BRITISH ADVENTISTS REPORT ON JAPAN
ADRA UPDATE FROM JAPAN
300 YOUTH WITNESS AT SCHOOL OF THE PROPHEETS IN LIVERPOOL
6 CHILDREN, 6 MILES, BIG RESULTS
STATISTICS, CHURCH GROWTH AND THE FUTURE
BUC SESSION MOVES TO NEXT STAGE
'WRITE' ON TARGET
WORLD CHURCH PRESIDENT PRAYS FOR STANBOROUGH STUDENTS
ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS
THIS WEEK ON THE HOPE CHANNEL
COMING EVENTS

----------------------------------------

BRITISH ADVENTISTS REPORT ON JAPAN

Hayley Chisholm woke up to everything around her shaking and rattling. She grabbed what she could and got out the dormitory that she shares with other girls in Japan where she is working for a year as an assistant language teacher.

Jonathan Blackburn works as an engineer in Tokyo and says "it was a scary experience. I knew it was big by observing the reactions of my Japanese colleagues but didn't really understand the full impact of the tsunami until later in the evening. By this time more information and footage was available on TV."

Hayley from Camp Hill church, Birmingham and Jonathan from St Austell are both safe but somewhat unnerved by an experience that has focused the attention of the world's media for the last two weeks.

Shortly after the earthquake Hayley wrote, "In spite of the destruction and attendant disruption of various utilities, my water supply has not been cut off, our power was supposed to be cut off, but the rolling power cuts so far has not directly affected me. However, due to the power shortages, transport has been difficult with people waiting over an hour in tremendously long queues to get home. The shops are empty – no milk, water, bread or rice amongst many other things but because I live in a building with several other people, everyone has pulled together, so food is so far not a problem."

Transport was easier for Jonathan. He has a motorbike and so made his way home from work through the midst of closed roads and traffic jams, watching out for intersections where the traffic lights had stopped working. In the days following the earthquake, it was almost unnerving how quickly Tokyo returned to nearly normal. "I felt a sense of guilt/unease because whilst it was more..."
or less business as usual in Tokyo, only a few hundred kilometres north, people had everything taken away. On the one hand it was mentally necessary to try to 'forget' and try to get back to normal just to cope, but on the other hand I felt strange enjoying anything more than just the basics."

His company was one of those who evacuated expats. Jonathan spent the last week in Europe but has just returned to Tokyo as his company now considers it safe. He writes, "Personally it was a relief to leave Japan – family and friends really wanted me out. I could relax more not having the tension of always checking the media to see how the situation was developing." At the same time he found it difficult to leave his Japanese friends and colleagues behind.

Haley's family and friends were equally concerned but as she lives 140 miles away from the Nuclear Power Plant she states that she has no reason to be worried at present. She says, "Taking into consideration the severity of this natural disaster, the people of Japan have conducted themselves with great altruism and dignity, with no looting and social disorder... There is a very strong sense of solidarity here and despite the devastating situation; the Japanese people have reacted in a very stoic and exemplary manner. Everyone is helping everyone else for the greater good of the country."

Haley is concerned that Western news media seem to be sensationalising the situation. She notes, "I read on the front of one British newspaper online a headline saying 'Get Out of Tokyo Now!' – even though there is not any direct danger to those living in Tokyo at present. My university where I work is open as usual and we will have our graduation ceremony on Sunday, God willing."

That media response can make it difficult for those in the UK with a close connection to Japan. Alastair Agbaje is completing his ministerial studies at Newbold College but spent five years as a missionary in Japan, the final part as Associate Treasurer at Adventist Church Headquarters in Yokohama, just 100 miles away from Sendai. Since the disaster he has been in daily contact with his former neighbours, work colleagues and members of the Yokohama Adventist International church.

He says, "My next-door-neighbour described to me via email, hours after the earthquake, the devastation caused to the interior of her apartment. The sheer power of the earthquake knocked her to her feet while she was cooking. She expressed her fear for her husband who was working in Tokyo, not knowing if he was OK and whether he would be able to travel back home due to the disruption. She said, 'I am numb and still in total shock by this incident.'"

How did Alastair react? "I feel almost helpless being so far away from friends, but constantly in prayer for the recovery process." However, he notes the positive spirit expressed by his Japanese friends adding that while the local church he attended could not meet at church for prayer meeting, "they have been holding an online prayer meeting, I joined last week and was encouraged by their positive outlook."

