stalls available on the Sunday to purchase from. If you have any articles, anecdotes or photographs you would like to share, please send your information to mkaon@adventist.uk.

Also, if you would like to be added to the schools' alumni database, please send your information to: Stanborough Secondary: alumni@spsch.org; Stanborough Primary: info@stanboroughprimary.org.uk.

We do hope you will be able to attend, and look forward to seeing you then.

KATHLEEN HANSON, BUC EDUCATION DIRECTOR



Perseverance pays

Throughout 2018 the Health and Personal Ministries teams of the Carter Knowle church in Sheffield ran fortnightly vegan/vegetarian cooking demonstrations that were well attended by members of both their church and the local community.

Then, on 10 December last year, they ran a special 'season finale' that was attended by 12 community members who enjoyed the event thoroughly – as did the church members.

The series has been run with the objective of making the church relevant to the surrounding community in a practical and enjoyable way. This seems to be working, because this time the group were so integrated that two of the five cookery demonstrations on this occasion were presented by these now-confident community visitors.

It is worth noting that over many decades the Carter Knowle church had struggled to engage its neighbouring community in any meaningful way, but this now seems to be changing. To God be the glory!

HENRY CHANNER (WITH PHOTOS BY ELVINA LEE)



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People of faith – destroy walls

The Newbold February Diversity Lecture was a sober reminder of the dangers of partial storytelling in the country and in the churches. The lecturer, Chine McDonald – Media, PR & Content Lead at Christian Aid – offered insights into three stories and the dangers of telling them lazily. The first was Chine McDonald's own story as an African woman growing up in the UK. Inevitably her story has intertwined with the Brexit story. And then there was the story of her experience in the church. Each of them offered challenges for serious reflection.

As a Nigerian Ibo woman born in Lagos, but growing up from age 4 and living and working in the UK, Chine recounted her heightened awareness of the way in which she and her maiden name Mbubaegbu were viewed. Some British preconceptions about Africa, the vast, sprawling, diverse and beloved continent of her birth, were betrayed by people's questions: 'Did you live in the jungle? Have you seen a lion? Did you have enough food to eat?' She often wondered whether these preconceptions formed barriers of otherness that had to be overcome before people could get to know the person behind the name. Working now for Christian Aid, she has become particularly aware of the role of NGO communications in shaping foreign perceptions of African progress. Stories about poverty in her homeland and the myth of the white saviour show that 'we simplify each other into the stories we have about each other,' she said. 'We tell a lazy story about what is wrong with the world. In all our storytelling we have to do better than this.'

Moving on to her life as a black woman in Brexit Britain, Chine recounted her growing recognition as a child that to be black made her in some way 'lesser' and 'other'. The effect of the murder of Stephen Lawrence when she was nine years old changed 'the way we felt about our UK home', she said. 'We felt vulnerable and conspicuous.' When she was sneered at in the street on her way from the Brexit vote (before the result was known), she was reminded of that earlier time. Since then, the unspeakable has become 'not only speakable but commonplace'.

And so to the responsibility of the church. 'Diversity is a fact but inclusion is a choice,' Chine reminded us. People of faith have a responsibility to be destroyers of walls. We must listen to people from ethnic minorities who say they feel unsafe and unwelcome. We must recognise, call out and report racism both inside and outside the walls of the church. And this is advice for everyone. 'However we voted in the referendum, we must not tolerate prejudice and xenophobia of any kind in our midst.'

But Chine was clearly not in favour of being colour-blind or failing to enjoy diversity. She painted a picture of the multicultural Britain that she loves in Deptford, near her home: 'Cockney butchers next to Halal butchers; Nigerian hairdressers being visited by South-East Asians sharing food at lunchtimes.' The important thing is 'to appreciate better the advantages of otherness and difference' and 'to offer each other the hand of friendship, not in a trite and superficial way, but with a deep level of understanding that is rooted and established in love'.

