



Messenger

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
in the United Kingdom and Ireland

24 December 2021 • Volume 126 • 12

‘The Word became
flesh and blood,
and moved into
the neighbourhood.’

John 1:14 (The Message, adapted)



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Empathise. Empower. Engage.

by Pastor Jimmy Botha,
President, Scottish Mission



In recent months the world has seen change of unprecedented magnitude. Everyone is affected by COVID-19 in some way, and it is becoming clearer that our relationship with the planet God made for us needs a rethink. I have always thought that, as representatives of God, we have to have something to contribute to the active conversations around us. How do we respond, knowing that much attention is needed where people are suffering the consequences of human greed?

The Bible gives us a mandate to care for those who have nothing, to feed those who are hungry, and to clothe those who are naked (Matthew 25:31-46). The church in Scotland possesses the power to make a difference, and this power is rooted in the faith of our members, in God. Over the last 15 years I have seen the generosity and care that our members have, particularly for those in need, and I continue to see this God-given grace daily in individuals and programmes that are too numerous to mention here.

I would like to share with you a simple formula that I believe will help our mission to grow. First, we need to **understand (empathise with)** where people are who suffer, where people are

who lead, and where people are who benefit from our service; this is essential to us for intentional ministry. When we know how and where to minister, finding those who are hungry and those who need a visit, we can refine the ministry in our territory, and the church can be not only relevant, but also a place of refuge.

As for the vision I have for the Scottish Mission, I pray that we practise **empathy**, for our ministry to be meaningful and relevant. After empathy, we should **enable** individuals. When we understand what the needs in our territory are, it becomes easier to enable both our leaders and our members to offer help to the communities where we minister.

Once leaders and members of the communities have been resourced, we can then **engage**. The church has always been busy with multiple ministries in Scotland to make a difference. As Christians we have a mandate to care for and love the members of our communities. As we empathise, enable and engage, we are in the space where God needs us. It is my greatest desire to see God's church busy with community work, which leaves the people and the planet in a better position than they were before – physically, mentally, and spiritually.



The Chosen

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

In the beginning was the Word

And the earth was void and without form.

And the Word was with God

And darkness covered the face of the deep.

And the Word was God.

Then God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through Him.

And without Him was not anything made that was made.

In Him was life. And the life was the light of men.

A light shining in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

The season two premiere of the film series *The Chosen* is now available on YouTube for viewing. The series portrays the life of Christ through the experiences of His closest followers, and those affected by His ministry. Of all that will be watched on screen during this Advent season, none will draw us closer to 'the Word' than this film. This episode is seen through the eyes of John – the disciple and gospel writer, who reflects on what he has seen. An excellent resource for Advent worship, small groups, youth groups, family viewing, and not least for sharing the Gospel with friends.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3m9fL8iJAoU>

David Neal, *Editor*

‘Sovereign Lord,’ ‘You made,’ ‘You spoke,’ ‘You decided . . .’

During a recent study of chapters 3 and 4 of Acts I stumbled across this statement in an excellent commentary:

‘For a full understanding of the early church we need to read *The Acts of the Apostles* and *The Book of Revelation* side by side.’

With you, I am well used to being implored to read ‘Daniel and Revelation’ together, and remember David Marshall once challenging pastors to introduce people to the Gospel of John before sharing the Revelation of John (sound advice indeed). But why Acts and Revelation together? What’s the link?

‘Both tell much the same tale of the church and its experience of conflict, but from a different perspective. Luke in the Acts chronicles what unfolded **on the stage of history** before the eyes of the observers; John in the Revelation enables us to see **the hidden forces at work**. In the Acts human beings oppose and undermine the church; in the Revelation the curtain is lifted and we see the hostility of the devil himself. . . .’¹

As we take a look at the experience of Peter and John, let’s keep this in mind. Hauled before the Sanhedrin for healing a man of his lifelong disability in the name of Christ, Luke records in Acts 4:13 the astonishment of the Sanhedrin at the apostles’ courage. ‘You were responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,’ the apostles had told them. Yes, by any account, they were courageous! But hold it there a moment. With Peter’s track record on ‘bold’ statements, often more foolhardy than courageous, what’s different about this one? Luke can see it, as he records in Acts 4:8. This time it is different because Peter is ‘filled with the Holy Spirit’ (NKJV) – the Spirit who calms, guides, helps, supports and directs. It is almost as if Peter has Jesus there with him in person, in front of those who have the power. After all, that is what Jesus promised (Matt. 28:20).

The Sanhedrin haven’t a clue how to react to these Christ-followers – a recurring pain in the neck to the religious order. But ‘the people’ like what they have seen; so these lawmakers opt for the ‘peace at any price’ option, and release Peter and John on condition that they do not preach or teach again about Jesus.

As Peter and John head for the safety of their ‘own people’ (Acts 4:23, NIV), they can hardly believe they are free. I imagine Peter



saying to John, ‘Have you the slightest idea of how huge the pit in my stomach was while I was speaking? I don’t know how I did it!’ John replies: ‘Only the Spirit, Peter, only the Spirit!’

On the human level, how do you face up and speak truth to power to the very same religious leaders who’d set the way for Christ to be crucified? Peter and John would not have been so naïve as to be unaware that they could also end up crucified. Back at their safe place, they want to tell the story – and then they put that story into the context of God’s story, and they pray.

‘Sovereign Lord,’ they begin their prayer: two words which speak volumes – reverence, recognition, and submission to the One who controls everything – **who is the hidden force at work**. In the New Testament it is rare to see this Greek word *despotés* used for the Lord (only six times). Think of a despot in today’s world, and what immediately comes to mind is Kim Jong-un of North Korea – it’s a word with negative connotations. But, literally translated, the Greek word simply means ‘absolute ruler’.²

The visible opposition to the cause of Christ was the religious establishment. The visible working of God was through a miraculous healing and giving Peter holy boldness. But the text of Acts 4 also shows that the believers recognised their local and immediate events to be guided by the God of revelation and history, summarised by the three verbs ‘You made’ (verse 24), ‘You spoke’ (verse 25), and ‘You decided’ (verse 28).³

For many months I’ve had the privilege of being connected with a group of people who believe in prayer. We pray about everyone and everything. We pray for matters global, national and local, civic and spiritual. We

praise the Lord a lot for His goodness in our lives, and we share our struggles – we have a lot. Our prayer time together has become so meaningful to me that I am experiencing something strange. I am beginning to ‘enjoy’ prayer at present even more than group Bible study. The Bible study is great – energising, thought-provoking and life-giving. But there’s something about prayer right now that’s hitting home. And I believe this is because it relates to those words, ‘Sovereign Lord’.

Perhaps it’s because of need? Possibly – because I want to know and be reassured that God is still the absolute Ruler of all that is going on in this world at present. With you, I don’t like what I see at the moment on a whole bucket load of matters, which occasionally causes me to wonder for a nano-second if God still is ‘making’, ‘speaking’, ‘deciding’. Even if He is, and deep down I am confident that He is, I am more often than not perplexed at His working. As a friend recently said to me in frustration, ‘There are times when I want to shout to the Lord, “No, no, no, Lord – this is not what I

prayed for!”’

The solution to my momentary faith crisis is to pray.⁴ As I pray, I am conscious that my foolish words are not wasted as I approach my Sovereign Lord, because, just like Peter, I am promised the presence of ‘God’s Spirit’ right alongside me, helping me along. And, as Paul in his explanation of the Gospel assures us all, ‘If we don’t know how or what to pray, it doesn’t matter. He does our praying in and for us’ (Romans 8:26, *The Message*).

By the time you read these words, the Advent season will be near. If ever we needed evidence enough that ‘You decided’, it was the perfect timing of Christ’s entry ‘into the neighbourhood’ (John 1:14, *The Message*, adapted), the time when He took on our flesh and blood. ‘Herod . . . met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen’ (Acts 4:27, 28, NIV).

If there’s anything I want from the Advent season, it is a wish for the voice of God to speak louder and clearer, confirming that He still is ‘Sovereign Lord’.

The blessings of the season to you and your family as we both give and receive. And may our ‘Sovereign Lord’, who is so often the ‘hidden force’ at work, be revealed through each of us as we rejoice in the One – ‘The Word [who] became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood’ (John 1:14, *The Message*, adapted).

¹John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts* (part of The Bible Speaks Today series), p. 88

²G. Campbell Morgan, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 103

³*Ibid.*, p. 100

⁴I want to acknowledge that for many who experience a ‘faith crisis’, it can last much longer than a moment.

Trans-European Division year-end meeting votes new leaders

by Pastor Gavin Anthony for *Trans-European Division News*

Executive Committee members at the Trans-European Division (TED) year-end meetings voted three more people to join the TED team.

The team-building journey started in May 2021, at the TED spring meetings, with plans to complete the team selection by the end of this year.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, current British Union Conference (BUC) president, was voted as a division field secretary. Ian joins the TED from the division's largest union, with a wealth of experience and wise insight. Responding to his appointment, Ian shared, 'I am very



honoured and surprised to have been asked to serve as Field Secretary – although I am somewhat conflicted, as I had recently been appointed to serve a third term at the BUC. However, I believe in God's leading and both I and my wife Jennifer have always committed ourselves to respond positively whenever a call is made. So, to this end, I am keen and looking forward to this new challenge and engagement with my colleagues across the TED.'

Pastor David Neal, current Stanborough Press and *Messenger* magazine editor in the British Union, becomes Communication and Media Director. David was previously TED Stewardship Director and, before that, Irish Mission President. David stated, 'I would very much like to continue and build on the excellent work of my predecessor, Victor Hulbert, in strengthening the network of gifted communicators throughout the division and using existing and new platforms to share Christ. Creative thinking and innovation in this era are key.'

As part of an initiative stemming from the recently voted TED *Strategic Framework* to



Left to right: Pastors Victor Hulbert, Dejan Stojkovic and David Neal – Mary Jones Walk

modernise communication with special emphasis on media, social media, and digitisation, David will be joined by Vanesa Laura Pizzuto, who will become Associate Director for Communication and Media. Vanesa has worked as a journalist, broadcaster, author, and digital networker. On her appointment, Vanesa expressed her delight at the possibilities ahead: 'I want to see Christian influencers and digital evangelists taking centre place in our evangelism strategy!'

The Health Ministries portfolio remains vacant. The TED is currently in discussions with Loma Linda and partners to establish a health facility based at Newbold College. The Health Ministries director will be appointed once plans for this programme are at a more advanced stage, in order to provide a coherent vision and synergy with the Loma Linda-led initiative as part of a division-wide health project across the division's 22 countries.

Reflecting on the work of the Nominating Committee, Pastor Raafat Kamal, TED Division President, remarked, 'I thank God for the work of the Nominating Committee and the decision of the Executive Committee. I strongly believe that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our ministry of disciple-making and our mandate to make God known to our friends and neighbours will be strengthened. The *I Will Go* plan has been wholeheartedly adopted by the Trans-European Division; we follow the Great Commission humbly and prayerfully, giving praise and glory to our almighty loving God.'

UPDATE

Dr Anthony WagenerSmith and Dr Kayle De Waal, recently appointed coordinators for Mission, Evangelism and Disciple-Making respectively, are expected to arrive in the UK to join the TED team in January 2022.

After serving the Church for 47 years, Dr John D. Baildam announces retirement



Dr John D. Baildam, Newbold's second-longest-serving principal [Photo: Asun Olivan]

In a 15 November letter addressed to the Newbold College of Higher Education Chair of Governors, Dr John D. Baildam, Newbold College Principal, announced his intention to retire on 31 May 2022.

Baildam is Newbold's second-longest-serving principal. He worked tirelessly and enthusiastically in a variety of roles, including his tenure as Principal, for over 40 years, faithfully serving students from across the Trans-European Division and beyond.

Of his many achievements as Principal, most notable is his commitment to securing Newbold's reputation for academic quality and rigour, and for driving the 'never-to-be-

forgotten' campus experience. Known for his optimistic nature, Baildam described his role as Principal since 2014 as one he has 'relished' with 'all the joys and occasional challenges'.

Reflecting on the future and the new chapter Newbold has entered, Baildam recently made an appeal to all 'to exhibit qualities exemplified by our predecessors – faith, vision, sacrifice, commitment and perseverance'.

Chair of the Board of Governors and TED President, Pastor Raafat Kamal, expressed his personal thanks, recognising 'Dr Baildam's highly professional service to the Church and Newbold College over many decades. He will be remembered for seeing opportunities amid the tumultuous times of restructuring and change; for his resilience and optimism to look forward.'

Kamal also took the opportunity to share the Board of Governors' appreciation: 'We are thankful for his committed service to higher education within the Trans-European Division and beyond. Dr Baildam will continue to serve as Principal for another six months, providing ample time to search and identify a suitable replacement.'

On his retirement, Dr Baildam will have given a total of 47 years of service to the church. When asked what has kept him going over those years, he replied, 'Learning something new every day!'

To discover more about Newbold College of Higher Education, please visit www.newbold.ac.uk.

DAVID NEAL



Principal Newbold College of Higher Education

The governors of Newbold College of Higher Education seek to appoint a principal to replace the current incumbent, who has announced his retirement on 31 May 2022.

The Principal is the Chief Executive Officer of the College and is the institution's link with its governors, liaising with them as Secretary of the Board of Governors and driving the decisions of the Board.

Applications are invited from those with appropriate qualifications and expertise. Applicants should demonstrate an expressed commitment to Jesus Christ and to the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and they should be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good and regular standing.