That positive outlook is also important to Haley: "My Christian faith has been an invaluable resource as I go through this situation. I just have to say I am so happy and glad I know God. It is scary being amidst such a terrible disaster, but as I read my Bible I am reassured that it is recorded that all these things must come to pass." While Christianity is very much a minority religion in Japan she says, "I have had requests for prayer by several friends here. I can see God working and it lifts my spirit and gives me strength to face the daily challenges."

Alastair also notes that within the Japanese Adventist community. He states, "There is a tremendous unity and encouraging spirit among the members. The President of the Union made contact with me recently and echoed this spirit among the members, he also mentioned that our churches within that
area have not been affected, but is mindful of the many who are suffering and the important role and impact our church can have on the community."

Haley concludes, "I just ask for everyone's continual prayers for Japan," while Alastair adds, "I am encouraged by Psalms 91, the assurances of God's protection, being our Refuge and Provider in our time of need and distress. Let us all continue to pray and support this nation in their time of need."

A Japanese church update can be found on Google Maps while Haley's full report is in the NEC Communicator.

**ADRA UPDATE FROM JAPAN** [Bert Smit, CEO ADRA-UK]

Reports from ADRA Japan indicate that many of the evacuees of the tsunami have returned to their homes or are ready to move into new prefab shelters built by the government. While they are continuing to support an Evacuation Centre in Wakabayashi ward in Sendai city the numbers are reducing as some sense of 'normality' returns. They also state that motorways are repaired and open for non-emergency vehicles. Railways have also been repaired and regular services have started.

Except in those areas completely destroyed by the tsunami it would appear that the situation has been normalised very quickly. Electricity to most areas has been restored although petrol distribution is still slow. Required relief items are now being received on a regular basis across the various affected areas.

The positive Japanese ethos means that local communities are supporting and helping each other in the affected areas while receiving some support from the local government. The emergency response activities by the government are very organized and response has been quick. NGOs like ADRA can only assist in a minor way, providing stopgap services such as providing food and non-food items to the elderly and evacuees.

While ADRA as a network was ready to respond it seems local authorities are able to meet most of the needs. Donations made for this emergency will be transferred to ADRA Japan to help with the limited response as necessary.

**300 YOUTH WITNESS AT SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS IN LIVERPOOL** [Alan Hush/ Jeff Nicholson]

As some three hundred visiting youth supported by local church members went out into the Toxteth community in Liverpool sharing their faith, they caused such a stir that they were soon being monitored by the local police helicopter. This street witnessing and door to door exercise was the culmination of the 11th School of the Prophets training and witnessing weekend held at the St Hilda's School in Sefton, Liverpool, run by the NEC Youth department in conjunction with the Liverpool district of churches.

After only 60 minutes on the street thousands of homes were reached, with 52 persons requesting either drop off or sit in Bible studies. One local resident was so excited about studying the Bible that he insisted that someone return that evening at 6:00 pm to start formal Bible studies with him.

The Trainer for the weekend, Friday 11 and Sabbath 12 March was Kevin Sears who has served as a youth pastor for the Sacramento Central church, Director of the Youth for Jesus programme with ASI
and is now working with Amazing Facts as the Assistant Director of Global AFCEO. There were over 450 people in attendance at the Sabbath services as the local churches met together in support of this training and witnessing event. The local district leader Pastor Ebenezer Daniel and his team have much work to do in following up and facilitating these new Bible study interests generated.

The day ended with Kevin Sears sharing his personal testimony with the congregation, recounting how God led and protected him during his former criminal life, during his time in prison and since his acceptance of Christ's call to salvation and his providential leading into Bible work. Kevin confesses that his greatest joy is training the church for mission, going door-to-door, giving Bible studies, and leading people to Christ. "This and other experiences show me that our communities are truly ready to be reached with the gospel" commented Pastor Alan Hush NEC Youth director adding, "There are souls desperately searching for answers to life's perplexities and we are commissioned to get out there and meet their need."

6 CHILDREN, 6 MILES, BIG RESULTS [Rosemary West & BUC News]

The daffodils were nodding at the side of the road, the wind blowing gently and a little sunshine added to the joy of six children who walked six miles for ADRA on Sunday, 20 March. Six pairs of young legs, supported by five more of varying ages, walked 6 miles through the countryside of the North York moors. Our youngest walker assisted by her dad's shoulders kept us entertained with her singing! A welcome break came at lunchtime as we sat out in the open enjoying the scenery.

