BUSY NEW YEAR

A busy time lies ahead this year for Seventh-day Adventists in the UK and Ireland. Elections at both national and local level (in the South England Conference) means that Secretariat are already working on delegate lists and preparations for the teams that will lead the Church forward into the middle of the decade. A BUC Session website with more information and updates will shortly be available. In addition, a major Youth Congress at Easter, a combined North/South Camp Meeting in June, and Scotland's first ever Camp Meeting in May – running concurrently with the Welsh Mission Family Camp in Brecon, means that members will not lack in choice for nurture, training and evangelism. Ireland also has Days of Fellowship and a Camp Meeting listed in its calendar.

The South England Conference kicks off the year with an Evangelism Expo this Sunday, 9 January, at Newbold College, Bracknell. The day, which runs from 09:30 until 17:30, will give training and development opportunities in various areas of Evangelism and offer a diverse range of workshops and resources to explore and purchase.

But South England Conference President, Pastor Sam Davis has a bigger vision in mind than just training days and Camp Meetings. He states that his team's strongest emphasis for 2011 is to prepare the church for an even bigger evangelistic drive to coincide with the Olympics – Relay 2012. He says, "The Olympics is without doubt the biggest sporting event that will come to our country in my lifetime. We have a wonderful opportunity to engage with the hundreds of thousands of people who will come into the UK for the games."

Pastor Davis is encouraging all churches in the SEC to get involved in Relay 2012. Starting with the Evangelism Expo this coming Sunday, throughout the year the SEC will continue to train members in
how to give Bible studies, door to door evangelism, church planting, house fellowship groups, lay-preaching, prayer ministries, and more.

"I would like to encourage our churches wherever you are to think about making your building a place where the community can come to share in the games," Pastor Davis states encouraging them to have a widescreen TV in the church hall with food and drinks that will create a community spirit. He says, "Churches that are in the vicinity of the games can do more by opening up their doors and providing drinks and a resting post for the many who will be in London."

The North has an equal emphasis on Evangelism and Training. Pastors and lay-leaders are making their plans – and Pastor Sweeny states he is particularly looking forward to the SEC & NEC joint Camp Meeting programme – a first in the history of the BUC. The dates will be 13 - 18 June at the Pontin's site in Prestatyn.

The church in Wales approved a pile of plans at its recent Mission Session, but for Mission President, Pastor John Surridge, one encouraging initiative seems to be making a difference in this theologically traditional part of the British Isles. Their online Bible quiz, <www.quiz28.org>, is the basis for a major internet evangelism campaign. "Put simply," he says, "we offer members of the public a gift Bible if they will complete just 10 of the 28 possible subjects on the quiz site." The site is advertised within Wales using Google's AdWords and also using printed leaflets that members put through doors.

Pastor Surridge states that there are three direct benefits of this new approach to evangelism: "members of the public study Adventist doctrines, they have a Bible introduced into their home, and we get the contact details of people who we can invite to other evangelistic programmes." The initiative started back in July 2010 and has so far generated over 140 users and delivered over 40 gift Bibles. He is excited. "The people are invariably very pleased to see us – after all we're bringing them their 'prize' – and we've had a lot of positive feedback."

Guarding resources carefully, the gift Bibles are not available to people who are already members of the Adventist church, but members can still gain the benefits of the online quizzes/studies by registering at: <www.quiz28.org>. When you complete all 28 studies you'll be able to print out your own personal certificate. If any BUC News reader does this in the near future we'd love to hear about it.

Scotland continues its training cycle with an officers' training day on Sunday, 30 January. Writing from a snow-covered hideaway – and battling Scotland's worst December weather for over a century, Scottish Mission President, Pastor Bernie Holford wrote, "In 2011... we are joining the World Church in an emphasis on Revival and Reformation. It is my prayer that we will experience a new hunger for Jesus, the real Bread of Life, and that His empowering Spirit will be poured out in our lives."