A fuller position descriptor is available upon request. Selected duties and responsibilities are as follows:

- Support for the mission of the College
- Support for spiritual excellence for students and staff
- Student-recruitment initiatives
- Support for the extracurricular life of the College
- Programme development and administration
- Communications
- Budget and finance
- Policies
- Strategic planning
- Ensure compliance with Church policy, UK law, local and College regulations, and the requirements of the Office for Students and validating universities
- A clear understanding of developments and trends within higher education
- Actively liaising with community groups and organisations
- Representing the College and its programmes to agencies, organisations, and the general public
- Fostering links with Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions worldwide
- Understanding sound financial and HR practices
- Encouraging professional development, scholarly research, and publications
- Driving externality

Selection criteria

- Evidence of experience and skills in leadership and administration
- Academic and professional qualifications commensurate with the role
- Ability to implement difficult decisions
- Financial acumen and good business and people skills
- A strong sense of Seventh-day Adventist identity with particular reference to the Ten Core Commitments as mandated by governors
- Understanding of sound HR management, team building, interpersonal skills and capacity building of staff
- Understanding of the European multicultural context of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the intellectual European climate, and the UK/European higher education landscape
- Ability to develop the College in the modern technological context

All applicants must have the right to live and work in the United Kingdom and will normally be expected to live within reasonable commuting distance of the College to enable them to engage fully with the life of the College and of the local church community.

Starting date: 1 June 2022 or earlier by mutual agreement. **Salary:** as per the denominational salary scale.

A letter of application, a CV and the names and contact details of two referees should be emailed as soon as possible, but no later than 31 January 2022, to nche-principalsearchcommittee@ted.adventist.org.

Mike Rossiter – NEC Pathfinder Sponsor/ Director 1995-2003

by Mike and Marion Rossiter

Mike was introduced to Pathfinders by his wife, Marion, who was running the Barnsley Pathfinder club.

Having been invested as a Master Guide, Mike worked alongside Pastor Cyril Sweeney as Pathfinder Co-ordinator, that role being shared later with Ken Burt. During this time the NEC team held the first Adventurer camporee within the BUC.

Mike became the NEC Pathfinder Sponsor during the mid-1990s and was subsequently elected as Director at the following NEC Session, working in that position until 2003.

The Lord gave Mike a vision to have Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs in every church in the NEC. He spent a lot of time promoting this vision, and believed that the way forward was to develop and train strong local leaders. He qualified as a BETA (Basic Expedition Training Award) trainer, authorised by the Central Council for Physical Recreation. Mike served on the BUC staff for planning/running BUC and TED camporees.

Mike was invited to join an international (TED) training team to visit Jordan. It was during this training that he met the Lebanese Pathfinder Director, who invited Mike to visit Lebanon to continue the training, which he did the following year.

In 1999 Mike attended the

international camporee to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pathfinders in Oshkosh, USA, where he worked as Special Assistant to the Camp Director, Pastor Ron Whitehead.

At a TED camporee in Norway Mike met the South African Pathfinder Director, who invited him to go to South Africa to do some leadership training and pioneering of large structures, such as bridges. Mike visited South Africa in 2000, conducting training weekends in Cape Town, Durban and Pretoria.

In 2001 Mike attended the first International Youth Leadership Conference organised by the General Conference Youth Department in São Paulo, Brazil.

Unfortunately, Mike had to retire due to injury, but his heart has never left Pathfinders. He has always believed that the Pathfinder organisation is the best evangelistic tool for children and young people, providing an activity for them within the church neighbourhood. He described his camporees as his evangelistic effort of the year, and was blessed to see many young people and some adults committing their lives to Jesus during these camporees.

Mike prays that the Pathfinder movement will continue to thrive and be an effective tool in God's service.

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The return of BEAMS: 'I Will Go'

by Divinia Reynolds

The commission Jesus gave the Church in Matthew 28:18-20, starting with the immortal words: *'Go ye therefore'* (KJV), echoes down through the ages. Yet some have found endeavouring to reach out to others a struggle, or felt the need to recalibrate how we carry out Jesus' command as the era of the COVID-19 pandemic draws on. This is why the return of the British Union Evangelism and Mission Summit (BEAMS) from 5 to 7 November in Daventry, Northamptonshire, was so welcome.

The event was co-hosted by newly re-elected BUC departmental directors, Pastor Eglan Brooks and Dr Kirk Thomas. Exceeding all expectations, the number of participants was 352. In his welcome at the opening of the meeting, Dr Thomas remarked: 'With all the circumstances . . . militating against this programme happening, the mere fact that we were able to bring this programme to you . . . is testament to the fact that God still hears and answers sincere prayers made to Him.' 'Welcome to God's miracle programme.'

Homing in on the word 'nevertheless', keynote speaker Dr Mike Ryan (Assistant to the President of the General Conference and deviser of the 'I Will Go' initiative) explained that, despite a long night of unsuccessful fishing, when asked by Jesus to push his boat back out on the water and try once more, Peter responded, *'Nevertheless at Your word . . .'* (Luke 5:5, NKJV). 'There has never been a greater need for a "nevertheless generation",' Dr Ryan observed.

With characteristic humour, and accompanied by a salvo of quotable practical points, Pastor Roger Hernandez (Ministerial Secretary of the Southern Union)

challenged participants about the paradigm, 'I will go . . . eventually,' based on Matthew 28, stressing the need to 'take the guilt out of it' (the call to go) and instead 'fall in love with Jesus', as this is the ultimate motivator. Jesus was the pastor of a divided church of disciples, but 'mission is a great uniter'. Pastor Hernandez's key word, 'whatever', meant saying to God in prayer: 'Whatever You want, Lord, however You want,' while looking for divine appointments.

During Sabbath morning's devotion, Pastor Adriana Fodor (Evangelism Sponsor for the Welsh Mission) asked the question, 'What is in your bag?' based on Hebrews 12:1, with the invitation to *'lay aside every weight'* and *'run with endurance the race that is set before us'* (NKJV). Carrying a heavy backpack, Pastor Fodor explained how problems can slow us down, hindering our 'going' for the Lord. Her appeal was to 'keep moving towards Jesus'.

We then learned more about the strategic plan for the new quinquennium as Pastor Brooks explained that the 'I Will Go' initiative is based on the desire to get most of the church involved in serving for the Lord. In groups, attendees devised a spectrum of exciting ideas for outreach, including:

- Podcasts
- Social media content
- Surveys
- Prayer services
- English classes
- Help in writing CVs
- Help in developing ICT skills
- Community cafes
- Befriending people to combat widespread loneliness
- Breakfast clubs for the elderly
- Health ministries
- Outreach for men, addressing their mental health
- Help with gardening, shopping and foodbanks

In his second plenary, Dr Ryan promoted confidence in the Bible as our lamp (John 5:39), sharing how the fulfilment of smaller-scale prophecies (such as the predicted siege of Jerusalem in Jeremiah 21:7) builds conviction that the Second Coming is sure. Dr Ryan asked stimulating questions: 'Do we have Jesus' fame to spread in the neighbourhood . . . ?' 'How is "I Will Go" defined in my life?'

In Pastor Hernandez's second plenary, his theme was 'I Will Go . . . Who Is Coming?' which addressed the theme of reclamation ministry. Speaking from Luke 15, Pastor Hernandez encouraged his listeners to search for the 41% of baptised members who disconnect from the church: a rate that would be unacceptable in other fields or professions. His solution was captured by the acronym, 'RAMP':

- Research the reasons each individual left.
- Avoid church conflict, undue anger, or making people feel guilty as a strategy, and avoid assuming that individuals will never change.
- Meet with people through visits and social activities.
- Prepare for such meetings by being intentional and welcoming. 'The deeper the wound, the fewer the words'; 'Nothing you can say is going to console someone who has been hurt by the church except the two most important words: "I'm sorry."'

Pastor Wayne Erasmus, Church Growth and Adventist Mission Coordinator of the South England Conference, explored the parable of the growing seed (Mark 4:26-29). He said that, while we scatter seeds of God's word, we cannot make them germinate or control everything, but we must leave the aspects that are God's

to Him. Pastor Erasmus encouraged a heart for the diverse peoples that make up the United Kingdom and Ireland, saying, 'There is every chance that God is busy in your community but you have not quite noticed it yet.' He shared his experience of joining an allotment community where he has become an unofficial elder. 'May we be as faithful in the scattering as He is in the growing.'

In Sunday's devotion, Dr Gina Miller testified of discovering currency in her travel bag when she was broke, comparing this to the most important treasure we have 'in earthen vessels' which we often overlook. Referring to Luke 9:1, 2, she identified this treasure within us as the supernatural empowerment Jesus gives His disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God. She pointed out that effective ministry begins with a call from God, and we are called for this time: 'How am I managing my God-given mission?'

Joshua and Caleb, two spies sent to the Promised Land (Numbers 13), were the subject of Dr Ryan's next plenary session. 'God has asked us to provide hope in the UK. . . . As you go, never forget the word "we", as success depends on placing our hand in God's hand.'

Afterwards, Dr Jeffrey Brown (Associate Ministerial Secretary of the General Conference) spoke on the capture of Lot and his family (Genesis 14), who were pursued by his uncle Abraham: 'This was reclamation.' Yet reclamation needn't be dramatic, but simply 'a supply of groceries to refugees or homeless people, or sitting down with someone for a simple meal'. 'Fight for your family,' he continued. 'Sometimes children are lost in our own homes. . . . Search and chase after your child.' Don't be



Dr Kirk Thomas, BUC Publishing and Personal Ministries Director

afraid, and remember that the Lord is great and awesome.

Fascinating breakout sessions began on Sabbath afternoon. They discussed praying for the peace of your city (Jeremiah 29), love and mingling, looking for the spaces where God is working so we can participate as representatives of Jesus Christ – and we must be aware of what our presence says about who He is. Dr Jeffrey Brown pointed out that we are in a new phase of ministry, and it would be dangerous to miss the moment. Drawing from literature on ‘the post-quarantine church’, he outlined a number of shifts: for example, from analogue to digital, from teaching to equipping, from gathering to connecting.

Reflections on this evangelism and mission summit:

The place was infused with prayers, with a dedicated team praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the Gospel goes out to the world, and for the Kingdom to come.

Pastor Jeremy Johnson (Youth Sponsor for the Welsh Mission),



Tina Brooks, Leon Barclay (keyboard and guitar), Arianne Boldeau, Christina Quionquion, Melody Brooks, Aaron Johns, David Adams

Pastor Adriana Fodor and Pastor David Rancic (Welsh Mission Pathfinders Sponsor) held a prayer retreat called ‘Have You Heard?’ Young people expressed how ‘uplifted’ they felt, and that ‘there is real power in prayer’.

There was an atmosphere of joy as attendees reunited with the wider church following twenty months of lockdowns and social restrictions. The aim of enthusing and equipping members was met. Sheffield David of Hope Community in High Wycombe was ‘inspired’, and his wife Yvonne especially appreciated meeting up with members in person after so long.

‘Presentations were . . . very informative, practical, an eye-opener,’ said Claudius from Milton Keynes Central Church.

‘Excellent summit: thank God for what He has done. The messages are relevant for the time we are in, and God has given enthusiasm and conviction’ so ‘His people and leaders [can] go forth and do the work that He has called us to do in unity – leadership and laity working side by side,’ remarked Hyacinth Gayle, Carter Knowle Church.

In the words on the banner: ‘Who will go? I will go! Where will we go?’

To every family, neighbour, community and culture! Sharing Jesus and His Love.’

Now GOOO BUC!

For further information on the ‘I Will Go’ initiative, resources or related questions, visit <https://iwillgo2020.org> or contact the Personal Ministries team at the BUC.

To read an extended version of this report, go to: <https://www.stanboroughpress.org.uk/2021/11/11/the-return-of-beams-i-will-go/>

Former president of the British Union Conference, Pastor Don McFarlane, reflects on the passing of two outstanding church leaders



John Arthur – a man for all people



If Christians supported the preaching of the Gospel in the same way football fans support their clubs, churches throughout the United Kingdom would be full of faithful congregants. This is an oft-expressed

sentiment of church members in the British Isles, particularly when they reflect on the millions that flock to football stadiums on a Sabbath afternoon. One man who was able to bring to church leadership a level of passion that was commensurate with his support of Liverpool and Tranmere Rovers was John Arthur, OBE.

Born to lead

Born in Birkenhead in 1938, John's leadership skills became apparent to senior church administrators soon after he graduated from Newbold in 1961. This led to his being appointed Assistant Publishing Director for the North England Conference and the Welsh Mission in 1964. He was invited to serve as the North England Publishing Director in 1965 and BUC Publishing Director in 1967. Many who recall John's leadership of the publishing work in the United Kingdom speak glowingly of the energy that he invested in this important outreach programme of the church, the policies he advocated and formulated for the care of colporteurs and the livable wage that colporteurs enjoyed from selling books. The income from selling books by some colporteurs was rumoured to be more than what pastors were being paid at the time.

I was privileged to have a front-seat view of John Arthur's leadership of various aspects of the church's programme, particularly at the British Union office when he served first as Vice President and later as President. It was my privilege to serve as Executive Secretary of the Union during those two phases of his outstanding leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles.

