DOUBLE GOLDEN CELEBRATION AT MANCHESTER SOUTH

It was delayed by two years, but on Sabbath, 5 November Manchester South Seventh-day Adventist church finally got to celebrate its 50th Golden Anniversary with a special thanksgiving service. Past and present members, together with visitors and friends packed the church, balcony and hall to help celebrate and remember all the memories that had been generated since the very first worship service on 5 June 1959. It was an extra special day as the church was also officially rededicated to the Lord; following the completion of major building work involving the complete renovation of both the church's interior and exterior.

North England Conference President, Pastor Cyril Sweeney, himself a former intern at Manchester South, delivered an impactful message to the congregation; reminding them that church is more than a building. Pastor Sweeney charged the members to open their arms to those who come through the doors, no matter of their appearance, and when leaving the church our faces and demeanour should be a witness that we have been in the presence of the Lord. Another former minister, Pastor Richard Brooks, led the dedication litany, while current minister Pastor Fred Mapp introduced the programme and rounded up the trio of ministers.

In the morning Sister Lorna Hewitt, the church's longest serving member and current church clerk, both entertained and informed with the story of how she was involved when the Adventist church in Manchester began in the 1930s. Back then a 6 day working week was standard practice and it was very difficult for members to both be in employment and keep the Sabbath.
There were many other highlights of the day; including recognising the individual contributions of certain members for their service to the church, with special commemorative plaques. Also lots of wonderful music, including the electric clarinet and the specially formed mass choir's rousing Hallelujah Chorus. The day ended with fellowship and food, together with another walk down memory lane with the showing of images of Manchester South friends and members through the years.

For more information and photographs of the new and improved building visit <http://manchestersouth.adventistchurch.org.uk>.

'RIGHTEOUSNESS BY LOVE' AT NEWBOLD WEEK OF PRAYER  [Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist]

"Chris Blake challenged us in how we think and do church – I simply loved it!" Annette Wulf, a Newbold College theology student, expressed – a sentiment that echoed throughout the autumn Week of Prayer at Newbold College, 7 - 12 November. "I really love the way the speaker makes me think; often we attend meetings and leave, but his messages stay with you," Julie Zielke a Newbold Gap year student added.

Professor Chris Blake of Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska, focused his messages on "Searching for a God to Love", the title of one of his books. As a lover of the English language and a professor in English Literature and Communication, his storytelling and illustrations were carefully crafted and resonated with the audience. Theology student René Bidstrup shares, "I liked Chris' authentic approach to being a Christian. The combination of stories showing a God worthy of our praise and love, and the twist of 'righteousness by love' will stick in my memory."

Dr Andreas Bochmann, lecturer in Theology, attended the entire series and was encouraged by the excellence and professional speaking, in particular when glimpses of the "real Chris Blake" emerged during the evenings. The calmness and depth of the topics was appreciated by many. Some relevant topics Dr Blake addressed were: "Living on the edge", "Suffering – why so much?", "Humble assurance" and "Blessed are the peacemakers".

Dr Blake was invited by former Newbold pastor, Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, who in her new role as Communication and Media director for the South England Conference, brought her team to Newbold to film Dr Blake's presentation and record additional discussions between Pastor Patrick Johnson and Chris Blake for an upcoming series on Sky Revelation TV and the Hope Channel. The presence of the SEC media team assisted the Newbold team in streaming the meetings in high quality, something that online viewers of all ages were appreciative of.

Dr Mike Pearson had been watching the meetings online and expressed that for him this was one of the best Week of Prayer speakers he had heard in a long time. Paul – a viewer from Sweden – expressed that the high technical quality of the streaming enhanced the message presented. With chat and Facebook enabling the meetings to integrate viewers, Andrej Godina commented: "Wow! This
message was totally for me." Throughout the week Facebook was updated with several of Dr Blake's one-liners, such as, "As Christians, we need to talk less and listen more" and "Love cannot be forced".

Dr Blake said his aim was to speak to the 'believing unbelievers', those who believe in God but not in the picture they have been presented of God, hence the title "Searching for a God to Love". The series drew the congregation closer to the heart of God and focused on a loving God. At times Dr Blake would, like the Old Testament prophets, challenge us as a church to look at where our faith has taken us and where God would want us to focus. Senior pastor, Patrick Johnson, agreed that the week was a success and the altar call of repeating "Jesus has saved me, Jesus saves me now" was a powerful reminder of righteousness by love.

Chris Blake's books: "Searching for a God to Love" and "Swimming against the Current" are available from Amazon. A selection of photos from the week are available in the BUC Picture Gallery and archives of the Live Steam are available to view. The recorded series will air on Revelation TV in the first quarter of 2012.

**WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP** [Miroslav Pujic/tedNEWS/BUC News]

On Wednesday, 16 November 2011, forty-five delegates and twenty-five invitees (Union Executive Secretaries and Treasurers) from the thirteen Unions and three attached Fields, which constitute the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans-European Division (TED), discussed a motion on Women in Leadership. After prayer, 91% of the delegates voted by secret ballot to express approval of the motion at the annual year-end executive committee meetings. The invitees affirmed the motion by a similar per cent in a secret ballot.

In 2010 the TED asked the General Conference a similar request to that posed by the North American Division regarding a variance to the policy to allow commissioned ministers to be Conference or Union Presidents. In addition the TED asked for the study of the theology of ordination to be prioritised and permission to ordain women within its territories. Although no formal answer was voted at Annual Council this year we understand that an answer, if formally given, would have been negative.

The committee expressed sadness and disappointment at the response of the Annual Council and recognised the Bible-based conviction that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is a fellowship of the "priesthood of all believers" and that the Holy Spirit calls and equips men and women with various gifts, including that of leadership. For many within the TED it is an ethical and legal matter that strongly affects their consciences.

The committee prayerfully voted to affirm that each Union can apply parity between male and female pastors within the framework of the TED's existing policies and guidelines for ordained/commissioned minister credentials.

As far as the North-American Division decision is concerned, to keep the variance they asked for in 2009 and then voted both in 2010 and 2011, we understand their need for this and regret that Annual Council was unwilling to endorse their decision.
Dr Bertil Wiklander, TED President says: "What works best for the TED at this time is to let all know where we stand and what we want regarding women in leadership, while doing all we can to promote women as pastors and leaders in our Church within the working policy. We will continue to work with our Unions to see how we can support and enable the many women who the Holy Spirit has clearly called to leadership."

For more background to this story see 'Preamble to the motion on Women in Leadership' by the TED. The TED administration state, "We wish to underline that the TED has not voted any changes in the GC/TED policies or model constitutions. The TED is granting Unions permission to manage the matter of parity between male and female pastors on the basis of TED’s Guidelines for Commissioned Pastors as voted in the TED Executive Committee in 2009, based on consultations with the TED and an authorisation by the appropriate union governing body. The TED is not authorising ordination of women within its territory but is waiting for the General Conference to conduct its study of the theology of ordination."

Also of interest: North American Adventists reaffirm commissioned ministers as Conference, Mission Presidents, 'Variance' for North American, Trans-European Division constitutions fails Annual Council Vote and 'Process, timetable unveiled for review of theology of ordination'.

**IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED** [Trevor Johnson]

[A review of the Edmonton Adventist Drama Group performance on Saturday, 5 November 11 at Dugdale Centre, Enfield by Trevor Johnson.]

Whilst the many members of the public descended upon Enfield Park to observe the traditional fire work display, the Edmonton church drama group put on an informative and moving account of the various periods of struggle for black people from slavery in America in the 19th century to Mandela's struggle for South Africa in the 20th century. This was all part of the celebration of Black History Month.

Interspersed in the moments of intense drama was spontaneous and passionate gospel singing with ensembles singing spirituals such as 'Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child'. In complimentary fashion there was coordinated dance by a group of young people known as Young Soldierz, Dime Praise and negro spirituals by Shiloh singers.

Two officers from the Edmonton Metropolitan Police PCSO Sam Kifford and PC Karl Morris, gave a powerful presentation on the horrors of knife crime which has plagued the community of Enfield and Edmonton. As this project was also focusing on the awareness of knife crime, many youth centres and schools were invited to come along.

This was a wonderful production from our local group directed and written by Fifi and Terrence McKenzie-Cook. It reminded us of man's inhumanity towards man and that we should never forget to learn our lessons from the past.

Particular thanks go to the Dugdale Centre, the Edmonton Metropolitan Police and sponsorship from Asda and Jobsnet. The event was also positively reported in the Enfield Independent.
QUEEN ELIZABETH SURPRISES MIDDLESBROUGH CHILDREN [Judy Hamilton]

Teaching the Primary lesson to the children in Middlesbrough church was just another one of the many duties to perform three weeks ago. As the lesson progressed we talked to the children about the importance of our leaders, inside and outside of the church. We came to the activity and asked them to choose a person who was a leader for them, and to make a card for their 'chosen one'.

Many chose to make a card for our pastor, others for their dad or uncle but five of the kids, without any prompting from the teachers, chose to make a card for our Queen.

