

Reading West is dedicated

by Elliott Aboagye

Sabbath, 22 July, was not only the dedication of the Reading West church building, but a celebration of the journey that it has been a part of. Starting off as a branch Sabbath school of the Reading Central church with just a few members, the congregation now boasts over 300 members.

Reading West's drum corps set the tone for the day, when they ushered in the Pathfinder colour party at the beginning of the worship service and drummed them out at the end as they proudly carried their Adventurer, Pathfinder and Adventist Youth flags.

Dr Emmanuel Osei, President of the South England Conference (SEC) and speaker of the hour, spoke on the theme, 'Stay in the Ship', basing his message on Acts 27. Dr Osei led out in the ceremony and, along with the Treasurer of the British Union Conference (BUC), Earl Ramharacksingh, confirmed that the building had been paid for in full, to which there was a loud amen from the congregation!

Various pastors were in attendance, including current church pastor, Pastor Trevor Thomas, and Pastor Everett Picart, who pastored the

church when it was known as Reading Whitley. Other former pastors in attendance who used to serve at Reading Whitley were Joojo Bonnie, Namushi Namuchana, George Kumi, Charles Nyambane, and Vasyi Vartsaba.

Victor Hulbert, who pastored Reading Whitley while it was still a church plant, was not able to make the day, but he sent a video message thanking God for what He has done for the church, and wishing the members the best for the future. Pastors Sam Davies and Lewis Quaye, former members of Reading Whitley, also sent video messages in their absence. Former church pastor Dennis Mingo was unable to make it as he was abroad, but he was represented by his wife, Janice.

The day was blessed with music in abundance, as the Reading West Church Choir, Youth Choir, and Children's Choir sang during the worship service, while Reading West's singing group *Pilgrims*, Reading Ghana's Senior and Youth Choirs, and Reading Angaza Church's singing group, *God's Diamond*, performed in the afternoon.

To God be the glory for His work in Reading West!



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Enhancing Health

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

Air quality standards

In her article entitled 'London exceeds annual air pollution targets in just 5 days' in *The Independent* (6 January 2017)¹ journalist Anna Hirstenstein reported that a site on Brixton Road in South London broke the European Union's annual permitted limit of 18 breaches by surpassing hourly limits for nitrogen dioxide concentration 24 times in the first 5 days of the year. Hirstenstein highlights data from King's College London's Air Quality Network website, which identified that the pollutant came from diesel engines in cars, trucks and other sources.

Jenny Bates, Friends of the Earth campaigner, says that 'Road traffic is the biggest culprit, and diesel is the worst.' In a statement indicating the need for action she continues, 'This is why the Government must take much bolder and quicker action including planning to phase out diesel by 2025. It's scandalous that air pollution limits for the entire year have already been breached.'

In a move to improve air quality, the introduction of a new 'Air Quality Positive Standard' is being compiled to ensure new building developments contribute to cleaning London's air. One segment of the air quality plan is aimed at assisting at least 50 schools in some of London's most polluted areas to reduce pupils' exposure to poor air.

The mayor is perusing powers to enforce controls on air pollution from construction machinery, the river and other sources in London. Key policies from the Mayor's draft strategy² include:

- **Green spaces:** A new £9 million Greener City Fund for London is to create and improve green spaces to help make London the world's first 'National Park City'.
- **Energy:** To make London a zero-carbon city by 2050, London's first solar action plan highlights the Mayor's actions to double London's solar energy generation capacity by 2030.
- **Fuel poverty:** A new fuel poverty action plan includes support through £10m energy efficiency delivery programmes.
- **Waste:** Setting minimum recycling standards is to meet the Mayor's target to recycle 65% of London's waste by 2030 and help cut food waste by 20% per person by 2025.

Sadiq Khan said: 'London is home to outstanding green spaces that I want to protect, invest in and improve as we aim to become the world's first National Park City. We can also increase the amount of greenery in the city by installing many more green roofs and making our streets greener. . . . This "green infrastructure" is a vital asset that improves air quality, boosts quality of life, conserves wildlife and attracts thousands of visitors.'

Next issue – indoor air.

Good health!

¹<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/london-air-pollution-safety-levels-five-day-2017-air-quality-hourly-limits-nitrogen-dioxide-eu-kings-a7512901.html>
²<https://www.acenet.co.uk/mayor-of-london-publishes-draft-london-environment-strategy/4235/2/1/610/3>

editorial

On the morning of 3 September, the world awoke to disturbing news:

'On Sunday, seismologists started picking up readings of an earth tremor in the area where North Korea had conducted nuclear tests before.

'The US Geological Survey put the tremor at 6.3 magnitude.

'North Korean state media later confirmed it was no earthquake, claiming it was in fact its sixth and most powerful nuclear test, detonating a hydrogen bomb that could be loaded onto a long-range missile.'¹

Subsequent news has been just as distressing. Shortly after the blast, South Korea responded with a show of strength by firing missiles of its own in a simulated attack on North Korea's nuclear test site.² Was this brinkmanship or foolishness?

The 'N-word'

On the same day, the White House issued a significant but brief statement in which the 'N-word' was used, namely that Washington would defend itself and its allies 'using the full range of diplomatic, conventional, and nuclear capabilities' at its disposal (emphasis supplied). I may have missed it before, but this appears to be the first time the US has made such an unveiled reference to the possibility of a nuclear strike.³

The US Defence Secretary, James Mattis, probably had a tactical (limited) nuclear response in mind when he later stated that any threat would meet 'with a massive military response, a response both effective and overwhelming' – but that they were 'not looking to the total annihilation of a country, namely North Korea'.⁴

Right after church!

Later yesterday morning, as he left church, President Trump was asked, 'Will you attack North Korea?'

His answer? 'We'll see.'⁵

Sounds somewhat flippant, doesn't it – especially after just spending an hour or so at worship – but what other answer could he really give?

'We'll see'

Six decades plus

Realistically speaking, although the world has lived with the threat of bilateral or multilateral nuclear warfare for more than six decades, its leaders have shown restraint in the handling of their enormously destructive arsenals. It would probably be true to say that these weapons have been developed and refined over the years to provide a 'deterrent' against war. For no leader in his or her right mind would want to risk the consequences of initiating a nuclear strike: massive loss of life, subsequent radiation-related illnesses, widespread contamination of agriculture, the creation of vast nuclear wastelands and so much more.

Fortunately, since the tragic deployment of 'Little Boy' over Hiroshima (6 August) and 'Fat Man' over Nagasaki (9 August) by the US against Japan in 1945, such conflagration has been avoided.⁶

According to a 2014 report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), 'nine nations — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea — possess approximately 16,300 nuclear weapons in total.'⁷ It should also be mentioned that Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey host US military bases where such weapons are deployed.

When the Soviet Union collapsed (1991), Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine transferred their nuclear weapons back to Russia. During the 1980s South Africa produced at least 6 nuclear weapons, but during the 1990s it 'became the first country to voluntarily destroy their domestically made weapons stocks and abandon further production'.⁸

This is different!

So much for the past. The present situation facing the US and its allies, along with China and the rest of the UN Security Council, is vastly different. Instead of dealing with a democratically elected government and its representative, they have to contend with Kim Jong-un, who, 'like his father and grandfather before him, exercises absolute control over the government and the country'. In effect, he is an absolute dictator, 'the supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea', and frequently referred to as 'the Shining Sun'.^{9, 10}

Unfortunately, Kim Jong-un seems hell-bent on producing long-range nuclear ballistic missiles with which to threaten both Japan and the US. Each time he presses that launch button he moves closer to that objective – something he has done 13 times this year alone! The most recent missile flew over Japan and landed in the sea on 28 August, just six days before the warhead was tested.¹¹

Kim Jong-un is guiding his country on a lethal trajectory, a countdown to conflict that could claim countless innocent lives across that region.

