NO MORE 'BUSINESS AS USUAL'

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NO MORE 'BUSINESS AS USUAL'  [BUC News with Cathy Boldeau]  Also a BUC News Video Report

There may have been over two hundred people, but there was only one thought. "We cannot go on with business as usual". Speaking from his heart, Dr Roy Adams, Associate Editor of the Adventist Review (retired), told delegates at the National Lay Bible Workers' Convention in Staverton that his dreams, hopes and aspirations looked beyond the baptismal figures, the board meeting decisions and the run of the mill working of the church to a time when the Church in the UK would not be growing by five thousand a year, but by thirty thousand or three hundred thousand. In the same way that the Church grew following the first Pentecost, he yearned to see the Good News spread to the 62 million population of the British Isles.

He was not alone. Pastor Louis Torres and his wife, Carol, gave stirring presentations based on their experiences in establishing and running the Mission College of Evangelism in the USA. In the opening presentation on Friday evening, 18 November, Carol shared how the first century Church grew from 120 to ten million is just seventy years – and all without the TV, internet or books – but with the power of the Holy Spirit.

However, the Convention did more than look back to the first century. Fourteen workshops over the Sabbath and Sunday shared a myriad of ideas on how to be a practical witness today.

One of the workshop sessions that was oversubscribed was 'How to use technology in Evangelism'. Delivered by Educational Consultant and church elder, Elder 'Danny' Snowden Reid, it was an interactive and informative session, with Danny sharing that "the church should be at the cutting edge of technology" and then giving guidance as to how the Lay Bible Worker can effectively use such technology in their work. Meeting just down the
corridor, BUC Communication director, Pastor Victor Hulbert packed in an hour-long presentation on how to use the 'Internet for Evangelism', intentionally using social media, websites, YouTube and even a hyperlink at the end of an email signature to share the Gospel.

With more youth at the Convention than in previous years, Pastor Nathan Stickland, BUC Youth director, engaged with them in 'How to give youth Bible studies'. Other workshops included 'How to read the Bible and pray with secular people', 'Helping someone make a decision for Christ', 'The sharper the tool, the deeper the dent!' and being 'Intentionally Active'.

Worship was an equally important part of the weekend, including the music ministry of Marsha Brooks and her team. Des Boldeau, pastor of the Willesden church, delivered a motivational Sabbath morning devotional entitled, 'Where are you and what are you doing here?' based on the story of Adam and Eve and the ministry of Elijah. The following morning, Pastor Des Rafferty brought to life Jesus' parable of the ten virgins in a very practical devotional, 'Dressed and nowhere to go'. But it was the breadth of deep, Biblical and historical knowledge, blended with wit and wisdom that captured the hearts of many delegates as Dr Adams led them through lessons from the Old Testament Sanctuary on Friday evening through to 'The quest for perfection in Adventist history' in his final Sunday presentation.

"If so much beauty exists in the world after so many thousands of years of degeneration and sin, how must it have been at the end of Genesis 1," he told delegates, emphasising his point with stunning pictures of God's creation from around the world. He then shared the practical and sometimes horrific lessons of the consequences of sin, the resultant sacrificial system and what that meant through the Old Testament period – and most especially what it meant in the death and resurrection of 'The Lamb of God', Jesus Christ. His Sunday review of 'perfection' had delegates on the edge of their seats and delving into their Bibles as he showed the very high standard the Bible holds for Christians and that the genuine Christian life is one of victory, not of defeat. However, he clearly demonstrated that in the Christian journey 'perfection' does not equate with 'sinlessness' but rather 'spiritual maturity, ripeness in spiritual understanding, completeness in response to God.' "If we claim to stand sinless then we have no need of a Saviour," he stated, whereas, in his view, Christian perfection resulted in us being filled more and more with the Saviour's presence."

Intense conversations in the dinner queues, during free time, and after meetings clearly demonstrated the delegates' passion for what they were learning. "This Convention is the highlight of my year," a member from London stated. "Bible work is the lifeblood of the church" added another from the North. They have now returned to their work, and to their churches, their learning now turning into a practical reality.

"In order for the evangelistic efforts of the Church to be fully realised, it is absolutely vital for the work of visitation and Bible Study to accompany it," states Convention organiser and BUC Personal Ministries director, Pastor Eglan Brooks. "With dedicated and concentrated groundwork, the Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland could really swell its numbers. This year, 213 people attended the National Lay Bible Workers' Convention and we hope to train and grow more Lay Bible Workers during 2012".
UGANDANS REJOICE AS MITCHAM LUGANDA CHURCH IS ORGANISED

Sabbath, 19 November was a milestone in the Ugandan Adventist community as Mitcham Luganda Seventh-day Adventist church became the first Ugandan church to be organised outside of Uganda.