During lunch we reflected that some of the people being assisted by ADRA may have no choice but to eat or live in makeshift accommodation – maybe too hot or too cold. We made a half-hearted attempt to make a shelter but did not have the right materials, and it wasn't really cold enough to need one – but what if you do need one? We knew we had a car to sit in if necessary and plastic to sit on and blankets to snuggle under. We were all sensibly dressed. What if these home comforts are not available just when you need them?

The children on the walk were given certificates so that they can collect around £150 of sponsorship to help those who do not have the basics we enjoy.

Meanwhile Handsworth church members are inspired to reach new levels of enthusiasm for this year's collection following a Sabbath morning presentation on 12 March by ADRA-UK CEO, Bert Smit. Under the sermon title 'Going where we are needed' (based on Acts 3:1-10), Pastor Smit spoke passionately about the importance of each member recognising that wherever they are, whatever the resources, God gives each of us an opportunity to help and bless others.

"I am definitely going out this year" said one member, "This is very impressive, I didn't realise ADRA's work was so widespread" said another. This is the second time in as many years that an ADRA-UK representative has led out in the church's emphasis day. Local pastor Garry Gordon explained, "Regrettably some members have not seen ADRA as the Church's charity or appreciated what excellent work is being done, with limited resources. However, I have found listening to ADRA Administrative officers first-hand changes this."
The message for the day was consistent and clear throughout, 'you + ADRA = opportunities.' The message is clear with adults in Handsworth and children in Middlesbrough. These young children have set a standard for this year's ADRA Annual Appeal. More exciting stories may follow – but the biggest story is the one YOU will be involved in. What will you do for ADRA this year? If you want more information on collecting or donating visit <www.adra.org.uk>. The Annual Appeal starts on Saturday, 26 March?

STATISTICS, CHURCH GROWTH AND THE FUTURE

A membership leap of 21.4 per cent in the past five years is good news that was welcomed by trustees at the 10 March 2011 British Union Conference Executive Committee. While baptisms seemed to have slowed during the third quarter of 2010, autumn evangelism meant they caught up by Christmas to give a year end total of 31,622 – up 1,128 on the previous year, and up 6,142 over the quinquennium.

The delight at growth was tempered by Pastor Ian Sweeney's reminder that while the figures were good the church was having limited effect on the indigenous population. While that brought a sense of realism to the committee, it also re-emphasised the message of Pastor John Surridge's devotional. Based on the experience of Jeremiah, he noted that revival and reformation arises when people rediscover the word of God and return to serious Bible study. He shared that when people are genuinely seeking revival and reformation they will experience opposition, even from unexpected sources and then added that lasting achievement will only be realised by the same dogged persistence and determination that characterised Jeremiah's ministry.

Dogged persistence was needed for the rest of the day as the committee worked through an agenda of 20 main items. Probably the most interesting debate related to a discussion on a mission-driven structure for the British Union Conference. The letters column of MESSENGER reflects a wider discussion among members that is also current in the leadership in both Conferences and the Missions. As a result the Committee spent quality time looking at twenty-first century options for the best administration of the Church in the British Isles with an emphasis that places the best resources where evangelism happens – at the local church level. While various ideas were presented which resulted in a wide discussion, the strong feeling of the committee was that wider consultation is needed. As a result, discussions of viable routes forward will be presented on 13 May in a special double issue of MESSENGER and in other forums. BUC President Pastor Don McFarlane states, "The significance of the local church cannot be overstated. The work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not done in the quiet corridors of the GC headquarters or in Union and Conference offices dotted around the world. It is done by those who occupy the pews in our local churches, whose lives and words tell forth the praises of the One who has redeemed them from sin's bondage." This is clearly a discussion that will continue.

BUC SESSION MOVES TO NEXT STAGE

Delegates have been appointed, the Recommendations Committee has met, and this Sunday, 27 March, the Nominating Committee will hold its first meeting to decide on the leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland for the next five years. That is the timeline for the more efficient and diligent process of church election voted in 2009 that will climax in a grand Day of Fellowship at Westminster Central Hall, London on Sabbath, 2 July followed by a business session at Stanborough Park church the following day.
The change in session structure has not been without its challenges. Due to a clash of dates, Nominating Committee chairman, Dr Bertil Wiklander, had to request the committee to meet earlier than planned – thus giving just a one week window for delegates to vote electronically or by post for the Nominating Committee. Phone conferences with Mission delegations this past week have also allowed the chairman to gain a picture of their will regarding leadership in Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

A website has been set up that answers many of the questions from delegates and the wider church membership. Recent updates on the site include a listing of Nominating Committee members and a draft version of the President's Report. The site will be frequently updated between now and the session on 3 July.