Our response?

What should our response be in the face of this looming crisis? That is the question I wrestle with today. **Firstly**, I think we should be more aware of the danger facing the populations of North and South Korea, and Japan. Along with that awareness we should cultivate a spirit of intercession on their behalf. They need our prayers! **Secondly**, we should see these events as a harbinger of things to come. We know that this world is not our home. We know that things are going to get worse before Jesus comes again. Are we mentally and spiritually ready for that to happen? **Finally**, this North Korean crisis is surely a call to take John 16:33 to heart. I like both of the following versions of this verse. Perhaps you will too.

'I have told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have troubles. But be brave! I have defeated the world!' (ERV.)

'I have told you this, so that you might have peace in your hearts because of me. While you are in the world, you will have to suffer. But cheer up! I have defeated the world.' (CEV.)



¹<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-41144356> ²<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/03/politics/trump-north-korea-nuclear/index.html> ³<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/> ⁴<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/> ⁵<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/> ⁶<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/> ⁷<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/> ⁸<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/> ⁹<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/> ¹⁰<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/> ¹¹<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/09/03/us-geological-survey-6-3-magnitude-earthquake-north-korea/>



Julian Hibbert
Editor

150 years earlier . . .



The Reformation's 'Morning Star'

by Dr David Marshall, who reminds us that well before Luther's bold challenge to Rome on 31 October 1517, the forces of reformation were already at work in England.

This year we are commemorating the 500th anniversary of Luther's launch of the European Reformation. Through Tyndale's English New Testament that Reformation had a major influence on opinions in England in and after 1526. Vast numbers of these testaments were smuggled into English ports, packed between bales of cloth by sympathetic merchants. Similarly, thousands of copies of Protestant pamphlets – written both by Luther and Tyndale – were smuggled into England and had a profound effect on the lives of a number of key, influential people. These people included Thomas Cranmer, Thomas Cromwell and Anne Boleyn.

Nevertheless, the narrative of the 'English Reformation' is too often lost sight of beneath an account of the antics of Henry VIII, his six wives and his breach with Rome. The term, *'The Tudor Revolution in Government'* is a more appropriate term for Henry's policies. By no stretch a Protestant, Henry's only contributions to the Reformation, apart from separation from Rome, were the appointment of brilliant Renaissance tutors for his son Edward and daughter Elizabeth, and his royal – but belated – affirmation of a Bible in English in 1539 (which he later withdrew).

The top-down Reformation in England happened in the six-year reign of Henry's son Edward VI. But what of the Reformation progress among the people? That began almost one and a half

centuries before both Luther and Henry VIII. The role of John Wycliffe (1323-1384) and his followers, known as Lollards, in the English Reformation was the subject of the lifelong researches of Professor A. G. Dickens of King's College, London University, and of his teams of researchers. Their work was first made available in the classic *The English Reformation*, published by Collins in 1967. In 1989 an updated, second edition of this book was published by The Pennsylvania State University Press, and is still in print.

In the years since Dickens, the Wycliffe angle on the Reformation has been downplayed. In its place the creation of powerful vested interests of those to whom Henry VIII gifted or sold English monastic lands has been up-played.

John Wycliffe had been a squire's son, born and raised in a remote village near the Tees. He had been rector of at least two English villages – Fillingham (Lincolnshire) and Lutterworth (Leicestershire) – but he had spent most of his life in and around Oxford University. His offence? He had sponsored the first English translation of the Bible. He can, therefore, be seen as one of the first pioneers of our language and our Protestant Christianity.

To grasp the gravity of Wycliffe's offence in the eyes of the Church, we have to understand that language is power. The Church believed that its control of the masses, and the income that resulted from that control, was only possible if it had an absolute monopoly. For a thousand years that monopoly had been based on the fact that the Bible was locked down in

Latin, a language only understood by the senior clergy. To translate the Bible into the common language of the people would open it up to a far larger proportion of the population. Though contemporary sources indicate that the clergy as a whole were largely ignorant of Bible teaching, they were not so ignorant that they were unaware that the power and lifestyle of the bishops was totally out of line with the simple Gospel of Jesus. Keeping the Bible locked in Latin was their only chance of preserving the existing order. Wycliffe and his associates unlocked the Bible. The radical Gospel of Jesus was made available to all who could read or understand the English language. Once liberated it could never be locked down again. Wycliffe gave everyone – whether cleric or layman – the right to examine and interpret the Bible.

The Church establishment wanted to wreak vengeance on Wycliffe in his lifetime. The fact that they were unsuccessful owed much to his popular support, and to the protection of John of Gaunt, son of King Edward III.

Wycliffe's published sermons and tracts quoted the English Bible at length, and his skills as an interpreter and with contemporary English made it exciting and readable. However, when first Nicholas Hereford and then, much later, John Purvey translated the first English Bible, the English was difficult to read for some.

Since both Wycliffite English Bibles appeared before the invention of printing, and given that the Church did its best to burn all the copies they could

find, together with the people who read and propagated them, it is a little surprising that at least 170 manuscript copies of Wycliffite Bibles are still extant.

As we examine these manuscripts in the British Library we note that they read rather more awkwardly than the Bible passages published in Wycliffe's own tracts and sermons. The Latin Bible of Jerome – completed c. AD 406 – was translated rather slavishly, especially in the Nicholas Hereford edition. The Latin word order was followed, occasionally with comic consequences.

The English language is a moving target, and the language of the Wycliffite versions soon dated. The mass impact that it had was down to the groups of preachers who travelled the country distributing and expounding it. Clergymen mocked them as 'Lollards' (*lollia* is Latin for 'weeds'). Following the Constitutions of Oxford (1408) any unauthorised person caught with a Wycliffe Bible could be tried for heresy. Hence Lollards lived in constant fear of their lives. They met in hidden places, notably the deep forests and dells of Hereford and Monmouth. Lincoln, Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham, Gloucester, Bristol and London were great centres of Lollard influence. In *The English Reformation* Professor A. G. Dickens demonstrates that Wycliffe's Lollards anticipated every key doctrine of the Reformation and that, even in the decade after the European Reformation had already begun, the 1520s, Lollards were still being burned in England.

In addition to sponsoring English Bibles, Wycliffe had both written and taught ideas that were very radical for his time. No wonder they made him the

subject of persecution. Wycliffe taught that the Bible was the only sure basis of belief and that it should be available to laity. He rejected the Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation.* He cast doubt on papal supremacy, denounced monasticism, and advocated clerical marriage. He was outspoken against the vices of the Churchmen and corruption in the Church. Justification by faith was not anticipated by Wycliffe, though he was clear that those who constituted the 'true church' were those with a right relationship with God. Wycliffe repeatedly condemned the subordination of the English Church to Rome.

The story of Wycliffite Lollards can be catalogued by research into their persecution. In 1414 leading Wycliffite convert Sir John Oldcastle, imprisoned for heresy, escaped and planned a Lollard march on London from all parts, but was overcome at St Giles' Fields by Henry V. Thereafter the movement went underground.

There was a major resurgence of 'Lollardy' between 1490 and 1530. Eighteen Episcopal registers contain records of persecution. In 1521, one bishop accused 350 persons. Accusations included reading English testaments and disbelief that the Pope could release souls from Purgatory. The Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Essex and South Lincolnshire were said to be 'lousy with Lollards'.

By the early sixteenth century Lollardy had spread to London. A steady succession of Lollard offenders went to the stake or did public penance. The Bishop of London prosecuted 40 offenders in 1510 and 37 in 1517. On each of these occasions 'relapsed heretics' were burned. In 1514 Richard Hunne, a Lollard

'heretic', was found hanged in an Episcopal prison at St Paul's. In 1520 John Hacker was distributing thousands of Wycliffite publications and had contact with Lollard 'conventicles' in both Essex and Buckinghamshire. In the late '20s he was also involved in distributing Lutheran publications. Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of London, who forced William Tyndale into exile in Germany, conducted a purge of Lollards in the 1520s. Both 'heretical' books and people were burned.

