

# Messenger

News to the churches • 12 May 2017 • Volume 122 • 09

## Ministries unite in service

by Sharon Platt-McDonald and Catherine Boldeau

'Absolutely awesome'; 'Spiritually uplifting, empowering, and inspirational'; 'I'm so excited and can't wait to get back to my church and community to introduce what I have learnt here. It's life-changing.' These were among the numerous enthusiastic evaluations received from those who attended the BUC's Adventist Community Services and Health Ministries Training Retreat.

This event was a first for the BUC (17-19 March), during which those involved in this new combination of departments discovered new ways of reaching out together in ministry.

The event theme was 'Heal Our Land', and the presentations centred on reaching our communities through holistic interventions that bring spiritual nurture, emotional healing, physical restoration and social and relational connectedness.

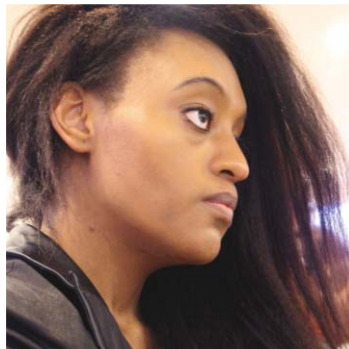
The event presenters were many and their topics varied. On Friday night the BUC Director for Health, Community Services and Women's Ministries, Sharon Platt-McDonald, outlined her '7 Circles of Influence' initiative, originally used in her work with the Health Department.

She was followed by US guest speaker, Carol Barron, whose powerful sermon demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit to impact lives.

On Sabbath morning the spiritually uplifting devotional by Hyacinth Gayle was followed by reports on the BUC's Centres of Hope, Health and Healing (CHHH) ministry presented by Sharon, along with an outline of how churches can register to become a CHHH.

Malika Bediako, SEC Community Ministries Director, along with her predecessor, Elsie Staple, then spoke about the many outreach projects in the territory, including the work being done at the Advent Centre and Hanwell Church. The latter project, which involves feeding the homeless, led to two of the clients being baptised on one Sabbath, before getting married the following Sunday!

These presentations were followed by number of interactive sessions which presented an opportunity to re-examine certain Bible narratives from the perspective of health, healing and service to the community. This was done under the guidance of Sharon Platt McDonald, event organiser, and Angelette Müller, a qualified nutritionist.



Carol Barron spoke again during the sermon slot, delving into both biblical and contemporary stories and telling of miracles that occurred in the lives of people whom she knew personally, including her own daughter, who, injured in a car accident and hardly able to walk, was able to attend her own graduation!

In the afternoon Dr Chidi, renowned health professional and international speaker, spoke on *Life Colours*, a successful and popular health programme that he has devised. It was an engaging presentation which engendered much discussion.

'What can't be measured, can't be managed.' This management principle was emphasised by John Wilby from the Scottish Mission as he spoke of the processes and protocols that should be in place before any community project is implemented. He also highlighted the tremendous community work that was taking place in Scotland, and some of the challenges faced by the membership of 653 as they minister to a population of over 5 million.

Gloucester Church, currently the BUC's flagship Centre of Hope and Healing, has actively been involved in around 20 initiatives since its launch in 2015. In an inspirational

report Vareta Bryant, Health Ministries leader for Gloucester, outlined the impact their church has made on the community and the increased community involvement with their church as a result thereof.

More presentations followed and the day ended with a celebration of diversity, during which the group was treated to a kaleidoscope of colour, tastes and diverse ethnic experiences – an unforgettable cultural extravaganza valuing the rich heritage of our membership.

This segment of the retreat was aimed at social and relational connectedness to prepare the group for outreach to the varied communities they will encounter.

The evening concluded with the awarding of certificates to churches that excelled in their Health Ministries and Adventist Community Services work.

On Sunday attendees were further equipped for useful service by a variety of excellent presentations that climaxed with a final message and charge from Carol Barron.

If you or your church would like to be involved in Health and Community Ministries or know more about the resources we offer to churches, please ring the BUC office on 01923 672251 so we can assist you.




1960s

## Reunion

4-6 August, 2017

Reconnect and reunite during this special weekend which will include sermons from **Dr Jan Paulsen**, an evening concert with the **Wedgwood Trio**, an excursion to **Virginia Water**, and a boat trip on the **River Thames**. All-inclusive packages are available for £99 for one or £189 for a couple, or you can purchase accommodation, meals, or tickets to the excursions individually.

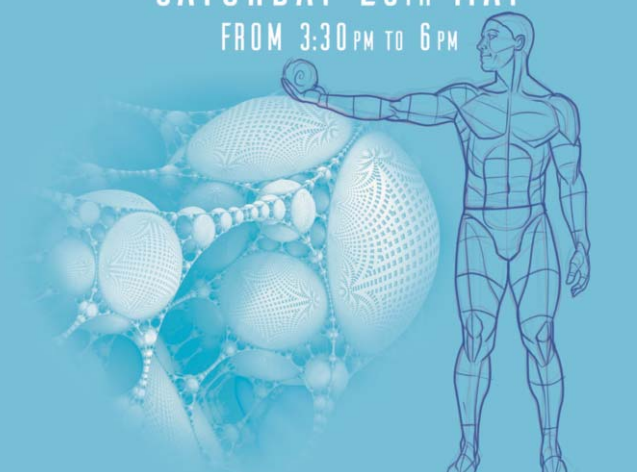
Register now at [www.newbold.ac.uk/1960s-reunion](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/1960s-reunion), or call us on +44 (0)1344 407492.

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INDEPENDENT PRESENTATIONS ON SUBJECTS THAT MATTER - FREE ENTRY

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MOLECULAR MACHINES IN THE NATURAL WORLD Andrew Saywell

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## Enhancing Health

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

### Healthy minds – part 1

In this three-part series we take a look at our mental well-being.

This year, Mental Health Awareness Week was scheduled for 8-14 May. The theme was 'Surviving or Thriving', and in the next issue we will highlight some of the top tips for good mental health.

In 2016, the Mental Health Foundation undertook a study of 2,000 adults and their mental health. The study was commissioned as part of the Foundation's 'I'm Fine' campaign.<sup>1</sup> Here is what they found:

- 'The average adult will say "I'm fine" 14 times a week, though just 19% really mean it.'
- 'Almost a third of those surveyed said that they 'often lie' to other people about how they are feeling.'
- One in 10 admitted that they 'always lie about their emotional state'.
- It was revealed that '59% of us expect the answer to be a lie when we ask others, "How are you feeling?"'
- 'Thirty-four percent reported using the term "I'm fine" as a response because it is more convenient than explaining how they really feel.'
- Twenty-three percent said they used the term because they 'think the person asking isn't really interested'.
- Forty-four percent said that they have 'regretted asking somebody how they were doing after receiving an answer they weren't prepared for'.
- Men were 'more than twice as likely to be dishonest to others' about their emotions.

- Twenty-two percent of men admitted they 'always lie about how they feel, compared with 10% of women'.
- Women were found to be more likely to be hurt emotionally.
- Forty-one percent of women stated they 'regretted opening up to someone', compared to 29% of men.

Commenting on the findings, Mental Health Foundation Chief Executive, Jenny Edwards, states:

'While it may appear that most of us are happy openly discussing feelings, these survey results reveal that many of us are really just sticking to a script. This creates an illusion of support. On the surface we're routinely checking in with each other, but beneath that many of us feel unable to say how we're really feeling.'

Talking is therapeutic. When Prince Harry disclosed to the media that he sought counselling to cope with his feelings 20 years after his mother's death, it received significant coverage and applause from health professionals.