The lecture finished with some words from Martin Luther King from a Birmingham jail. 'Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not-too-distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.'

The full lecture can be viewed online on the Facebook page of Newbold College of Higher Education: <https://www.facebook.com/newboldcollege/videos/356839614904695/>.

HELEN PEARSON

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Bournville's investiture

The Pathfinder/Adventurer investiture service at Bournville Church was the culmination of long hours of work and dedication during which these youth were rewarded with the pins and certificates they had earned. It was a pleasure to see them – from the Little Lambs all the way up to the Guide class – march boldly forward to receive their rewards.

The theme for the day was 'Sharing Jesus', and the sermon was delivered by Pastor Ikwisa, NEC Pathfinder Director, who tested the children's knowledge on the book of Luke and the *SDA Bible Commentary*. Area coordinators Spencer (area coordinator for Bournville), Joseph Empawi, John Bishop and Anesh Manilal joined the local minister, Pastor Obi, who is also a Master Guide, for the procession.



After a delicious lunch was served the afternoon programme began, during which the children demonstrated the skills they had learned throughout the year, including the knot tying, knife safety, and camping skills that were presented by the Pathfinders. The Adventurers demonstrated

how to cross a road safely and showed their understanding and knowledge of different road signs. The children are now better equipped to go forwards into their schools and communities, armed with the knowledge and skills learned throughout the year. As 2019 unfolds, the club will be

going back to basics and organising more outdoor activities and skills-enhancement programmes, including pioneering workshops, a pioneer bootcamp, advanced camping skills, community outreach, and outdoor conservation skills.

T. EDINBOROUGH



Newbold School choir meets royalty

Christmas may be a distant memory now, but not for Newbold School. Their annual choir performance at St George's Chapel, London, with the Adventist Domini choir, has become a favourite school tradition. The concert is held in aid of the Newbridge Foundation, a charity that befriends prisoners. What makes this Christmas concert so special, however, is that HRH Princess Alexandra (the charity's patron) attends almost every year. The children are always rewarded with a personal conversation with the princess after the concert.

'It is a great experience for our children to be involved in such a professional concert,' Mrs Crissey, the head teacher, commented. 'They were incredibly excited about their trip, especially about meeting Princess Alexandra, who is always very kind to them.'

Mrs K. Milanovic and Mrs J. Gungadoo, the school choir directors, were delighted with the children's performance. Mrs Milanovic, who also sings in the Adventist Domini choir, said: 'They all sang so beautifully and with such enthusiasm. I was very proud of them.'

The princess's secretary sent a message to Mrs Rigby-Barrett (Adventist Domini's choir director) saying how much she had enjoyed the concert, which raised over £2,600 for Newbridge.

JAKI CRISSEY

Clifford Golding's long service

Clifford Golding was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church 72 years ago, and still attends services every Sabbath, along with most mid-week prayer meetings at West Bletchley Community Church!

Clifford Golding, since being baptised in St Catherine, Jamaica, on 29 December 1946 and coming over to England in July 1955, has been a member of various churches, including Nottingham, Watford Town (close affiliation), Stanborough Park, Leeds, Hemel Hempstead, Milton Keynes Central and, since its beginning in 2003, West Bletchley. In his 'stronger' days he also shared many Sabbaths with Bedford Central, where he's highly regarded as an 'honorary member'!

Regular readers of *MESSENGER* over the years will be familiar with Dad-Golding's Ingathering pursuits, which, in one particular year, totalled over £1,000! Some might say that at nearly 95 he would be well excused from Ingathering. However, he is already gearing up for this year's campaign, and, although going from door to door is no longer practical for him, he has regular contacts he has made during the decades who faithfully put aside funds for his annual collection. Truly an inspiration for us all!

Although recognised some years ago by us for his outstanding Ingathering achievements, on Sabbath 2 February West Bletchley took the time to recognise Clifford Golding's work across the entire conference, and many of its local churches, with an award of long service. His daughter, Irene Curfs, a missionary based in Kenya and currently on leave to care for her father, jointly received the token with heartfelt thanks to the church for their love and care for her dad.

