

Messenger

News to the churches • 23 September 2016 • Volume 121 • 19

HealthFest

by Natasha Mirilov

Over 1,000 people gathered at Ruach Gaumont State Theatre on Saturday 27 August to celebrate the unique Seventh-day Adventist health message, for what marked the beginning of the London-wide two-day HealthFest weekend.

Under the theme, HealthFest – ‘the best you can be: body, mind, spirit’, the day kicked off with the focus on the spiritual element of healing. This was a major community outreach by the South England Conference (SEC) in which they unashamedly shared our church’s health message with the larger community. The programme continued on the following day with free health checks, workshops and lectures.

With the large social buzz surrounding fitness and health, Seventh-day Adventists have the opportunity to offer a clear message for a healthy lifestyle. According to the SEC’s Acting President, Emmanuel Osei, unveiling this information to the community was the ideal approach and people appreciated what was offered to them.

‘I am so thrilled to see so many people that I don’t know, so many people that are not from our church, just here integrating, asking questions,’ said Pastor Osei. ‘And I guess this is what we really should be doing, this is what we ought to be doing. So in my estimation, this is a joy to see.’

The organisers wanted to create an event which would inspire members to reconnect with what church is really about and they hope they achieved that with American guest speaker, Dr Les Pollard, President of Oakwood University, speaking about health-related issues.

‘Yes, it’s about faith, it’s about relationships with God, but it’s also about evangelism and getting people to come,’ said Antonio Belgrave, the South England Conference’s strategic planner. ‘So we wanted to really reconnect people with something and the health message seems to be a great thing to do that with. Because a lot of people out there, be they in church or out of church, are interested in health.’

The evening concluded with a testimony and praise session. People were able to share their testimonies through song or other expressions of praise. This, in itself, was a form of healing.



‘Music is a therapy. When it comes to the ministry of music, it unlocks many doors, it unlocks hearts, it elevates, it lifts, it fertilises sin-sick souls,’ said Tony Best of the praise team. ‘So, yes, within the health message the music is very much an important part of the therapy.’

The next morning, people lined up early to enter the Troxy Theatre for a free London-wide health expo. Stations were set up throughout the hall, with each offering something different. There was something for everyone, including food sampling, health lectures, Zumba dancing, ‘Healthy eating on a budget’ (Angelette Müller), ‘Move it or lose it’ exercise classes (Eugenie Burton), ‘Very easy vegan’ (Kiry Sue), ‘The 10-years-younger smile’ (TV dentist Dr Uchenna Oakoye) and ‘Lifestyle lectures’ (Dr Chidi). (For the full list see healthfest.org.uk.)

One attendee, Monica Abbadarasi, appreciated that the event was free and that she could feel that her exercises had paid off. ‘It’s really nice because it’s all free for one thing . . . I’m getting good information all around. I’m really happy,’ continued Monica. ‘Health is usually not the most important thing on our minds and it is good that people are coming into the community to make us aware of its importance.’

After the Acting President had a chance to have his health checked out, even though the

results were positive he commented, ‘Next year my results are going to be even better.’ It was clear that the event had inspired people to place more emphasis on something that really matters – health!

‘I think we can learn quite a lot from this. I know that some of the pastoral staff are not so comfortable on what we call the ‘Pastors’ MOT’, but I think we can’t just be preaching that we ought to be healthy, we have to be healthy,’ said Pastor Osei. ‘We are going to have to place more emphasis on our ministers doing exercise and being healthy.’

At 6pm, all lights were turned off, mobile devices were silenced, and the curtains dropped to hear the sounds of a heartbeat. This was the beginning of ‘Rhythm of Life’, a unique musical stage production, written by producer and director Mervyn Weir and featuring internationally acclaimed a cappella vocal group Black Voices. The audience was able to sing along in between the skits and real-life stories with Dr Chidi Ngwaba.

‘This is a whole new area now, using music as a therapy for healing, and it’s good for our spirituality and our physical bodies,’ said Cecelia Wickham Anderson.

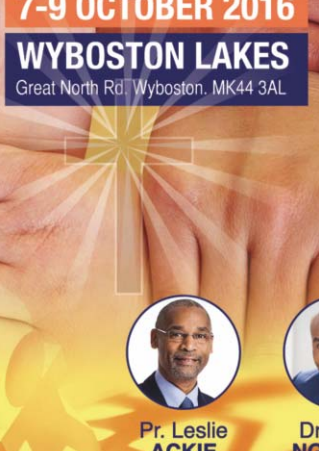
Event organisers are enthusiastic to see if HealthFest can become an annual event, necessary for the Adventist community as well as friends and the communities in which we live.

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editorial

During 1969, while completing my matric (the South African equivalent of A-levels), I was involved in a sequence of events that landed me in a spot of trouble. It started in our science lab with the discovery of a three-foot-long rocket crafted from a piece of metal water pipe, complete with stabilising fins and a tapered wooden nose.

According to the school grapevine, attempts had been made to launch this rocket a decade or so earlier, but with 'limited' success. That, of course, was all the encouragement a few of us needed to revive the project and do a proper job of it!

Our first step was to get the science master interested. Fortunately he was a pushover, and soon we had both the chemicals and the know-how needed to mix the propellant. Under his watchful eye we gingerly filled the rocket casing with the sludge-like mixture and gently compacted it before placing the projectile in one of the lab's drying ovens!