Paul Farmer, chief executive of Mind, commented: 'It's inspiring to see Prince Harry speaking out about his experiences. It shows how far we have come in changing public attitudes to mental health that someone so high-profile can open up about something so difficult and personal.'<sup>2</sup>

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/news/mental-health-foundation-launches-im-fine-campaign>  
<sup>2</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/apr/17/prince-harry-grief-revelations-praise-mental-health-experts>

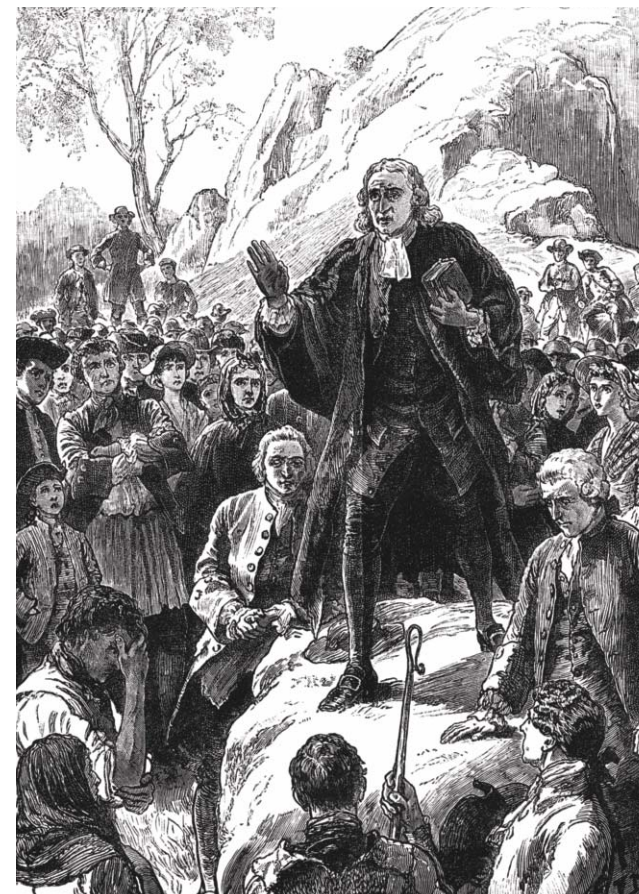
# editorial

During October 1979, I made my first visit to London as part of what you could call a 'Bible and Reformation lands' tour. I was part of a group who were eager to gather material that could be used in our evangelistic seminars back in South Africa. We needed to take masses of good photos, while also capturing a personal feel for the people and places that have shaped biblical and Christian history. And, of course, being able to say, 'As I stood on the very paving stones over which Jesus dragged His cross to Calvary . . .' does lend a certain authority to one's presentation.

### My bucket list

Back to London, then. Among the items on my bucket list was a visit to Wesley's Chapel. 'Why?' you ask. Well, as I see it, John Wesley was one of the most thorough, logical and energetic English churchmen of the eighteenth century, whose Methodism had a significant influence on the life of Ellen White: an influence that has positively affected both our theological thinking and our denominational practice.

Both he and his brother, Charles, have also had a powerful and lasting influence on the hymnody of Protestantism. Charles wrote over 6,000 hymns and John, although a far less prolific hymn writer, edited and published many of those his brother wrote.<sup>1</sup> In fact, if you were to check your list of favourites from our various Adventist hymnals, I am sure you would find at least one of their hymns among them – if not more.



### The other address

There was, however, another Wesley-related address on my London bucket list that day: one far more significant than that of Wesley's Chapel. Let me tell you why. John was raised in a rectory and ordained as a clergyman himself on 22 September 1728. As such he led a really devout life, during which he spent close on two years as a missionary in the American colonies. Despite that devotion, however, neither he nor Charles could find the spiritual peace and personal sense of acceptance by God that they desperately desired.

This persisted for a decade until the evening of 24 May 1735, when John visited that other London address, approximately where Nettleton Court, Aldersgate Street (EC2Y 5HN), now stands. There he attended a Moravian Society meeting during which 'a statement was read from Luther, describing the change which the Spirit of God works in the heart of the believer. As Wesley listened, faith was kindled in his soul. "I felt my heart strangely warmed," he says. "I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation: and an assurance was given me, that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."<sup>2</sup>

I let *The Great Controversy* have the last word: 'Through long years of wearisome and comfortless striving – years of rigorous self-denial, of reproach and humiliation – Wesley had steadfastly adhered to his one purpose of seeking God. **Now he had found Him; and he found that the grace which he had toiled to win by prayers and fasts, by almsdeeds and self-abnegation, was a gift, "without money and without price."**<sup>3</sup>

Now you know why that second address was on my London bucket list – is there an 'Aldersgate' on yours?

<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Wesley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Wesley)  
<sup>2</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Wesley#Personality\\_and\\_activities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wesley#Personality_and_activities)  
<sup>3</sup>Quoted in *The Great Controversy*, page 259  
<sup>4</sup>[https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/anvil/14-1\\_036.pdf](https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/anvil/14-1_036.pdf)  
<sup>5</sup>*The Great Controversy*, page 256  
<sup>6</sup>ibid.



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## His heart was 'strangely warmed'

### Energetic?

I have already described John Wesley as 'energetic', and here is some support for that. Not only did he write hundreds of books and pamphlets but he also 'travelled widely, generally on horseback, preaching two or three times each day. Stephen Tomkins writes that he "rode 250,000 miles [ten times around the world], gave away 30,000 pounds, . . . and preached more than 40,000 sermons . . ." during his ministry!<sup>2</sup>

Unlike most of the English clergy of his day, John and his associates took the Gospel to the common man – to places where they were not always welcome. Where they were denied the pulpit, they preached from the saddle, often at significant risk to life and limb! These are his own words: 'Two years ago, a piece of brick grazed my shoulders. It was a year after that the stone struck me between the eyes. Last month I received one blow, and this evening two, one before we came into the town, and one after we were gone out; but both were as nothing: for though one man struck me on the breast with all his might, and the other on the mouth with such force that the blood gushed out immediately, I felt no more pain from either of the blows than if they had touched me with a straw.' (John Wesley, *Works*, vol. 3, pp. 297, 298.)<sup>3</sup>

Another reason John Wesley was on my London bucket list was for the impact his example and teachings had on this nation's disadvantaged classes. On many occasions, he referred to himself as 'God's steward of the poor', and this is how he set about achieving that. Not only did he live frugally himself, but he organised every Methodist society 'into small classes of twelve or thirteen members whose duty it was to contribute a penny a week to be used to help the poor and needy': in addition to which he 'worked to the end of his days for the disadvantaged, campaigning for better conditions of work, collecting money, food and clothing on their behalf'. Beyond this Wesley 'raised a vigorous protest against slavery and concerned himself with such issues as the condition of the mines, enclosure of the common land, drunkenness, prostitution and the education of the poor'.<sup>4</sup>

# Freshers' Week and beyond . . .

by Nomsa Praise Mpfu

**This is an article in which Nomsa Praise Mpfu speaks candidly about her experience at university. They say life is a 'university of hard knocks', so hopefully we can all benefit from her insights and be inspired by her example.**

Although I can say I have been a Christian since I was born, it's not technically true, because no one becomes a Christian at birth, but rather at 'rebirth', by choice. It was a serious life decision I made at the age of twelve to become a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. To date, it is the 'university experience' that has tested my faith and my commitment to my God and our beliefs the most. However, even though being a Seventh-day Adventist at university has been a challenging journey it has been a very rewarding one.

When I first came to university I remember sticking out like a sore thumb because of my lifestyle and beliefs. Freshers' Week (which was known for wild parties, late nights, clubbing and lots of drinking) was a pivotal time in my life. I was caught at a fork in the road and was faced with the wide, easy road of compromise on one hand, and the narrow, rocky, uncompromising road on the other.

It was before reaching this point, however, that I had decided which road I was going to take. This decision was not only a decision about the fresher's experience, but my whole university experience for the time I would be there. I made the decision not to compromise but to stay steady in what I believed.

Since then I have made many decisions that have been the source of controversy.