'WRITE' ON TARGET [Julian Hibbert, MESSENGER Editor]

Having taken the long road from Newcastle to Watford, Victor Samwinga felt rewarded. "It was an excellent event, well organised and with very good presentations," he stated, referring to the Adventist Writers' and Editors' Conference held at the BUC head office on Sunday, 20 March. Drawing together 17 aspiring writers from across the country, it was a day of stimulating presentations and lots of helpful dialogue on the art of good writing.

The conference was run in a warm and professional manner by its convenor, Cathy Boldeau, ably assisted by a group of hand-picked presenters. First up was Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director, who set the spiritual tone for the event by providing a biblical platform for the writing ministry. She drew her mandate from Habakkuk 2:2, 'Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.' [NKJV]

She was followed by MESSENGER Editor, Pastor Julian Hibbert, who was tasked to speak on 'The Power of the story', through which 'the concrete, limiting barriers of time, space, status, class, poverty and wealth, gender and culture, even religion and worldview, may be transcended.'

Pastor Victor Hulbert, the BUC's 'Mr Communication' (Communication director), spoke next on 'Write IT', giving practical advice on how to write for web or newspaper – and how to ensure your story gets picked up by your local newspaper editor – or indeed, for BUC News or MESSENGER. He managed to pack a great deal of very practical information into his brief forty-five minute presentation.

Andrew Puckering, MESSENGER proof reader, was the fresh young face among the presenters. He took the participants on a quick tour through the complexities of house style in a lecture entitled 'From rough draft to final copy', ending with a practical test of their skills that demonstrated the eagle-eyed need for detail that makes MESSENGER an easy and grammatically correct read.

For the presentations by Anne Pilmoor ('It's all about the children') and Pastor Des Boldeau ('Encounter'), the group was separated into those interested in producing children's literature, and those who saw the youth as their target audience. Both presenters provided relevant and comprehensive material relating to their age groups. Anne, BUC Education director, concentrated on the production of the picture book, while Pastor Boldeau, BUC Youth director, skilfully guided his group through the specialised field of reaching youth through the Encounter magazine. He emphasised that this kind of publication must provoke its readership – stimulating reaction and dialogue.
Once these formal lectures were over – and a finger lunch was enjoyed – the aspiring writers spent the afternoon together planning the road ahead for their specialised fraternity. Part of that planning involves the recruitment of new members. "I am constantly writing for journals, conference papers and invited to write book chapters," says Samwinga. "The opportunity to meet other writers and editors was another important aspect for me." So if you are interested in developing your writing skills, please contact Cathy Boldeau at <adventistwriters@gmail.com> for more information.

Special thanks are due to the BUC and SEC administrations for their support in making the event such a success. Photos from the day can be found on the brand new Writers and Editors website launched today.

WORLD CHURCH PRESIDENT PRAYS FOR STANBOROUGH STUDENTS  [Vanessa Pizzuto]

On Friday, 11 March 2011, Pastor Ted N C Wilson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church visited Stanborough School to greet both students and staff members.

Neither a long flight nor a tight schedule for the weekend prevented Pastor Wilson from visiting the school almost as soon as he landed. In fact, accompanied by Pastor Don McFarlane, BUC President, he came directly from the airport to meet both students and staff.

Warmly welcomed by Mr Roger Murphy, Head teacher, who gave him a tour of the school, Pastor Wilson expressed his admiration for the multicultural nature of the student body and highlighted the importance of the exchange programmes run by the school that allow the pupils to develop a sense of international-mindedness and global mission.

Before departing, Pastor Wilson offered a prayer for the students and staff, asking God to pour out His blessings on each person attending the school.

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS

Fancy a trip to Palestine? That is what retired pastor, Bryan Webster and his wife Isobel plan to do in just a few weeks time. However this is no ordinary trip, as 'This is Lincolnshire' reports. They will be staying in a village and helping to rebuild homes that have been destroyed. Bryan told the paper, "We want to show the Palestinian people they haven't been forgotten about and protest in a non-violent way against the demolition of local homes."