He would have been suspended

Had the head teacher known what was happening in the basement of his administration block, I suspect he would have stopped the project immediately and suspended the master involved. But he didn't.

In due course the propellant dried, we were shown how to make a simple fuse, loaned a roll of copper wire and a car battery, and left to launch our rocket one Friday afternoon while most boarders were off shopping in the nearby town. The launch was a failure. Other than for a little fizz, some grey smoke and the fact that the rocket fell over, it was a non-event!

We were a bit embarrassed but the master had another idea. A few days later he called our little group together and unwrapped a brown paper packet of what looked like thickly cut strips of liquorice. 'What are these?' we asked.

'Solid rocket fuel,' he replied, without blinking an eye! Apparently his brother worked at a nearby facility that was developing sophisticated air-to-air missiles for the South African air force. How he smuggled them past the gate security we never found out.

Teenage adrenaline . . .

While science masters like the one we had deserve to be 'sectioned' under the Mental Health Act, I must confess that we were all willing participants in what happened next. Further proof that teenage adrenaline could qualify as a banned substance!

We watched as he cut and stuffed those pieces of deadly 'liquorice' into that rocket's casing. Then, in the predawn darkness of the next day, we trekked up into one of the school's meadows for the historic launch. By torchlight we pulverised dozens of match heads by pestle and mortar to create a

It just isn't fair!

combustible fuse, fitted it to the base of the rocket, taped in the copper wire and carefully carried the now-primed device a 'safe' distance up the hillside.

Nothing!

When we were all safely back at the car battery, our science master began a slow countdown to 'three, two, one, zero, fire!' The only response was silence . . . until he lifted his head and despondently said, 'Nothing!'

The explosion was deafening, its flash blinding! The rocket's casing thumped to the ground a few metres ahead of us and within minutes we had fled the meadow on our way to the dormitory.

It just wasn't fair!

Sometime during that morning I was called from my class to face a very angry farm manager. He had gone to the meadow to establish the cause of the explosion and found the pestle and mortar we had left behind! Incensed at the thought that our leftover match heads could have poisoned one of his prized Friesland cows, he came looking for the culprits. But he never bothered to look any further than me. I bore the brunt of his anger that day, leaving my mates and our science master unscathed! **It just wasn't fair!**

But since when has life this side of Eden ever really been fair? The tongue-lashing I received was fair, but that I was the only one to receive it wasn't! But how fair was it for Cain to bludgeon his brother, Abel, to death? How fair was it of Herod to have all those little boys in Bethlehem slaughtered? Was it fair that John the Baptist was beheaded for telling the truth, or Stephen stoned for preaching a powerful sermon? How fair were those countless deaths in the Coliseum, during the Inquisition or among the horrors of the Holocaust? Surely there was nothing fair about the monstrous trade in African slaves, or the genocides of Kosovo or Rwanda.

Fundamental 29!

Yes, life isn't fair! That is the 29th Fundamental Belief, one of the most important, but yet to be voted. When you understand that, it clears up a lot of things, and it stops you grumbling to God about all your 'raw deals'. It also helps you see that the entire plan of salvation is based on 'extravagant' unfairness! If you don't believe me, read this:

'We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was our pains he carried – our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him – our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed . . . And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him.'
(Isaiah 53:3-6, *The Message*.)

What could be more 'unfair' than that, you say? But if you think about it, that 'unfairness' really has another name . . . God calls it grace – His amazing grace!

'For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners [unfair, indeed], so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous [unfair or gracious?].'
(Romans 5:19, *ESV*.)



Julian Hibbert
Editor



Enhancing Health

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

Childhood obesity – challenges and solutions

A *Daily Telegraph* article on 20 July carried the caption, 'Anger after key plan to tackle childhood obesity delayed again',¹ after Theresa May announced the delay of the Childhood Obesity Strategy.

This was disappointing news to the Obesity Health Alliance of over 30 organisations including medical royal colleges, professional associations, charities and campaigners. Their efforts are aimed at influencing government policy on obesity issues. They report that:

'Almost 1 in 5 children are overweight or obese when they start primary school. This rises to 1 in 3 by the time they leave primary school.'²

So what is the scale of the problem? In 2015 the *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care* published a report entitled, 'Childhood obesity: causes and consequences', by Krushnapriya Sahoo, et al, which outlined the multifaceted impact of childhood obesity as follows:

'Childhood obesity has reached epidemic levels in developed as well as in developing countries. Overweight and obesity in childhood are known to have significant impact on both physical and psychological health.'³

Raising concerns about long-term implications, the report continues:

'Overweight and obese children are likely to stay obese into adulthood and more likely to develop non-communicable diseases like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at a younger age.'

The research reports the following contributing factors:

• Increased calorific and fat intakes, particularly through the excessive intake of soft drinks; • Increased portion sizes; • A steady

decline in physical activity; • Sedentary lifestyle preferences; • Environmental influences; • Cultural influences.

Assessing the negative impact of obesity on children's physical, social, and emotional well-being, the report lists the following outcomes: • Poor self-esteem; • Poor academic performance;

• Lower quality of life; • Co-morbid health conditions such as metabolic, cardiovascular, orthopaedic, hepatic, and pulmonary disorders.