These decisions included ones involving principles such as not drinking or clubbing as well as ensuring that I maintained a healthy lifestyle. Other decisions were of an intellectual nature, pertaining to my position on topics such as evolution and the origins of man. I also firmly decided to keep the Sabbath by abstaining from work, whether it was related to my studies or for my own personal benefit. This meant that I would have to miss some lectures or need to swap laboratory class groups, and this was definitely not always easy!

As you can imagine, many of these decisions were not popular among my peers – even my teachers! I can feel, however, that these challenges made my faith so much stronger.

When people realised I was different, I received a wave of questions from every angle. This challenged me to go back and research why I did what I did. It challenged me to always have an answer ready to explain what I believed. And every time I was blessed with an opportunity to share my beliefs it strengthened them even more in my heart and mind. I can honestly say the 'university experience' has enabled me to feel the presence of God in my life more closely than I ever did before. I know it has been essential to my spiritual growth and I am so grateful to

have had the opportunity to enter an environment where I could meet young people from all over the country – and the world – with different cultures and beliefs.

At times it may feel as if university is not the place for you, and you can feel as if you are likely to lose yourself. It can also be hard when you realise that what you are being taught doesn't actually agree with your beliefs (which is unfortunately the case for many Adventist youth). Sometimes my course (Pharmacy) teaches concepts which I do not directly agree with and which I have to learn and understand. However, even though I don't agree with these concepts I know they make me a more rounded person: someone who is aware of different points of view and the ideas of others.

I have discovered university to be one of the *best* places to *truly* understand who you are. My specific advice to anyone who can relate to this article, no matter your background, would be not to worry about being questioned, and don't be afraid to learn something new, but always practise tolerance and kindness. Don't live life in blind faith but go and study the reason behind your beliefs, for yourself, but most importantly enjoy the experience! Make the best of every moment: after all, we are only given one shot at *this* life . . .

Nomsa originally submitted this article to *Conker* magazine and we have her permission to publish it here too.



## Jesus and social media – part 2

by Pastor Richard Daly, BUC Communication and Media Director

We have seen a rapid transformation and diversification of the audiences that we seek to reach with the Gospel. In fact, our technological progress has given birth to a new generation of audiences that have changed more in the last 10 years than they have in the last 1,000 years. As a church, we need to consider these various audiences if we are going to fulfil the Gospel commission to reach all people.

There are five audiences that need to be reached in any ministry.

### 1. The face-to-face, live audience

For many years, right from Christ's time, this audience has been the focus of ministry. In the early church, sermons, prayer sessions, evangelistic meetings and all other types of ministry have been conducted in front of a live audience. In response to Christ's call to be disciples and go out into the world, Thomas had to travel several months to get to India from the Middle East in order to plant more churches, and minister to a new region. However, that was how the Gospel was spread during that time: face-to-face. Despite its limitations, this type of ministry continues to be relevant and important for church growth. There are unique spiritual dynamics at play when there is a personal one-to-one encounter. With all the modern forms of communicative technology today, I believe God still wants us to connect with each other on a personal level as much as possible.

### 2. The on-demand audience

This audience accesses the Word of God and ministry resources whenever they want to using online media. They still buy books, tapes, CDs, and DVDs and access them whenever they feel a need for them. Other types of on-demand ministry material would be downloadable sermons from a website, click-and-play music, archived online material, box sets and other information that can be accessed as and when required. The on-demand audience usually has limited time available, and a well-resourced church website that contains video clips, sermons, podcasts and other archived material that is well classified and labelled will attract them. They will come back for more when the website is regularly updated.

### 3. The broadcast audience

This audience listens to radio programmes and watches TV when programmes are broadcast at scheduled times. They make note of the time and tune in. This audience exists in large numbers today and is still relevant and important. They may also make note of the time your streaming church service takes place and tune in. However, with TVs becoming more internet-based, along with smart and Roku boxes, we see a narrowing gap between TV and computers and handheld devices. However, they are still a relevant audience that must be reached.

### 4. The online audience

This leads us to the internet or online audience. This audience uses the internet to consume and access information. They will visit your website for information about the services, beliefs and ethos of your church. They want to find information fast, with little 'digging around', and if you don't provide what they are looking for they will go elsewhere. That's why church websites need to be informative but simple enough to allow the viewer access to information with just a few clicks. Relevant information is also needed. Does your church website correlate with current issues in society? Are there links that provide

what we believe? Can the viewer request prayer and receive a response that their request has been received? Can they get a free book on salvation/*Steps to Christ*? Can they email a question about our faith and know that someone will provide a good answer? This audience is a seeking one. They are searching for truth and seeking clarification. They want to make decisions but need the facts before them. This audience is one that is growing daily and we need to keep up with the pace.

### 5. The connected audience

This audience represents a new breed that has emerged out of social media and mobile technology. They are a connected audience: they are always connected. Internet connectivity is a part of who they are. From the moment they wake in the morning to the time they go to bed at night, their activities are centred around connectivity. They do not use their mobile phones just to check messages and make calls; they use their devices for all areas of life, from internet banking and shopping to communicating with friends on multiple social media platforms. They become restless when they do not have connectivity. Research suggests that an average person looks at their phone 110 times a day!<sup>1</sup> Connectivity is the heartbeat of this new breed, and this poses both an opportunity and a challenge.

The opportunity for us is that every time they look at their mobile device you have an opportunity to be visible to them, connect and communicate with them. The challenge is that if you do not have the right presence or content there are 1,000 things that will get their attention and take them away from your message. The competition to get your word out is becoming greater and greater in the digital age. However, to do nothing is to lose an entire generation of people who need to hear something that will put their lives into perspective. My next article will look at how to specifically reach this growing connected audience.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2449632>

**Stanborough Secondary School opens its doors on Sunday, 21 May at 11am**



Everyone (pastors, elders, families and friends) is invited to experience a day at our school.

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*Guest speaker:*  
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**Please note, . . . revised date!**



## All change

Steps to reform from the life of Asa

by Pastors Ian Sweeney and Eglan Brooks

So, there will be a general election, on 8 June, this time without any televised debates involving our Prime Minister.

She hopes that the election results will strengthen her position as she pushes ahead with all the implications and uncertainties of Brexit. These are tense times for the United Kingdom and it is clear that we are facing the prospect of considerable political, legal and economic reforms.

Our attention, however, should be turned to the Bible and the reign of King Asa, who made some reforms from which we can learn some valuable lessons.

The reformation King Asa led was in regard to the distinction between right and wrong.

The apostle Paul knew and understood the difference between right and wrong, as we notice in Romans 7:18 (ESV): 'For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. . . .' But centuries before Paul penned these words, it is clear that King Asa also understood the difference between right and wrong. When he took over the leadership of Judah, one of his first acts was to spend time reflecting on the difference between right and wrong, like his grandfather, Solomon, had done. He saw the condition of the nation and realised that change was imperative if it was to prosper.

According to Drs Henry Cloud and John Townsend, 'We change our behaviour when the pain of staying the same becomes greater than the pain of changing. Consequences give us the pain that motivates us to change.' Asa had seen the disastrous consequences of his father's attempt to reunite with the ten

tribes of the Northern Kingdom, and he determined to take a more measured stance.

*Knowing the difference between right and wrong is the first step to meaningful change.*

### He commanded the people to seek the Lord

All God-fearing leaders need to direct the people away from the cares of this earthly life, to the throne of God. They should be encouraged to talk to God about all decisions, however small.

Each one should 'trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths' (Proverbs 3:5-6, NKJV).

*Seek the Lord in all matters.*

### He invited them to observe the laws of God

As well as commanding them to seek the Lord, he invited them to observe the laws of God. Note the word 'invited'. Reform invites you to strive for a life that is lived after the pattern of Jesus Christ and to observe and practise His principles.