Unpretentious leadership

At the very top of John's contribution to

the Seventh-day Adventist Church is what I choose to describe as *bringing leadership closer to the people*. His infectious laughter, backslaps, knowledge of local church members and issues, and obvious lack of self-importance while interacting with rank-and-file members of the church in Belfast, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh and London stripped away the veneer of inaccessibility and exclusiveness that was often associated with what was considered *high office*. John was available to the deacon in Brixton as much as he was to the president of the General Conference.

A man without guile

Trusted by the people, John was considered to be a man in whom there was no guile. When he was elected Union President in 1986 at the Warwick University Session, there was a palpable sense of excitement on the part of delegates from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, as he was seen as one who represented the interests of the church at large, and not of any particular section of the church. He belonged to that select group of church leaders who some discerning members said they would trust with their lives.

Minutes writing

John was the supreme writer of minutes, a skill that came to the fore when he served as BUC Executive Secretary. The lack of

ambiguity, succinctness and capture of important action points subsequently became the standard by which all the minute writing in the British Union was judged.

There was a rumour in circulation while John was in church administration that he was so efficient at writing minutes he would write them before the meetings took place! I can confirm that that was a fact, but not necessarily in the way that people thought. John did not seek to decide the outcome of discussions ahead of time; nor was he interested in steering decisions to conform with his personal wishes. You see, Adventist meetings often have a certain degree of predictability about them, which John understood, and, as time allowed, he developed the framework for the minutes of a meeting ahead of time and in line with the agenda, providing for whatever decision was eventually made. This is somewhat akin to a political candidate in a tight race for elected office preparing two speeches, one for victory and one for defeat.

Support for Christian education

Much of what church leaders do behind the scenes is not known by the general membership or the wider public. During John's tenure as BUC President, there were powerful voices advocating for a reduction of financial support for educational institutions. It was felt by some that a disproportionate amount of money was being spent by the Union on education. John not only resisted those voices, but also led the efforts to construct a new building for Stanborough School with funds that accrued from the sale of a parcel of land on Stanborough Park.

Hearing impairment

Now that John has passed, we will never know, before meeting him again, the degree to which his hearing impairment aided his



British Union Conference Committee 1986

Front row: Ernest Logan, C. R. Perry, Maurice Musgrave, Harold Calkins (president), W. John Arthur, Don McFarlane, R. H. SurrIDGE, Watson Southcott. Second row: Denys Baildam, Ken Hammond, Nylann Kennedy, David Marshall, Keith Burrell, M. J. Stickland. Third row: Paul Hammond, Ivor Margerison, Hugh Dunton, S. V. Maxwell, W. Shaw. Back row: G. Martin Bell, Peter Archer

leadership and thwarted some sticky and difficult moments in committee meetings. Often, in the intensity of debate, Chairman Arthur would call for the next item on the agenda with his usual pleasant smile, as if he were oblivious to the discussion taking place. I cannot recall anyone challenging his call for the next item. Whether it was a strategy or not, this approach proved to be very effective in delivering outcomes that were considered to be in the best interests of the church.

Humanitarian work

The area of church work that John loved most was its humanitarian arm, currently known as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Several of his colleagues, including me, were shocked when he gave up the presidency of the British Union in 1990 to become ADRA Director for the Trans-European Division (TED). He later explained that serving the needs of others in a practical manner was his dream job, and consequently he found the invitation to be TED ADRA Director irresistible. In his ADRA role at the TED, John led the efforts to change the annual charity drive in the British Union, known fondly by old-timers like me as *Ingathering* and to others as *Medical Missions*, to the Annual ADRA Appeal.

Under the banner of ADRA, John did some of his best humanitarian work in Albania, Bosnia and Sarajevo. In partnership with well-known BBC journalist Bill Hamilton, he was able to generate an amazing response on the part of British school children and Adventist members to the plight of people living in these places back in the 1990s. John was awarded an OBE by the Queen and the Order of Mother Teresa by the President of Albania for his charity work.

'Athlete' and sports fan

Care must be taken not to leave any reader with the impression that John was all work and no play. That would be a mischaracterisation of my friend. John played with the same passion and hunger that he applied to his work. At the Union office, we all knew that every effort should be made to avoid booking appointments for him on a Thursday afternoon, as this was playtime, which was usually filled with a round of golf. John's 'exploits' in golf were a subject of discussion at many social gatherings of his friends. One must bear in mind that John was an excellent communicator, who was capable of putting a silver lining around the most dire situation!

Then, of course, there was John's great love for Tranmere Rovers and Liverpool Football Club, of which he spoke with the intensity and knowledge of a stakeholder, and the pride of a Merseyside lad, even when there was not much of which to be proud. His interest in football was not merely as a fan; he played the game and was a proud team member of Notts Corinthians during his early years of ministry in the Nottingham area. *John nearly ended up being mentioned in the same*

sentence as Bobby Charlton, Bobby Moore and George Best!

Cricket was another sport at which John tried his hand. He was a member of a Newbold College Alumni team that played an invitational eleven in the late '80s. One Cecil R. Perry was the opposition's *demon bowler*. John was a competitive man, so his 'duck-like' failure at the crease did not sit well with him, though his ready smile and philosophical utterings regarding playing being more important than winning masked his disappointment.

Family

John's family, composed of his wife Ruth, their daughter Christine and son Andrew, were his biggest fans. They gave him the freedom to immerse himself in the work of the church, while at the same time ensuring that his home was always a retreat from the fast pace of church leadership. In between major church events and travel around the Division, the family always found time to welcome colleagues and church members into their

Ron Surridge – a life of humble service

With tears in his eyes, Ron Surridge said to the delegates assembled at the North England Conference Session in Blackpool, 'The worst thing that I could be called is elitist. I am anything but elitist. I am from a coal-mining community and a coal-mining family.' Surridge was responding to the criticism by one delegate of a reception that Surridge had held the previous evening for the Mayor of Blackpool, to which a limited number of leaders and delegates were invited. If that delegate had been more familiar with Ron Surridge's personal views and his *modus operandi*, he would not have used such a word to describe him. Surridge had never forgotten his humble roots and had made it part of his life's mission to puncture pomposity, particularly in leaders of the church.

Ron served as a missionary in West Africa and in various positions of church leadership, including BUC youth director, Irish Mission president, Northern European Division education director, North British Conference president and chair of the religion department at Newbold College. However, he never defined himself by any of these positions. He wanted to be remembered for his support of the underdog, his passionate presentation of the Gospel, his practical application of theology, his abhorrence of self-importance and bigotry, and his love for his family.

Supporter of the underdog

It is difficult to explain why Ron took such

home, where the at-home John Arthur was the same warm, engaging and charming person as when he sat at the committee table. Guests also discovered that his meal of choice at restaurants while out on church business – omelette, chips and peas – was also a culinary favourite of his at home.

Legacy

When the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles is updated, the avuncular John Arthur should be remembered for his even-handedness in leadership, his careful endeavours to leave behind an accurate record of events and decisions during his time, the manner in which he championed the interests of colporteurs, his strong support for Adventist education, and his unrelenting efforts to speak for the voiceless, defend the defenceless and free the oppressed. He was the only Seventh-day Adventist Church leader in the British Union to have been honoured by our country's head of state for work that he did on behalf of his church, while pursuing his passion to serve.



great interest in fighting for the underdog, whether it was a group of people who felt marginalised or a person who was denied opportunities and breaks given to others. After he and his family were evacuated from Eastern Nigeria when the Biafran war started, he could not bear the thought of being comfortable in Ghana while people were suffering in Biafra. Consequently, he found a way to go back into Biafra as a volunteer with the Red Cross.

On more than one occasion, in his position as Conference president, Ron extended an invitation for employment to ministerial graduates who were passed over by others because they were seen as lacking some of the basic requirements for ministry. He took the view that everyone should be given a chance.

The event that most strongly expressed Ron's support for the underdog was the acquisition by the North British Conference (NBC) of the Harper Bell School building. Ron had just been re-elected NBC president in 1984. Paul Hammond was elected treasurer and I was invited to be executive secretary. From the outset, Ron decided that the

establishment of a school in Birmingham would be one of the top priorities of the new administrative term. Funds were scarce at the time, but when the opportunity arose for the Conference to support the people of the West Midlands in purchasing the property that is now known as Harper Bell School, Pastor Surridge was determined that, whatever it took, we should not lose that property. He was not prepared to accept any outcome other than the purchase of the property. Somewhere in the Harper Bell School, there should be a memorial to the pivotal role that he played in the acquisition of the property and the establishment of the school.

Passionate presentation of the Gospel

Passion was a companion of Ron Surridge. Whether it was a speech on a committee or a one-to-one discussion with a friend or stranger, his personal convictions were always expressed with the fervour of a prosecutor. His sermons were no less compelling. This partly may have had something to do with having studied, while at the University of Manchester, at the feet of F. F. Bruce, one of the finest and most Christ-centred theologians of the modern age. But it was primarily the fact that Surridge understood that Christ was not just the central pillar of the Gospel, but was Himself the Gospel. While some are passionate about prophecy or history in Scripture, Ron was passionate about the incarnation, the life of Christ, His death, His resurrection, and the promise that He would come again. He understood that the essentials of the Christian faith are the death, resurrection and Second Coming of Christ, with everything else in Scripture being illustration, invitation, elucidation, expansion or application.

Abhorrence of self-importance and pride

Ron gave the impression that, on the sin scale, self-importance, along with its corollary of pride, was by far the most heinous of sins. He had much compassion for those whose moral feet had slipped in a moment of weakness, but had little or no tolerance for displays of self-importance, be they in a church leader, a political leader, or the person on the other side of the fence. For a lad from the coal-mining community of Sutton-in-Ashfield who ended up with two Master's degrees and numerous citations for effective leadership in various aspects of church work, one might conclude that he had much of which to be proud, but that was not Ron. 'What a berk!' was his favourite exclamation directed at one who gave the impression that he or she, usually *he*, was someone of importance.

Respected and loved

'Church administrators are usually respected, but they are seldom loved,' was an insightful statement made in my presence by the late Roy Ashmeade, my ministerial internship supervisor. Ron Surridge bucked the trend by being both respected and loved as a church



Pastor Ron and Rachel Surridge, with their son, Pastor John Surridge, and their grandson, Dan

administrator. At times when certain individuals tried to replace him as the president of the North British Conference, their efforts were thwarted by the affection with which he was regarded throughout the Conference. The head elder of one of the large churches in the Birmingham area, when approached by a would-be president to join a campaign to replace Pastor Surridge, responded by saying, 'We love our president and have no plans to remove him from office.' That elder spoke for thousands throughout the Conference.

Immediacy of the Kingdom

Ron's relationship with people in general underlined his understanding that the Kingdom of God was not merely a dream that would be realised at some stage in the distant future, but also a present reality. Christ was not just coming again; He had come, and in so doing had forged a new humanity out of the old by establishing the church. Ron's emphasis in proclaiming the Kingdom gave equal weight to its immediacy and its hereafter state. To have returned to Biafra as a volunteer after he and his family had been evacuated from Eastern Nigeria speaks volumes of the priority that he placed on living the Kingdom life here and now, as opposed to just waiting for Jesus to fix all our problems by making all things new. If you had asked Ron why he placed so much emphasis on serving others, irrespective of their ethnicity and religious beliefs, he would no doubt have told you that he wanted people, irrespective of who they were, to have a taste of the Kingdom of God.

A man of humour

Ron loved to hear a good joke and was adept at telling one himself. One story told of him that never failed to produce a smile on the faces of listeners was about a visit of his to a church one Sabbath where five elderly members made up the congregation. Ten minutes into his sermon, he realised that every member of the congregation was

asleep, which led him to close his Bible and step down from the pulpit. Somehow the 'congregation' became aware that the preacher had finished speaking and thanked him for a wonderful message, though they most likely were unable to say what that message was! The more colourful version of the story is that when Ron recognised that the entire congregation was asleep, he left the platform and headed to his car, leaving the saints to enjoy their siesta.

Family man

Ron and Rachel were partners in ministry, even though she was not a pastor's wife who felt that she had to be up-front alongside her husband. Her contribution was largely from the sidelines and the nurture and encouragement that she provided at home. Ron was proud of his two sons, Robert and John, who both followed in his footsteps to become ministers of the Gospel. Robert's untimely death 10 years ago was a massive blow to him. Some of his friends are of the view that he never recovered from this sad episode in his life. The last time I was able to have a conversation with him, he shared with me through tears that seeing Robert again at the coming of Jesus had become his life's highest priority.

A personal testimony

Without doubt, Ron Surridge was a major influence in my life during the last forty years of ministry. He was a mentor, a counsellor, an encourager and a confidant. I will remember him as one who had all his cards on the table at all times, a leader who was not afraid to say that he was sorry when he had made a mistake, a man whose heart was tender towards all, one who was not afraid to use his positions of authority in the church to advance the lives of others, and one who was, from skin to bone, a preacher of righteousness.

Please take note that titles in this article are all in lower case. This was done deliberately to reflect Ron's views on such matters.



by Sharon Platt-McDonald

Grieving well

2021 has been a year marked by significant loss. The pandemic brought about extensive loss of life, loss of health, loss of wealth, loss of employment, and, to some extent, loss of relational and social connectedness, particularly during the lockdown.

Yet, in these dark life circumstances, I want to encourage you not to lose hope. Even while grieving and expressing the pain of loss, we can find help, support, solace and strength to assist us in embracing a more hopeful outlook.