Since 1412 it had been a mortal crime to buy Wycliffite Bibles or publications, but thousands had taken the risk.

Just prior to his death Wycliffe wrote, 'Were there a hundred popes, and all the friars turned to cardinals, their opinions on faith should not be accepted except insofar as they are founded on Scripture itself.' That challenge rang around England and echoed in Europe. A major church council was convened in 1414 at Constance. Wycliffe was condemned as a heretic and his remains exhumed, burned, and thrown into the Swift. Soon after, a Lollard prophecy appeared:

'The Swift runs into the Avon.
The Avon to the Severn runs,
The Severn to the sea.
And Wycliffe's dust shall
spread abroad
Wide as the waters be.'

Wycliffe had broken the monopoly of the papal Church, and the invention of printing, as well as the unstoppable Lollards, brought about the fulfilment of the prophecy. His contribution to the English Reformation cannot be ignored.

*The teaching that, when consecrated by the priest, the bread and wine of the Lord's supper actually become Christ's body and blood, and that from that point onwards they only appear to resemble bread and wine.

Wycliffe's Oxford

'Rooms in quiet Oxford colleges were turned into revolutionary cells, scriptoria; production lines were established turning out these holy [handwritten] manuscripts. . . .'

Melvyn Bragg, *The Adventure of English: The biography of a language* (published by Sceptre), page 85. ISBN 0-340-82993-1.

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LOVE TO OUR CITY

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Baptisms in Bristol

by Ian Sabadin, Communications Officer



Patrick Flynn



Fortune Owweye



Michaela Gibbons



Michaela's birthday presentation



Orlando Victor



Daniel Adjei

On 15 July Bristol Central Church witnessed the baptism of five candidates aged between ten and 70-plus.

One of the candidates, eleven-year-old Michaela Gibbons, actually set the date of the baptism when she asked Bristol District pastor, Royston Smith, whether she could be baptised on her birthday. Michaela was all the more excited as she realised that when you're baptised and you have been 'born again', it's your Christian birthday: so she was in fact having a double birthday celebration.

Describing her reason for asking for baptism, Michaela went on to say that she 'decided this because I knew that I would be a witness to the Lord and what He's done for us. Before the Lord comes we need lots of witnesses before Judgement Day, so I needed to get baptised.'

One of the other candidates was Orlando Victor, a young man of 21, who currently has an American football scholarship in Texas, USA. In a moving testimony, his mother, Angela Victor, explained how he had become increasingly disturbed by demonic influences in his dormitory.

The situation started in November 2016, with terrible dreams in which he heard Satan saying, 'You're not going to be saved, and Jesus doesn't love you because you're too sinful.' It turned out that the room he was staying in displayed demonic posters and signs written in red. It

was like a witches' coven and Orlando was afraid to sleep.

Physically and mentally exhausted from lack of sleep, he would call his mother at 4am and be on the phone for two hours. She advised him to immediately tear down the posters and get rid of them well away from the campus, and then make other changes such as his choice of music from hip hop to Christian, and to read his Bible more.

For a further four months Angela and a number of close friends prayed and fasted for Orlando's protection and that the demonic spirits would be made weak and powerless over him. But the more they prayed, the more these evil spirits attacked him. In the end, however, the victory was won by the grace of God. The demons were gone, and Orlando was left in peace.

After such a dramatic experience, Orlando was determined to make his stand for the Lord and get baptised in his home town. Speaking after the

service, just before returning to the USA, Orlando said that it was a great relief and great feeling to be baptised, and that he was looking forward to a much 'better spiritual connection', and that it meant a lot having 'my family and my friends here and really dedicating myself to the Lord'.

The first of two candidates who would be joining the South Bristol church was Patrick Flynn, a white British man in his 70s. His story demonstrated the power of individual influence and witness. He explained how he just happened to meet one of the church members at the bus stop across the street from the church. She invited him over to join in the worship, but he said he was going shopping, but that he would come back afterwards. He did, enjoyed it, and has kept coming since. He says to his friends now, 'I'm the only white person in there, but don't knock it. In the church it's completely different, like a

different family altogether.'

Fortune Owweye was also joining South Bristol Church. A young man of 10, he, like Michaela, had been asking to be baptised for some time. His parents were cautious and wanted to make sure he knew what he was doing. His father, Cornelius Owweye, said, 'I'm very happy to see him give his life to God. For over a year now he has been trying to get baptised, and we tried to slow him down, to study with him, to make sure he knew what he was going into, and now I am confident he does, I'm really happy and proud.'

Fortune said, 'It feels good to be in the hands of the Lord. My life has completely changed. I've been studying with my family, and every morning we sing and study the Bible.'

The final candidate was Daniel Adjei, a 16-year-old from North Bristol Church. He was brought up in the church, and although his parents were concerned about possible confusion from receiving values from home and influences from the world, William Adjei, Daniel's father, said, 'I'm very happy, because one of my children has surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ.' Daniel put it this way: 'It feels good to be part of the church family. It felt like the right time.'

All the candidates had their own story and experience to tell, whether it was being brought up in the church and making their personal decision to commit themselves to the Lord, being away from home in a foreign country and finding themselves under attack, or having had no previous contact with the church, and taking the opportunity when it arose.

Daniel is right on two things: 'it feels good to be part of the church family'; and don't delay – if it 'feels like the right time', it is!

Special note: throughout the baptism, Pastor Smith was assisted by Pastor Richard Daly, BUC Communications Director. It was a particular delight to have Pastor Daly take part, as he was a former intern and district pastor in Bristol. Pastor Daly also recalled that he conducted his first-ever baptism in the Bristol Central baptismal pool. The sermon for the candidates was presented by Brenda Sabadin, a local elder who was herself baptised 57 years earlier.

A selection of photographs, taken by Michael Brown, are available at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8t5n0pyg5rwbqh4/AAD_9UvOAOArf37SQBEIpS3_a?dl=0

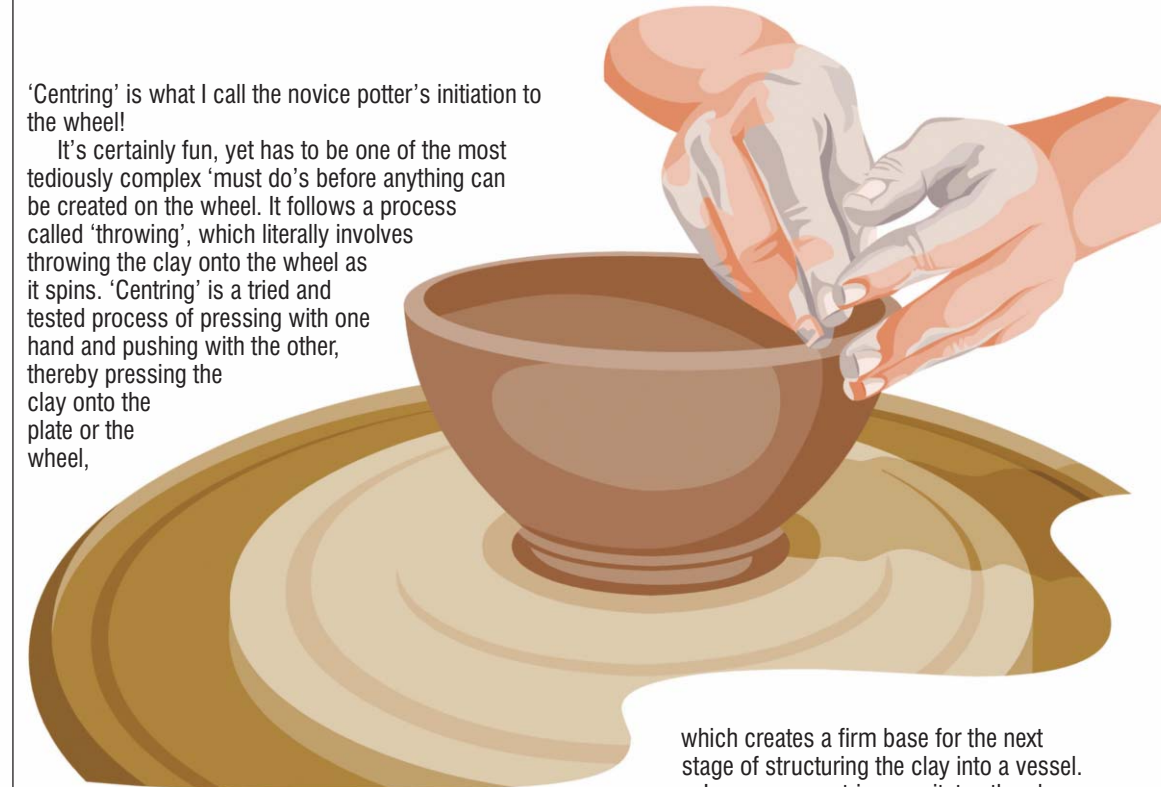
Life lessons from clay: 'getting centred' with God