*Live your life according to the principles laid out by Jesus Christ.*

### He broke down the sacred pillars

Difficult decisions often have to be made in order for change to occur. Sometimes the 'sacred' pillars of tradition need to be removed or the 'sacred' cows may require slaughtering to effect positive change. While we must never change the message or the ultimate vision for evangelism, the methods are definitely open to change, and some, dare we say, might even be outdated or obsolete in our changing times. Imagine trying to teach grammar with a blackboard and chalk as in the 'good ol' days' to teenagers in

the Western world. It might be seen by some as 'vintage' or 'retro', but in our contemporary society it would be more appropriate and engaging to use social media or virtual platforms. The grammar principles remain the same; the teaching methods have changed. We may need to remove what we consider to be sacred in order to reach out and witness to our friends and neighbours effectively.

*Be open to removing any 'sacred' pillars that may be blocking progress.*

### He removed the altars of the foreign gods

There are too many gods in our society today. The god of materialism floods our homes with an ever-increasing hoard of 'stuff'. The god of power whispers, 'You can be like God' and we believe him as we polish and re-polish our already inflated egos. The god of status encourages us to be the best, without the hard work, at the expense of others. The various gods of addiction numb our sensibilities to the realities around us so that we often live in a state of indifference and apathy.

*Rid yourself of all the gods that would distract you from serving God.*

### He built fortified cities

When you have broken down and removed the things that are distracting, it is imperative that you build up people to be strong and resilient not only in their faith, but also in their everyday lives. One writer states that 'successful people build each other up. They motivate, inspire and push each other.' Think for a moment. . . . Do we as a church community seek to build up each other or do the gods of power or status dominate our congregations? Reformation demands the

building up of strong congregations that are able to become 'fortified cities' to their local communities.

*Take time to build up your congregation and your local community.*

### He reformed-a-nation

Asa was intentional in his reforms. He was intentional in understanding the difference between right and wrong (1), and in commanding the people to trust only in God (2). He was deliberate with his invitation to the people, encouraging them to observe the laws of God (3). He was also willing to make difficult decisions and tear down the sacred pillars that were often substituted for God (4); and he also removed the ideologies and practices that would hinder the people from a wholehearted commitment and possibly turn them away from God (5). He built up the faith of the people by creating cities that were strong and sturdy (6). He reformed-a-nation through an intentional programme of change.

*Intentional decisions are key to meaningful change.*

Is your church congregation ready for a reformation? We don't mean just the one we like to talk about, sing about and preach about! Is your church 'future-ready' to handle the influx of people who will flood through our doors due to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Is your church ready to make a radical and dramatic difference in the lives of the people living in your local community? Is your church ready for 'all change'? If you are, then join us over the weekend of 11-13 August 2017.

See you all again next month when we will look at the life of Jeremiah and learn fresh lessons of reformation.

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19:30 - 20:30 | Thanksgiving Service  
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**SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2017**  
11:00 - 12:30 | Worship Service (Lunch Provided)  
15:00 - 17:00 | Theological Conference  
19:00 - 21:00 | Hymns of Faith  
Venue: Marquee Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ

**SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2017**  
12:00 - 19:00 The Enlightenment Festival featuring stalls, displays, health checks, sports day, an outdoor gospel concert, BUC office tours.  
Venue: Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ

Celebrating **500** Years  
OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

For more information contact British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
Tel: 01923 672251 Web: www.adventist.uk

Both adverts, as supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Aberdaron Camp, for over 50 years the home of happy memories – of family, youth and teen camps and various reunions – has introduced seven new exciting residential retreats for 2017.

Each retreat is a blend of presentations and practical one-to-one guidance from an expert in their own area of specialisation, combined with quality food, good accommodation, relaxation/social times, and an opportunity to individually recharge in the peace and tranquillity of this area of outstanding natural beauty.

For enquiries and bookings please contact the Aberdaron management at 01758 760281 or [enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com).

### The first two for 2017

#### Sharon Platt McDonald\*

Sharon is the Director for Health, Women's Ministries and Community Services for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles.

As a motivational speaker, mentor, editor and author of over 20 books, Sharon is enthusiastic in sharing the message of health, hope and healing, and guiding others to follow God's directive for emotional, physical, spiritual and social well-being.

\*RGN, RM, RHV, MSc, HS, Dip HS, BCS HS, CACPD

#### Sara Naumann:

Sara's mantra is, 'Let's make it easy.' Through her books, blog, videos and TV appearances, Sara's goal is to make crafting techniques easy.

She is a guest demonstrator for 'Create and Craft' TV, where she appears regularly to showcase her card-making techniques.

Her media links include:  
• [www.saranaumann.com](http://www.saranaumann.com) • [www.facebook.com/saranaumannstudiosn](https://www.facebook.com/saranaumannstudiosn) • and <https://twitter.com/saraCnaumann>.

### 'Ladies only' getaway 21-26 May (5 nights)

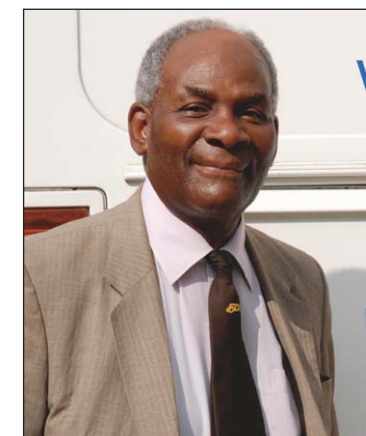
A retreat designed to pamper and recharge stressed ladies, to include body massage; 'Colour Me Beautiful'; health/diet advice; craft work; and cake decoration, plus relaxation, socialising, coastal and beach walks, peace and tranquillity. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£275 per person. Full details on application.

### Papercraft with Sara 4-9 June (5 nights)

Learn from the expert in papercraft: how to make cards, die cutting, stamping, colouring techniques, embossing, etc. Relax, socialise and enjoy the natural beauty and peace of the area. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£245 per person. Full details on application.



### NEC Camp Meeting transport

Coach transport will be available to take you to the NEC Camp Meeting from the Midlands, Northampton and the surrounding area. For details, please call Brother Hubert Smiley on 07868288310 or 01384213803. Alternatively, email [hubert.smiley18@gmail.com](mailto:hubert.smiley18@gmail.com) or call 07926553722.

## World Church votes statement on transgenderism

released by ANN (Adventist News Network)

The following statement on transgenderism, or gender dysphoria, was voted by the executive committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church during their annual spring meetings.

In his role as chair, Ted Wilson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, urged that the statement be voted 'with the understanding we may be able to adjust a little phrasing here or there that might make it less abstract'. He went on to say, 'The last thing we want to do is chase people away from Christ and the Church. We want them to come to the foot of the cross and His changing grace.'

The Biblical Research Institute Ethics Committee, led by Ekkehardt Mueller, Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute, along with ethicists, biblical scholars, theologians, sociologists, psychologists and members of the medical community, was put in charge of writing the statement.

### Statement on transgenderism

The increasing awareness of the needs and challenges that transgender men and women experience and the rise of transgender issues to social prominence worldwide raise important questions not only for those affected by the transgender phenomenon but also for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. While the struggles and challenges of those identifying as transgender people have some elements in common with the struggles of all human beings, we recognise the uniqueness of their situation and the limitation of our knowledge in specific instances. Yet, we believe that Scripture provides principles for guidance and counsel to transgender people and the Church, transcending human conventions and culture.

### The transgender phenomenon

In modern society, gender identity typically denotes 'the public (and usually legally recognised) lived role as boy or girl, man or woman', while sex refers 'to the biological indicators of male and female'.<sup>1</sup> Gender identification usually aligns with a person's biological sex at birth. However, misalignment may happen at the physical and/or mental-emotional levels.