Nearer to home the Watford Observer has published two reports on the official opening of the new Church Headquarters on Stanborough Park, while the Adventist Church in North America has received substantial coverage regarding their growth rate compared to other denominations. This report from USA Today.

Finally, the secMedia team were busy the weekend of 11 - 13 March in order to bring you a video report of the joint North/South Treasurers' Conference at Staverton Park.
THIS WEEK ON THE HOPE CHANNEL

Newly released on the www.hopetv.org.uk website: Lowell Baricanosa talks about how he was inspired by a friend to put his faith in action through undertaking a spiritually rewarding journey from London to Paris, and raise money for ADRA-UK's work with children below the age of 5 in under developed countries around the world.

This coming week on 'In Conversation':
Friday 25 March: 8:00 pm: Garth Anthony – God isn't limited by circumstances.
Sabbath 26 March: 12:30 am: Garth Anthony
Monday 28 March: 9:00 pm: Bernell Bussue – Love and support shape a caring career.
Wednesday 30 March: 8:00 am and 8:30 pm: Bernell Bussue
Friday 1 April: 8:00 pm: Bernell Bussue
Sabbath 2 April: 12:30 am: Bernell Bussue

For more on Hope Channel, to re-tune, or to watch online visit <www.hopetv.org.uk>.

COMING EVENTS

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

THIS TIME IT'S 4REAL @ HAMPSTEAD CHURCH. Continuing to Sabbath, 26 March. This Time, It's 4Real, Youth Revival series and Week of Prayer at Hampstead church, with Micah Campbell. Starting 11:15 am Sabbath morning, and continuing 4:30 pm that same afternoon, as well as for the following two weekends (Fri 7:00 pm, Sat 4:30 pm, Sun 6:30 pm) to 26 March. Seldom-told truths about what young people are really looking for will be shared. But mostly, you'll be encouraged by the power of God's love and His ability to transform lives in awesome ways. Hampstead Seventh-day Adventist Church, 66 Haverstock Hill, London, NW3 2BE; Tel.: 020 7482 5022; hampsteadsda@gmail.com. Contact: Sandra Joseph <sannijo70@aol.com>. Phone: 07956 510964.

YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER (FULHAM). Continuing to Saturday, 26 March. 19-26 March will be our "Youth Week of Prayer". Our dynamic and inspirational speaker will be Donald Yearwood. Venue: Fulham Adventist church, 259 Lillie Road, Fulham, London, SW6 7LL. Contact: Adelina <adi3000@yahoo.com>. Phone: 07903222002.

"ARCHAEOLOGY CONFIRMS THE BIBLE". Continuing to Sunday, 27 March. The writings of the Bible have long been considered by some as fables and myths and so deemed untrustworthy. For some critics, if you cannot prove something with empirical evidence, it is not to be taken seriously. As we'll see in the presentations by Dr Dragomir Obradovic, the authenticity of the Bible is supported by empirical, archaeological evidence. Come and bring your friends to these free presentations: Friday 25 March 19:00 pm, Sabbath 26 March 10:30 am, Sunday 11:00 am guided tour of the British Museum related to the presentations. Contact: Pastor Vladi <pastor@centrallondonchurch.org>.

IGNITE THE SPIRIT. Continuing to Wednesday, 30 March. Come and experience 'Ignite the Spirit' at Hackney Seventh-day Adventist church, 164 Haggerston Road, London, E8 4JA. Time: 7:30 pm. A series of lively special Wednesday night prayer meetings where we will learn God's purpose and intentions for our lives – running every Wednesday, 2 to 30 March. Featuring guest speaker: Ray Patrick. For more info contact: Patricia Campbell, 07946 317 891. (Programme sponsored by the Hackney Personal Ministries department). Contact: Pastor Chitura <s.chitura@btinternet.com>. Phone: 07956013615.
THE HEAVENS DECLARE. Continuing to Thursday, 31 March. Popular talks about the universe with lessons about God's character and dealings with mankind drawn from planets, stars, and galaxies. Every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm at the Coleraine Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ratheane Avenue, Mountsandel, Coleraine. Speaker: Pastor Dr Mart de Groot, a former director of the Armagh Observatory. Contact: Mart de Groot <mart.degroot@gmail.com>. Phone: 02838 871252.