by Andrea Rashford-Hewitt

'Centring' is what I call the novice potter's initiation to the wheel!

It's certainly fun, yet has to be one of the most tediously complex 'must do's' before anything can be created on the wheel. It follows a process called 'throwing', which literally involves throwing the clay onto the wheel as it spins. 'Centring' is a tried and tested process of pressing with one hand and pushing with the other, thereby pressing the clay onto the plate or the wheel,



which creates a firm base for the next stage of structuring the clay into a vessel.

In a sense centring gravitates the clay to the wheel. Here's the thing: if the centring is not correct the result can be disastrous! Yes, I recall my first time very well! I'll just shorten this by saying 'splat' . . . and I think your imagination will allow you to see what I mean! While some have mastered this art, my attempts are (shall we say) still a work in progress!

Let's imagine, then, that we are the clay and that the Potter is God. Can you see it? The Bible gives us some examples of this same illustration in Isaiah 64:8 and Jeremiah 18:3-6.

In order for God to create a stunning masterpiece from this simple, and yet sometimes stubborn, clay we need His hands to work on us continually, guiding the clay on the wheel as He – the Master Potter – builds the vessel. The Potter never takes His hands or His eyes off the clay. This is how the Potter works.

God is always reaching out to us, always using different methods to get our attention so He can continue His work on us, His 'masterpieces'. The trouble is that clay, although malleable, is not always easy to work with: hence the Potter knows He must keep His hands on the clay in order to keep it centred as He works. Our Master Potter knows what He wants to do; His plan is to get the best design possible from the clay. Remember, as the Master Potter He sees potential through what might be seen as ugly or useless, hopeless or even very messy. The design is the goal and the pleasure is simply in the creation – creation through the act of love; a worthwhile project in the making.

Being centred with God means that we need to focus on anything that keeps our minds on God (Isaiah 26:3; Hebrews 12:1-2; and Psalm 91:14-15): anything that keeps us close to Him so that we give Him the contact and the connectedness He lovingly seeks. Interestingly, this is also what we need from God, as it happens. There is no arm mightier than the Lord, no greater hand that can save. We can never stop God from loving us; we can never bore God enough that He would abandon us, the work of His hands, forever.

God loves us so much

He wants to keep us 'centred in Him', in His will, in order for Him to develop each of us into a fine work of art on His Master Potter's wheel, a vessel fit for purpose and His use.

We have a choice. The Master Potter does not believe in force; that is what the enemy (the devil, Satan) would have us believe, which is a fallacy of his evil making. God places His hands and keeps His eyes on us, as we ask His forgiveness and continue to invite His presence, giving Him permission to work on us. God's love is about choice. He made this clear back in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. He leaves humanity with reasoning and choice, something He built into us through His creative act.

May we not be like the stubborn clay mentioned in Isaiah 29:16, but rather – being desirous of remaining in the able hands of the Master Potter – let us choose, most of all, to be 'centred in Him'.



NEC Camp Meeting: A subsequent report

If you did not attend the North England Conference (NEC) Camp Meeting 2017, you surely missed out on a blessing you would not have found anywhere else.

With over 1,300 members attending, we praise God for the tremendous success of the event. This camp meeting marked an introduction of the new and current administration and a return to Southport Pontins, which had hosted previous camp meetings. What was evident from the outset was the excitement and sense of expectancy among the attendees, much of which stemmed from the amount of publicity this event had received throughout the churches in the months leading up to it.

To set the tone of the week the opening ceremony began with a prayer march around the entire camp site. The procession was led by a drum corps and a squad of Pathfinders from all around the NEC. The Camp Meeting prayer team and intercessors, the NEC President, Pastor Richard Jackson, and his ministerial team ministered through prayer, while special guests and campers sang thunderously as they marched together, stopping at designated stations for prayer. The objective was to consecrate the campsite through prayer and singing, and claim it as the Lord's territory for Camp Meeting week.

Earnest prayer for Camp Meeting continued throughout the week, starting each day with an early-morning devotional session. The praise team ministered to the attendees through song and enhanced this special prayer service before the devotionals on 'nurturing each other and winning another' began. Over 200 attendees got up early to attend these services. The NEC Camp Meeting prayer team, led by Pastor Victor Marshall, NEC area prayer co-ordinators and other intercessors, prayed for those requests which had been placed in the prayer box and written on a prayer scroll. All attendees were encouraged to make use of the prayer room, which was visited daily by the members.

Pastor Ainsworth Keith Morris, the Power Hour speaker, enthused, 'I praise God for the opportunity received to attend and preach at the North England Conference Camp Meeting. It was an awe-inspiring experience. I attended not only as a preacher, but as a worshipper and learner. I was blessed by the presentations of Dr Bertram Melbourne and Pastor Glen Samuels. It was a signal honour to be part of that amazing spiritual revival. I hope that those who attended and listened to

the messages came away recognising the nearness of Christ's coming and that each of us has a personal responsibility to accept that love of God expressed in Jesus Christ. We also have a corresponding responsibility, having received that love and light of God, to share it with others.'

This was how Pastor Richard Jackson summarised things: 'The Lord has been good to us in that we were fed by the Word of God through all the speakers that were invited. The people left Camp Meeting with many Spirit-filled messages, especially from our keynote speaker, Pastor Glen Samuels, who reminded us on Sabbath morning that even though we may go through many trials and tribulations we need not worry, because 'after these things' (taken from the book of Revelation) we will be victorious.'

'For our other speakers, especially those in the youth and teen programmes, I want to say thank you for your ministry. Feedback from the young people emphasised that they had been spiritually blessed by what they had heard.'

'Once again, I would like to thank all the members of the NEC for their prayers during the 50 days of prayer leading up to Camp Meeting, and for the generous offerings that were received. I would like to remind you of our theme, which is 'to nurture each other and win another' so that we can extend God's kingdom. I hope that I will see you at Camp Meeting next year.'

LUNGANI SIBANDA AND YVONNE CHAMBERS

BOOKSALES	September	17 Ilford Central 17 Manchester South	10am-2pm 10am-2pm	 Adventist Book Center.com
	October	1 Newbold 15 Wrexham 22 Plumstead Community 29 Willesden	10am-2pm 10am-2pm 10am-2pm 10am-2pm	
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Polish Adventist Congress

'When God says you must' was the theme of the fourth Polish Adventist Congress at Newbold College, which took place from 26 to 28 May. Such regular gatherings have become a tradition among the Polish Adventists living in Great Britain. About 50 people attended the event, with some from as far as Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The main organiser and co-ordinator of the event was Monika Jantos-Eraza, who works as a Bible instructor for the South England Conference, and the main speaker was Pastor Piotr Stachurski, President of the East Conference of our Church in Poland.