What started as a church plant in 2005 with just a handful of Ugandans grew to what now is the official Mitcham Luganda church. The church plant was supported by the 'mother church', Mitcham Maranatha, and was intentionally started in an area of London with a high population of Ugandan nationals. "I am extremely happy today," expressed Pastor Harrison Mburuni. "This is a milestone for the Ugandan community" he continued, smiling. "The Mitcham Luganda church has already started to make an impact in the community through hospital visitation and outreach into the community of Ugandans – many with various faith affiliations."

Under the theme of 'That they may be one', Pastor Sam Davis, South England Conference President preached about unity. Having been given the gift of a Ugandan traditional outfit, Pastor and Mrs Davis changed for the service to honour the Ugandan community, addressing the congregation as an honorary Ugandan for the day. He reminded the congregation to set aside pride and differences, stating, "The church is equipped for service when we are united, only then can we be effective tools for the Lord and carry out our mission."

The Pathfinders marching, the Mitcham Choir adding their voices, and the outstanding greetings and welcomes from the ushers on duty set the tone for the celebratory service. Merryland Nakaggwe – one of the original core group, shared the history of the group and the perceived need to reach out to other Ugandans, many who had originally stopped attending church as they found language to be a barrier.

Acknowledging Pastor Davis' message on unity, the Luganda church services are translated into English. Along with a large group of East African brothers and sisters, the service was honoured to have several dignitaries attending, among them a representative for the Mitcham and Merton Council Hon Siebhan McDonagh; the UK's representative of the Bugandan King Owek, Joseph Nsambu Musisi; as well as representation from the Anglican Church and the Muslim community.

The Luganda church meets every Sabbath at Praise House, Corner of Norwich Rd & 21-23 Woodville Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 8YT.
CALL TO THINK DIFFERENTLY … THINK POSSIBILITIES  [BUC News/Miroslav Pujic, tedNEWS]

Year-end meetings for the eighty-nine delegates from the thirteen Unions and three attached Fields, which constitute the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Trans-European region (TED) focused strongly on the mission of the Church in Europe.

Dr Bertil Wiklander, TED President, says, "Due to the realignment voted by the General Conference our meeting was carefully planned to refocus the mission of the Church in Europe. The spiritual tone of the meetings, with prayer that flowed through the business sessions, beautiful music, excellent devotionals, and a wonderful group of committed Adventists made this meeting a delight to chair for me personally."

The theme of the meetings from 13 - 16 November in Becici, Montenegro was 'Revived by His Word: think differently … think possibilities.' In his keynote address Dr Wiklander stated, "The little Church family established in May 1863, was able to grow and spread itself to all countries in the world because they began to think differently and discover new possibilities."

Through the realignment recently voted by the General Conference, the TED is giving away its three Mission Fields – Israel, the Middle East and Pakistan, making it a genuinely European Division. As such, Wiklander states, "Before us is a fantastic opportunity: We are about to experience how the mission of God meets man without God, as Seventh-day Adventist Christianity penetrates contemporary Europe! We need to think differently, outside of the box. We need to think possibilities, that is, to see that the crisis our societies face is not just a challenge but an opportunity, in which we can experience miraculous interventions in partnership with God!"

"Christians in Europe have reached 360 people groups out of a total of 644," reported Pastor Raafat Kamal, TED Adventist Mission Office director, and continued "The 284 groups that remain are the challenge." Reports from individual Unions and Fields indicated the full commitment of the leaders, in mission outreach and evangelism. At the same time all of them recognised the challenges faced in postmodernism, secularism, materialism, traditionalism and a resistance to Christian beliefs. Each report pointed out the special role of the Church, namely that the Church is more than a social club, more than a group of men and women with common interests. Rather, it represents God's activity in the world and man's response to that activity with thanks and willing obedience.

In the past two years the TED granted support to several creative outreach approaches. Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, TED Evangelism director, reported that in Latvia a 'Baby School' provides educational programmes for families and training in early childhood education. Currently this doesn't exist in Latvia. Through this initiative we have seen a positive difference in the community. Our cooperation with social services has given social risk families the opportunity to attend baby school classes, special worship services organised for families with children, and outdoor excursions involving all participants.

'Messy Church' in England is another initiative for children that aims to reach out in the community and build families of faith through crafts/worship/food and fellowship. Programmes run once a month on Sabbath afternoons for two and a half hours. Over 50% of the attendees are community members with two to three new families coming every month. They aim to build on this very successful programme.