With such poor outcomes in sight what are the possible solutions we can use in tackling this grave health challenge? In its conclusion the report offers the following remedies: • A combined diet and physical activity intervention conducted in each community; the programme must also have a school component; • Parents enforcing a healthier lifestyle, which is to include learning about healthy eating and making the right nutritional choices.

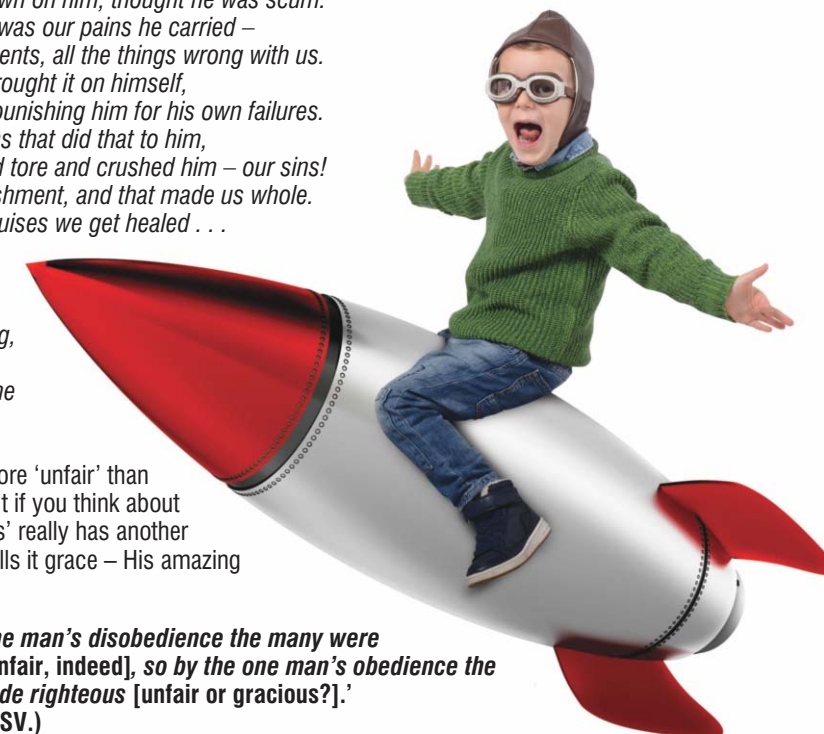
The results? The researchers conclude: 'This will have the biggest influence on the choices kids make when selecting foods to consume at school and fast-food restaurants and choosing to be active. Focusing on these causes may, over time, decrease childhood obesity and lead to a healthier society as a whole.'

Good health!

¹<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/20/anger-after-key-plan-to-tackle-childhood-obesity-delayed-again/>

²<http://obesityhealthalliance.org.uk/>

³<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4408699/>



for smaller churches



Campout 2016 was a turning point!

The South Shields pastor, Peter Jaynes, shares the simple story of how caring for the children of his church has reinvigorated the whole congregation.

Years ago South Shields Church was the 'little church with the big Pathfinder club' led by the renowned Alex Simon. Time moved on and the 'little church' remained a happy church but the youth side of things gradually declined.

This year we have seen a revival in the fortunes of our children's programme. With Sabbath morning children's story time often involving up to 14 children in the front row it soon became obvious that we needed to resurrect our Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs.

In August two of the group's younger children gained valuable experience at the BUC Camporee in South Wales, where Hannah and her little sister, Belle, gave glory to God as they sang before an audience of 800 children!

On a much smaller scale, during the second weekend in August the South Shields Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs ran their first 'major' event, a church sleepover. The sleepover format was just right for the little ones and a great opportunity for the older ones to begin to show that they could take responsibility too.

This is how they reported on the event. Catarina, who is not even a teenager yet, begins the report: 'On Sabbath afternoon we went on a scavenger hunt at a small, pebbly beach and we learned how to use a compass. After a good night's sleep we made a colourful dream-catcher, learned some knots and went on a photo trail. I had lots of fun!'

It was then the turn of one of the Adventurers, Hannah, who wrote: 'My first sleepover was magical: we had a puppet show, drank hot chocolate with chocolate fingers and had a bedtime story told by Auntie Jessie. After breakfast we then did some craft work and took loads of pictures for our photo trail activity. We even had yummy fish and chips. We had so much fun.'

Who needs a reporter when the children express themselves as enthusiastically as this? The report closes as one of the club leaders, Manuel Vieira, summarises the whole sleepover event and reminds us of our responsibilities as adults: 'It is possible. Yes, it is possible to have music practice, a walk in nature and a scavenger hunt. We also found it possible to learn how to use a compass and enjoy a photo trail. On top of all these technical things it is also possible to

demonstrate moral and spiritual lessons using puppets. It is possible to have fun doing crafts and to help develop the friendships between the children.'

Manuel reminds us that all of this can happen '... when parents are present to co-operate and when the church supports the Pathfinder and Adventurer activities as the Lord blesses His children'.

What is perhaps more important to realise

is that small churches around the world sometimes wonder if there is a future for them. South Shields also wondered about closing their church down, but those doubts have passed. They now know from experience that God can revive a church and take them from 'that sleepy little church on a corner' to a group of revived members planning to install a chair lift, repair windows and start to think about ministry to the community around them.



innovation



Harlow's 'al fresco' worship

August 6 was a special day for the members of the Harlow Central church. That day they conducted their church service in the town square for the residents of Harlow to engage with them. What a fantastic opportunity; what a fantastic day: even the weather was on their side.