ASI-UK SPRING CONVENTION 2011. Friday, 25 March to Sunday, 27 March. ASI-UK "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace" with Pastor Japhet De Oliveira. Spring Convention, Hunton Park, Kings Langley, Herts. ASI is an association for Adventist business and professionals to come together to learn and encourage one another to bring their work colleagues to Christ. Our Conventions give us all the opportunity to share our experiences, learn, fellowship and support independent ministries. We have secured a great deal from the De Vere venue at Hunton Park: Day delegates: (Sabbath only) £39, Students £25. This includes the Conference/lunch/dinner/snacks/evening entertainment/use of leisure facilities including spa pool. Full Weekend: £135. All of the above including Friday dinner and Sunday lunch and 2 nights B&B in lovely accommodation. For further details please contact the Secretary ASAP. Contact: Christine <manners-smith@ntlworld.com>. Phone: 07790 452920.

*AND THERE WAS WAR* – A THEATRE PRODUCTION. Friday, 25 March to Saturday, 26 March. Tickets to be booked in advance – see website* £7 per seat; discount: £10 for a pair. ‘And There Was War’ – written and directed by Jermaine Wong – a story of origins and new beginnings, this play offers a gritty look at The Great Controversy and The Nativity. You will be taken on an emotional journey of rediscovery, mission and purpose. Friday 25 March: doors open @ 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm start; Saturday 26 March: doors open @ 6:30 pm for 7:00 pm start. Venue: Bishop Montgomery Hall, 58 Kennington Oval, London, SE11 5SW. A Final Call Production – Kennington Community Fellowship Creative Ministries. Contact: Jermaine Wong <finalcallproductions@gmail.com>. Phone: 07944406115.

JEHARNA SOUTH - LISTENING PARTY. Saturday, 26 March. Come along and meet teenage gospel singer Jeharna South. Listen to live performances of original songs from her debut EP 'Promise'. You are sure to enjoy this special evening of inspirational gospel music and interviews, hosted by Clive Palmer. Be there at the start of the journey! Tickets at £5 each are limited and cannot be reserved without payment. Purchase online at: http://jeharnalisteningparty.eventbrite.com/. Venue: Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, Paradise Place, Birmingham, B3 3HG. Contact: R South <info@jeharnasouth.com>. Phone: 07591710780.

INDIAN MEAL AND AUCTION. Saturday, 26 March. This Saturday 26 March @ 1930. Fundraising event for STOP International. Auction (9:00 pm) inc. flat in Spain for a week, website design, gliding experience and so much more. Sealed/telephone bids welcome. £10pp or £70 for a table of 8. Book now. Contact: Pat Walton <walton@groats.co.uk>. Phone: 01923 672500.

ADRA-UK ANNUAL APPEAL 2011. Saturday, 26 March to Sunday, 17 April. This year's ADRA Annual Appeal commences 26 March and concludes on 10 April for all areas outside Greater London and 17 April in Greater London. Please make an effort to raise some funds in your own way. You can make a difference, so give opportunities and not excuses. If you want further information please contact the ADRA office. Contact: Godwin Benjamin <godwin@adra.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 681 723.

CREATING INSPIRING WORSHIP IN YOUR CHURCH. Tuesday, 29 March & Tuesday, 5 April. A BUC training seminar for pastors & elders, "Creating Inspiring Worship in Your Church," will be presented by Stephen Currow in the BUC Board Room, Stanborough Park, Watford, for pastors: 10:30 am Tuesday, 29 March and for local church elders: 7:30 pm on Tuesday, 5 April. Stephen Currow is Principal Lecturer in Pastoral Studies at Newbold College, who, after eight years of teaching at Newbold, will be taking up a new appointment later this year as Principal of Fulton College, Fiji in the South Pacific. Seating limited to 50. Register early at Ministerial page on BUC website. Contact: Faye Weekes <fweekes@adventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 672251.
WEST BROMWICH – "PRECIOUS MEMORIES". Sabbath, 2 April. West Bromwich Adventist church is having a double celebration: our 40th Anniversary in our current building, and our 60th anniversary of an Adventist presence in West Bromwich. If you have a connection with the church please join us in celebrating on this special day. We would also be interested in hearing from you if you have any stories/photos going back over this period. For more information, please contact Rose Kerr. Contact: Rose Kerr <kerrb05@aol.com>. Phone: 0780 1802360.

GOSPEL MUSIC XPLOSION. Saturday, 2 April. St Mary's Church, Luton, LU1 3JF. Featuring, Mahali Selepe, Ullanda Alexander, Inspired Redemption, Paul Lee, Holy Tabernacle, The Way, Higher Ground. Ticket price £8; Children £4. Contact: Daison Zinyemba <zinyemba_d@yahoo.co.uk>. Phone: 07943179903.