Faith as a coping mechanism

An online article from *MentalHelp.net* carried the title: 'Cultural and Religious-Spiritual Implications of Grief'.¹ It highlighted the impact of faith on the grief experience: 'Different cultural, religious, and spiritual traditions offer participants in those cultures and traditions various rituals that have been developed for helping people to cope with death and the grieving process.'

Scripture points to the hope we have for a better future with God: *'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away'* (Revelation 21:4, NKJV).

Bereavement support

December 2-7 2021 was designated Grief Awareness Week,² which raises awareness of the breadth of support provided in the UK for bereaved individuals. This year, the week's focus and extensive materials were provided by The Good Grief Trust (<https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/>), offering around 800 support services and support organisations, groups and services, which are tailored interventions for bereaved individuals across the UK.

The Mental Health Foundation³ highlights the following tips for grief support:

- **Contact a bereavement charity** – for example, *cruse.org.uk*, *thelossfoundation.org*, or *winstonswish.org*.
- **Feel the feelings** – allow yourself space to contemplate what you are experiencing.
- **There is no time limit to grief** – each experience is personal.
- **Take care of your body** – get adequate sleep (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/blog/ten-top-tips-good-sleep>), maintain a healthy diet (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/d/diet-and-mental-health>), and keep exercising regularly (<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/how-to-using-exercise>)
- **Give to others** – acts of kindness can lift your emotions.
- **Do something that makes you feel good** – hobbies are good distractions.
- **Be honest with children** (<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-support/supporting-children-and-young-people/>).

Additional help:

- NHS advice and support: <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/feelings-symptoms-behaviours/feelings-and-symptoms/grief-bereavement-loss/>
- Bereavement care support for children: <https://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk>
- The British Union Conference Bereavement Care Ministry provides materials and resources for churches wishing to train bereavement care befrienders (contact the Health Ministries Department on 01923 672251).

Good health!

¹<https://www.mentalhelp.net/grief-and-bereavement/cultural-and-religious-spiritual-implications-of-grief/> ²<https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/> ³<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/change-loss-and-bereavement>



Earth and Soul 9

by David Wright

'There are crowds who trample a flower into the dust without thinking once that they have one of the sweetest thoughts of God under their heel.'

J. G. Holland (1819-1881)

So was COP26 a success? Glasgow certainly focused the world's attention on the urgency of tackling climate change. The first large-scale multilateral gathering since the pandemic started drew 20,000 global leaders and delegates from 200 countries, saw a massive mobilisation of business and finance, and sparked protests from thousands of activists. Expectations were high, but, a few weeks on, reactions appear very mixed, with some feeling optimistic and hopeful, and others believing the outcomes were 'not good enough'. At least the world's biggest economies and emitters – the USA and China – agreed to work on emissions together.

The key achievements were: 1. a commitment to net-zero targets from 153 countries, covering 90% of world GDP and involving moving away from coal power, halting deforestation, and switching to electric vehicles; 2. eighty countries adopting national plans to be better prepared for more extreme

weather and rising seas; 3. progress towards raising \$100 trillion by 2023 to help poorer, more vulnerable countries to tackle environmental changes and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels; 4. improved collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society to deliver agreed goals, especially carbon markets and emission reductions.

Prior to Glasgow the planet was on course for a 4-6°C rise above pre-industrial levels. Now, if all pledges are kept, this has dropped to between 2.4° and 2.7°. As conference president Alok Sharma admitted, **'We have kept 1.5° alive . . . but its pulse is weak and will only survive if we keep our promises.'**¹ Warming by 2.7°C would, incidentally, deliver **'unliveable heat'** across most of the tropics and subtropics. Biodiversity would be enormously depleted, food security would drop, and extreme weather would exceed most urban infrastructure's capacity to cope. That's

an area hosting more than half of the world's population, two thirds of its children . . . and 85% of the planet's extreme poor.²

So what about us and our church? Is it time, for example, for our denomination to:

- commit to net-zero carbon emissions for all operations by 2030?
- switch to sustainable power supplies for all our buildings?
- undertake an ethical and green audit for all church investments and purchases?
- incentivise pastors and administrators to use sustainable transport?
- change how global conferences and leadership events are done to reduce their carbon footprint?
- halve the number of journeys needed for meetings?

Or, on a personal level, for us to:

- do an immediate 'home energy check' and switch to green energy?
- reduce all holiday and recreational travel by at least 50%?
- walk, cycle or use public transport at least twice a week?
- buy only local, seasonal produce for at least 50% of our meals?
- undertake a household chemical, synthetics, and plastic audit to reduce usage by 75%?
- turn our thermostat down and wear warmer clothes indoors?
- reduce all new purchases – such as books, electricals, toys, clothes – by at least 50% by buying second-hand or from charity shops?
- calculate our household carbon footprint (using an online calculator) to halve our personal impact within 10 years?

¹COP26 website
²Reuters 8/11/21

Parallel in the Park

The news that churches would be allowed to reopen for worship and fellowship was met with great excitement, but, in order to ease ourselves in gently and safely, we decided to be creative. That's how the Stanborough Park Church 'Parallel in the Park' was born.

The plan was to trial a simple service under the large old oak tree in the park, and see what would happen from there. This also meant we would be able to sing in the safety of the outdoors.

Those attending were encouraged to bring camping chairs, picnic rugs, refreshments, and a picnic lunch for after-service fellowship. The service had a less formal feel, with the focus on enjoying God's presence, His blessings, and each other.

What started as a one-off test service became the regular Sabbath format for 2021. We praised and worshipped, prayed with and for each other, listened to fantastic sermons, and fellowshiped in the beauty of the park grounds. The children loved being together again, free to enjoy the great outdoors. There

was something of the New Testament church in the simplicity of our worship, the minimal set-up preparations, and, most of all, in the Christ-centred messages. And, just like the early church, there was a real sense of joy at being together.

Each week we kept a close eye on the weather forecast, and occasionally the good British weather let us down. On one particular Sabbath the heavens opened just as the preacher was praying the benediction. You should have seen the speed at which we ran to our cars – young and old alike! But we were not discouraged. The following week we were outdoors again.

A combination of being in the midst of God's nature, the joy of being reunited, the freedom to worship in song, and the fellowship of believers made for a very special and precious summer which undoubtedly will be repeated in years to come.



Grateful recognition goes to the tech team who served faithfully, week after week, setting up the amp, mics and instruments, and therefore blessing us in this special way.

MANUELA MAI

The Basil Thompson legacy

Every now and then one receives a surprise at the end of the telephone line or in one's inbox. It is lovely to hear

from someone that the Pathfinder club has made a difference in the life of their family member.

This is what excites me about the role I fill, because I am part of that enormous and privileged opportunity of making a difference in children's lives that lasts until adulthood, and until they breathe their last breath.

The late Basil Thompson was such a person who touched children's lives in his local church. Basil died on 5 February 2021 at the age of 86.

In early 1971, Hampstead Church members, Bro. and Sis.

Thompson, together with Bro. H. Lunan, Brothers E. & A. Moore and Sisters P. Ruan & I. Weeks, became founding members of the Hampstead Pathfinder Club (HPC), which they established in that year, just a few short months after the church was founded.

The Hampstead Pathfinder Club initially enrolled around 25 children. However, its membership very quickly more than doubled in size, and the team ran the club for well over 25 years. The initial levels of training ran from Busy Bee through to Companion, progressing up to Master Guide level in the ensuing years.

An estimated 100 children

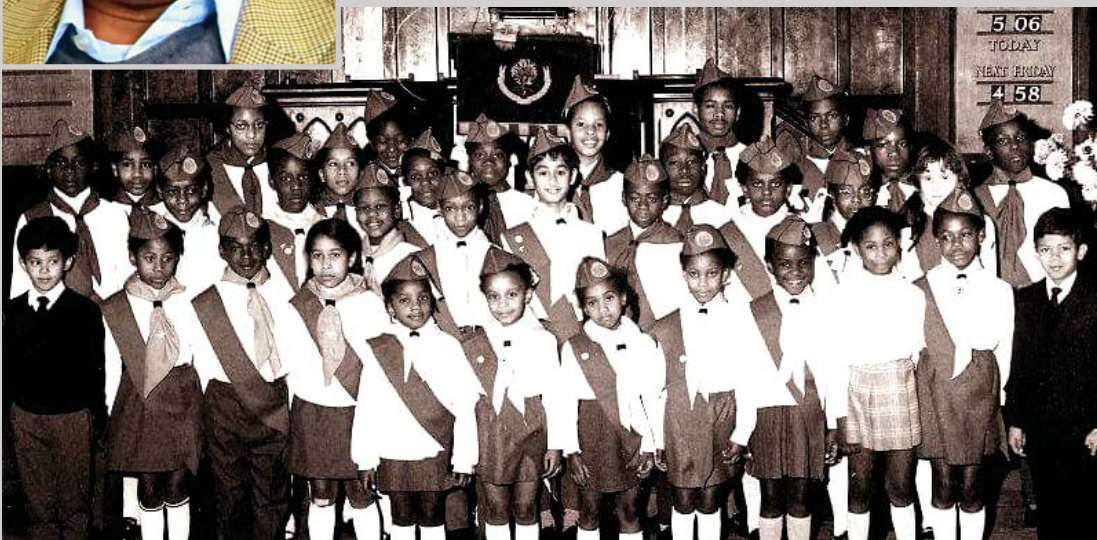
passed through Hampstead Pathfinder Club and were invested, having gained honours in a wide range of areas, from Bible knowledge and denominational history to astronomy, first aid, nature and swimming, as well as life skills such as gardening, woodwork and cookery.

One of Hampstead Church's former first elders, Ecroy Moore, recalls how, in around 1980, Basil Thompson, during his tenure as Pathfinder leader, single-handedly trained over 15 Pathfinders on the Master Guide programme. As Elder Moore described, this was 'an outstanding achievement', in that a record number of Pathfinders became Master Guides at one investiture.

Brother Thompson's daughter Sharon echoes in her own words: 'We thank God for the blessing of our Pathfinder club and for all who continue to invest time, energy and the gifts God has given them to enhance what is arguably one of our most valuable of church ministries.'

Thank you, Brother Thompson. We salute you, and may your unselfish legacy continue to inspire young people both in our churches and in our communities.

SHARON THOMPSON



Wolverhampton Central Church hosts 'Praise Morning' led by youth of the church

On Sabbath 18 September 2021, Wolverhampton Central Church saw its building full of individuals travelling from near and far to fellowship and worship together for their 'Praise Morning'. Not only was the building filled with worshippers, but the day proved to be equally filled with the Holy Spirit, when many were moved to tears and heartfelt testimony. Undoubtedly, with the COVID-19 pandemic profoundly impacting us all, the need for encouragement and fellowship became very apparent. With this in mind, a few of the youth of the church began planning this event.



The day began at 10am with an interactive Sabbath School service centred around the definition of praise, sparking conversations around how we praise, what our praise looks like and if this is parallel to God's definition. With over 1,000 people tuning in on their YouTube livestream, one individual shared their opinion on the Sabbath School, commenting that it was 'good and reflective'. Many additionally engaged in conversations and interacted with the Sabbath School lesson virtually, which enabled an inclusive service for those who did not want to attend in person. What a privilege and a blessing it is to be able to utilise diverse platforms to further God's work and spread the Word!



Nevertheless, the praise did not end there. With the Sabbath School providing but a taster of the day to come, the Divine Service was unique in that it was stripped back to its simplest form of pure worship and testimony. Of course, worship is an essential part of our relationship with God. It's a time when we are able to express our gratitude, love and awe to the One who never leaves us nor forsakes us,



Of course, worship is an essential part of our relationship with God. It's a time when we are able to express our gratitude, love and awe to the One who never leaves us nor forsakes us,



despite the fact that we are undeserving. The beauty about the Lord is that His grace is freely given – there's nothing we have to do to earn it, as we are already chosen. He just calls us to 'declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light' (1 Peter 2:9, NIV). The youth of Wolverhampton Central were hoping to capture this message throughout the Divine Service.

After using their voices and instruments to uplift the name of God during praise and worship, Wolverhampton Central welcomed members of the congregation to participate in an open testimony spot, where many were able to testify about the goodness of God. This time in the service saw numerous individuals, youth and senior, share experiences, current battles, moments of gratitude and prayer requests. It was truly a blessing to see brothers and sisters of Christ coming together to listen, empathise and lean on each other. A viewer commented, 'Each and every testimony has enriched me,' showing us how important it is for us to testify, as we can all learn and be encouraged by the experiences of one another.

The Praise Morning ended with a word from Jabari Douglas, one of Wolverhampton Central's young people. As well as sharing his personal experiences and giving an insight into his personal walk with God, Jabari touched the hearts of the congregation and was able to give a powerful sermon grounded in Scripture. 'Powerful and encouraging sermon and testimony, Jabari. If you could see heaven rejoicing right now!' were the words of one of the viewers.

Wolverhampton Central would like to say thank you to all of those who took part; the day was truly a blessing. If you missed the service, don't worry! You can watch the Praise Morning via YouTube on Wolverhampton Central's channel. Keep an eye out for another event planned by Wolverhampton Central's young people, coming soon in December. In the meantime, please keep Wolverhampton Central in your prayers, especially the young people; pray that they continue to grow in Christ and that they remain mouthpieces for God.

ESTHER PUTZGRUBER

Charity Youth Concert
 Presented by Weston-Super-Mare SDA Youth department, joined by youth from around the UK.
Saturday 15th January 2022
6pm
At Clarence Park Baptist church
 Weston-Super-Mare
 BS23 1XW
SAVE THE DATE!