On the physical level ambiguity in genitalia may result from anatomical and physiological abnormalities so that it cannot be clearly established whether a child is male or female. This ambiguity of anatomical sexual differentiation is often called hermaphroditism

or intersexualism.<sup>2</sup>

On the mental-emotional level misalignment occurs with transgender people whose sexual anatomy is clearly male or female but who identify with the opposite gender of their biological sex. They may describe themselves as being trapped in a wrong body. Transgenderism, formerly clinically diagnosed as 'gender identity disorder' and now termed 'gender dysphoria', may be understood as a general term to describe the variety of ways individuals interpret and express their gender identity differently from those who determine gender on the basis of biological sex.<sup>3</sup> 'Gender dysphoria is manifested in a variety of ways, including strong desires to be treated as the other gender or to be rid of one's sex characteristics, or a strong conviction that one has feelings and reactions typical of the other gender.'<sup>4</sup>

Due to contemporary trends to reject the biblical gender binary (male and female) and replace it with a growing spectrum of gender types, certain choices triggered by the transgender condition have come to be regarded as normal and accepted in contemporary culture. However, the desire to change or live as a person of another gender may result in biblically inappropriate lifestyle choices. Gender dysphoria may, for instance, result in cross-dressing,<sup>5</sup> sex reassignment surgery, and the desire to have a marital relationship with a person of the same biological sex. On the other hand, transgender people may suffer silently, living a celibate life or being married to a spouse of the opposite sex.

### Biblical principles relating to sexuality and the transgender phenomenon

As the transgender phenomenon must be evaluated by Scripture, the following biblical principles and teachings may help the community of faith relate to people affected by gender dysphoria in a biblical and Christlike way:

1. God created humanity as two persons who are respectively identified as male and female in terms of gender. The Bible inextricably ties gender to biological sex (Gen. 1:27; 2:22-24) and does not make a distinction between the two. The Word of God affirms complementarity as well as clear distinctions between male and female in creation. The Genesis creation account is foundational to all questions of human sexuality.
2. From a biblical perspective, the human being is a psychosomatic unity. For example, Scripture repeatedly calls the entire human being a soul (Gen. 2:7; Jer. 13:17; 52:28-30; Ezek. 18:4; Acts 2:41; 1 Cor. 15:45), a body (Eph. 5:28; Rom. 12:1-2; Rev. 18:13), flesh (1 Pet. 1:24), and spirit (2 Tim. 4:22; 1 John 4:1-3). Thus, the Bible does not endorse dualism in the sense of a separation between one's body and one's sense of sexuality. In addition, an immortal part of humans is not envisioned in Scripture because God alone possesses immortality (1 Tim. 6:14-16) and will bestow it on those who believe in Him at the first resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51-54). Thus, a human being is also meant to be an undivided sexual entity, and sexual identity cannot be independent from one's body. According to Scripture, our gender identity, as designed by God, is determined by our biological sex at birth (Gen. 1:27; 5:1-2; Ps. 139:13-14; Mark 10:6).
3. Scripture acknowledges, however, that due to the Fall (Gen. 3:6-19) the whole human being – that is, our mental, physical, and spiritual faculties – is affected by sin (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:9; 7:14-23; 8:20-23; Gal. 5:17) and needs to be renewed by God (Rom. 12:2). Our emotions, feelings, and perceptions are not fully reliable indicators of God's designs, ideals, and truth (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). We need guidance from God through Scripture to determine what is in our best interest and live according to His will (2 Tim. 3:16).
4. The fact that some individuals claim a gender identity incompatible with their biological sex reveals a serious dichotomy. This brokenness or distress, whether felt or not, is an expression of the damaging effects of sin on humans and may have a variety of causes. Although gender dysphoria is not intrinsically sinful, it may result in sinful choices. It is another indicator that, on a personal level, humans are involved in the great controversy.
5. As long as transgender people are committed to ordering their lives according to the biblical teachings on sexuality and marriage they can be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Bible clearly and consistently

identifies any sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage as sin (Matt. 5:28, 31-32; 1 Tim. 1:8-11; Heb. 13:4). Alternative sexual lifestyles are sinful distortions of God's good gift of sexuality (Rom. 1:21-28; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

6. Because the Bible regards humans as holistic entities and does not differentiate between biological sex and gender identity, the Church strongly cautions transgender people against sex reassignment surgery, and against marriage if they have undergone such a procedure. From the biblical holistic viewpoint of human nature, a full transition from one gender to another and the attainment of an integrated sexual identity cannot be expected in the case of sex reassignment surgery.
7. The Bible commands followers of Christ to love everyone. Created in the image of God, they must be treated with dignity and respect. This includes transgender people. Acts of ridicule, abuse, or bullying towards transgender people are incompatible with the biblical commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31, NKJV).
8. The Church as the community of Jesus Christ is meant to be a refuge and place of hope, care, and understanding to all who are perplexed, suffering, struggling, and lonely, for "a bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench" (Matt. 12:20, NKJV). All people are invited to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church and enjoy the fellowship of its believers. Those who are members can fully participate in church life as long as they embrace the message, mission, and values of the Church.
9. The Bible proclaims the good news that sexual sins committed by heterosexuals, homosexuals, transgender people, and others can be forgiven, and lives can be transformed through faith in Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:9-11).
10. Those who experience incongruity between their

## inbox

### Re: 'The Lord's Tithe'

Dear Editor  
I read with interest the letter from Andrew Puckering in the 7 April *MESSENGER*, and agree with his comments. As a child (before I was a teenager) the principles of tithing were explained to me, and ever since I have pledged to give a faithful tithe. I believe that, because of this, God has immensely blessed my family and myself through the years. I have never been what some would call rich, but neither have my family or I ever been in need financially; we always had what we needed and have never been in debt. If there was something we needed and could not afford then we saved up for it. I was blessed with a wife (Christina) who also felt the same way.

Years before I started work I gave tithe out of my small pocket money, or the gifts that I received, and have never regretted it. I don't know if our children are instructed on tithes and offerings in their lessons, but I feel that the younger they know about it the

better. Now I am a pensioner and no longer working I still give a tithe out of my pension.

As treasurer, I am happy to see we have many faithful tithe payers, although there are still some who don't give, or feel they must send their tithe back to the country that they came from. I hope newly baptised members fully understand what returning the tithe means. In my experience, I know of at least one newly baptised member who didn't understand tithe paying – they thought it was one hundredth of their income!

Maybe we could do with more sermons about stewardship. I know stewardship is not just about giving, but I think it is a part that is often neglected.

In Malachi 3:9, 10 we are told that we are cursed if we do not give back to God what is His, but on the other hand we are abundantly blessed if we remember Him with our tithes and offerings.

I can testify that I have been blessed more than I could have imagined.

JOHN MCGOLDRICK

biological sex and gender identity are encouraged to follow biblical principles in dealing with their distress. They are invited to reflect on God's original plan of purity and sexual fidelity. Belonging to God, all are called to honour Him with their bodies and their lifestyle choices (1 Cor. 6:19). With all believers, transgender people are encouraged to wait on God and are offered the fullness of divine compassion, peace, and grace in anticipation of Christ's soon return when all true followers of Christ will be completely restored to God's ideal.

<sup>1</sup>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th ed. (DSM-5TM), edited by the American Psychiatric Association (Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing, 2013), 451. <sup>2</sup>Those born with ambiguous genitalia may or may not benefit from corrective surgical treatment. <sup>3</sup>See DSM-5TM, 451-459. <sup>4</sup>This sentence is part of a succinct summary of gender dysphoria provided to introduce DSM-5TM that was published in 2013: [https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/Practice/DSM/APA\\_DSM-5-Gender-Dysphoria.pdf](https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/Practice/DSM/APA_DSM-5-Gender-Dysphoria.pdf) (accessed 11 April, 2017). <sup>5</sup>Cross-dressing, also referred to as transvestite behaviour, is prohibited in Deuteronomy 22:5.



## Brecon Camp 2017

### Ordinary People ~ Extraordinary Faith



**26 ~ 29 May, 2017**

**Pastor Dan Dachin** has embraced his anointing to preach, teach, motivate, and encourage people to Christ. A happy husband and father, he is on track to graduate with a PhD in Philosophy this year.

Please register your interest for free on Eventbrite by searching "Brecon Camp".