The cards were made and the words were written 'Thank you for being our leader, we are praying for you'. We were so impressed that six to nine-year-olds had done this, realising how important the right leadership is, that we posted the cards to the Queen and let her know that the young people of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are praying for her.

The children were very excited when they were told the cards had been posted to the Queen, but not half as much as when Pastor Colin Woodford 'summoned' the very same five kids to the front of the church two weeks later on Sabbath, 5 November. After giving them a 'little talk' about being careful who you write to, Pastor Colin pulled out a letter that had arrived from Buckingham Palace for the children. It said how pleased the Queen was to receive the cards and thanked them for their prayers. The children now have a laminated copy of the letter from the Queen as a reminder that respecting your leaders is what God expects us to do.

I wonder if the Queen realises what an effect she has had on not only these five children, but the rest of the church as they sat quietly listening to the story. Whoever said that the kids don't listen in Sabbath School?....

SHOEBOX PARTY [Cynthia Southcott]

Weston-Super-Mare Adventist church members have supported ADRA-UK's Shoebox Appeal since its inception, but this year we got the boxes packed in a slightly different way – we had a shoebox party on Saturday evening, 12 November. The idea was to encourage the non-Adventist friends that we have made through our vegetarian cookery club programme to join us and nine of them did. Businesses as well as individuals had contributed the requested items. Over 60 boxes were packed, and together with already filled ones from Croscombe, Taunton and Yeovil churches, a total of 81 boxes were transported to Watford. Our friends remarked on what a good evening it had been, and how they would like to help again next year. The moving results of last year's appeal can be seen in an ADRA-UK YouTube report from Niger. The 2011 appeal for Mali is now closed and the shoeboxes are starting their journey to West Africa.
HISTORY OF THE CELTIC CHURCH  [Weiers Coetser]

The history of Christianity in Ireland is a story filled with almost mythical romance, but also great courage in the face of hardship. Pastor David Foster, from the Welsh Mission visited the famous sites of Celtic Church history in 2010. On his travels around Ireland he took many pictures. At the end of his journey he compiled a photographic essay outlining some of the key events and describing some of the key sites in the story. Pastor David Foster shared this photographic essay with the Irish Mission. We believe it is a valuable addition to a website which serves the Christian community in Ireland. Perhaps it will inspire others to go on a similar journey of discovery around this beautiful country.

A Photographic Essay of the History of the Celtic Church in Ireland.

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS

Three articles recently reported in local newspapers highlight the Adventist Church interest in helping children and youth. This week's Watford Observer highlights the Stanborough Park church as it prepares for its 50th toy service providing gifts for deprived children in the Watford area. Middlesbrough Adventists have been working with Stokesley Primary School again this year as part of the ADRA Shoebox Appeal, this according to the Gazette newspaper, while the Enfield Independent is among local papers reporting on the Edmonton youth and their drama highlighting the issues of knife crime. In addition, the European Union reports on the completion of an ADRA-UK Food Security Project being completed in Ghana.

PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK

A choice of UK produced Adventist programmes are available for you to watch this coming week.

On Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692) watch the following two programmes:

VIEWPOINT, Monday 21 November, 8:30 pm. The Christian and Personal Finance. The world of finance has changed dramatically over the last 50 years. Increased home ownership, student tuition fees and an increased standard of living has increased people's needs, wants or desires. What is the Christian way forward in the 21st Century consumerist society? How do we best manage our own, personal finances? [Last Monday's programme, Business Ethics and Christianity is now available for download or broadcast on demand.]

'Adventists In Conversation', Thursday 24 November, 8:30 pm. Tim Standish is a Biologist working at the Geoscience Research Institute in Loma Linda, California. He believes that Intelligent Design is a liberating way of viewing nature and our origins. If you find this programme interesting you may enjoy a follow-up discussion with Tim exploring further his ideas on Intelligent design.
On Hope TV you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and [website](#) including the following episodes of 'In Conversation':

Friday 18 November: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: **Sabbath** – Antidote to modern pace of life
Sabbath 19 November: 12:30 am, 9:00 am & 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: **Sabbath** – Antidote to modern pace of life
Monday 21 November: 12:30 am and 9:30 pm: **Mike Logan** – Fear of God & hell stops suicide
Wednesday 23 November: 8:00 am: **Sujoy Paul Bullock** – Harps in heaven!
8:30 pm: **David Swain** – Ambulances and ADRA, 12:00 midnight: **Mike Logan**
Friday 25 November: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: **God in a Cruel World**
Sabbath 26 November: 12:30 am, 9:00 am & 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: **God in a Cruel World**

**COMING EVENTS**

**YARDLEY CHURCH RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DAY.** Sabbath, 19 November. Yardley Adventist church welcomes you to Religious Liberty Day, on 19 November 2011 at 11:00 am. "The Drying up of the Euphrates and the New World Order". Speaker – Tristan Cuniah. Venue: Friends Institute, Berkley Road, Hay Mills, Birmingham, B25 8NW. Contact: Bev Campbell <beverley_cam@yahoo.co.uk>. Phone: 07880921745.