Please book your tickets through the Eventbrite website and we kindly ask that you make a donation on entry, as this concert was organised in order to help our Yeovil SDA church raise funds to buy their own building.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Link for Eventbrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-charity-youth-concert-tickets-190973917127>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email: mollyj2512@gmail.com
 Or alastairb02.03@gmail.com

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



ADRA in 2022 – to collect or not to collect? That was the question

by Cathy Boldeau

Autumn is the time when we at ADRA start preparations for the upcoming ADRA Appeal, which historically starts at the end of March every year. For two years we were unable to run full appeals due to the pandemic, and it has hit ADRA very hard financially. All our focus is therefore on 2022 and the hope our fundraising will recover.

Many years ago, 100% of what was raised during 'Ingathering' came from door-to-door collections across the British Isles. Door-to-door collections have become more challenging, however, and the focus has shifted more towards personal donations and church fundraising events such as concerts, cake sales and auctions.

In 2019 just over 20% of what we raised during the ADRA Appeal came from people knocking on doors and collecting money. The other 80% was generated in our churches through personal donations and all kinds of other fundraising activities.

We truly appreciate every pound that has been donated to ADRA to help us in our work – especially during the time of the pandemic.

The pandemic is still affecting the world around us; and, even though, thanks to vaccinations, we can have some semblance of normal life where churches can once again meet, the idea of asking our members to go out and knock on doors to face the public and ask for cash donations is still troubling.

Planning and organising the cash collection is also very costly to us. It requires strict management, bookkeeping, reporting, lots of processing and auditing. Spending around £35,000 just to prepare the door-to-door collection against the background of uncertainties surrounding the status of the pandemic does not seem logical. The question then is: to collect or not to collect in 2022?

We talked to many of our church supporters, our agents, pastors and board members and explained the situation. And together we have concluded that it is too soon to restart door-to-door collections again in

2022. The consensus is to wait for better days. We are still in pandemic-induced uncertain times and do not want to put anyone at risk.

The 2022 ADRA Appeal will focus on fundraising in our churches. We will be asking for personal donations, using a new leaflet with an attached donation envelope. We will also emphasise the ADRA home tins – where our members give the ADRA tins a good home and can dispose of their small change during the year to support ADRA.

We are also encouraging our supporters to set up a direct debit with ADRA to help us plan our work in the best way possible. Just £10 a month, with Gift Aid applied, will give us a healthy £150 a year.

We hope that 2022 will be a year to do good: to celebrate our lives, remember our blessings and give to help those that are in need, both at home and overseas.

The 2022 ADRA Appeal runs from 26 March to 17 April. No door-to-door collections will take place. Every £1 raised will be matched 10 times (overseas projects only).



Special Needs Camp 2021

After a year and a half of disruption to travel and holidays due to COVID-19 restrictions, July 2021 saw the return of Special Needs Camp to Aberdaron. While the camp was small due to restrictions and in accordance with Welsh Government guidelines, we were able to welcome old and new friends into the blessed experiences of the Special Needs Camp.

After decades of leading the department, 2021 saw Joy Bussey handing over leadership to Volker Herkner and Andrew Agnew. Joy has been the key figure in the success of SNC over the years, and it has been her guidance and mentorship that has seen a smooth transition of leadership in these uncertain times. This year also saw the return of our much-loved camp master, Curtis Murphy.

The theme for the week, 'Count your blessings', was the basis for the camp worships each day, led by the camp padres David Rancic and Jeremy Johnson. The worship theme song, linking into the theme, was 'One more step along the

road I go'. Richard Grey and his team once again did an excellent job in leading the music for worship. And, of course, the camp choir were present, with 'Walking with Jesus' as their main song.

Our usual daily camp activities returned with an excellent array of arts and crafts for the campers and carers to participate in, provided by Alva Gallagher and Carolyn Schulz. Each morning they produced amazing tasks, including T-shirt design, self-designed bottle lamps, individually designed coasters and more fun stuff that engaged everyone's creative skills.

The Lord blessed us with warm, sunny weather during the week, and this, of course, meant trips to the village and beach in Aberdaron for sandcastle competitions, postcard writing and, of course, some tasty Welsh Maid ice cream, cakes and other delicious treats.

Once again, the sandcastle competition brought out the competitive side of both campers and carers, raising the bar for future camps. Two campers won this year's competition, creating



their castle to include a moat, cannons, forts, and firm walls, all built by utilising the natural resources found at the beach.

To comply with Welsh Government rules on COVID-19, our day trip saw us visiting Harlech Castle and beach. On our way back we stopped off at Criccieth to enjoy some local ice cream from Cadwaladers by the sea front, thanks to the generosity of Cecilia Davidson. Following this we made our annual pilgrimage to the dodgems in Pwllheli.

Thursday night was banquet and concert night, an event enjoyed by all, with great food served to the tables, live entertainment from all who attended camp, and a special video call from Joy and Colin to top it all off.

Friday saw our famous 'Olympic' sports day take place, led this year by Whitney, followed

by our final trip to the village.

Curtis Murphy led the agape feast for the staff on Friday evening, allowing time for them to relax in a candlelit environment to reflect on the week and enjoy the peaceful blessings of God.

The committee would like to extend a big thank-you to all who worked to make the camp a success – from the worship team, Colin Woodford and Joyce Gilbert, the kitchen team, and all the carers and campers, to Steve Bull and his site team.

The biggest thank-you goes out to Joy for all her steadfast commitment and passion for Special Needs Camp for over 40 years, and to Colin, her husband, who has been a rock by her side. We will aim to continue to run the camp in the blessed Spirit of Christ for many more years to come.

See you there in 2022!

SNC COMMITTEE

The Betrayal

A play by Mark Grey

reviewed by David Neal

My interest in this production dates back to a memory from the early 1970s. A conversation took place between my dad and a church member who'd arrived in the UK during the 1960s from Jamaica, worried that she would no longer be permitted to stay unless she 'got her papers sorted'. To the best of my memory, she did, along with many others of the *Windrush* generation. But some did not and continued living in the UK, thinking they had 'leave to remain'. Even though they were in receipt of a National Insurance number, gainfully employed, and paying income tax, the UK government in 2017 'erroneously classified thousands of legal residents as illegal immigrants after they arrived from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971'.¹

It took the work of *The Guardian* journalist Amelia Gentleman to uncover the scandal, which could perhaps be easily dismissed as the liberal left jumping on yet another bandwagon against the British establishment. But in this case *The Guardian* had a strange bedfellow – *The Daily Mail* – which quickly took up the cause: evidence enough that something was, and continues to be, seriously wrong to this day. Of the *Windrush* arrivals, it is estimated that 10,000 were churchgoers, with up to 3,500 attending Seventh-day Adventist churches.²

Like the writer and director of *Windrush – The Betrayal*, Mark Grey, 'I can't help but feel an affinity with those hounded and harassed,' whether Adventists or not. Grey's affinity as a Jamaican stirred him to go beyond screaming, 'How can this happen, in Great Britain, in the twenty-first century?' by dramatising the story as a play.

With a cast of 14 players, Grey tells the story of Anthony Bryan, Paulette Wilson, Sylvester Marshall and Michael Braithwaite. The first communication for each was a letter in the post, requesting they prove their UK citizenship. If unable to do so, action would be taken quickly, as Amelia Gentleman records in her interview with Paulette Wilson:

*'I was dismayed. It appears that Paulette's only crime was that she hadn't filled in the correct form from the Home Office, and even then it wasn't entirely clear that she needed to fill in any Home Office form at all, given she had been granted the right to remain as a child. For that non-offence she has been detained twice and held in a removal centre for seven days. . . .'*³

It would be easy to misread this as a one-off, easy mistake to make. But, as Gentleman continues, 'The Home Office mistakenly and needlessly locked up a vulnerable woman, after subjecting her to years of torment . . . persisting in asserting that she was at fault.'⁴

What is it about this modern, Western, democratic nation state that it seems unable to provide, when necessary, safeguards to protect the vulnerable and the weak? Why can't 'the system' have the ability to recognise when something is terribly wrong about its adjudication? It



Anthony Bryan, played by Joseph Quartson



Paulette Wilson, played by Misie Goode



Guardian journalist Amelia Gentleman, played by Michelle Heffer

would be easy to suggest 'administrative incompetence' or 'bureaucratic bungling', but the Home Office does not operate in a vacuum. As Gentleman points out in her book, and Grey vividly portrayed in the play, this injustice took place during a time 'when rhetoric on immigration had been steadily hardening for a decade; these people were viewed by officials as collateral damage. In its haste to implement measures which it hoped would cut stubbornly high net migration figures, the government reclassified a large, wholly legal cohort of long-term residents as illegal immigrants.'⁵

As Grey tells the story of the victims, it's clear his play also tells a story about the state: and, through his eyes, a state without a heart. Easy targets are the right-wing politicians of the time. But also portrayed are detention centre 'custodians', seeming to lack any sense of humanity about those in their care.

Supported by the Arts Council, *The Betrayal* was performed at the The Union Theatre in the Old Union Arches, near Borough, London. Excellent acting for an intimate audience, followed by a Q & A session, brought home to this observer the power of the story. Did Grey's play have a particularly overt Christian message? Not one that was visible, and perhaps I would have liked to see how the faith of the victims kept them going when their world was turned dramatically upside down.

But what I do know is this. To this day, of the 15,000 people who were expected to qualify as a result of the *Windrush* scandal, only 864 received compensation for the trouble caused by the Home Office. To compound trouble on trouble, the Home Affairs Select Committee recently reported that 'the design and operation of the scheme to compensate those affected' contained the same bureaucratic insensitivities that led to the *Windrush* scandal in the first place.⁶

Will we ever learn?

*'He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?'*⁷

That's why I continue to be interested in this story, and thank Mark Grey for his commitment to telling it over and over again.

¹<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/24/windrush-home-office-has-compensated-just-5-of-victims-in-four-years> ²*A Century of Adventism in the British Isles*, chapter 13, p. 41 ³*The Windrush Betrayal*, p. 39 ⁴*The Windrush Betrayal*, p. 40 ⁵*The Windrush Betrayal*, p. 40 ⁶<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/24/windrush-home-office-has-compensated-just-5-of-victims-in-four-years> ⁷Micah 6:8, NKJV



Children participating in the quiz with Pastor Herbert



Baptised – the Mudhai brothers and Faith Natayani Siluma

Coventry Central 'Living in tough times' revival

No pen can capture in full the 'Living in tough times' revival series which took place at the recently refurbished Coventry Central church building from 23 to 30 October, and so I would encourage each reader to visit the Coventry Central website for all the recordings. The last half-term of 2021 saw not less than 40 adults and children in the Coventry district of churches and the wider community converge at their church every night at 7pm. There was also an opportunity to watch the series via Zoom and YouTube.

However, the highlight of every night was the exclusive opportunity for every child in attendance at church, including those from the community, to participate in the 'Living in tough times undisputed champion quiz'. The beauty of this quiz was that no child left the stage empty-handed. Those who did not make it to the final round received the much-envied Coventry Central limited-edition pen, and this reminded me of the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). Gloria Majaya was crowned 'Living in tough times champion' four times in the week, and Vincent Chikopa was crowned twice.

The grand finale was on Friday evening, when Nathan Henry came from behind to win the 'Living in tough times outright championship' title.

A very special presentation was made by one of our highly regarded elders, Elder Blake, to recognise the efforts of Gloria and Vincent, who each received a special-edition Bible with 850 features, but may I be quick to point out that each child will receive a special present shortly.

Night after night Dr Patrick Herbert expounded from the Scriptures, beginning at Revelation 5:1-14, under the title 'Stop your crying'. He offered comfort to a people and community who have lost their jobs, health, loved ones, families, and the list goes on. The message of encouragement that was first given to the old incarcerated disciple on the island of Patmos was re-echoed to the people of Coventry and beyond during the revival. The truth of the matter is that everything happening around us calls for us to cry, but God is telling us to stop our crying. There is a solution to all our problems.



Champions: Vincent and Gloria

Here is a small sample of the points shared during the week: 'We know', but, surprisingly, regardless of all the head knowledge that we have of all the Scriptures, we still allow ourselves to become the most miserable of all people, simply because we focus on the here and now at the expense of eternal realities.

The sad reality is that we underplay the love of God. If Christ's sacrifice isn't love, then what is our definition of love? A graphic image was painted of Christ's sacrifice and of our foolishness in not taking the gift bought at such a cost. The price has been paid; the gift is ready for us to collect. Let us embrace that love and enjoy it.

Do you know that giants like Samson, Sisera, the disciples and many others lost their battles because they were sleeping in the wrong places? Unfortunately, the church members have fallen asleep in church.

Aren't we glad that God does not answer some of prayers the way we say them? Think of Elijah's prayer, requesting to die, when he was actually running away from Jezebel's death threats. The question is, how much trouble can you take? Life leaves us with scars, not only on our bodies, but also on our minds. The truth of the matter is that God has a plan and a purpose for our lives.

Sabbath was the high day in Zion, and again a question was posed to the church. Why die foolish? 'Don't maximise the minimum and minimise the maximum.'

No revival would be complete without a baptism, and so four new members were added to the church. The Mudhai brothers sealed their decision to follow Christ by going through the waters of baptism: firstly elder brother Alex, then the twins, Fares and Fraser. Sister Faith Natayani Siluma took the bold stand and followed the boys into the waters of baptism.