Ireland was also severely affected by the snow – and burst water mains – but a buoyant Pastor David Neal is pleased with progress in Ireland. As Mission President he is hoping that last year's record baptisms are just the start of something bigger in 2011. Pastor Neal finds himself on flights between England and Ireland more often than he would like. He has gotten familiar with that reassuring message from the pilot, "Cabin crew, prepare for landing". He is especially thankful to hear that announcement when his delayed flight has been sitting in a holding pattern above Heathrow airport. His message for 2011? "The Word of God clearly suggests that the people of God are close to their final destination. My prayer is that in the year 2011 the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland will move from "holding position" to "prepare for landing" mode. This is a sentiment that BUC President, Pastor Don McFarlane would endorse. Concluding his New Year
message in the Messenger, he writes, "In this new year, every Seventh-day Adventist in the British Union is asked to stand on his or her watch with pride in our heritage from the Lord, humility in the grace of God, determination in our mission, and confidence in our hope. 'Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry.' (Hebrews 10:35-37)."

PRISON FOR CHRISTMAS [John Wilby/Karen Learmond/BUC News]

A high security prison, containing many serving life sentences, is just one of the places where Adventist Christians choose to spend their Christmas morning. The prison chaplain made an offer to one of our ministers that he could not refuse, thus twenty-one members of the Glasgow, Paisley, Faifley and Irvine congregations found themselves at the Polmont Young Offenders Institution near Falkirk.

Forming a combined choir, they participated in three consecutive Christmas services, joining groups of inmates and singing well-known favourite carols. Such was their performance that they have been invited back in the future. And they weren't empty handed either. Some two-hundred copies of the latest issue of LIFE.info magazine were distributed to staff and prisoners.

Paisley minister, Obi Iheoma, said, all three churches share a common mission statement; "We are Christians with a mission to share this faith by constantly seeking to serve the needs of our community." Looking to other opportunities in the future he added, "This was just one way we sought to fulfil that commitment".

Another ministerial couple, Dr Steve Thomas and his wife, chose to do Christmas differently. They spend two days volunteering with Crisis at Christmas. They really enjoyed the experience stating that it was the 'Good News' in action. Many other churches opened their doors for special services with packed congregations – some, including Newbold church, providing a special festive meal for those who would otherwise spend Christmas on their own.

Karen Learmond reports that the members of the Ashford International Adventist church had a very special day. They came together with the members of their host church, the United Reformed/Methodist church, to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Both congregations, despite differences in doctrine were able to unite in a ceremony which focused on the meaning of Christmas.

The service was one of thanksgiving, not only because it was Christmas Sabbath, but because of what it symbolised. The debate was not whether we should celebrate the 25th of December as the birthday of our Lord, it was about what His birth symbolized; it was about the hope of His soon appearing and how we should share this with the world. Stewart, from the Methodist congregation, reminded us to not just celebrate His birth on the 25th but every day, through our works and the love we display for those around us.

The brief service saw the lighting of the candles on the advent wreath by the children as well as the singing of Christmas carols. Bible readings and presentations were given by both congregations. Pastor Vartsaba gave the closing prayer but not before giving individuals the opportunity to say their silent prayers. He also used the opportunity to thank the Methodist congregation for not only allowing us continued use of their church but also for worshipping with us, and extended an open invitation to their group.
Ashford International church started worshipping in the Methodist building in 2003 and has built a good relationship with the pastor and lead members of the church. From time to time our pastor or elder are invited to share the Word in their service. Their minister states that he sees the Adventist presence in their community as being an answer to prayer as a way to use their building more effectively to the glory of God.

TWO'S A COMPANY, THREE'S A BLESSING  [John Wilby]

Just four and two years respectively after they were formed the Faifley and Paisley groups in Scotland became companies on New Year's Day. Both have shown growth since a nucleus of former Glasgow members planted them there – the Paisley members worshipping in the aptly-named Christian Growth Centre.

Chris Harle, Faifley leader, summed up his members' feelings. "If a flower doesn't grow, it withers – and we're growing!" These sentiments were echoed by Paisley leader, Virginia Dube, "it is God's will to complete the work He started in His people who believe they have an influential role in the Great Commission according to Matthew 28:19-20", she said.

Nearly 50% of Paisley's sixty-plus congregation are children and youth, so when brothers Winston, and Muzi Dube, and Bosire Oroko, entered the waters of baptism on Sabbath, 18 December, there was great cause for rejoicing. Officiating minister, Obi Iheoma was joined by Mission President, Bernie Holford. But the blessings don't end there. Another eight young people are currently attending baptismal classes.