After an introduction the service began with hymns of praise sung by the members and led by Chima Philips, supported by skilful musicians under the direction of Dr Paul Satayraj. Donny Halder led the children's choir, and their performance put a smile on every face.

Pastor Valentine Roach then used every minute of his sermon time to share the story of 'Redemption and Beyond'.

Thanks to the rest of the members, who wholeheartedly interacted with the passers-by, handing out literature and bottled water, many contacts were made and follow-up is in progress.

The programme ran for an hour and a half, and made a significant impact on Harlow Town.

DINESH PHASGE (PM LEADER)



We would like to hear your story . . .

If you have something innovative happening in your congregation please let us know. We would like to share such events, projects or programmes with the rest of the British Union. Perhaps your 'bright' idea will ignite something good somewhere else – so why keep it to yourselves?

Good photographs will help wherever applicable. Sometimes they are really worth a 'thousand words'.

Send your submissions to the Editor at: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk via your local pastor, communication secretary or other local church officer.

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Wanted: Detectorists

by Pastor John Surridge, BUC Executive Secretary

Suppose one of you bought a field, knowing that somewhere buried in that field was a pot of gold. It was okay for the man in Jesus' parable (Matthew 13:44) because he found the treasure first, then buried it again, presumably making careful note of where he buried it. But what if you were starting from scratch? How could you possibly find a stash of gold in a big field? Where would you begin?

The modern answer, of course, is that you would need to go out and buy a metal detector. Now people who make a hobby of this kind of thing are known as 'detectorists', as popularised in Mackenzie Crook's quirky television series. And they are a certain type. They are passionate about what they do, and devote a lot of time to it, but at the same time they are very laid back, knowing that results don't come quickly.

So a detectorist, faced with the aforementioned challenge of the gold and the field, would devise a plan. He or she would measure the size and shape of the field, then carefully mark it out into squares. In the case of a one-hectare field this would give 10,000 squares of one metre by one metre.

Over the next few weeks and months the detectorist would visit the field repeatedly, systematically sweeping the squares one by one, painstakingly ticking them off on a chart, until the gold was eventually found.

We have such people in the Church, and those of us working in Secretariat love them. They are called church clerks. They may not be armed with metal detectors, but that's because they are searching for treasure much more valuable than gold. They are searching for people.

We often talk about evangelism, and the very word

conjures up an image of a well-dressed person (a man, usually) on a platform, eloquently proclaiming various Bible truths in front of a large video screen, typically displaying charts and beasts. But the real work of evangelism is in the follow-up operation. And the real heroes are those who note down everyone's names and addresses, then go out, in the rain, to the other side of town, only to find that the person is not in. The following day they repeat the process, meticulously recording names, times and responses, until they eventually visit every single person on their address list.

Just as important as evangelism is member-retention. We all know of someone who was once a member but, well, they kind of drifted away and we just don't see them anymore. Perhaps they moved to another church. Perhaps . . . but probably not.

Who keeps track of these people? Who actually counts heads to make sure that we've got the full quota of 100 instead of just 99? Who tells the elder that he or she needs to visit that missing member? Usually it's our faithful church clerk.

If your church is super-organised, you will have completed your nominating committee work by now and the new officers will already be gearing up to starting their new roles on 1 January.

If not, can I suggest that you pay a little more attention than usual to the person you select for church clerk? They may not be volunteering their services as they tend to be somewhat shy and retiring, but ask around and eventually you'll discover who they are. If you've already got a good one, hold on to them, tell them how much you value them, and they'll be as good as gold.



WANTED: Pioneer Taskforce Volunteers!

The North England Conference seeks volunteers for the following:

To set up new churches or to support struggling churches through efforts such as Bible studies, door-to-door work, health and nutrition activities, literature evangelism, distribution of Bible request cards, various methods of friendship evangelism and small groups. Applicants must have a well-rounded knowledge of the Seventh-day Adventist teachings, accept these teachings and let their personal lives reflect the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle. They should also be good communicators (fluent in English), be able to conduct Bible studies, seminars and evangelistic meetings, prepare contacts for baptism and have the ability to minister cross-culturally. These are voluntary positions for which full accommodation and a living allowance will be provided. Locations will be in three different areas within the NEC. Starting date: as soon as possible. Minimum term of service: one year (subject to applicant's suitability).

Apply online or to Pastor Michael Simpson:
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Tel: 0044 115960 6312
Fax: 0044 115969 1476

Email: msimpson@necadventist.org.uk
Web: <https://www.adventistvolunteers.org>

Call ID: TED.NECY.2016.03 (Isle of Man), TED.NECY.2016.04 (Lincolnshire) and TED.NECY.2016.05 (West Midlands)



The role of the pastor

Pastor Claude Lombart (retired) shares his perspective on the core role of the Adventist pastor.

According to Rick Homerton, 'The role of the pastor is not to grow a big church. The pastor's role is to **grow mature disciples, who make disciples**.' Wasn't that more or less Christ's command to the eleven disciples who went to the mountain to meet up with Him? 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples of all nations**' (Matthew 28:17-19a, ESV).