DR PATRICK HERBERT



Even more baptisms at Manchester Southern Asia SDA Church

You may have read of our baptism on 12 June 2021 in the August edition of *MESSENGER*. This baptism of Abigail and Sanjana was the first since lockdown, and during the service 12 children responded to the call to commitment.

Five of those children gave their lives in baptism on 31 July – Abhisha Morapudi, Akshay Kandulna, Aurelius Kisku, Joshua Morapudi and Nathan Daniel. At the altar call of this service, 32 more children committed to baptism and have started Bible studies.

At our third baptism on 21 August Priyanka Balakrishnan and Aarthi Anumanthan gave their lives to the Lord.

The families, friends and the church members were rejoicing along with the angels in heaven at their baptism, conducted by Pastor Ebenezer Daniel.

The Manchester Southern Asia church gives God thanks for the lives of all these young people: three baptisms in three months, winning nine souls for the kingdom of heaven. We also thank Pastor Blondel Campbell, our church pastor, for his pastoral support, and the members of Manchester South Church for their help.

DIAMOND SATHE, COMMUNICATION

Baptism at Grantham – 30 October 2021

Although Grantham Church has been open for worship for a few weeks following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, with less than the usual members attending, 30 October was a special day of celebration, with the annual harvest display and a baptism.

Kinga Csoka-Kocsis, originally from Hungary, had decided to follow Christ and be baptised into the Adventist Church.

However, it was to be an occasion with a difference, as the pastor who immersed Kinga was her husband's grandfather, Pastor Paul Csokasi Sr, who had travelled with family members from Hungary.

Prior to the sermon, given by Grantham's resident minister, Pastor Solon Kyriacou, Pastor Paul Csokasi recited a poem in Hungarian, the congregation having been given a written translation in English.

Pastor Csokasi Jr sang at the piano the hymn 'O Happy Day', with the congregation joining in the chorus.

A special prayer in Hungarian was said for Kinga, with an English translator.

After the immersion had taken place and Kinga had returned to the



Pastor Paul Csokasi Sr with Kinga Csoka-Kocsis and Pastor Solon Kyriacou looking on



Pastor Paul Csokasi Sr baptises Kinga Csoka-Kocsis

sanctuary, she sang 'The Power of the Cross' with piano accompaniment.

Kinga was welcomed into the fellowship of the Grantham church by Pastor Kyriacou and his wife, and presentations were made, with a special one from Pastor Csokasi Sr!

We wish continued blessings as Kinga and her family meet with the church in Grantham.

MIKE COWEN

Left to right: Elder Elisha Muringani, Elder Letitia Muringani, Pastor George Kumi, Mayoress Liz Jones, Lord Mayor Councillor Allan Jones, Pastor Ian Sweeney, Pastor Richard Jackson and Pastor Carlton Douglas



Left to right: Pathfinder Area Coordinator Elisha Muringani, Khaya Mkwanzani, Mayoress Liz Jones, Lord Mayor Councillor Allan Jones, Denzel Mbano and Christian Mbano, with Tawonga Thyoka and Sasha Ncube standing at the front

Doncaster SDA Church rejoices in the temple of God for twenty years

On Sabbath 16 October 2021 a celebration service was held to mark the twentieth anniversary of the founding of Doncaster SDA Church under the theme, 'Let us rejoice in the temple of God'. The celebration provided an excellent opportunity for members to take stock of God's providence over the years, as the church, which was founded by a few dedicated members in 2001, has now grown to a membership just shy of a century. The service was held within the confines of the current restrictions due to the effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

The day was made even more special by the guests, the Lord Mayor of Doncaster, Councillor Allan Jones, and his wife, Mayoress Liz. Among the church leaders present were the President of the British Union Conference, Pastor Ian Sweeney, who was the main speaker for the Divine Service; President of the North England Conference, Pastor George Kumi, who led the afternoon programme; and former president of the North England Conference, Pastor Richard Jackson, whose long association with the church dates from his previous time in the district.

The weather played its part with bursts of sunshine, which allowed the Doncaster Pathfinders to open the main service with a march into the church during the raising of the Pathfinder flag ceremony. A special recording of messages from previous ministers who have served the Doncaster church shared a common theme of a church moving forwards by faith from its humble beginnings in Bentley. One of the former ministers, Pastor Victor Marshall, joined our livestream service from sunny Barbados, to the envy of the congregation.

The Lord Mayor Allan praised the work of the early church pioneers in Doncaster, such as Mr Oliver Brown, whose vision led to the buying of the land where the current church building exists; Mrs Zilpah Hadden, who was Doncaster's first elder; the late Elder Zechariah Campbell, who provided spiritual support from Sheffield Burngreave Church; and the late Mrs Dorothy Osborne, to name but a few. In his sermon to mark the occasion, Pastor Sweeney reminded the congregation of the words of David in Psalm 137:4: 'How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?' (ESV.)

The guests were served a delicious vegetarian fellowship lunch, complimented by the Mayoress Liz, who shared the fact that she was also a vegetarian. Her testimony provided a springboard for witness with our Adventist health message.

The afternoon of praise in song and testimony was a time of reflection for those in attendance, contemplating what the future holds for the church in South Yorkshire. God had blessed this special day through His word, music and food, and demonstrated that we can reach people through every avenue. Let us continue to rejoice in the temple of our God (Psalm 122:1).

ELDER MANDELA THYOKA & PASTOR CARLTON DOUGLAS



Dr Robbie Addaih on the right reproduced with permission

West Bletchley SDA Community Church – making disciples, building communities

At the end of October, Milton Keynes held their Community Champion Award ceremony to recognise individuals' commitment to assisting and supporting those in need.

Many nominations were made, and even more votes were cast and counted to result in our own Dr Robbie Osei Addaih being named for the award. He was nominated for legal services given free of charge and signposting to various local services regarding immigration matters in particular. When sharing news of the award with the church family, Elder Robbie expressed his thanks to the members for their votes, and to God for using him to do something special for Him in the community in making disciples and building communities.

SYLVONIE NOEL



Left to right: Ian Smith, Elder John Stephenson (speaker), Elder Julian Cranfield, Pastor Tremon Jackson, Elder Errol Westcarr, unknown, with Taniela Taraivosu Tuicatu and Carolyn Stephenson standing in front

Four baptisms in Gloucester

On Sabbath 23 October Gloucester Seventh-day Adventist Church concluded its two-week outreach campaign, which saw four individuals give their lives to Jesus.

Elder John Stephenson of the NEC was the speaker throughout, and spoke on topics including the state of the dead, the mark of the beast and the Sabbath/Sunday question. Elder Stephenson used to live in Gloucester and was baptised in the Gloucester church before moving to Birmingham, where he now lives.

The theme of the campaign was 'Final boarding call: don't miss your flight', and John spoke powerfully each night on the messages in the Bible that were needed to ensure we complete our journey to the Kingdom.

The campaign had been preceded by extensive promotions, and on the first Sabbath of each month, for a year, street witnessing in the centre of Gloucester had taken place with leaflet and book distribution. From the beginning of this year the Salisbury SDA church had provided

a team that joined us in this outreach effort on each of the Sabbaths, and they made a huge contribution to the campaign's success.

During one of his appeals, John's wife Carolyn recommitted her life to Jesus, and she, along with husband and wife couple Taniela and Taraivosu Tuicatu, and Ian Smith, were baptised by Pastor Tremon Jackson on a joyful Sabbath afternoon.

In his closing address Pastor Jackson emphasised the nearness of the Second Coming of Jesus, and the importance for all to ensure they did not miss the 'final call'. Pastor Jackson expressed his appreciation and thanks to all concerned in the running of the campaign, and to John Stephenson for his commitment and powerful preaching.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPT



Anita Connaghan, Ruth Farrer and Dorothy Logan enjoy a break in the arts and crafts shop

Feeding the hungry

The 30 October Crieff harvest festival this year had no wonderful display of flowers and bright fruit, because the produce, destined for the Crieff foodbank, had to be non-perishable. With more than 300 items of food, the display did look impressive! Sadly, the need for foodbanks is growing.

It was not the first time this year Crieff members have responded to the needs of the hungry. The daughter of Pastor and Mrs Riches (Melanie) works for the Church in Lebanon. She has been appalled at the suffering of the local population caused by the huge blast in 2020, years of corrupt government, and the coronavirus. Inflation is huge, and there is a shortage of fuel, food and basic necessities such as medicines and even baby nappies. Inflation has caused 40 litres of petrol to rise from £16 to £191. Water costs have risen 400%. Many people are near to starvation. So from their own salary Melanie and her husband, Mike, have been trying to help as many families as possible.

Overwhelmed by the number of people calling for help, Melanie set up a charity called 'Lavishing Love on Lebanon'. It started by feeding and helping twenty-five families composed of more than 800 people. The response from friends and Crieff members has been wonderful, who so far have given about £18,000.

While Melanie was visiting her parents recently she updated the Crieff members on her work. Eight-five-year-old Dorothy Logan was so impressed by the work that she was stirred to help. An artist and a sculptor, she decided to organise a pop-up arts and crafts shop to sell her paintings and sculptures. Crieff Church is also blessed with several talented artists, so Dorothy asked them to donate some of their paintings and sculptures. Other items were also given, and the shop opened on 8 November and at the time of writing has taken over £700.

Crieff members started their humanitarian work in earnest in 2005. Impressed by the 'Make Poverty History' movement, Dr Steve Logan asked the church board if Crieff could do something, and CAP (Crieff Aid Project) was born with the intention of helping needy causes at home and abroad. Since then, the church and members have given about £250,000 and helped the Perth Women's Aid Charity and the Crieff Logos (which is a Christian centre for young people). Abroad, it has sent money to an Adventist hospital in Africa, which feeds AIDS orphan victims; it has helped dig wells to provide pure water for communities; it has helped rescue vulnerable girls and women in the Philippines; and much else besides.

Being involved in humanitarian work is a constant blessing to members. They remember the words of Jesus when He said that when they help the needy, they are actually helping Him.

PASTOR BOB RODD

No fears, no chains

An interview with Vanesa Pizzuto

Vanesa Pizzuto is a freelance journalist and broadcaster based in St. Albans. Her latest book, *No Fears, No Chains*, is a daily devotional for women seeking to live with freedom and emotional abundance. In an interview with the editor, Vanesa shares her writing journey and why dreaming big is the best way to honour God.

David Neal: What led you to write a devotional book for women?

Vanesa Pizzuto: I wanted to write a book that talked about who we are, not just what we do. Often articles and books for women focus too heavily on our roles as wives, mothers or professionals. In my experience, however, this can fuel performance anxiety and insecurity. But what if we had nothing to prove? How would we live if our relationship status, our parenting skills or our professional accomplishments were not the barometer of our worth as women? *No Fears, No Chains* is an invitation to live from a place of emotional abundance, reclaiming our identity as legitimate and deeply loved daughters of God.

DN: What are some of the chains that hold women back?

VP: There are a thousand different things that could hold us back, but I think it all boils down to identity. One of the best tricks of the enemy is to whisper in our ears, 'You are adopted, and if you don't behave you will be sent back to the orphanage.' When we accept this false identity, when we travel through life with this fake passport, our emotional energy is wasted trying to prove our worth and to win the approval of others. Living like this is not only completely exhausting, but it also makes us look at other women with suspicion and resentment. If we are to 'earn' our worth, other women are opponents, not our allies.

The truth is that there is nothing to prove. The verdict has already been issued: we are God's beloved daughters! God invites us to the messy journey of healing to set us free from false and limiting beliefs.

DN: How long does it take to

write a 365-day devotional?

VP: Longer than you think! I started writing the book in March of 2019, but I would never have finished on time if the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises hadn't forced me to stop. In July 2021 I suddenly found myself without a job and was glad to have a project to focus my attention on. I am not sure I would have coped with all those months of uncertainty and anxiety without that. Now, in retrospect, I can see how God redeemed that season of my life.

DN: That's a brilliant transformation!

VP: Absolutely! But God upcycled that season of my life without ignoring, invalidating or shaming my emotions. And this is something I talk about in the book – the importance of reclaiming the language of lament. There are more lament psalms in the Bible than praise psalms! Nobody considered prophet Jeremiah or prophet Habakkuk less spiritual because of their prayers of lament. We need to make room for these kinds of emotionally authentic prayers. It is actually through these uncomfortable and raw prayers that much healing can take place.

DN: What is the one lesson you learnt in the process?

VP: To dream big, really big! Sometimes we ask God for a dream size 'S' and He goes, 'No, darling. You need an "XL" so you can grow into it.' When I started writing this book, I thought, *It would be super cool if my book got published throughout South America.* I figured that was a large enough dream! But God handed me an 'XL'. My book got translated into English and French, and it's available in North,

South and Central America, the Caribbean islands, and also in Europe. Dreaming small is not being humble; it's allowing fear to hold you back. Dream BIG; you cannot out-dream God. You cannot ask too much from the Almighty.

DN: So there is such a thing as 'holy ambition'?