WELCOME JULIAN HIBBERT  [Also a BUC News Video Report]

The New Year sees a change of editor at the Stanborough Press – the first change for 32 years. Julian Hibbert became a Seventh-day Adventist minister in South Africa in 1974. In the last thirty-six years he has worked as a church pastor, Signs of the Times outreach magazine editor, publishing house manager and, most recently, associate secretary of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Church members will soon get to know his friendly smile as he plans to get to know the church in the UK and Ireland as rapidly as possible. Yet for most of us, Julian and his wife, Elize, are an unknown quantity as they only recently arrived in the UK. Thus this week's BUC News video report gives you the chance to meet Julian, learn a little of his background, and gain an insight into his vision for his work in the British Isles. To watch the video report [click on this link].

"REVIVAL AND REFORMATION" – A CHALLENGE FOR ALL!  [Noel Chitate]

The revival of primitive Godliness amongst God's chosen people reminiscent of the day of Pentecost has been the wish of all genuine Christians for the past 2000 years. This theme seemed to ring with the clearness of day at Cefn Lea Park, Newtown, Wales, the weekend of 17 - 19 December 2010 despite the chilly British winter.

The Prayer Retreat attracted well over a 100 people composed of families and singles under the theme "Walking with God." The theme was based on Genesis 5:24: "Enoch walked with God: and he was not: for God took him".
Enoch is a fitting Bible character to emulate in revival and reformation. Enoch may have had an ordinary life for the first 65 years but underwent a permanent transformation – an example for all those waiting for translation to follow. Campers from as far as Scotland, London, and Bristol fellowshipped in a balanced spiritual programme of prayer and Bible study groups.

The guest speaker for the weekend was widely acclaimed evangelist and minister Dr and Mrs M S Booni from Zimbabwe. He works in the East Zimbabwe Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Dr Booni delivered powerful sermons revolving on issues of revival and reformation which is a core theme for the Adventist World Church in 2011.

In a sermon entitled "What profit is it?" Dr Booni used Biblical and personal examples to show that investing in God's work offers great gain. In "Prayer and Revival", he clearly showed the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian dedicated to genuine revival. In "Dry Bones" he showed how the prophecy of Ezekiel 37 offers sure hope of revival to Christians who are spiritually dead. Outside the meetings Dr and Mrs Booni conducted counselling and prayer sessions with attendees.

Attendees unanimously agreed to have a similar event arranged in April 2011 where the emphasis will be on 'Family Life' preferably by the same speakers. Sermons from the weekend can be found at <http://dare2stand.blogspot.com> and two video clips can also be downloaded from YouTube (Dry bones) and Dr Booni.

WHAT IS CHIP? [Rose Gomez, ACA UK & Ireland Executive Director & Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries Director]

CHIP – the Coronary Health Improvement Project

This community-based, 30-day, intensive educational lifestyle intervention programme provides 40 hours of practical demonstrations, scientific research, educational lectures, and teaching on healthy living. It demonstrates the connection between lifestyle habits and some of the major western killer diseases such as heart disease and stroke, cancer, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, depression and obesity. From the evaluation of clinical outcomes it has been scientifically proven to substantially reduce high blood pressure, high blood sugar levels, cholesterol, angina, digestive disorders and reduce depression. It has helped thousands to dramatically reduce their risk of heart disease, stroke and related illnesses by facilitating the reversal of narrowed arteries. Individuals gain more energy as a result of the programme and experience a greater zest for living. As people embrace their new lifestyle, many participants reduce their need for medications and move closer to their ideal weight.

What are people from the community who have done the CHIP programme saying? Florence, a 70-year-old Methodist lay preacher states, "CHIP is 3Fs; tasty, attractive, wholesome new Food, Friends that are more like family, the Fellowship and support that makes lifestyle change easier... and no further need for prescribed Fibrogel." Loswell, a long-term diabetic injecting almost 50 units of insulin daily adds "During the 4-week CHIP programme my GP reduced my insulin gradually. Within weeks of completing the programme I am off insulin completely, now my GP wants to know 'What is this CHIP?'" Shirley a health conscience housewife states, "I thought I was feeding my husband well until we came to CHIP." Jack is the youngest CHIP graduate at just 13 years of age but weighed in at an astonishing 107kg (18st). He excitedly reported that "CHIP has changed my whole lifestyle and educated me to know why it is important to eat healthfully and exercise regularly. I knew I was seriously overweight and realised I needed to do something about it. After four weeks on the programme I lost 4.9kg (11lbs) and my energy levels had increased significantly. I cannot begin to explain how much better I feel and how my fitness levels have improved. This has given me more
confidence as I have lost several inches around my waist and I am beginning to feel happier with my body. I also feel motivated when friends and family comment about the change in me and ask about the programme. CHIP will always be part of my life. I will continue on this journey to a healthier and happier future."