As I see it, Homerton has a point when he asserts that the role of pastors, in particular, is to '**grow mature disciples, who make disciples**'. This also ties in with what the apostle Paul says: 'And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, **the shepherds [pastors]** and teachers, to **equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ** [the church]' (Ephesians 4:11, 12, ESV, emphasis supplied).

The pastor's role is *not* to make disciples, for that is actually the responsibility of church members. They are the disciples, who must become disciple makers. Likewise, sheep make sheep, and the role of the shepherd is to feed and look after the sheep in such a way that they can produce more sheep. Where our sheep are not doing their work of multiplying the 'flock', would it be fair to say that one of the reasons may be that the pastor is not caring sufficiently for his sheep? In other words, that he or she is not growing mature disciples?

Much emphasis in most Christian churches, up and down the country, is placed on numerical growth. Isn't that why we give Bible studies, hold evangelistic meetings, and reach out to the community? Our world church even employs a full-time director of archives and statistics with supporting staff to keep track of membership growth,



among other things. Once every four or five years members gather together in sessions to hear reports on numbers added to the church.

On the other hand, when was the last time you attended a session, at any level of the church – Mission, Conference, Union, or General Conference – where statistics of how many disciples were making good progress in their Christian maturity and helping others to become disciples were presented? It doesn't happen, and for obvious reasons!

Perhaps the real issue is how to measure 'discipleship maturity'. If this could be defined then it would make the work of the pastor easier. The pastors still have to figure this one out, and by their fruit (disciples making disciples) they will know if it is happening or not. 'Disciples' (church members) ought to be taught the true practical meaning of this very fundamental command of Jesus, by the pastor, so that we won't have to hold too many more sessions before Jesus comes.

Then, and only then, can we be confident that the pastor is


achieving his/her role, which is to '**grow mature disciples**' who, in turn, will '*make disciples*'.


Whatever else the pastor does should be subservient to this major pastoral role.

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Press Open Day 2016

by Julian Hibbert, Editor



The Stanborough Press Open Day has been an annual feature of British Union Conference life for many decades. In the past, when the press was still a factory in which books and magazines were printed and bound, the Open Day provided our members with a chance to actually see the whole process in action.

These days the press outsources its book and magazine production, placing orders wherever it can get the most competitive prices. Generally speaking it sources its magazine printing in the UK, while its books are printed in either Europe or the Far East.

Although there were no machines operating at this year's event (4 September), there were still crowds of people who came to buy books, magazines, puzzles, games, DVDs and food. They came from far and wide by coach and car to top up their libraries and their larders, and to listen to some interesting speakers and inspiring singing.

Dr and Mrs Jan Paulsen and Dr Chidi Ngwaba were the guest speakers, and the music was provided by the Vade quartet: all of whom were thoroughly enjoyed.

There were some food demonstrations that proved popular, including samples of various products from the Cedar Lake range of meat analogues – both vegan and vegetarian options. Then there were the juice and smoothie-making demos hosted by Sharon Platt-McDonald, who made 900-plus samples based on the new Stanborough Press publication, *Juicing for Life*.

Besides these activities and others for

the children, there was also an exhibitors' marquee where individuals, institutions and local churches were able to promote their products and programmes. Another real draw card of every Press Open Day is the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones – a lot of which was obviously taking place.

As far as the sales for this year are concerned, here are a few interesting facts:

1. One hundred and forty-nine Bibles were sold.
2. The best seller of the day, numerically, was the Stanborough Press calendar for 2017. A total of 1,670 were sold.
3. The press's own colourful edition of *Steps to Christ* was the second most numerous title sold (649).
4. All but one of Dr Chidi Ngwaba's *Life Colours* DVDs were sold.
5. The second most popular book among the Spirit of Prophecy titles was *Education* (123).

6. A very satisfying feature of the sale was the number of outreach magazines (*FOCUS* and *Signs of the Times*) that were bought.

It was good to see a number of our leaders at the event: for instance, Pastors Ian Sweeney (BUC president), John Surridge (BUC executive secretary), Emmanuel Osei (SEC acting president), Richard Jackson (NEC president) and Emanuel Bran (Welsh Mission president). Special mention, however, must be made of Earl Ramharacksingh (BUC treasurer), who was back at a Press Open Day for the first time since the age of ten – and seemed to be enjoying it!

Judging by reactions on the day and subsequently, the event was enjoyed by the vast majority of those who attended – especially little James Moncherry Lee from Hanworth Church, who said: 'I had the best day! I played on the bouncy castle with my cousin and our friends. I love my new Bible. I put it next to me when I sleep!'

If you missed Press Open Day this year, make sure you book the first Sunday in September next year and pay us a visit.



1. Pastor Jan Paulsen speaks to the congregation.
2. Pastor Ian Sweeney.
3. Dr Chidi Ngwaba.
4. Vade.
5. Bargain books.
6. Meeting up with family and friends.
7. Carlos Thorpe demonstrating a Bible.
8. Dr and Mrs Jan Paulsen.
9. Smile for the camera.
10. James Moncherry Lee with his new Bible.
11. Jim Cunningham asks a question during Dr Paulsen's Q&A.