The weather turned out to be beautiful and the congress began on Friday night with a bonfire. Pastor Piotr's first spiritual reflection was entitled, 'Christ will never live in our hearts by force – never without our consent.' If you really want reconciliation with Him, He must enter your heart. The programme concluded with some songs, conversation and a fellowship meal with baked potatoes from the fire.

On Sabbath morning more families joined our gathering, and during the worship service the sons of Magda and Pawel Roj – Adam (1), Oskar (9) and Jakub (10) – were dedicated. In his sermon, Pastor Piotr emphasised the importance of the sacrifice of Christ. Jesus gave up His life freely because He wanted to save man, and in doing so He showed the fullness of His love for humanity.

The afternoon programme began with singing and prayer before Pastor Stachurski asked the question: What do you really need? Do you have to focus on the many small and insignificant matters of life? Do we acquire things at the expense of time with God? He went on to tell us that we must listen to Jesus and have a true relationship with Him in order to shape in us a character similar to His. After dinner, psychologist Jakub Roszkowski shared his knowledge on how to counteract depression, including several tips on how to prevent the onset of the disease. After the lecture, the congress participants spent time together in conversation, prayer and walks around the Newbold campus.

On Sunday morning, Pastor Piotr shared his last reflection, telling us that we have to testify about the Gospel, just as Jesus did. Our existence as the Seventh-day Adventist Church is derived from the divine call foretold in the prophecies, stressed Pastor Stachurski. According to him we should be willing to say, 'I must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work' (John 9:4, MEV).

During the congress we also had time to sing together, led by a Polish group under the guidance of Daniel Kluska. There were also English songs in the repertoire, which was a nice gesture towards the English-speaking participants at the congress. As Stachurski emphasised: 'The congress showed how much our Polish sisters and brothers need to and want to meet together.'

People were happy to be at the congress and their feelings are summed up by Aneta Bulwan from Torquay: 'It was a really blessed



time. God gathered us as a hen gathers a chick under her wings. People were grateful for the wonderful songs from Daniel, Ania and Maciej.'

The organisers are already thinking about next year's meeting, and considering the option of extending the congress to Sunday afternoon, thereby making time for combined recreation or an interesting trip.

We thank all those who attended the congress. Please plan to join us next year!

PARTICIPANT



Grantham investiture

On Sabbath 15 July, the hard work of all the Pathfinders and Adventurers at Grantham Church over the past year was recognised with an investiture service, which – longer than the usual Divine Service programme – was augmented by Pathfinders from Nottingham, who came in support; as did the guest speaker, the indefatigably cheerful Devon Elliott. The Pathfinder Department and all Grantham members rejoice in the devotion of our young people and give thanks to God for His leading in their lives.

GRANTHAM CHURCH COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Flower Festival raises funds

'Soli Deo Gloria', to God alone be the glory, was the theme for a flower festival held at Stanborough Park Church (14-16 July) to commemorate the laying of the church's foundation stone back in 1927, raising over £10,000 for good causes in the process.

A total of 36 floral arrangements, most of them sponsored by church members, were on display, each depicting an aspect of the church's life, such as Sabbath School, baptism, communion, the deacons and deaconesses, the Music Department, the Pathfinders and Adventurers, the outreach activities and so on, as well as some representing the building of the church and the laying of the foundation stone.

As in past years, the church's flower arrangers were joined by arrangers from other churches and the NAFAS (The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies). Chelsea gold medallist, Geoff Fox, was one of the arrangers and assisting with the designs was another Chelsea gold medallist, Yolanda Campbell, a NAFAS demonstrator and national teacher.

The event was organised by Audrey Balderstone, who held her first flower festival at the church in 1981 with the help of another flower arranger, Fred Rawlings.

It was the first flower festival to be held in the recently extended and refurbished church. 'It is challenging to design a festival for this new space,' Audrey explained before the event, 'but as our theme is "To God



Children and youth are a priority

Stoke Church remains committed to the development of the faith of its children under the guidance of Pastor Ian Philpott. The emphasis began four years ago, following the introduction of a Pathfinder programme under Pastor Orlando Holder, who was transferred in 2016. The Stoke church encourages its children to become engaged in various church activities, especially letting them lead out in music and participate during the worship services. It is also exciting to know that some of these young people will be baptised at the end of this year. The church is also actively encouraging the participation of all members of the church, in both inreach and outreach programmes.

HASTINGS KANDAYA



Alone Be the Glory" we know that He will make it a success.

As in previous years there will be a garden with a river of roses. This has proved popular in the past, with visitors able to purchase a rose, place it in the river and write a tribute in a book. The rose can then be reclaimed at the end of the festival.' Perhaps Audrey's greatest challenge on this occasion turned out to be keeping the flowers looking fresh over four days in the high temperatures, as she usually organises her festivals for cooler weather.

The event began with a preview evening on 13 July and was then open for public viewings from Friday, 14 July to Sunday, 16 July, with a free concert showcasing a variety of vocal and instrumental talent on Saturday evening, and a closing gala dinner on Sunday evening.

The proceeds from the festival, which has raised over £10,000, will be shared equally between the Peace Hospice in Watford, a cause close to Audrey's heart, and the church's Development Fund. The church's association with the Peace Hospice goes back many years to when Audrey organised a flower festival to sponsor a room there called 'The Stanborough Room'. Since then she has raised funds each year to continue that sponsorship.

After the event Audrey commented, 'I was thrilled with the way in which everything came together, and that was due to excellent teamwork, not just with the arrangers but with all those who contributed (often behind the scenes) to the success of the festival. Particularly touching was how much the "River of Roses" meant to those who were able to remember a loved one or give thanks by placing a rose in the river.'

A DVD of the Flower Festival as well as a 2018 calendar featuring exhibits are available for purchase.

Email: contact@stanboroughchurch.org.

JUNE COOMBS



Health expo volunteers



Member of the public receiving the results from the Computer Health Age check



Buzz of activity at the stands



The registration and greeting team. A smile makes a difference!



Student nurse Zanele at the stand for 'Air'

Health expo hits Hillfields

On the afternoon of Sabbath, 15 July, Coventry Central Church held a health expo in Hillfields, one of the most deprived areas in Coventry. Flyers were distributed the week before the event, and on the day the Pathfinders paraded around the local area while church members handed out invitations. Approximately 45 people of varying ages, genders and ethnicities came through the doors of St Peter's Centre, a community centre and church based in the centre of Hillfields. Health professionals and members of the church volunteered their time to provide health checks based on the NEWSTART acronym. Those who came through the expo had their weight, height, body mass index, body fat percentage, blood pressure, lung capacity, and resting pulse rate after exercise measured and biological health age calculated. Participants were also given refreshments including fruits, salads and bottles of water. Additionally, free massages were given by trained massage therapist, Andrea Rashford-Hewitt, and hydrotherapy demonstrations for relieving the common cold, headaches and period pain were given by Florence Manji.

Many asked us, 'When are you coming again?' Others said, 'I really needed this'; or, 'I don't even get this kind of service from my GP!' and, 'I saw the flyer come through my door and so I came; the event has exceeded my expectations!'

Aside from meeting the physical needs of the public, we were also

able to meet their emotional needs. Charles, one of the members of the health ministries team, gave this account: 'It was a humbling experience to see a complete stranger open up to us and share that she was lonely and felt like a prisoner in her own home!' Being able to pray with her was a blessing and by God's grace we will continue to build on this friendship.

Our display of spiritual literature invited several discussions around biblical topics and prayers were offered for those interested persons. While spirituality may not have been the topic of the day, the quote below outlines our method for success in soul winning.