Through simple lifestyle changes many of today's killer diseases are preventable and largely reversible. There is an alternative to medications, dialysis, angioplasties and bypasses. CHIP gives you the education, motivation and supportive community to help you make smarter choices.

For a better understanding of CHIP watch the newly released 3-minute CHIP Impact Movie. CHIP Programmes and Training Workshops for 2011 will be publicised at www.chipuk.org.uk where you can also find much more information on the programme. You can also contact ACA UK & Ireland on 07931 338449 or info@chipuk.org.uk.

NEW YEAR MESSENGER PAYS TRIBUTE TO DAVID MARSHALL

In the first edition for 2011, the Messenger pays tribute to the retiring editor, David Marshall in a 3-page spread that tracks his history and highlights what made his 32 years as editor special. On the front page, Pastor Don McFarlane in his New Year message states, "What the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches may not be popular but, in the end, it is the only real hope that there is for our world." Julian Hibbert finds himself 'Carrying the card' in his first editorial, and six pages of news include campaigns and song writing for the amateur. Read the online edition here or pick up a copy in your local church.

DEATH OF MRS P ESME TAYLOR

It is with sadness that we have received news of the death of Mrs P Esme Taylor on 3 January 2011 aged 77. Mrs Taylor served as a bindery worker at the Stanborough Press for almost 15 years between 1974 and 1988. Our condolences go to her daughter, Lynne. The funeral service will be held at Grantham Seventh-day Adventist church at 11:00 am on Thursday, 20 January followed by the committal and Grantham Crematorium. Donations in lieu of flowers would be welcomed to benefit the Parkinson's Disease Society.

DEATH OF MRS KATHLEEN WATSON [Reg Burgess/BUC News]

We are sad to announce the death of Kathleen Watson, widow of the late Charles D Watson, a retired General Conference officer originally from the UK. Kathleen passed away peacefully at 11:30 pm on New Year's Eve. There will be a memorial service on 16 January in Deltona, USA. Kathleen supported her husband in ministry originally in Wales, then North England, British Union and Division level followed by service overseas where he was President of the Ethiopian Union, President of the Afro-Mid East Division, General Conference Health and Temperance Associate director, and finally Associate Secretary of the General Conference.

THIS WEEK ON THE HOPE CHANNEL

Elsie Staple is well-known as a Health Educator and promoter. Her vibrant personality and exuberant style underlie her approach to life as an active church member involved in community work – as well as in nursing from an early age. She is this week's special guest on the Hope TV website and satellite.
Friday 7 January: 4:30 am and 8:00 pm: Robin Anthony  
Sabbath 8 January: 3:00 pm: Robin Anthony  
Monday 10 January: 3:00 am and 9:00 pm: Elsie Staple  
Wednesday 12 January: 8:00 am and 8:30 pm: Elsie Staple  
Friday 14 January: 4:30 am and 8:00 pm: Elsie Staple  
Sabbath 15 January: 3:00 pm: Elsie Staple

COMING EVENTS

For a full listing of coming events visit <www.adventistevents.org.uk>. New events are added on a daily basis.

AREA 6B WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT. Friday, 7 January to Sunday, 9 January. The Retreat will be at the DeVere Venues Conference Centre in Denham. £130.00 per person (single or twin room); £115.00 per young lady (13 yrs – 20 yrs, twin room); £65 Concession available for children aged 5-12 years sharing with a parent. Please arrange payment with your local Women's Ministries leader or make cheque payable to Women's Ministries Area 6B. Book now to avoid disappointment! Contact: Elder Joan Robinson <jkmrs2003@yahoo.co.uk>. Phone: 07702 799 309.