NEC/SEC student camp

Fun, unity and Jesus Christ. These are some of the things the North England Conference (NEC) Youth Department and South England Conference (SEC) Teens Department focused on for the first NEC/SEC student camp held at Chapel Porth on 18 to 22 July.



These five days were packed with various activities, such as paintballing and bike riding, but they also had their fair share of spirituality. The evening devotions were preached by Pastor Jonathan Burnett, pastor of the Oxford and Aylesbury churches in the SEC.

For many students who have moved to different parts of the UK for their university studies, this was an opportunity to get together with old church friends and create new ones.

'It's like being home. You've got your NEC people and your SEC people, but actually it's just like one big family, you know,' said Daniel Kwatchi, who resides at Lewisham and studies at Leicester. 'It's just about breaking down that divide that's usually there.'

NEC Youth Director Adam Ramdin and SEC Teens Director Dejan Stojkovic identified the need to create a place where young people can share their experiences and open up about their college life, while making new and good memories. According to the camp organisers, 74 percent of young adults leave the church while at university.

'This is the place to be, this is a spiritual place, this is the place full of fun and amazing people,' said Stojkovic. 'There is no place where they sing as they sing here, pray as they pray here.'

This camp aimed for fellowship and for campers to have a good time, but mainly for empowerment and rest from everyday struggles.



Blackburn Church helps build church in Malawi

On 30 July a fundraising music concert was held at Blackburn Church. Around 200 people attended, some having travelled from as far as London and Durham. Apart from praising God through the gift of music, the major objective of the concert was to contribute towards the completion of Chisemphere Church, Kasungu, Malawi, which has a total membership of 1,975. Funds raised during the concert and subsequently amounted to £500, which will go a long way towards finishing and furnishing the church.

TEMWA BANDA



Paintballing

One camper described her experience as 'really worth the money and more!'

Plans are already stirring for next year's student camp, and the organisers are looking to hold longer student camps in future.

Stojkovic urged students to come next year, saying: 'If you haven't been here you need to come. And the reason why you need to come here is because you'll make friends for life and meet people who have been through their university years and have fought really hard to stay spiritual.'

For more information on the student camp visit www.secteens.org.
NATASHA MIRILOV (COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA ASSISTANT)

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London Youth Federation Sports Day 2016

On Sunday 24 July the London Youth Federation held their much-anticipated annual sports day at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. The day started off promptly and both participants and spectators arrived on time, eager either to warm up or to grab the spot with the best view. Pastor Des Boldeau opened the event with prayer and by 12.30pm things were in full swing with many medals already being won. Track events included: 1500m, 800m, 400m, 200m, 100m and 80m. Relays were also included in the mix, with both men and women having a 100m relay in each category. Long jump and high jump were both popular events and for next year we will be looking at increasing the variety of the field events.

As spectators filled the stadium they were welcomed by some of the best aromas possible from our faithful caterers, who were showcasing some of the top Caribbean cuisine, with some delicious European options too. With over 1,000 people on site during the course of the day this was a truly memorable sports day. Our members came out in full support, dressed in their colours and ready to do what it took in order to gain their churches some points. With 14 different churches signed up to take part from all over London we had over 300 participants and awarded hundreds of medals to winners on the day.

The winning teams Big churches

1st: SureStow (SureWay & Walthamstow)	1,146 points
2nd: Stoke Newington	920 points
3rd: Holloway	359 points

Small churches

1st: Lewisham	328 points
2nd: Plaistow	257 points
3rd: Holcombe Road	251 points

On behalf of the London Youth Federation I would like to say a massive 'thank you' and 'well done' to everyone who participated on the day. The winning churches will share funding of up to £1,000, which has been allocated for their youth departments to enrich and support youth work and evangelism in London.

This was truly a successful and enjoyable event, with one participant stating: 'This is the

PHOTOS: Z CAMPBELL PHOTOGRAPHY



highlight of my year.' This could not have been possible without the London Youth Federation team and the Sports Chair, Daniel Doyley, and his team of 'old school' pioneers mixed with 'new school' visionaries to make this one of the most successful youth events of 2016.

We are looking for those with a vision and

passion for sports to join the planning team for our next sports day in 2017. If you would like to contribute to the planning of this event then please email your name and contact details to:

sports@londonyouthfederation.org.uk

SHEREEN RODNEY (LONDON YOUTH FEDERATION PRESIDENT)

Back by popular demand! Strong black woman digging deeper: part 2

An entertainment-seminar facilitated by Dr Val Bernard-Allen, who deals with the issues of identity and faith.

To be hosted by the Balham Seventh-day Adventist church on Tuesday 27 September from 7pm until 9.45pm.

Only £22 per person
(tasty refreshments, passionate poetry and soulful music included)

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BOOKSALES

September
30-2 Welsh Mission Camp Meeting

October
16 Manchester South 10am-2pm
30 Hyland House 10am-2pm

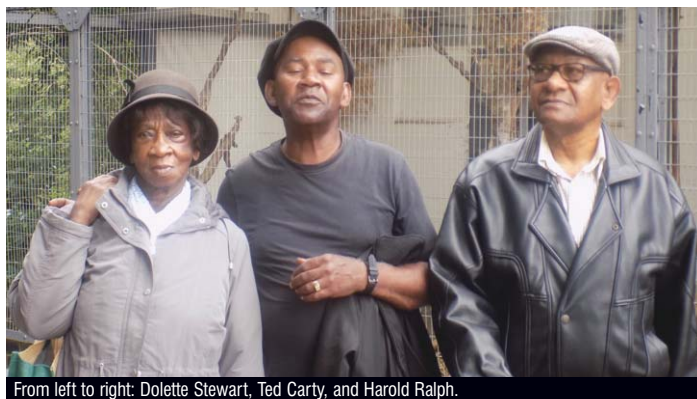
November
6 Croydon 10am-2pm
13 Cambridge 10am-2pm

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Birmingham, Aston-Newton, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm,
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From left to right: Dolette Stewart, Ted Carty, and Harold Ralph.