**PRAISES ACCORDING TO RICHARD SMALLWOOD.** Saturday, 19 November. Hackney Adventist church invites you to our fundraising concert featuring the songs from the maestro of praise Richard Smallwood. His music lifts up the name of Jesus and gives praise and adoration to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Listen to soloists, groups, musicians and choirs perform Richard's songs. Venue: The Rock Tower, Tuffnell Park Road, London, N7. Time: 6:30 pm. Tickets: £10.00. Look out for competitions to win yourself a couple of tickets. For more info contact Patsy Reid 07947158537. Food on sale plus exhibitors who will be promoting their businesses and products. If you wish to promote contact Patsy ASAP as only six positions remain. Contact: Patsy Reid <joanre29@gmail.com>.

**RESTORATION.** Saturday, 19 November. There is tension in our communities, families are under pressure on every side, and this has a knock-on effect on society. Health problems are on the increase, impacting people's sense of well-being and hope. Something has to change. The annual Restoration event is coming to London on Saturday, 19 November at Holloway Seventh-day Adventist church. Produced by Mike Johnson and Gail Masondo, this free event uses inspiring Gospel music and narrative to help bring about hope for the restoration of things that are under threat at a personal and social level. Music by The Restoration Singers, 3JHN, Ruth Nassa, Celia Wickham-Anderson, and Paultette Marceney. Visit [http://restoration2011.eventbrite.com](http://restoration2011.eventbrite.com) to reserve free tickets. A thanks offering will be collected. For further information, call 07757 816 316. Contact: Mike Johnson <mike.johnson@talktalk.net>.

**CONFLICT – THE FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE.** Sunday, 20 November. Set in South London, this play portrays the lives of two women, their families, relations and friends as well as the various circumstances that they are faced with, and their attitude towards them. Through their stories the production portrays not only the difficulties they are faced with, but also shows an entertaining insight into gang culture, teenage violence, infidelity, jealousy, perseverance, trust, forgiveness and victory, as well as great humour, and razor sharp wit and all the drama associated with it. It will demonstrate biblical solutions to these issues. Premiers Sunday, 20 November @ 7:00 pm at the Broadway Theatre, Catford, London. Tickets: Box Office 0208 690 0002 or [www.broadwaytheatre.org.uk](http://www.broadwaytheatre.org.uk). Patron: The Jamaican High Commissioner to the UK, H E Anthony Johnson. Contact: Tre Young <taayoung@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07852002545.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS, BOOKS AND CRAFT FAIR.** Sunday, 20 November. Another of Pat's Sales at the Stanborough Park Church, 609 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JL. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Craft stalls, gifts and books. Proceeds go to the local Peace Hospital. Contact: Pat Walton <pwalton@ted-adventist.org>. Phone: 09123 672500.

DEACONS’ AND DEACONESS’S DAY AT PALMERS GREEN. Sabbath, 26 November. Come and join us for our annual Deacons' and Deaconesses' Day. Lunch will be provided. Venue: Palmers Green Methodist Church, 611-613 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, Palmers Green, London, N13 4EP starting at 10:00 am. Contact: Nevil Craig <mail@palmersgreensda.co.uk>. Phone: 07941367926.

MEDICAL MISSIONARY EVANGELISM. Saturday, 26 November. The 'Vision of Health Evangelism', The 'Impact & Value of Practical Natural Treatments', 26 November 5:00 – 6:45 pm, Wolverhampton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, Warwick Street, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV1 3SD. Tel: 01902 452778. http://wolverhampton-central.adventistchurch.org.uk. Medical Missionary, Dr Wynn Horsley is a practitioner of physical medicine and rehabilitation. He has practised his speciality using natural medicine for 18 years, running his own practice in Kentucky. Contact: Marcus Williams <mwilliams@unity7.co.uk>. Phone: 07905 073181.

SINGLES' EVENT – "MY LORD AND I: THE SINGLE LIFE". Sunday, 27 November. NEC Family and Singles Ministries department have organised a workshop for single adults. "My Lord and I: the single life – what next?" Come and join like-minded people at the Northampton Adventist Church, 74 Highland Avenue, Spinney Hill, Northampton, NN3 6BQ, for fellowship, discussions, a delicious meal and activities on Sunday, 27 November 2011 at 12:00 pm. For enquiries, to reserve your place and to join us for the meal (£4) please contact Julie Crossfield on crossfield12@btinternet.com or 07903223272 or Ursula Jeffers on ujeffers2000@yahoo.co.uk or 07984390120.