**Payment on site:**  
Adult / £5 / Night  
Child / £3 / Night

**Eventbrite**

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**Payment on site:**  
Adult / £5 / Night  
Child / £3 / Night

**Eventbrite**

### Calling all ex-members/ex-regular visitors of Chatham Seventh-day Adventist Church

Were you once a member or regular visitor of Chatham Seventh-day Adventist Church from the 1970s onwards? If so, we would like to hear from you very soon. We would like you and your family to join us at Chatham Church's 'Homecoming Day' on Saturday 22 July 2017.

A warm, loving, homecoming welcome awaits you.

Please contact either Mr S. Tshabango (Communications) on 07908 629864 or Mrs T. Morgan (Family Ministries) on 07400 802694.

## The blessings of a box

### ADRA-UK launches its 2017 Gift Box Appeal

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau  
(on behalf of ADRA-UK)

Earlier this year, volunteers from all over the UK delivered more than 5,000 gift boxes to schools in Ghana, as part of the 2016 ADRA-UK Gift Box Appeal. Today we launch the 2017 Appeal, which will benefit the children living in the Kiziba Refugee Camp in Rwanda.

When you hear the word 'Rwanda', it conjures up memories of the dreadful massacre of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus by extremist Hutu militia and the displacement of nearly 2 million refugees to neighbouring Zaire during a 100-day period in 1994. Today, twenty-three years later, Rwanda is recovering from the conflict and now supports refugees from neighbouring countries.

Located on the hillsides of a remote region of the Western Province of Rwanda, the Kiziba Refugee Camp is home to 17,000 people. The camp was established in 1996 when a Kinyarwanda-speaking ethnic group were forced from their homes in the Congo because of violence. The conflict has still not been resolved and the people have now been living in the camp for over 20 years. Most of the children in the camp have been born there. They know of nothing else except life in the camp.

About one third of the refugees living at the Kiziba camp are Seventh-day Adventists, and the three large Adventist churches that have been built there are full every week!

Munyazesa Gad is a 43-year-old refugee who has been living in the Kiziba Refugee Camp, the oldest of the six camps in the region. He has been there since 1996 and would love to return home to the Congo, but is unable to do so due to the continuing instability in the country.

'It has not been an easy life

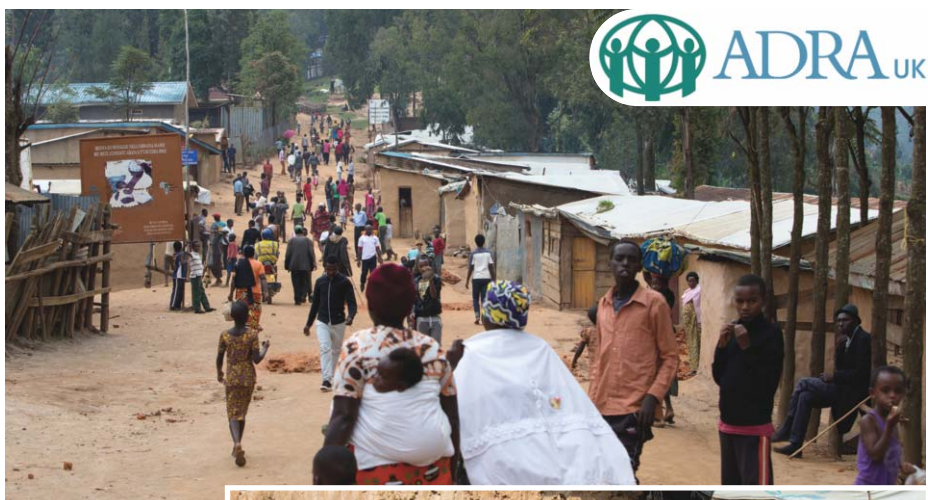
... here in the camp, all these years,' said Gad. 'When I arrived here, I was a single man. I met my wife here. We have had six children ... all of them have been born right here in the camp.' Gad's children have never known any other existence than camp life, where they face significant challenges. For example, while there is an education programme at the camp, once the children finish secondary school there are few prospects for them to attend university or continue with any form of further education.

Gad's story is similar to that of Uwimana Gentille, a mother-of-nine, who is also living in the camp. Her 12-year-old son, Munyaneza Hertier, like most of her other children, was also born in the Kiziba camp. Their accommodation is not sufficiently spacious for the family to sleep in. 'Five of us sleep at home with our parents,' said Hertier, 'and the rest of us try to find a place to sleep over at a friend's house.'

Each month, both families, along with the other residents of the camp, receive food rations distributed by ADRA on behalf of the UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency), but this is not enough to feed most families, especially Hertier's family of eleven.

ADRA, together with other humanitarian agencies, is working in the Kiziba camp to help to educate the children and to make the living conditions more tolerable. The 2017 Gift Box Appeal will hopefully see 6,000 gift boxes, filled with appropriate donations, shipped to Rwanda and distributed to children living in the Kiziba camp and the surrounding communities.

While children living in Western countries often receive lavish gifts on birthdays, during



Munyazesa Gad living with his six children in the Kiziba Refugee Camp.



Uwimana Gentille, mother of Hertier, with part of her family.

the Easter and Christmas seasons and on numerous other 'special occasions', the children born in refugee camps often suffer abject poverty and live in cramped and often squalid conditions.

'Each year, ADRA-UK has the privilege to assist children in need. This year, I am really pleased that we will be able to help the children living in the refugee camps in Rwanda. The joy on their faces and the hope that a simple shoebox filled with donations can bring to them is a blessing not only to the receiver,

but also to the donors,' said Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK.

Our online ordering system will be available from 12 May and is based on a first-come-first-served basis. The deadline for ordering is 7 July, with boxes being delivered at the end of August.

All the relevant information is now available on the ADRA-UK website at [www.adra.org.uk](http://www.adra.org.uk).

Remember, a life doesn't get better by chance; it gets better by change! Help us to make that change.

### Three journeys . . . to one destination

On 18 March the York church celebrated the baptism of Wanipa Ndhlovu and the sisters, Ilona Raudyte and Renata Fortune. The sisters had lost touch with each other. Ilona had been attending church faithfully on Sundays but felt something was missing. She came across 3ABN and began to explore further. In time she developed a personal relationship with Jesus and was led by the Holy Spirit to the York church. Renata joined in: 'It was a miracle that at the same time I was also having a similar experience, and we both ended up at the same church!'

Wanipa grew up in the church. She started attending with friends of her parents. When she expressed a desire to be baptised several years ago, they were concerned that she was too young and asked her to wait. Time did not, however, diminish her resolve. Her parents have



Left to right: Grace Malinga, Wishart Malinga, Ilona Raudyte, Renata Fortune, Pastor John Francis, Wanipa Ndhlovu, Jackson Moonga, Richard Likupe.

since started attending church with her and were present with other family members and friends to witness the joyous event. Former pastor Solon Kyriacou and current pastor John Francis officiated. COMMUNICATION

### Stoke Newington baptises couple

Sabbath afternoon 14 January marked the wonderful occasion when husband and wife, Messias and Camille Moyo, committed their lives to God through baptism.

Pastor Dennis Mingo, our local pastor, took great pleasure in conducting this baptism, his first since taking over as pastor last October and our first for 2017. This baptism was the first one (as far as members can recollect) in which a husband and wife were the only candidates.

Camille had attended church with their children for some time, and having found something good she brought along Messias. They both undertook a series of Bible studies prior to baptism.

The couple had their favourite Bible texts read and hymns sung before entering the pool, and were afterwards presented with special baptismal gifts before being introduced to the congregation.

FLO SUTHERLAND (COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT)

**ROAD TO Rwanda**  
GIFT BOX APPEAL

**SAT 10<sup>TH</sup> – MON 20<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2018**

WE HAVE A CHANCE FOR A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS TO ACCOMPANY US TO RWANDA AND DISTRIBUTE GIFT BOXES IN A REFUGEE CAMP, AS WELL AS HELP IN A COMMUNITY PROJECT!