Seniors' anniversary

Members of Yardley Church's Community Senior Club celebrated their first birthday on 13 July. Every second Wednesday of each month 12-18 members of the group meet between 11am and 2pm with others from the community to socialise and participate in various activities. These include poetry, exercises, music, nutritious meals and presentations from various organisations such as The Diabetes Foundation. Through this outreach programme, the club has been able to provide valuable friendship and support for senior citizens within the community.

NEC Community Services and Health Ministries Director, Grace Walsh, was present at the celebration and presented the group with health magazines, words of wisdom, guidance and encouragement. Those present for the ceremony commented on their experiences and how they benefited from the club, and the celebration then concluded with a trip to the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham.

Pastor Pardon Chenjerai, their local pastor, has fully supported the club and team, which consists of Darius Joseph (leader), Beverley Williams-Lawrence (project leader) and various volunteers – especially Amelda Forbes, Beverley Campbell, Dolette Stewart, Ted Carty and

Murelda Elson, who have used their gifts and talents to make the club a success. BEVERLEY WILLIAMS-LAWRENCE AND YARDLEY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



City councillor prays with Tottenham Church

On Sabbath, 16 July, Tottenham Church's special guest, City Councillor Barbara Blake, joined the congregation in praying for the new Prime Minister, Theresa May, and her Government.

These special prayers were offered before the main worship service by the senior pastor, Jude Jeanville, followed by Councillor Blake. She was asked to attend so as to also have prayer for her own work in the local community.

'When the elder, Charles, invited me to come I thought, "What a wonderful thing to come and offer a prayer to send one's thoughts and good wishes to the new PM and to the new Government," so for me this is very important,' said Councillor Blake.

Pastor Jeanville said calling the local councillor to join the church in such a prayer provided a great opportunity for the church to become better known in local government circles. GRISELDA ROSALES AND NATASHA MIRILOV

TEENS UNITED SEC TEENS DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

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ministry teen south east london conference

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Langley goes solo!

On 28 May this year, Grace Walsh (NEC Health Ministries Director) and her team helped us run Langley's first health expo.

Since then, under the supervision of our local Health Department leader, Grace Masih, on 14 August Langley went solo on their next health expo event.

God blessed them with great weather and they were able to run the whole event outside.

Everyone enjoyed themselves, and the participants benefited greatly from having their blood pressure taken, along with height and weight measurements. There was also a diabetes check along with tables

where they were told more about hydration, nutrition, oxygenation and temperate living, among other important things.

The team had also organised a set of children's fun day activities called the 'Kids' Corner'. It was well attended by children from the local community, who came and enjoyed the games provided for them. There were also prizes for the various winners.

Those who attended also enjoyed the cooking demonstration presented by Naomi on how to prepare healthy meals.

This expo was part of the Mission to the Cities evangelism year, and gave Langley members a chance to see how much the community appreciated their health emphasis. ROHEET SUBRAI



News from East Kilbride

Volunteers from East Kilbride Church joined with others to form Impact East Kilbride on 18 and 19 July. Pastor Rory Mendez had arranged for volunteers to come from churches throughout the UK to make up a team of 12 who worked tirelessly to clear weeds from the long path surrounding the sheltered housing complex of Canberra House. After this they planted heathers and other plants in the complex's outdoor seating area, while Brother Beavon from Glasgow Church trimmed the trees to allow more light in to stop moss forming on the lawn.



Unlike last year, when we had to travel to have lunch elsewhere, the residents gave us permission to use their kitchen and dining area, and some of the pots.

During the two days we worked there many residents had brief chats with us and all were very grateful for what we were doing. Some even asked for a prayer that they would enjoy sitting out in their garden. Upon completion of our work we were presented with a 'Thank you' card and a generous and unexpected donation.

MAGGIE ROBERTSON (ELDER)

Health programme in Bristol

On Sabbath 21 May, East Trees Surgery in Eastville, Bristol, hosted their first-ever open day. The surgery buzzed with excitement after its doors opened at 10am. The event was supported by organisations such as Health Watch and Fit GB, and our church was there as part of MTTC (Mission to the Cities) to share our health message in the form of vegan/vegetarian foods and juicing.

The nine team members, including supporters from Newport and Birmingham, each brought a different aspect of healthy lifestyle to the event. Chanel Green of Birmingham presented a lecture on the vegan diet that excited the crowd and was well received. Riding his smoothie bike, Evan Green produced a variety of smoothie flavours, which the attendees couldn't get enough of. Many of them also took the opportunity to get some exercise by pedalling the bike to enjoy their well-earned smoothies. Mary Philip was also busy making a variety of juices in her blender, all of which were eagerly received by the attendees, who were amazed that all the foods served were plant based and meat free.