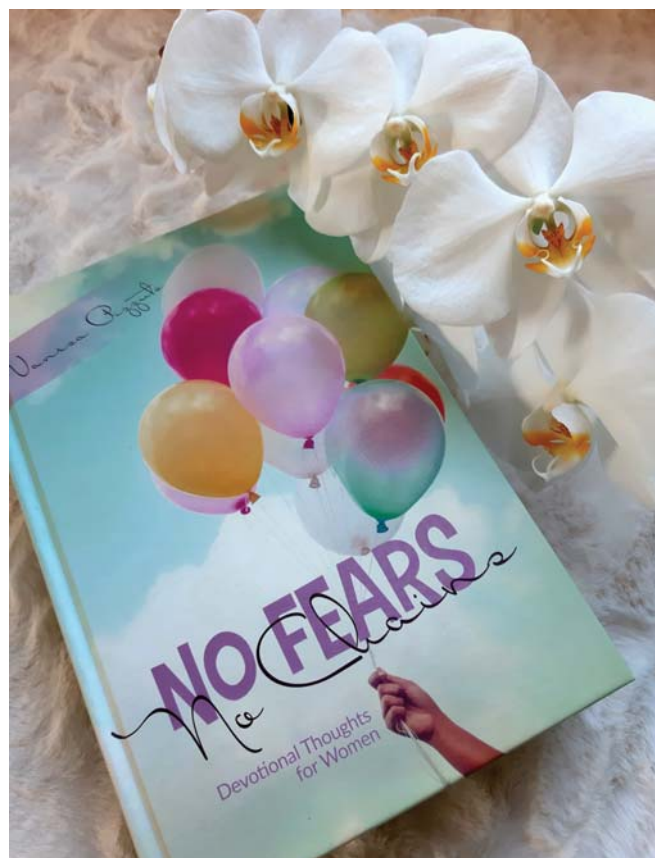
VP: Absolutely! One of the most profoundly spiritual things we will

ever do is figuring out what we want and mustering the courage to ask God for it. Before healing blind Bartimaeus, Jesus asked him a seemingly unnecessary question: 'What do you want me to do for you?' (Mark 10:51, NIV.) If Jesus were to ask you the same today, what would you answer?

I think that, rather than covering our lack of self-awareness with fake humility, Jesus wants us to know and own our needs and dreams. This means untangling ourselves from other people's expectations. It means stilling ourselves long enough to breathe and hear our own thoughts. And it means taking risks and making mistakes – all of which feels very uncomfortable and impossible to control! But it is through this messy and risky path that our hearts, fully alive, can bring greater glory to God.



No Fears, No Chains is distributed in Europe by The Stanborough Press Ltd. and can be purchased at: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/no-fears-no-chains-devotional-thoughts-for-women/>





Are outposts still relevant? (Part 1)

My son is studying urban design. I'm proud of him; he has shown me his work recently, and I am curious of his work and study, as it resonates well with my past interests, work, and study; albeit mine

has been in furniture making and building design, whereas his is on a bigger geographic scale. Now, to reference a previous area of study of mine – outdoor education – I have a bias for natural life, so it's no surprise to me that I find myself interested in reading about urban greening.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 'Currently, there is no universally accepted definition of urban green space with regard to its health and well being impacts. Urban green spaces may include places with "natural surfaces" or "natural settings", but may also include specific types of urban greenery, such as street trees, and may also include "blue space", which represents water elements ranging from ponds to coastal zones.'¹

I find it interesting that, as the world becomes increasingly urban, there is a realisation of the need for nature and its health benefits among those who populate these metropolises. While the WHO does not consider the 'evil influences' of urban living, it recognises that humans need nature for health and healing.

While this greening is new to the emergence of urban design, increasingly backed up by health and well-being research, Ellen White wrote about the benefits of nature more than a century before.

'Instead of dwelling where only the works of men can be seen, where the sights and sounds frequently suggest thoughts of evil, where turmoil and confusion bring weariness and disquietude, go where you can look upon the works of God. Find rest of spirit in the beauty and quietude and peace of nature. Let the eye rest on the green fields, the groves, and the hills. Look up to the blue sky, unobscured by the city's

dust and smoke, and breathe the invigorating air of heaven. Go where, apart from the distractions and dissipations of city life, you can give your children your companionship, where you can teach them to learn of God through His works, and train them for lives of integrity and usefulness' (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 367).

On a family level Ellen White went beyond suggesting we should make our homes where nature could be seen. She wrote such things as the following: 'The time has come, when, as God opens the way, families should move out of the cities. The children should be taken into the country. The parents should get as suitable a place as their means will allow. Though the dwelling may be small, yet there should be land in connection with it that may be cultivated' (manuscript 50, 1903). 'Parents can secure small homes in the country, with land for cultivation . . . on such places the children will not be surrounded with the corrupting influences of city life. God will help His people to find such homes outside of the cities' (*Medical Ministry*, p. 310). 'Let no temporal advantages tempt parents to neglect the training of their children. Whenever possible, it is the duty of parents to make homes in the country for their children. The children and youth should be carefully guarded. They should be kept away from the hotbeds of iniquity that are to be found in our cities. Let them be surrounded by the influences of a true Christian home – a home where Christ abides' (letter 268, 1906).

It seems to me that Ellen White emphasises two outcomes for families who experience country living. Firstly, being in nature and working the land is good for our health and focuses our spiritual attention on God. Secondly, we are therefore gainfully employed in having dominion over the land, a purpose of God for us since the garden of Eden, while not having the ease of access to evil or idle temptation.

In part 2, I ponder about a reality – Stanborough Park and Newbold College when first purchased were in open country, but are now surrounded by urban sprawl. Does this have an impact on our mission?

¹https://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/321971/Urban-green-spaces-and-health-review-evidence.pdf

At a glance . . .

- **Young Adventists from Honiara in the Solomon Islands have been helping clear up the mess following civil unrest** in their country, according to Jarrod Stackelroth of the *Adventist Record*. Operating under the slogan, 'Hands and feet of Jesus', the youth groups cleaned up the main road into Honiara from the airport. The violence had begun when a protest march on 24 November turned into violent looting and arson, much of it in Chinatown, with at least three deaths reported and a 36-hour curfew imposed by the authorities. ADRA Solomon Islands has also been assisting the youths by supplying water.
- **The Inter-American Division recently hosted an online symposium on 'Freedom of Conscience and the Vaccine Mandate'**, featuring several different Seventh-day Adventist experts, including a professor from the University of Harvard. Professor David R. Williams, Florence and Laura Norman Professor of Public Health Chair at Harvard University and General Conference Health Ministries Associate Director, discussed 'the role of science, if any, in a Christ-centred health ministry'. Using the raising of Lazarus as an example, Professor Williams showed the vital role that both prayer and human cooperation play in healing. Agreeing with Adventist Church Health Ministries Director Peter Landless, 'Williams said we must only promote practices consistent with Scriptures, supported by the Spirit of Prophecy, and based on sound (evidence-based) science,' says Marcos Paseggi of *Inter-American Division News*. Paseggi continues, 'It is against this background that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has encouraged responsible immunisation.' To see more, visit: interamerica.org/2021/11/Harvard-university-adventist-professor-explains-why-vaccination-is-a-good-idea/.

- **British churches and mosques have launched 'a new programme of local conversations'**, according to *The Baptist Times*. The announcement of the scheme coincided with Inter-Faith Week 2021, which took place from 14 to 21 November this year, and it involves a group of church denominations and mosques in a new phase of dialogue 'aimed at encouraging Christians and Muslims to meet and share conversations in their local settings . . . at a place of worship or over a shared meal'. Last year, a digital pilot brought mosque and church congregations together over Zoom for a series of online conversations, including Baptists, the United Reformed Church and the Salvation Army. Practical outcomes included churches and mosques partnering to offer food and furniture to refugees and asylum seekers in Darwen, Lancashire.
- **Hundreds of people have been baptised in the Philippines following a free clinic and evangelism.** The *Adventist Review* and Delsie Vicente and Memerto M. Guinguing II of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division write that the evangelism faced many setbacks, including visa rejections and the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network USA being unable to attend; however, a medical team was able to serve hundreds of people a day, providing them with dental care, minor surgery, optometry and general check-ups. Organisers said, 'No words can describe how fulfilling it is to be . . . channels of blessings, healing, and compassion of our Maker towards all people.'

'At a glance . . .' provides a roundup of news in a regular column for MESSENGER, keeping our readers informed of events in other Christian denominations in the UK and Ireland, as well as the wider Adventist Church across the globe.

ANDREW PUCKERING

Adventist mission explosion

by Dr George Knight

Then I saw another angel flying high in the air, with an eternal message of Good News to announce to the peoples of the earth, to every race, tribe, language, and nation.

Revelation 14:6, GNB.

It must be confessed that the Seventh-day Adventist Church did not begin as a mission-oriented people. To the contrary, their earliest years found them as what we might call the anti-mission people.

Between 1844 and 1850, holding to the shut-door theology, they felt no burden to preach to any but those who had been in the Millerite movement of the 1840s.

'Shortsighted!' you might say. Yes, but an essential stage in the development of Adventism. This period of Adventist mission (1844-1850) freed up scarce resources from potential missions to build a doctrinal

platform. In other words, first came a very distinct message, and only after that could they spread that message.

The second stage of Adventist mission (1850-1874) restricted itself to North America. This was also a necessary step in the progression of Adventist mission. Those years allowed for the development of a power base in North America that could eventually support a foreign missions project.

We might think of the third stage (1874-1889) as mission to the Christian nations. Thus Seventh-day Adventists sent their first official denominational missionary to

Switzerland to call people out of Babylon. And, even when they went to such places as Australia or South Africa, the Adventists always began their work among the Christians of those nations. Limited as it was, the third stage functioned to establish additional power bases among the various Christian populations scattered around the world. As a result, those nations were prepared to act as home bases for the sending of missionaries at the beginning of the fourth stage of Adventist missions, which began in 1890. We might regard that stage as mission to the world – not just to Christian populations around the earth, but to all peoples.

Step by step, without anyone being conscious of what was taking place in the overall development of Adventist missions, God positioned the Seventh-day Adventist Church where it could take advantage of the Protestant mission explosion that detonated in the last years of the nineteenth century.

God leads, even when we aren't aware of it.

This article is an excerpt from *Lest We Forget* by George R. Knight (published by Review and Herald), reprinted here with permission from the author and the publisher. You can purchase the devotional from the LifeSource website: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk>.



Letter to the Editor

Re: leadership

Dear Editor,

In your article in *MESSENGER* no. 7 entitled 'Let's talk about leadership', you asked for thoughts on this subject, and I'd like to share my thoughts on this aspect:

'Leadership is the capacity to care; and, in caring, to liberate the ideas, energy and capacity of others.' I'd like to focus on the aspect of 'liberating the ideas, energy and capacity of others'.

In the twenty-first century you can no longer dictate to people how they should/must think or act. You have to allow for diverse views and ideas and find ways to channel them.

I believe we have a completely wrong understanding of what leadership is about. Too often we see leaders as 'out front', directing things and implementing their plans, telling 'the troops' what they need to do.

Effective leadership is about listening to all the opinions, trying to understand the concerns people have and not mandating your opinion. Good leaders are open and willing to admit their mistakes and are willing to change if necessary. They do not have an automatic right to 'be right'. It should never be 'my way or the highway'. Leaders should never use their positions in an organisation to bulldoze things through or bully others into accepting their views.

In my working life the best leaders have always tried to listen to and understand the concerns of all those working for them. This approach leads to people being motivated and feeling empowered, without being continually pressured to perform.

In other cultures, particularly in Japan, leadership is by consensus, where a proposed issue is thoroughly and openly debated throughout the whole organisation until there is agreement on it. The emphasis is not on the answer to the question, but defining what the question is. And only then is a decision made.

Leaders are stewards of the group, whether it is at a church congregation level or at the General Conference. Peter Block defines stewardship as 'holding in trust for another . . . as the willingness to be accountable for the well-being of the larger organisation by operating in service, rather than control of those around us. Stated simply, it is accountability without control or compliance.'¹

True leaders, then, are those who listen, who are prepared to change and work by consensus, allowing the creative ideas of others to develop, even if it is not necessarily the way they would have chosen.

RAY MORRIS, ELDER, YSTRAD MYNACH

¹Stewardship – Choosing Service Over Self-interest by Peter Block, Berrett-Koehler, 2013

In Loving Memory

Over the past few weeks, we have become aware of the many members who have passed to their rest. We mourn with their families as they await the Resurrection.

Pastor John Arthur
Joy Beardsell
Les Dean
Barry Gowland
Volney Ham-Ying
Candice Harewood
Gayle Harewood
Kathi Hyatt
Margaret Lowe
Dr John Rees
Anthony Dennis Samuel
Pastor Ron Surridge

Maranatha



**Wendy Nawrotzki
(née Anthony)
(1964-2021)
d. 4 October.**



Wendy was born in Watford on 6 March 1964, the second daughter of Pastor Martin Anthony and his wife, Margaret, and little sister to Helen.

She was fortunate that much of her schooling was in Adventist schools – Hyland House (1968-1971), Newbold School (1971-1974), and Stanborough School (1976-1982). After leaving school she attended Newbold College for a year, and then studied for a BEd degree at Reading University. As President for the Adventist Students' Association (ASA), she organised student retreats in various locations nationwide. Wendy often revisited Newbold at the weekends, and there she met her future husband, Peter Nawrotzki. After completing a year's probationary teaching at a primary school in Rickmansworth, Wendy moved to Austria and worked for two years as an au pair for different families while studying German at university. She made many international friends and was involved in activities at the Adventist church in Innsbruck.

In 1990 she married Peter and relocated permanently to Bad Aibling in Bavaria. Two children were born into their union – Christina (1992) and Daniel (1994). Wendy continued to work as a teacher, not only in the classroom, but also as a tutor in English. She used her language and people skills widely in study groups, including with adults and pensioners, private companies, pupils needing extra help, and nursery and further education college classes.