SYLVONIE NOEL (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)



Shut-ins attend Communion

The Communion Service held at Tottenham Church on Sabbath 12 January gave those who had not attended church for many years a chance to attend worship once again with the church family.

On selected Sabbath afternoons, a recent initiative by the youth leader involved groups visiting shut-in members instead of congregating in church for AYS. Due to this initiative, the connection between the senior members and the children has been strengthened.

Research has found that when children spend time with the aged it is beneficial to both groups: the aged are rejuvenated and the children become more responsible and caring.

The deacons and deaconesses sent the invitation for the shut-ins to attend the Communion Service and a minibus was hired to transport them to the church. This will become a regular initiative on special occasions at Tottenham Church.

JANET MORRIS



Messenger

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	Lon	Card	Nolt	Edin	Belf
Mar 8	5.53	6.05	5.55	6.01	6.13
15	6.05	6.17	6.08	6.16	6.27
22	6.17	6.29	6.21	6.30	6.40
29	6.28	6.41	6.33	6.44	6.54

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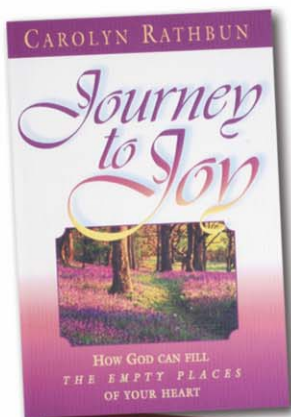
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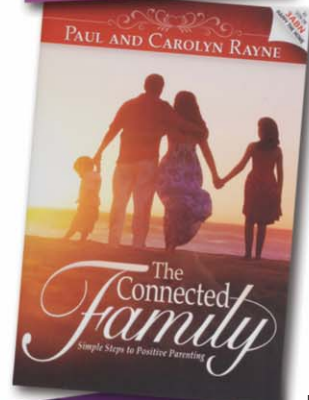
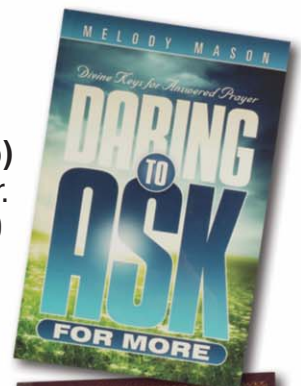
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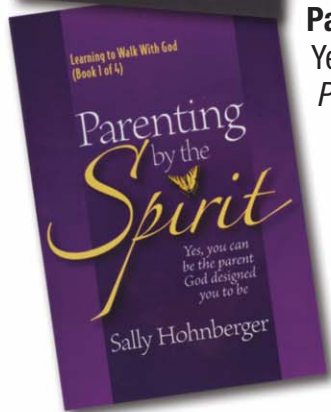
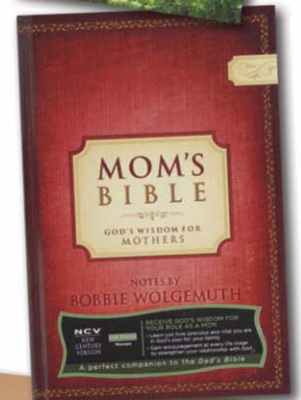
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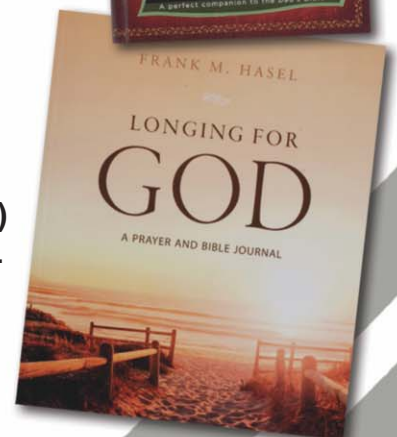
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