In the book *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143, we are instructed that 'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."'

This health expo in Coventry showed that there are people around us who are ailing physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally. God has blessed the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a tremendous message to provide restoration to the world and share His soon return.

This is just the beginning of our endeavours to reach our community in Coventry for Jesus. The question is, in your neighbourhood are you also doing the same?

CHANTAL TOMLINSON



During a recent service in the Hackney church (15 July), SEC Music Ministries Director, Mike Johnson, drew the congregation's

The power of humble testimony

attention to the fact that worship is about surrendering to God and knowing that He is able to open doors that no one can close, and close doors that no one can open. 'We make God an austerity God when He is the complete opposite. We must glorify God and give Him credit for what He does for us every day,' said Johnson, as he encouraged the congregation to worship and glorify God through their testimonies.

He then gave the members an opportunity to do just that. A mother spoke of how her son was not only healed from illness

but had also received a promotion after having taken a significant pay decrease and having put God first by not working on the Sabbath. A young man shared how he, through Facebook, was able to regain contact with an old friend who encouraged him to continue in the faith and never to give up on those who at times seem to be a lost cause. A young lady who travelled to London from South Africa to study told of her financial hardships and how on two separate occasions, after praying to God about it, she accessed her bank account only to find that the money she needed

to lift her burdens had been deposited into it. A child shared how the challenging relationship he once had with his school teacher had suddenly changed for the better when he talked to God about it.

In response to the many testimonies Mike Johnson declared: 'The devil is a liar, wanting repeating offenders to think they cannot return to God. He wants you to deny the power of God's existence and forgiveness. You must live your life in expectation of great things from God. Does He not feed the birds? Are you not of more worth to God than the birds?'

DARELL J. PHILIP



Nottingham Central's double blessing

On 15 July Nottingham Central Church experienced a double blessing at the hands of its pastor, Curtis Murphy, when he dedicated Elijah Eriaku in the morning and baptised his father, Sebastian, in the afternoon!

DENNIS TAYLOR (COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)



Sydenham's health day

On Sabbath, 8 July, Sydenham Church held its health ministries day. Sabbath School was presented in the form of a panel discussion followed by a series of excellent testimonies by members whose health had improved greatly when they changed their diet to a vegan/vegetarian way of life. The preacher for the day was Dr Janine Channer, a vibrant young doctor whose message will be food for thought for a long time to come.

This wonderful start to the day was followed by a healthy lunch of vegetarian and vegan dishes, after which Brother Graham spoke on the benefits of juicing. We also had at least six qualified nurses taking blood pressure and blood sugar readings and doing BMI assessments. The Health Department, headed by Loris Douglas, is doing great things in Sydenham. The day was a real blessing and organised very well. Our visitors took away a free gift bag with health books, bookmarks and water . . . hopefully a great blessing too!

JANET BUCHANAN (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)

Stanborough Secondary School Open & Taster Day on Thursday 21 September 2017

Choosing a secondary school is one of the most crucial decisions that a parent needs to make. To assist parents in making this decision, we offer a tour of Stanborough Secondary School and a full day's experience of secondary education for Year 6.

Our school is a co-educational, independent school surrounded by 40 acres of beautiful parkland. The school fosters an atmosphere of community and family, catering for students from Year 7 to Year 11. We are a very international school, with an enrolment representing over 40 different nationalities.

We would be grateful if you could mark Thursday 21 September 2017 on your calendar. Our programme on the day will be as follows and lunch will be provided.

Taster Day (Year 6 students) 9-12am
Open Day 4-6pm

To register please email: ehussey@spsch.org.
We look forward to meeting the pupils and parents.



BUC IT and Web Developer vacancy

The British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists seeks to employ a Web Developer and IT Person.

Job description:

- Administer and maintain the following: the webserver; the BUC network, server and email service; all back-up procedures for the server, and train staff to back up their own computers; the BUC telephone system.
- Supervise, maintain and develop the BUC websites and databases.
- Use business intelligence (BI) to appraise and improve the websites.
- Perform Windows server administration.
- Understand and apply Data Protection measures with respect to the requirements of the law, with attention to GDPR.
- Advise treasury on purchases of computer hardware and software.
- Assist staff with IT problems.
- Provide or arrange training in IT/software issues for staff as appropriate.
- Liaise with outside IT providers on contracts and provision of services.
- Advise the administration on IT issues.
- Carry out or supervise regular maintenance on office computers.
- Repair office laptops and desktops.
- Maintain a database of software licences and computer hardware.
- Be flexible and willing to learn new technologies.
- Perform other tasks as assigned by the line manager.

Skills and experience:

- Strong understanding of UI, cross-browser compatibility, general web functions and standards.
- Hands-on experience with web applications and programming languages such as HTML(5), CSS, JSON, XML, JavaScript, PHP, JQuery and APIs.
- Familiarity with Squiz Matrix and TYPO3
- Understanding of UX principles
- Experience with Photoshop
- Familiarity with development and debugging tools for cross-browser issues
- Familiarity with social media and third-party APIs
- Familiarity with security regarding web servers, web applications and Windows infrastructure

Interested applicants should send their CVs to Pastor John Surrage, Executive Secretary of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, at jsurrage@adventist.uk.

Closing date: 30 September 2017.

Newbold's Summer School in English

Over 100 students attended Newbold's Summer School in English, the college's largest in over ten years.

During the three-week experience the group explored the theme of 'The Secrets of Words'. 'Sometimes we use languages as a simple tool and we don't think about what words can do, or where they come from, and how their meanings differ,' said Kärt Lazić, Head of Newbold's English Language Centre. 'We are concentrating on exploring the way language and words work in culture and in psychology, and how words shape the way we see the world, and God.'

Students begin learning English from the moment they open their eyes in the morning, as they wake up in an English-speaking environment. They participate in 15 language classes per week, which focus on grammar and vocabulary as well as the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

The programme includes a variety of activities that support the classroom learning, including group worship, sports, concerts, and other social activities on campus. Trips to locations in different parts of England also contribute to language development. 'When learning a language, it is important to understand the culture where the language was born, because the culture shapes the language. For example, we go to places such as Oxford, London, and Brighton, which are windows into the different facets of British history and culture. The classes specifically develop their language, and the rest of the activities provide students with a variety of opportunities and different contexts for practising their English,' said Ms Lazić.

Representing 12 countries, including Brazil, South Korea, and Angola, there is a great deal of diversity to be found among the students in the Summer School in English. 'We are very pleased to have such a large number on campus this summer,' said Ms Lazić; 'The students are all excited about the opportunity to make such diverse friends!'

This year's cohort includes, for the first time, a group of 12 school teachers from Brazil who are studying under the Summer School PLUS programme, an enhanced version of the Summer School in English which provides the opportunity to learn about Adventist education in Europe in addition to acquiring English language skills.

Newbold also offers English language classes during the semester

Newbold on BBC Radio Berkshire

Newbold's Principal, Dr John Baildam, was recently invited to be interviewed on BBC Radio Berkshire as part of an exploration of faith in the community.

The interview, conducted on 25 June by Paul Coia, who currently hosts BBC Berkshire's *Sunday Breakfast* show, lasted for around 15 minutes and was broadcast live.

Mr Coia interviewed Dr Baildam about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, its leadership structure, tithing and funding, Adventist beliefs about the return of Christ, and what distinguishes the Adventist Church from other Protestant religions.

'I was able to draw parallels between Seventh-day Adventists and other religions which share some of the same beliefs as us, such as Seventh-day Baptists and Anglicans,' said Dr Baildam.

During the interview, which Dr Baildam described as neutral but positive overall, he was also asked about his upbringing, and in particular what it was like growing up as the son of a pastor and the challenges of being a 'pastor's kid'.