CREATION MINISTRIES SEMINARS. Sunday, 27 November. Creation Ministries are a Christian group that basically use Biblical and scientific evidence to disprove the theory of evolution, and confirm to the world that God created everything. Organised by: Edmonton Adventist church. Venue: 8 Hounds Field Road, Edmonton, N9 7RA (next to W M Preye Centre). Speaker: Phillip Bell. 16:00hrs to 17:00hrs (Battle for The Bible: The Genesis Factor). 18:00hrs to 19:00hrs (Dinosaurs, and Races). "Discover the REAL TRUTH about who made this world." Contact: Alex Nsimbi <nimbus111@me.com>. Phone: 07941537622.

NEW HOPE MEMORIAL GOSPEL CELEBRATION. Sunday, 27 November. A gospel fundraising concert in memory of Keisha Ferrgion. Sunday, 27 November at 6:30 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm) at the Mercure St Paul's Hotel, 119 Norfolk Street, Sheffield, S1 2JE. Artists include: New Direction Ministry Choral, Alicia Saddler, Sabrina Muir, Poetical Princess, Gospel Singers Inc, Lerato Nyathi, Isaiah Raymond Dyer, Janine Dyer, Israel J Allen, Lurine Cato and Monique Thomas. Tickets £10, under 5s free, money raised will go to PACT (Parents Association of Children with Tumours and Leukaemia) Helping Children with Cancer. For tickets call Sheffield CLC Bookshop: 0114 2724663, Bruce: 07515 884082, Andrew: 0113 3187261 or andrew@asframes.com, or Kellyann: 07956 037342. For more information call 07551510811 or email keishafoundation@live.co.uk.

JLS SPEECH NIGHT. Monday, 28 November. 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Gladesmore Community School, Crowland Road, London, N15 6EB (parking will be available). Theme: 'This Far by Faith'. The programme will start promptly, recognising, celebrating, and reflecting on the previous year's achievement of all our students' academic, social, spiritual and physical wellbeing. We believe that your presence would greatly enhance the event. The evening will involve presentations and speeches followed by light refreshments. Contact: Ms Hoilett <secretary@johnloughborough.haringey.sch/>. Phone: 020 8808 7837.
SPONSORED ROUGH SLEEPATHON. Saturday, 3 December. 'Sleep out of your comfort zone! Be a part of the sponsored rough Sleepathon'. Swap your comfortable bed for cardboxes, blankets or sleeping bags to take part in a sponsored sleep out. Bring your cardboard and whatever, find your place and sleep soundly! Join us as we spend a night under the stars to help families and the homeless enjoy hot meals this winter! A hot drink will be given before retiring and a free poor man's breakfast will be served. 2 locations: Edmonton Adventist church, Houndsfield Road, Edmonton, N9 & Holloway Adventist church, 381 Holloway Road, N7 ORN from 8:00 pm Saturday 3 December – 7/8:00 am Sunday 4 December. Fundraising target: a minimum of £150 per person towards the purchase of a mobile unit to enable volunteers to provide hot meals to families and the homeless and to encourage healthy eating. Sponsor forms are available via your Health Ministries and Community Services leaders. Contact: Natalie Simon <nsimon@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 0207 723 8146.

WEEK OF WELLNESS – MILTON KEYNES ADVENTIST CHURCH. Sunday, 4 December to Sunday, 11 December. Nyse Collins presents a Week of Wellness looking at improvements in our physical health. How we can reverse some lifestyle diseases? How to eat healthy and maintain our 'God's Plan diet'. All are invited. Lunch provided on Sabbath. Sunday cooking session on final day to teach us how to cook healthy meals. Contact: Yvonne Williams <williamsyvonne@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07863353753.

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SMALL ADS

CAN SATAN LOSE THE BATTLE TO DESTROY YOUR MARRIAGE? Have you felt the piercing pain of adultery, divorce and the shattering of pieces of your marriage or perhaps you just want to pray with other women for the protection of your marriage? Heal the Pain Ministry says "There is a balm in Gilead." Women in pain and all women wishing to say "no" to Satan's attack on our homes are invited to join us in prayer for deliverance, restoration, or healing the pain, by telephone conference praying on 08448 360 360 pin number 02 1962. Contact Chanda Mulenga for details and times on sengemu@googlemail.com.

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