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OR 030 30 40 1017

Registered charity 1074937 (SC037726 - IOM1101)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



### Stanborough Park welcomes two new members

Stanborough Park Church welcomed two new members into fellowship in February following their baptism by Senior Pastor Jacques Venter. Volker and Magdalena Herkner, who were born in Germany and Romania respectively, are familiar faces as they have been attending for four years since accepting an invitation from friends to visit the church with them one Sabbath morning.

For Magdalena it was a return to the church of her youth, as she was raised an Adventist but subsequently left to follow her own path. Having decided to return, she, along with her husband, visited the church and were both deeply touched by the sermon. This led to their return the following Sabbath. This set the pattern and they have been attending each week ever since. In turn, this led to their interest to study the Bible and their subsequent baptism.

JUNE COOMBS



Left to right: Elder Errol Dowe, Elder Kwasi Dankwa, Dr Lola Ramocan, High Commissioner Ramocan, Elder Janet Lawrence, Pastor Royston Smith, Minister-Counsellor Leonie Livingstone.

## An ambassador comes to church

On Sabbath 25 February, Bristol Central Church hosted the Jamaican ambassador to the UK: High Commissioner Seth George Ramocan. He, his wife, and some of their associates had specifically chosen to attend the church while he was in Bristol, as he is a member of the Church of God International and a Sabbath keeper, as well as being a former pastor.

The High Commissioner was staying in Bristol over the weekend, holding a surgery with Minister-Counsellor Leonie Livingstone to assist Jamaican nationals with passport and consular issues, and meeting with various members of the community. The High Commissioner was able to meet and mingle with the church members, as he and his party stayed for a fellowship lunch.

In response to a question about how his faith is reflected in his ambassadorial role, he had this to say: 'Just about everything I do as High Commissioner is grounded in my faith. Ultimately, the government of God is the government that will rule all of humanity. We now have human governments and so we ought to, as best as possible, model human governments after God's government.'

Accompanying the High Commissioner was his wife, Dr Lola Ramocan, a distinguished educator, who is presently involved in projects improving women's health and raising funds for the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre in Jamaica, which specialises in the integrated treatment and rehabilitation of the physically disabled.

Asked what he saw as the major challenges facing society in the UK and Jamaica, the High Commissioner observed: 'I think there is a breakdown in values and an understanding of the universality of law, not only in the physical world, but also in the spiritual world; the laws of humanity are derived from the laws of God, and there needs to be an understanding of that. If we miss it we become a lawless society and a law unto ourselves, and when we lose that grounding it can lead to disarray.'

IAN SABADIN

A selection of photos are available at: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s5ndisx9c0miuj/AAA-WonGTLUbcDxs\\_wNABIQLa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s5ndisx9c0miuj/AAA-WonGTLUbcDxs_wNABIQLa?dl=0)  
Photos by Michael Brown



## Dr Emmanuel Osei to lead South England Conference

Dr Emmanuel Osei will serve as the president of the South England Conference (SEC). This decision, made at an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee on Sunday, 9 April 2017, follows an earlier decision of the committee to re-assign

former president, Dr Richard de Lisser, following a prolonged absence from office due to ill health. Osei has been serving as acting president since June 2016.

In a letter to the constituents and stakeholders, the British Union Conference President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, who chaired the meeting, shared details of how the decision was arrived at. This included an open and in-depth discussion of 11 potential candidates.

Pastor Osei was born in Accra, Ghana, and joined his family in the UK in 1967. He grew up in London, where he had his primary and secondary school education. He subsequently enrolled at the Central London Polytechnic, where he completed his first degree in Electronic Engineering. Osei then taught Mathematics and Physics at John Loughborough School, Tottenham, for about a year. However, having felt a call to the Gospel ministry, he studied at Newbold College of Higher Education, gaining an MA in Theology. His studies did not stop

there. He has since completed an MA in Mission Studies at Birmingham University and a Doctor of Ministry degree at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Chicago, USA.

Osei served several churches within the London area and functioned as chair of the London Area Advisory Council before being asked to serve as ministerial director at the South England Conference, a position he has held since 2007. He has also taught courses in Adventist tertiary institutions, including Newbold College, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as summer courses at Valley View University, Ghana.

Responding to the call to lead the South England Conference, Dr Osei expressed that he feels humbled by the invitation because he is 'aware that this is a milestone in the experience of the SEC'. He said that in coming to the ministry he 'came to serve', and that he sees this appointment as another area of service. He added that in doing so he would like to solicit the continued support and prayers of everybody, particularly the support of his family, as he seeks to lead out in this area. He concluded that he would strive to do his best to discharge the duties of the office of the President.

Dr Osei is married to Laura, and they have three adult daughters and two grandchildren.

Pastor Sweeney concluded his letter by saying: 'As Pastor Emmanuel Osei now takes on the responsibility of leadership, we solicit your prayers for him and his wife Laura, as well as continuing to remember in prayer our former president, Pastor Richard de Lisser; his wife, Joanne; and their son, Akala.'

PASTOR SAM DAVIES, SEC COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR



## Twenty-five years later!

19 July 1992 was the day life changed dramatically for the Asare family. Michael, Judith and their two young sons were travelling on the M5 motorway, returning home to Birmingham from Exeter, when they suffered a near-fatal accident. The car went out of control and careered across the carriageway, landing upside-down on the hard shoulder.

Amazingly, Michael and the boys were rescued from the vehicle, having suffered nothing more than a few minor cuts and bruises, but for Judith it was a different story. She suffered horrific and disfiguring injuries – so much so that the doctors who attended her at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol gave her only a 20% chance of survival.

Miraculously, Judith pulled through. Her recovery was due to her deep faith, her love for her Lord, and the support of her family and friends. And today she uses that life, faith and love that God has given her to bless and serve others.

She has worked tirelessly over the years to raise funds for the Harper Bell School, the Dorcas Housing Association in Sandwell and the support services for the victims of Hurricane Ivan in 2004 in her home country of Grenada.

Since the accident, every five years Judith has organised a thanksgiving service in Bristol, where the local churches gave such wonderful support to her family during the months she was in hospital there.

This year, to mark the 25th anniversary of this event, Judith is organising a special Thanksgiving Celebration and Service of Testimony and Praise to God for His many blessings over the past twenty-five years.

On that day in July 1992 Satan's plan for the Asare family was for their destruction, but God turned events to His glory and blessing: not only for the family, but also for many others. For this reason Judith wants to open this service to all who want to give God thanks and praise and to share their testimonies.

This time the service will take place nearer home at the West Bromwich Town Hall, High Street, West Bromwich B70 8DY on Sabbath 22 July 2017, commencing at 10am with a service of testimony and praise, followed by Divine Service at 11.30 and an evening of praise at 4pm. The speaker for the day will be Pastor David Burnett, who pastored in the Bristol area in 1992.

Proceeds from the day will go to Judith's old school, Mount Rose Seventh-day Adventist School in Grenada, to help provide books and equipment. You are invited to come and be blessed.

For more information contact 07909 851026.

ANTONIA CASTELLINO WITH JUDITH ASARE



## Church serves as night shelter

Wimbledon International Church opened its doors once again to the local homeless community during the past winter. It has partnered with the Merton Night Shelter Project over the last six years to provide a safe, warm home on Saturday nights for seven weeks each winter. This year we welcomed 31 guests, mostly men from a range of backgrounds, each with a unique story to tell. They were served with dinner as well as a cooked breakfast the following morning, and given a place to sleep and have a hot shower. Volunteers joined the guests during the meals and socialised over a game of table tennis or chess, or simply watched *Match of the Day* together. Where appropriate, literature about the church was shared and guests were invited to worship with us on Sabbath mornings.

More than thirty people volunteered this year – members and friends of Wimbledon Church – ranging in age from 17 to 91. Many of these volunteers gave their time each week, ensuring that all three 'shifts' were covered – evening, overnight and morning. The lead co-ordinator was particularly encouraged by the members' willingness to volunteer their time and skills in this way.