The event was organised following an invitation from the Practice Manager at East Tree Surgery for three other GP practices to join them. Doctors at the surgery commented that this was an exceptional community programme provided by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and requested that such should be done on a regular basis. The Practice Manager and the team of doctors that were present were in awe, and this was evident via their positive tone and body language.

One of the members of the public who attended is now coming to the regular exercise and cooking classes that we offer at the Glenfrome Primary School.

MARY PHILIP



Lockleaze event

The Bristol health team under the leadership of Mary Philip and Rani Pawar (assistant) mobilised their members to assist with a community event on Sabbath 23 July at Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze, Bristol.

The team provided health talks and information, delicious fruit and healthy vegan wraps and homemade flapjacks. Bags of appropriate Adventist literature were also distributed among those who were interested. This is all part of the MTTC programme for Bristol.

MARY PHILIP



It's a family affair!

It is clear to see that today's families are under severe attack. This was Curtis Griffin's theme during his revival series at Hackney Church (23-30 July). Curtis, an elder from the Handsworth church in Birmingham, reminded his audience that the family, though fractured and broken, is still as important to God as it was at creation. He challenged both our thinking and perceptions of how a family ought to be. His introductory message, which focused on Genesis 3, explained how God made man able to think and reason for himself. He helped us contemplate how to save our loved ones within the home and the family. He also emphasised, 'When Jesus calls you, you move from non-believer to believer; from the solitary to the family.' Then, in his concluding message, Curtis Griffin pointed out that it was only Jesus' love for the Father that inspired Him to go to the cross and die for us. He said: 'Our security in the love of our Father is, in itself, a form of evangelism. God gave us His son as a gift to restore altered families and altered individuals back into more profitable, loving, healthy and God-centred relationships.' Jesus really is the centre of it all – He has made it possible for us to live in harmony with God, in our communities and within our homes.

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

29th October 2016
09:15am - 6:15pm

UK-ZAMBIANS ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP

THEME: "REVIVAL & REMAINING RELEVANT"

Dr Terry Messenger is Pastor for Bedford Central and Milton Keynes International Churches and has served the South England Conference as Executive Secretary and Personal Ministries & Sabbath School Director

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SABBATH SCHOOL FEATURE
Youth On Advent Mission (YOM) July 2016 Mozabuka Cruzade Update

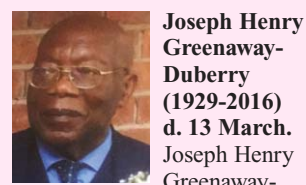
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GREAT MUSIC AND GREAT FOOD
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obituary



Joseph Henry Greenaway-Duberry (1929-2016) d. 13 March.

Joseph Henry Greenaway-

Duberry, a husband, father and grandfather, was born on 19 July 1929 to the late James and Margaret Greenaway-Duberry. He was baptised in August 1980 into the Camp Hill church, where he served as a deacon and was also involved in the Personal Ministries Department.

Joseph worked as a carpenter for his entire life and used his

carpentry skills in support of various evangelistic tent meetings in the West Midlands area. He was a committed member of the church, highly respected by everyone, who enjoyed singing in the church choir.

Among his favourite sports was cricket. He also enjoyed family gatherings, where he was known as the 'salad maker'. He will be dearly missed by his wife, Christiana, and by his children and grandchildren.

Joseph fell asleep on 13 March 2016 and will also be truly missed by the members at Camp Hill Church.

WILFRED



World Jewish Friendship Congress

The World Jewish Adventist Friendship Congress took place in Paris from 13 to 16 July, attended by representatives from no fewer than 45 countries. It was truly an international affair and London was represented by people working in the Jewish Adventist Friendship Group. It was a resounding success, both spiritually and through the reports on the wonderful work carried out in this area globally, and led by Dr Richard Elofer, Director of World Jewish Adventist Friendships.

The congress ran under the very deep theme, 'Let's Worship Him', and there were plenty of plenary sessions, testimonies, workshops, worship experiences and fellowship opportunities. On the Friday evening the group also witnessed a baby presentation.

One of the most important and solemn moments was the Kyriat Torah: the procession of the Torah, the opening of it and its reading

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by Pastor Shalom David from Israel.

The following consensus statement was also voted during the World Congress:

"We affirm that Jews and Adventists worship the Creator, the God of Abraham. We also recognise the blessing of keeping and celebrating the Shabbat (from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday), and acknowledge the continuing relevance of the divine law. We recognise the historic role of the Jewish people in preserving the Holy Scriptures and their legacy regarding the sanctuary and worship, as testified in the Scriptures. As Seventh-day Adventists, we are greatly indebted to the Jewish people for the spiritual heritage that we all cherish. We encourage all, both Jew and Gentile, to affirm and to strengthen their faith in the Creator, worshipping Him "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5, ESV)."

Many remarked on the fruitfulness and timeliness of this congress, and left inspired and encouraged to make friendships and form bridges with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

If anyone would like to know more about Jewish Adventist Friendship please email: jaf.question@gmail.com.

Shalom!

MARCELINA ROBINSON

Messenger

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30	6.40	6.52	6.43	6.50	7.01
Oct 7	6.24	6.36	6.27	6.32	6.44
14	6.09	6.21	6.11	6.14	6.27

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