Mr Coia asked how the Church is coping with dwindling membership numbers. 'I explained that while times are challenging in Western Europe, the Church is growing phenomenally in Central and South America, Africa and the Far East, with almost 20,000,000 members globally,' said Dr Baildam. 'He seemed quite surprised when I explained that in some parts of the world people might list "Seventh-day Adventist" as their religion on official forms in the same way as many people in the United Kingdom write "Church of England"!'

The interview also covered the history of Newbold as a college, and the quality of degrees gained by our graduates. 'I was pleased to be able to speak about our partnership with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, for which we were the only external partner upon which the university placed no conditions, and about our recent positive report



(commencing in September and January) as well as group experiences and, occasionally, one-on-one lessons. For more information, contact Kärt Lazić at klazic@newbold.ac.uk or visit www.newbold.ac.uk/english.

KIRSTY WATKINS, PUBLICATIONS AND ALUMNI RELATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

from the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education,' said Dr Baildam.

Mr Coia concluded the interview by thanking Dr Baildam and saying that he felt as if he had 'just been to an open day on the Newbold campus'. 'I told him that he was always welcome to visit our leafy 80 acres on the edge of Bracknell!' said Dr Baildam.

KIRSTY WATKINS, PUBLICATIONS AND ALUMNI RELATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Cherish the Love Marriage Enrichment Weekend:

13-15 October

Cherish the Love is designed to re-sparkle the love in marriages. Hosts: Corby Church Family, Men and Women's Ministries and NEC Family Life. This weekend will be a great blessing!

Speakers: Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt and Andrea Rashford-Hewitt; Pastor Paul and Jeanetta Liburd.

Accommodation: Four-star gold-standard caravans at Broadland Sands Holiday Park, Suffolk. Self-catering.

Cost: £136 per couple per caravan.

To Book, Step 1: Call Wendy or Zac on 03431787070. Quote the reference, 'Cherish the Love Weekend'. This enables you to book with a discount, for £111.

Step 2: Make a payment of £25 to 'Corby SDA Cherish the Love'. Sort code: 60 06 11. Account no: 29154235. This covers materials etc.

For more information, call Thandie Moyo: 07727 272127; or email Pastor Rashford-Hewitt at a.r-h@hotmail.co.uk.

Stay until Monday at no extra cost. Couples only.



obituaries

Yvonne May Channer (1956-2017) d. 6 March.



On 29 March 2017, family and friends from around the world; members from the Sheffield Carterknowle, Burngreave and Manor churches; and many others from across the UK met at the Burngreave church to celebrate the extraordinary life of Yvonne May Channer.

Yvonne's casket was led into the church by Pathfinders from the NEC Drum Corps in honour of her sterling contribution to the improvement of the Pathfinder and Adventurer programme across the NEC.

Yvonne was born in Kingston, Jamaica, to Lynette Duncombe and Isaac Russell – the youngest of two daughters. The eldest one, Ann, pre-deceased her.

At the age of four the family moved to London, where she attended school and excelled in literature and music. From an early age she was an accomplished organist and pianist and accompanied the local choir and various other singing groups, including the well-known Golden Chords and Gospel Heralds.

In the early 1970s she moved to Sheffield to study Behavioural Sciences at Sheffield Hallam University, and attended the Carterknowle (CK) Road church until the time of her death. Over the years she held a variety of offices in the church, including organist, pianist, Music Ministries Leader and Pathfinder Director – Yvonne was actually instrumental in the rebirth of the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs in the

Sheffield District.

On completion of her studies, Yvonne worked in the South and West Yorkshire Ridings as a social worker for Sheffield City Council, and later as a senior social work lecturer at Sheffield Hallam and Huddersfield Universities. She was instrumental in creating a National Black Academics Consortium of Professionals, which allowed its members to share research, ideas and professional development.

Yvonne was very well regarded in academic circles, as attested to by a senior academic who attended her funeral and presented a tribute to her.

Yvonne had met Henry Channer at Brixton Church, and both were involved in its various activities. Henry, the love of her life, also fell in love with Sheffield and moved there when they married in 1976. They were both completely immersed in the life of the Carterknowle church and he still is.

They were blessed with two children – Russell and Maria – whom they loved dearly and worked tirelessly to support, managing to instil in them a love for God, education, travel, independence, positive worthwhile values and a desire to fulfil their potential.

Yvonne was also 'Mama' to Shanice, Damane, Jasmine and Jenade, whom she showered with love. Family was of vital importance to Yvonne, but so was practically every child at church.

Yvonne was unstinting in her generosity of time and encouragement to all she met, especially for the youth of the

church and the community. She ran a youth choir and numerous singing and other musical groups. She supported various study groups and developed links with academic organisations in Zambia and the Gambia – to which she organised the donation and shipping of books. One of her most recent projects was her involvement in running a Macmillan coffee morning at CK Church.

Yvonne was diagnosed with lupus in 1995, a chronic and debilitating condition, the symptoms of which she battled for the last 22 years. Apart from the chronic pain, she endured surgery, dialysis and, last year, her first stroke.

In spite of all this her energies went into her work and the needs of others. She continued to work, study, author a book (*I Am a Promise*) and travel extensively with Henry.

Her funeral service involved Pastors Ian Sweeney, Victor Marshall and Andrew Rashford-Hewitt, who had previously been pastors in the area, along with our current minister, Pastor Carlton Douglas, and Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi, who had worked with Yvonne in the Pathfinder field.

Many tributes were paid, but this one from Jennifer Talbot summed it up: 'It is unlikely that anyone else has had such a great impact on so many young people over so many decades and generations as Yvonne. . . .'

Yvonne was one of those rare and wonderful people who will always be deeply missed by her fellow members, and mourned by her immediate family – her mother, husband, children and grandchildren, along with numerous other relatives, friends and church family worldwide.

JOAN BUSSUE

Clarence Leroy Evelyn (1939-2017) d. 22 May.

Clarence, or 'Gerald' as he was fondly known, was born in Barbados on 29

July 1939. He was taught about God from his youth and attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He emigrated to England in the early 1960s, and after a short stay in Birmingham he moved to Ipswich, where he met his wife, Monica, to whom he was married for 53 years. Together they were baptised at Ipswich Church.

Gerald was father to five children, who were all brought up in the faith. His passion was to serve God, and he held the position of deacon for many years

with humility and meekness.

Gerald will also be fondly remembered for his other great passion, which was serving God through his catering ministry. Whether greeting at the church doors or working in the kitchen, he earned the respect of all for his love to serve willingly.

Gerald was always the same, both in the church and outside in the community. He would greet all he met in life, regardless of their background or beliefs, with a genuine smile and heartfelt warmth.

Gerald had nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and was also popular outside of his family. He was truly a well-loved man. This was evident from the turnout at his funeral, where over three hundred people attended.

Even when Gerald was terminally ill, he would always make it known that God was his strength. Initially given twenty-four hours to live in December, he lived a further five months.

The sermon at his funeral, preached by Pastor David West, was aptly titled, 'Faithful Unto Death'. It was a true representation of Gerald's life, throughout which he would always encourage people with the words, 'Keep hanging in there!' He lived it himself and God was his witness that he was 'faithful unto death'. A loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend; he will be sorely missed.

VERONICA AKROFI (CHURCH CLERK)

Messenger

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Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sep 15	7.15	7.27	7.20	7.30	7.40
22	6.59	7.11	7.03	7.12	7.22
29	6.43	6.55	6.46	6.53	7.04
Oct 6	6.27	6.39	6.30	6.35	6.47

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.*
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Mission to the Cities: Birmingham Remembering the Reformation

27 and 28 October 2017

The 31st of October 2017 will mark 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the doors of the Castle Church of Wittenberg. With a worldwide focus once again on the Reformation, the last weekend of October 2017 affords a unique opportunity to hold an outreach event that will have a drawing effect on non-Christians and Protestants alike. Mission to the Cities: Birmingham, in collaboration with the NEC, has therefore organised a weekend of *Remembering the Reformation*, with a special service on Friday 27 October, 7.15pm at Camp Hill Church, culminating in a Day of Fellowship to be held at the Birmingham Symphony Hall on 28 October.