Of the 31 guests, 26 had been housed by the end of the seven-week period, and we praise God for that!

TRISCY WILLIAMS

## Twins turn 80

Barzillai said to King David, 'I am this day fourscore years old' (2 Samuel 19:35, KJV); and on 24 March we heard an echo of that at Newbold, where Daisy Weakes, the firstborn, and Violet Daniels, her twin sister, celebrated their 80th birthday before a full church – together with their family, friends and some beautiful flowers.

PASTOR BRIAN PILMOOR (REPORT AND PHOTO)



Violet (left) and Daisy (right).

**Oh Happy Day**  
Gospel Concert with **AINE**  
+ **Alexander Douglas** (solo jazz piano)

SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> May FROM 6pm FREE ENTRY

SALISBURY HALL, NEWBOLD COLLEGE  
ST MARK'S ROAD, BINFIELD, RG42 4AN

EVANGELISM EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

**KidzPraise**  
COMES TO  
**LONDON**  
for a second year!

KidzPraise is FIVE years old this year and we continue the celebration of our children, through **the Word, Praise, Worship, Singing** and **Dancing**. Children from all over the UK will come together to reflect on the life of Jesus Christ in their own imaginable way!

**SAT 8 JULY 2017**  
9.15am - 4.30pm  
**HOUSE ON THE ROCK**  
The Rock Tower, 49 Tufnell Park Road  
London N7 0PS  
Doors open 9.15am for 9.45am start

**BRING PACKED LUNCH**

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# obituaries

they are in the process of sorting out.

For the last few months of his life Brother Gayle was unable to attend church and was in and out of hospital on a number of occasions. His family, friends and several members visited him regularly during this time.

He passed away unexpectedly on 2 October 2016 and now rests in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

CK COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

**Valerie Anne Nash (1937-2017) d. March.** Val was born in Belbroughton near Kidderminster, the middle child of John and Irene Baxter. In 1944 the family moved to Weston-super-Mare when the Government moved John to be the accountant at the Bristol Aeroplane Company.

They attended an evangelistic series run by Pastor C. R. Bonney in Weston Town Hall in the early '50s, after which the whole family was baptised in Bristol, as Weston did not have a church building at the time.

In 1956 they started to attend the Croscombe church, where Val met her future husband, Keith Nash. They were married in 1958 by Pastor H. Bull, and for many years Val and Keith – with their two sons, David and Jonathan – were faithful members who played a full part in church life.

Twenty years ago Val was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, which eventually affected her so badly that she spent most of her final years in a care home in Shepton Mallet before being transferred to a nursing home in Evercreech. Her Christian faith was very

evident to those who lovingly cared for her, and to those who visited her so faithfully over the years.

She was eventually freed from this life in March 2017, and her family and friends are of the strong conviction that she will soon be reunited with her beloved Keith, who died just a year earlier. Left behind to grieve her are David and Phillipa; Jonathan and three grandchildren: Rosa, Edward and George; and her sister, Chris (their brother, Brian Baxter, having died last August).

Although Val had been out of circulation for 8 years she was so well loved that over 120 people attended her funeral, which was beautifully conducted by Pastor Wayne Erasmus.

The blessed hope of reunion lives on in those who mourn her.

CHRISTINE MARTIN (SISTER)

### NEC Camp Meeting transport

Coach transport will be available to take you to the NEC Camp Meeting from the Midlands, Northampton and the surrounding area. For details, please call Brother Hubert Smiley on 07868288310 or 01384213803.

Alternatively, email [hubert.smiley18@gmail.com](mailto:hubert.smiley18@gmail.com) or call 07926553722.

### Messenger

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### Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 12	8.42	8.54	8.52	9.14	9.18
19	8.52	9.04	9.03	9.27	9.30
26	9.02	9.14	9.13	9.39	9.41
Jun 2	9.10	9.22	9.22	9.49	9.50

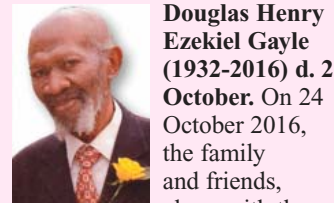
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14 Bradford Central 10am-2pm  
28 Northampton Central 10am-2pm

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**Douglas Henry Ezekiel Gayle (1932-2016) d. 2 October.** On 24 October 2016, the family and friends, along with the members of the Sheffield District of Churches, gathered at Burngreave Church for the funeral service and celebration of the life of a much-loved member of Carterknowle Church – Douglas Gayle.

The service was conducted by Pastors I. Sweeney, A. Rashford-Hewitt, V. Marshall and S. Peart.

'Brother' Gayle, as he was referred to by all, was born on 28 April 1932, in Hopewell District, St Elizabeth, Jamaica, to Stanley Ashton and Irene Euphemia Gayle. He was the eldest of five siblings, three of whom survive his passing.

In Jamaica, Douglas was introduced to the art of tailoring by his grandfather and to farming by his dad. Together they cultivated his father's land and raised animals.

Douglas, however, didn't take to either of these vocations; instead he plucked up the courage to ask his dad if he could train as a motor mechanic. His dad agreed and bought him his first bicycle, which he rode over 9 miles (each way) every day to pursue his training.

He eventually moved to the capital, Kingston, where he lived with his sister and a number of cousins.

Douglas moved to England in November 1959 and joined his brother Alton in Sheffield. In 1960 they were joined by a Mr Simpson. As was the case for many who moved to England, life was initially very hard; and they shared one room, where they had to sleep in shifts.

In 1963 Douglas met Hazel Dwyer; their love blossomed and they were blessed with two children, Jacqueline and Philip, and eventually with a grandson, Ashley, and granddaughters, China and Madina.

He was a loving and loyal family man, and was especially close to his sister Daphne and her husband, Mr Simpson. He also had a special but different



### Pathfinder Level 1 training

Training is a major theme in industry as well as in the church. People take training in order to equip themselves to enjoy their experiences at camp, at play or even in worship.

Pathfinder leaders from both Newcastle and South Shields recently took their Level 1 Pathfinder Leadership Award training over the second weekend of February in the Newcastle church.

The trainers, Simon and Hyacinth Facey, took the local leaders through many skill areas in order to help our children learn to camp and do so safely and enjoyably. The 14 candidates spent both Sabbath and Sunday learning basic risk assessment for camping and the kind of equipment needed for a camp, as well as some of the more basic skills needed to train children and young adults.

The trainees learned that the acronym VARK stands for Visual, Aural, Read/write, and Kinaesthetic sensory. Some people learn by doing, others by reading or writing, and others best with either their eyes or their ears. The obvious application of the learning for the students was that new Pathfinder leaders need to teach in different styles for different learners.

In the old days Pathfinders were simply expected to learn and were trusted that the learning had taken root. These days evidence is needed to show that the trainees have truly understood what they have learned. At the end of the morning's training, before lunch, the trainees all took a simple exam.

The next stage for some is Master Guide training, while others will move one step above to the Pathfinder Leader Award. Doctor Ed Chan, Manuel Vieira and Jessie Pairman will take their skills back to South Shields and implement them there.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

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ST BENEDICTS' SCHOOL, 54 EATON RISE, EALING, LONDON, W52ES

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**"I MUST TELL JESUS"**

**FEATURING:**  
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+ GILLIAN FRANCIS-MUSANU + ELDER PAUL LEE +  
+ HEALTH PROMOTION + FAITH & FINANCES +  
+ PROJECTS UPDATE +

**PARKING:** Available on site +  
**FOOD:** Bring-and-Share-Potluck Lunch +

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**23.-26. June**

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The speakers will inspire and give you ideas to take back to your Pathfinder groups. **Gry Beate Marley** is the Family Ministries Director in Norway. **Andrew Campbell** is pastoring at the Adventist Church in Tromsø.

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