Wendy especially loved the very young, and over 30 years she was a valued leader in her local Kindergarten Sabbath School. She instigated annual ADRA 'shoebox' appeals for needy children in Eastern Europe. She made contacts at car boot sales on trips to England and stuffed her suitcase with toys, leaving her own clothing and personal items behind. Wendy played piano and guitar and was an active member of her church choir (she enrolled for a course in yodelling!). She loved to sightsee,

walk and climb in the mountain, forest and lake scenery near her country home.

Wendy was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in June 2020, enduring regular treatments and an invasive surgical operation with courage and fortitude. She continued to teach, meet with others and serve her family lovingly, despite constant suffering. Her faith remained strong and she declared to her pastor, 'I know that my Redeemer lives!' Her favourite song became 'Through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus/depend upon His love'.

A fortnight before she passed away, she experienced the joy of attending her daughter Christina's wedding. Wendy was laid to rest in the same beautiful dress she wore then, and we look forward to seeing her next time, restored and clothed in her Saviour's robe of righteousness at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

HELEN HIRVONEN

**Peter Hinks
(1931-2021)
d. 12 October.**



Peter graduated from Newbold Missionary College in May 1962 and joined Granose Foods Limited, based at that time on Stanborough Park. He was office manager, and thus commenced forty loyal years of continuous service, in a variety of roles, for the Church that he loved, its membership and, above all, his ultimate overseer, his heavenly Father.

Born in Birmingham during the time of the Great Depression, Peter left school at the age of fourteen and secured employment working for a grocery store, where he remained until called up to complete his National Service. Drafted into the Royal Air Force, Peter served in the Catering Corps for the duration of his two years' service. Returning to civilian life, he secured the post of store manager for a George Mason grocery store in Birmingham.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Peter began searching for spiritual assurance. Invited to attend an evangelistic campaign held in Birmingham's Theatre Royal, led by Pastor Kenneth Lacey, he found Jesus and, in Peter's own words, was 'born

again'. On 21 July 1956 Peter gave his heart to Jesus and was baptised alongside 56 other souls.

Peter subsequently joined the Camp Hill church, where he was to meet the young woman who was to become his lifelong loving companion, supporter and friend. Jean Barnwell and Peter were married on 9 March 1958 at Camp Hill, a love story that would span over a further sixty-three years and receive the blessing of three sons, six grandsons and four great-grandchildren.

Having given his life to Jesus, Peter was confronted with the reality of finding employment with Sabbath privileges. Leaving his managerial post with George Mason's, Peter found employment with an engineering firm as an accounts clerk. He acknowledged how through this demanding period the support he received from Jean was immense.

In 1960 Peter applied to Newbold to join the Business Studies course and moved into married student accommodation at Crossways in the September of that year.

Peter's service with Granose Foods initially spanned fifteen years, moving from office manager to accountant on completion of further part-time studies. Leaving Granose, Peter was elected to the post of secretary treasurer at the South England Conference and served for two years before moving to the British Union Conference, assuming responsibility for ministerial car insurance policies and claims. In 1983 Peter moved back to Granose Foods as financial director, where he served until the company was sold to Haldane Foods Limited when the company left church administration.

Peter's final years of service were with the Trans-European Division at St Albans as associate treasurer. In this capacity he also served as treasurer for the Israel Field and for Albania.

Peter also served his local church at Stanborough Park as associate treasurer for local funds for nine years, and then a further six years as treasurer. However, for many in the local community he will be most fondly remembered as treasurer of the 'Seniors Club' for nine years. He was still presenting the accounts

to the committee a matter of only a few months before his passing.

Thus it was on Tuesday 9 November 2021 at Stanborough Park Church that his family were joined by so many friends and church members to commemorate the life of this modest Christian gentleman and beloved family man. Welcomed by the resident pastor, Geert Tap, the theme of 'Hope' was immediately introduced. The favourite psalm of Jean and Peter was then read by Audrey Andersson, Executive Secretary of the TED and family friend: 'I lift up my eyes to the hills . . .' (Psalm 121, ESV), a favourite Jean and Peter would recite to each other as they walked the Lakeland Fells or climbed the Malvern Hills – their special places.

In the life sketch which followed, Paul Bellamy, a family friend, quoted the words of Pastor Don Lowe, who had been the SEC President during Peter's term of office. 'Peter was a loyal, honest and straightforward colleague; there were no secrets; he was an absolute pleasure to work with, and through our service together we became firm friends.'

There followed tributes from grandson Oliver and his cousin, Aidan, who recalled many happy times spent with their grandad. With great fondness they shared memories of their loving, humorous and playful grandparent. Pastor James Huzzey then reiterated Peter's qualities, speaking from personal experience from their time together at the TED. His message to Jean and the family and to all present was the precious hope we have in Jesus that, despite the immediate loss and sadness, there is hope in the resurrection and promises of Jesus. As Peter recorded in the notes that he prepared, speaking of his Saviour, 'He is faithful.'

The service was also greatly enhanced by the music performed by the Ahn sisters and the guest organist, Michael Cayton, the conductor of the Watford Philharmonic Orchestra. The love of music shared by Jean and Peter was clearly demonstrated by the choice of hymns and music played during the service, including Elgar's 'Nimrod', 'Amazing Grace', with Bach and 'The Lord bless you

and keep you' by John Rutter.

The committal followed at the North Watford Cemetery, conducted jointly by Pastors Tapp and Huzzey.

Peter will be greatly missed by his beloved wife Jean, his family and many friends alike. Peter now sleeps in the sure and faithful promise of the resurrection when Jesus returns.

PAUL BELLAMY

**Vivian Llewellyn (1934-2020)
d. 12 April.**

It is almost a year and a half ago now that we lost our very dear friend Viv Llewellyn. He gently fell asleep in Jesus' arms on the evening of Easter Sunday 2020.

Viv had arrived home from a coach holiday to one of his favourite places (Torbay, Devon) a few days earlier, and was happy to be home. It was quite a shock for us to hear the news from his eldest daughter Stephanie, but we did praise God that his end was peaceful and quiet, and not touched by the enemy that has kept us all locked up for so many months.

There is quite a tale to be told about our friend and minister, and a lot of it begins in his home town of Cardiff. Viv was born there on 5 March 1934, and was educated there too; also, he joined the Merchant Navy from there and served on HMS *Conway*.

On one of his home visits he and a few mates decided to walk along the beach, and on that Sabbath afternoon a pretty young girl and her friends from Cardiff SDA Church had the same idea. And, as they say, 'the rest is history'. Miss Anne Smith and our Viv were married on 2 September 1958 at the Cardiff church, six years after he had been baptised in that very church.

Leaving the sea behind him, Viv and Anne moved to Newbold College, where in 1962 he graduated with a ministerial BA, and on 1 September of that year he served his internship at the New Gallery Centre in London. Soon after, Viv was posted to the Torquay church as pastor, and so followed what Viv called the 'best job ever', being the pastor to another five churches before spending his last eleven years in pastoring at the Southampton and Winchester churches. In 1968, when Viv was pastor at Folkestone and Canterbury Church, Stephanie joined Viv and

Anne, and then in 1971, while serving in St Albans, Elisabeth completed the Llewellyn family.

Viv always enjoyed doing things with the church youth, and so Oxwich Bay was the ideal place for him to teach knots and shells and inform the youngsters all about the deep! I'm not too sure who enjoyed it most – he or the youngsters, who apparently still have vivid memories of their yearly visits to Oxwich.

In September 1987 Viv and Anne were serving Southampton and Winchester churches and were very keen to help the underprivileged children who lived in and around the Southampton church, so they started up a play group for the little ones, and for their parents, a place to relax, have a hot drink, and chat with others in the same position as themselves.

In 2009 Anne fell asleep in the arms of Jesus after wrestling with cancer. Viv and the girls were beside themselves with pain and loss: the girls had their husbands, so between them all they cared, loved and nurtured Viv back into a different way of life.

With that different life Viv decided on two things: one was to take to travelling the UK with Shearings, the holiday bus tour company, and the other was to go back to the sea, but not literally. With Shearings holidays Viv always returned with tales of the people he had met and, in some cases, how he had been able to help with their problems. We referred to it as 'Viv's new ministry', which gave him great pleasure to spread the Good News of our wonderful Saviour and Lord and also made some new friends into the bargain.

Viv didn't actually go back to the sea, but joined the Mission to Seafarers, where he took on a voluntary visitor/chaplain role and, along with others like him, received a warm welcome on board many vessels in British waters. Viv worked out of Southampton docks and did a wonderful job, looking after mariners with city maps for those going ashore, and he carried phone cards and a great deal of information about the local area. A visitor would also spend time talking about the crew's family and also about their faith and, at times, the loneliness of spending a long time away from their families.

It's been a most peculiar year and a half – one where many have said sad goodbyes to loved ones. This has been a story of love, family, friendship and loss. But we are proud at Winchester Church to have been part of Vivian Llewellyn's story, his sense of humour, his ever-present smile, his service to a truly wonderful God, his work with and for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and, most of all, his friendship to each one of us. We will now have to wait for that great day when Jesus comes to take us all home.

What a day that will be!

WENDY BRADLEY, COMMUNICATIONS
WINCHESTER CHURCH

**Hazel May Hill
(née Sanders)
1929-2021
d. 24 July.**

Born in Garston, Watford, Hazel's home was Stanborough Park, where she attended Stanborough School and worked at the Stanborough Press. In 1951 she married her school sweetheart, Ken Hill, who was her companion and best friend for 66 years. Hazel began her calling as homemaker/mother extraordinaire in Coventry, Bleanau Ffestiniog, and Wolverhampton. She then emigrated to Canada with Ken and their young family in 1967 and continued to support their professional and academic endeavours from home bases in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Following Ken's retirement in 1989 they volunteered together for 10 years with ADRA Canada and 'A Better World Canada' to develop rehabilitation services for children with polio in rural Kenya. During this period Hazel became a 'mother' to many Kenyan children. Hazel was thrilled to attend Stanborough School's centenary celebration in 2019, where she was recognised as the oldest returning student.

Hazel passed away peacefully at home in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, at the age of 92. She is fondly remembered for her cheerfulness, personal interest in others, warm hospitality, sense of adventure, and unwavering devotion to her faith and family.

Grieving her loss are her sister, Carol Magee of Banbridge, Northern Ireland; daughter, Karen

(& Henry) Leung of Alberta, Canada; son, Kelvin (& Marcia) Hill of Alberta, Canada; son, Colin (& Sheila) Hill of Alberta, Canada; daughter, Susan (& Kroy) Christison of British Columbia, Canada; and seven grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on 10 October with all her family present and officiated by long-time friend, Pastor Malcolm Pedlar. She now sleeps, beside her beloved Ken, until Jesus comes again.

CAROL MAGEE

Messenger

Volume 126 • 12 – 24 December 2021

Editor: David Neal
Editorial secretary: Sarah Jarvis
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering
Production and distribution:
Peter Oppong-Mensah

COPY FOR No. 2 – 3 January 2022

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The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published monthly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk ISSN 0309-3654

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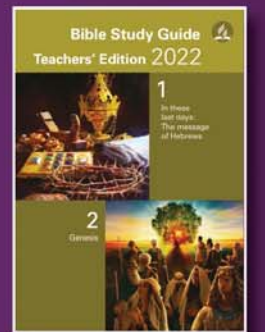
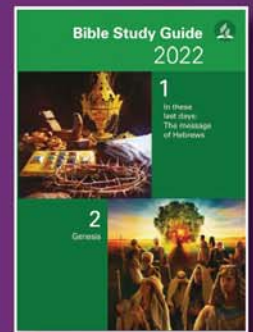
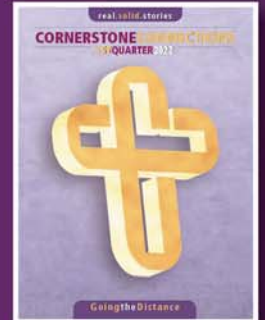
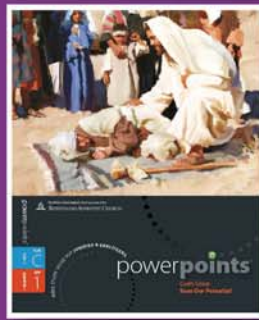
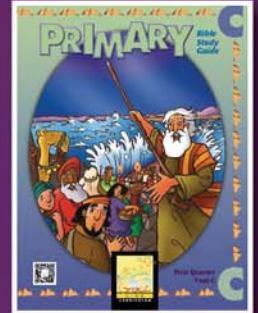
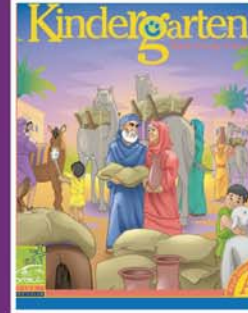
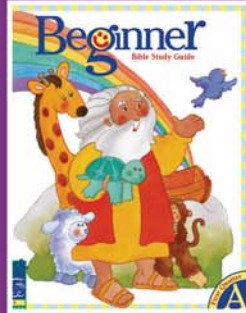
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Dec 24	3.55	4.08	3.52	3.42	4.01
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Jan 7	4.09	4.22	4.06	3.58	4.17
14	4.19	4.32	4.17	4.09	4.28

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