20TH ANNIVERSARY - LEAMINGTON SPA MISSION. Sabbath, 8 January. 8 January 2011 is when the Leamington Spa Mission will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishing of an Adventist church in Leamington Spa. Friends old and new are very welcome to come and join us at 10:30 am for drinks and 11:00 for a service of celebration! Food will be served afterwards which will also give you the chance to catch up with people and make new friends. For any further information please email <robp@themission.org.uk> or visit our website at www.themission.org.uk. Contact: Robert Pearce on 01926 429142.

"HOPE LIVES ON" CHARITY CONCERT FOR ZAMBIA. Saturday, 8 January. You are cordially invited to a fundraising concert featuring some of the best Adventist musicians in the UK, followed by a food and CD sale. Venue: Brixton Adventist Church, 6-9 pm in aid of Mumuni Community Outreach Project (MCOP), a Zambian-based Christian charity that sponsors children from impoverished backgrounds to attend school, college and university. Also various community-based adult courses aimed at helping people live decent and dignified lives. We are raising money to help them build a community centre comprising a community hall, fully stocked library, classrooms and workshop. For more about the concert or how to be a missionary volunteer or to donate items (books, pencils, tools, computers and music instruments) please get in touch. Contact: Vivien Mulondiwa-Mwanakaaba <vmulondiwa@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07868483285.

LADYWOOD YOUTH FUNDRAISING CONCERT. Saturday, 8 January. 7:15 pm Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist School, Birmingham. Contact: Cindy Mardenborough <coplee@yahoo.com>. Phone: 0121 515 4179.

SEC ANNUAL EVANGELISM EXPO. Sunday, 9 January. On Sunday, 9 January the South England Conference host their annual Evangelism Expo from 09:30 until 5:30, at Newbold College, Binfield, Berks, RG42 4AN. This is the opportunity for training and development in the various areas of Evangelism for new church officers and for lay members alike. You will have the opportunity to attend a diverse range of workshops and have a great choice of materials to explore and purchase. For more information contact Paul Lee by email on plee@secadventist.org.uk or by telephone on 01923 232728. Website: www.secadventist.org.uk.

LIVING THE EVANGELISTIC LIFE. Friday, 28 January to Sunday, 30 January. A retreat for all Personal Ministries personnel and anyone else who is interested. Pastor David Klinedinst, evangelist/trainer from the Iowa Conference in the USA will demonstrate how to live an effective evangelistic lifestyle. This is a must to attend if your church is serious about evangelism! Cost is heavily subsidized at £100 each. Deadline for application is 14 January 2011. Venue: Kings Park
Conference Centre, Northampton. Contact: Terry Messenger <tmessenger@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 232728.

LET’S BUILD TOGETHER. Saturday, 29 January. Fundraising Concert hosted by Chiswick Gospel Choir. Featuring Chiswick Junior Gospel Choir, 3HN, Tessera, Paul Lee, Louanne Sampson and Leon Barclay. Doors open 6:30 pm for a 7:00 pm start. Venue: Chiswick Adventist Church, Stamford Brook Road, London, W6 0XW. Contact: Jose Morgan <choir@chiswicksda.org.uk>. Phone: 07946 200491.

SMALL ADS

JOB VACANCIES. The Adventist Discovery Centre based in Watford is looking for a part-time Clerical Assistant to provide Maternity Cover for six months. The British Union Conference is seeking a part-time secretary (24 hours per week) to provide Maternity Cover. Newbold School is looking for a Headteacher. For full details visit: <http://www.adventistnews.org.uk/vacancies.php>.

CHURCH CHAIRS. Dundee Seventh-day Adventist church has around 60 steel chairs for sale, as they are replacing theirs. If you are interested, please email: marcel@sdascotland.com or call: 07814009063.

ADVENTIST CONNECTIONS UK. New classified Ads website for Adventists in the UK run by lay-members. £5 (30 days) normal listings & £10 (90 days) for featured ads. Visit: www.adventistconnectionsuk.com or contact: vmulondiwa@gmail.com for details.


BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and edited by the Communication Department. Victor Hulbert, director; Mary Kapon, secretary. Items for inclusion should be sent to <bucnews@adventist.org.uk> and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, preferably as simple email text. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events and Small Ads should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: <www.adventist.org.uk>. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed by individuals cited in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, though we try to ensure that they do. You are free to re-print any portion of this bulletin without the need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you identify BUC News or other sources whenever you publish these materials. Back issues and an RSS feed including photographs are available on our website at <www.adventist.org.uk>.

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