The aim of the weekend is to celebrate the faithfulness of the reformers and to call upon our church and Protestants in general to recommit themselves to the Bible and the proclamation of the everlasting Gospel.

Attendance at the Day of Fellowship will be by ticket only. Tickets for the morning and afternoon programmes are free and are available at Eventbrite (search for 'Remembering the Reformation').

The evening programme will feature a dramatic presentation by Cross Culture Media of Martin Luther's life and spiritual journey entitled *Here I Stand!* This will be a priced, ticketed event: tickets costing £10 or £15 are available at the Eventbrite website (search for 'Here I Stand' or go to www.hereistand.org.uk). Tickets will also be available for purchase in local churches via PM leaders/MTTC ambassadors.

Members are encouraged to use this event to share the message of salvation to a world oblivious to the dangers we face, and to purchase tickets for non-Adventist family members, friends and work colleagues, offering them the opportunity to join us as we celebrate our spiritual heritage.



Power and simplicity

On 26 June the Bulwell church, Nottingham, were especially blessed by the Nottingham Male Voices, an a cappella group with members from Nottingham Central, Upper Room and Bulwell. According to the local communications team it was 'a breath of fresh air listening to well-rehearsed Wayne Hooper arrangements. The power and simplicity of this music should not be underestimated.'

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Stanborough School vacancies

Stanborough School, an independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and family atmosphere, is looking to employ the following volunteer staff to begin immediately:

Vacancy 1: Volunteer Technician

- General responsibilities**
- Provide hardware and software technical support.
 - Help assess the technical and functional capability of existing systems and contribute to the strategic plans of the department.
 - Maintain the IT Department's assets register.
 - Administer daily backup of networked data and assist in the restoration of same.
 - Help maintain the department's intranet.
 - Undertake additional duties as required by the IT Manager.

Vacancy 2: Marketing/PR Assistant

- General responsibilities**
- To handle all marketing-related enquiries addressed to the school.
 - Liaise with local businesses and newspapers regarding advertising and PR-related activities.
 - Work closely with the Head Teacher to ensure that marketing activities are in the interest of the school.
 - Keep the webpage content updated and consult with the web designer.
 - Take part in the constant development of brochures, prospectuses and other informative publications.
 - Develop close relationships with constant contact with parents and heads of feeder schools in the London and Watford area.
 - Organise events and activities related to Public Relations such as Year 6 Days, Speech Night, College Days, Days of Fellowship, etc.
 - Prepare the promotional packages, i.e., posters, flyers and leaflets to be used as advertising tools for promotional visits to local as well as international schools.
 - Publish the Stanborough School newsletter on a half-term basis.

Vacancy 3: Volunteer Assistant Dean Boarding School (MALE)

- General responsibilities**
- Caring for all sick boarders and coping with any emergencies or accidents in the boarding house.
 - Routine organisation of all aspects of the physical care of boarders, and sharing with the other Housemaster/Matron the duties of the boarding house.
 - Assisting the Housemaster/Matron and resident staff to plan and carry out a varied programme of activities for boarders after school and on weekends.
 - In an emergency, caring for day pupils is required. Strongly supporting the Housemaster/Matron in maintaining a safe, pleasant environment for boarding pupils.
 - Maintaining a warm, friendly atmosphere in the boarding school so that parents, governors and school visitors feel welcome.

Commencement date: Immediate start.

Applicants for all three of these vacancies should have relevant qualifications and experience.

All three posts come with a monthly stipend of £175.00 and include all meals and accommodation.

Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All appointments will be subject to the required DBS clearance.

Applications should be sent to Milimo M. Mumbo, PA to Head Teacher, Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford WD25 9JT or mmumbo@spsch.org.

One hundred years and counting

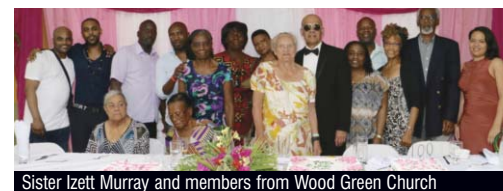
In March this year Sister Izett Murray celebrated her hundredth birthday on the sunny island of Jamaica where she now lives. Along with family and friends from far and near, Izett enjoyed a great weekend of celebration, filled with plenty of fun and cheerful banter.

It started with a thanksgiving service for Izett's life on Sabbath 18 March at Bogue Hill Church, Montego Bay. This was followed by a celebratory dinner the next day at the North Caribbean Conference Centre in Montego Bay. It was a day of rejoicing for the entire family as they recounted the Lord's blessings throughout the years.

Sister Izett's membership remains at her former church in Wood Green, making her the oldest living member in that congregation.

A group of Wood Green's members were in attendance at the celebrations, one of whom, Tristan Cuniah, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for matriarch Murray.

BARBARA SOMMERS



Sister Izett Murray and members from Wood Green Church

BUC Women's Ministries Retreat
'Chosen – For Such A Time As This'



Sharon Platt-McDonald
BUC Director for
Health, Women's Ministries &
Adventist Community Services



Pastor Maslin Holness
SEC
Women's Ministries
Director



Raquel Arrais
General Conference (GC)
Associate
Women's Ministries
Director



Beulah Plunkett
NEC
Women's Ministries
Director

Date – Friday 13th – Sunday 15th October 2017
Venue – Park Inn by Radisson Northampton, Silver Street,
Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN1 2TA

Cost:
• Single Superior room: £260 per person
• Single Standard room: £220 per person
• Standard Twin room: £180 per person

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT: WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER
Booking Form and PayPal payment available on the BUC Events page. Alternatively,
PLEASE SEND THE BOOKING FORM WITH PAYMENT TO THE BUC OFFICE.
Contact: Email Patricia.Zapata@adventist.org.uk or call the BUC on 01925 672251 for queries.




Register and pay online: <http://adventist.org.uk/events/2017/buc/buc-women-retreat-2017>.

SEC CAMPUS MINISTRY PRESENTS

COMPASS

STUDENT CONGRESS
27TH - 29TH OCTOBER 2017

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CHALFONT SAINT GILES, HP8 4AD

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CALL: 01923 232 728 EMAIL: LHAMBLIN@SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK


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SEC ^{teen}ministry PRESENTS

Prayer and Faith CONFERENCE

24th - 27th October 2017



speaker
Dr Charles Wesley Knight

£75
PER
PERSON

Newland Park, Gorelands Lane
Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont Saint Giles HP8 4AD

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
LYDIA HAMBLIN OR PR. JUAN PATRICK
call 01923 232 728 email lhamblin@secadventist.org.uk

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NEC Extending God's Kingdom



Train Up A Child...

NEC Parenting Seminar, September 23, 2017. Sponsored by NEC Children's Ministries, Health Ministries, Disability Ministries, Community Departments.

Guest Speakers:



Nigel and Sophia Nicholls, co-founders of 'Adventist Special Needs Association' (ASNA)
Sophia is the SEC Director of Special Needs and Diversity

Help with parenting when it matters most. Professional advice on meeting special needs. There will be drama, arts, crafts and so much more. It's a service for the entire family to enjoy.
Saturday 23rd September: 9.30-6.15.
Lunch will not be provided.

Location: Winson Green Seventh-day Adventist Church, Handsworth New Rd, Winson Green B18 4PT

Contact departments for further information.
Secretary: Kathleen Williams. Tel: 0115 9606312 www.necadventist.org.uk

Nurturing Each Other And Winning Another

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