SUPER-DETOX. Sunday, 3 April to Sunday, 17 April. Date: 3-part workshop – choose from either set of dates: Sunday 3, 10 and 17 April at 09.30-12.30 (or) Friday 3, 10 and 17 June at 09.30-12.30. Detox – 21 days – Come and learn about your body, how it works, guidelines for detoxing properly for more energy, calmness, improved skin and hair and even shifting some of those extra pounds. It is three mornings of talks, practical demonstrations, and group work to help you every step of the way. Location: Woodhall Farm Community Centre, Datchet Close, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7JX. Course fees: non-Hertfordshire residents: £99 for 3-part training – non-Hertfordshire residents required to register by contacting Angelette at 0844 272 1509 or email info@creating-health.com. Hertfordshire residents (over 18 years): FREE – funded by Worldshapers (requirement for free funding includes attendance to all parts of the course). To register with Worldshapers call Matthew on 01442 269 804 or email aspire@worldshapers.org.uk. Contact: Angelette Muller <createnutrition@gmail.com>. Phone: 0844 272 1509.

----------------------------------------

SMALL ADS

I-CHANGE YOUTH CONGRESS. "Less than a month to go! We hope your preparations are going well and have your accommodation booked and are all sorted! In order to help you we have uploaded some very important information on the Youth page so please check the website! www.adventistyouth.org.uk/congress."

TED MASTER GUIDE CAMPOREE. Calling all Master Guides and Leaders! Master Guide Camp is approaching and so is the deadline for applications (29 April). Please contact your local Conference for more information.

IT SUPPORT. Person required to provide maternity cover for the BUC office and Adventist Discovery Centre. Role will include web maintenance and problem solving. Applications by 8 April.

SECRETARY required for SEC Youth department. 30 March deadline. For full details visit our <job vacancies page>.

HARPER BELL ADVENTIST SCHOOL, Birmingham has achieved Voluntary Aided Status. There will be no charge of school fees for admission to Reception through to Year 6 classes. We are now accepting applications for limited places, on a first-come, first-served basis. The Nursery will remain independent and subject to school fees. The school is, however, registered to receive government funding towards the cost of early years (ages 3&4) education. Now it is more than affordable to be a part of the success of HBS. To avoid disappointment contact the school urgently for the new admissions policy and application forms. Telephone: 0121 693 7742 or email: harperbellsdaschool@hotmail.co.uk.
CAN YOU BE A ‘FOREVER FAMILY’ FOR RACHAEL OR RIHANNA? Rachael is a tap dancer! As well as her weekly dance class, 7-year-old Rachael loves going swimming with her foster carer. She is close to her sister Rebecca and they enjoy spending time together. Rachael has a good appetite and likes exotic fruits! Rihanna is 4 and a ½! Her outgoing personality and many friends allow her to really enjoy school. She enjoys funny cartoons, computer games, music and her favourite band is JLS! Both are from an Afro-Caribbean background. For further information please call: Carolette Caines on: 020 8356 6872 or email: <carolette.caines@hackney.gov.uk>.

LARGE DOUBLE FURNISHED BEDROOM TO RENT in large semi-detached house in Upper Norwood overlooking a green park in a square; Large accommodation with a separate hallway, bathroom with shower, possibly sole use as there is also a downstairs bathroom suite. WIFI and separate telephone in the room with free local and long-distance calls to a range of countries, TV/DVD, chair, chest of drawers and built-in double wardrobes and storage cupboard included. The nearest station: Gipsy Hill, which is a 10-minute walk and a single-decker bus stop 1-min. from house. Fully fitted kitchen with use of amenities. Rent: £550 per month inc. for single person; would consider a couple at an additional fee. Must be a practicing Adventist. All enquiries to <jenn1franc1s@yahoo.co.uk>.

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>.

You can manually unsubscribe from this mailing list by clicking on reply and including the word ‘unsubscribe’ in the subject line. You can subscribe to ANN (Adventist News Network), the email news bulletin of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, on the GC website at: <http://news.adventist.org/>. You can subscribe to TED News, the email news bulletin of the Trans-European Division, by sending your name and email address to: <tednews@ted-adventist.org>.

The British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church accepts no liability to any party for any error, omission or mis-statement by any contributor in any material published in this newsletter.