In Budapest, Hungary, 'MentO' (He Saves) – Mental Office aims to create a mental health centre with Christian therapists. It offers the opportunity to organise seminars in mental health and healthy
lifestyle. Many postmodern people living in Hungary suffer from serious mental problems. The Mental Office also went out to the Sziget Festival, one of the biggest Rock Festivals in Europe. They spent 10 days there, working 12 hours a day, mostly at night, where they offered counselling. They had more than 1,500 conversations.

In Reykjavik, Iceland, the 'Summer on the Sea Ministry' aims to encourage people to enjoy fellowship through Bible reading, music and prayer whilst sailing. About 250 participants enjoyed the spiritual journey along with the sailing. They continue keeping in touch with those who joined this adventure inviting them to the 'Bible in 3D' project which will start in February 2012 (see below).

Dr Miroslav Pujic, TED Communication, Media and Publishing director introduced a new initiative, The Great Hope Project, which was enthusiastically supported by the committee. This initiative aims to engage members and pastors in witnessing to make people disciples of Jesus Christ. "The purpose of this initiative is to bring hope into every home for today and for the future and to present the love and ultimate victory of God in the battle of good and evil" said Dr Pujic. He continued: "We want to connect with non-Adventist families, friends, neighbours, and colleagues at work in order to share with them the teachings of Jesus Christ and to invite them to follow Him." There are numerous resources which will provide support for this initiative including a website, a magazine, The Great Controversy book, animations and a movie based on the theme of The Great Controversy. The goal is to distribute 2 million pieces of literature and to engage 80% of active members in giving Bible studies.

Another new initiative is the 'Bible in 3D', a pilot project to reach postmodern people of Europe. "Postmoderns love stories, they would like to experience the supernatural and they would like to see the values of life upheld," states Pastor Kovacs-Biro. "For this reason we are setting up an exhibition in Harpa – the most famous building in Iceland – where we will present the story of the Bible (the story of Redemption) in nine sections. It will start with a culturally relevant approach reminding the Icelandic people that the survival of their nation and language is based on reading the Bible story during the evening family time. After entering into the booths with professional guides (pastors), the people will walk through the story of The Great Controversy – from Creation to Restoration."

The TED has begun to develop a new strategy for mission in Europe based on the concept of thinking differently … thinking possibilities. It is organised around the three concepts of the Tell-the-World initiative of the World Church, but these are defined with a view to the religious needs of postmodern and secular Europeans: Reach Up – talk to God, worship God, experience God. Reach Out – understand people, meet their needs, make disciples. Reach Across – revitalise, nurture, and empower communities of believers.

Dr Wiklander pointed out that a community focus is going to be very important in the work of the new TED and he described how the Church can positively impact society. Twenty-one specific actions and measurable targets have already been developed for the plan which will be reviewed and finalised in the next few months.

In his final remarks Dr Wiklander asked his audience to "look at our pioneers and compare what they had on 20 May 1863, when our Church was organised:

- 125 churches (new TED: 1,168)
- 3,500 baptised members (new TED: 82,000)
- 1:373,143 ratio of members to world population (SDA: 1:407; new TED: 1:2,470)
- $8,000 annual giving (new TED annual tithe $57,243,132; annual offerings $3,208,739)
- 30 employees (new TED: 603 pastors)
- No institutions (new TED: Newbold and other Union institutions)."

He then added: "God can do the same through us as He did with the young Seventh-day Adventist Church, if we long for Him as they did."
A complete report of the TED Year-End Meetings can be seen on the TED website along with a larger selection of photos.

NEWBOLD WOMEN COME TOGETHER  [Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, SEC Communication Director]

"It was an amazing and inspiring afternoon" stated Kari. She was among 160 women of all ages who gathered together at Newbold church on Sabbath 19 November in anticipation of a very special Women's Ministries event. The theme of the afternoon was 'This is my story this is my song', and the programme weaved stories, drama and songs together to connect the women of Newbold with each other.

It all started with a women's prayer group that has been running for the last six months. From that group grew a desire to arrange a forum where women could share their testimonies on how God brought them through sometimes extremely difficult circumstances to where they are today. Four women shared their stories including deep and challenging issues of abuse, abandonment, teen pregnancy and sexual abuse. It took courage for the brave women who stood forth and shared their journey.

Organiser Eileen Soriton Becejac commented, "along with my women's prayer group, I organized the gathering of women because we have a heart for the women in our church and knew that if we all connected with each other, we would then be able to achieve great things outside of church in God's name." Eileen believes she succeeded in that aim. "We saw women realizing that the church was a place where they could lean to for support and encouragement rather than be condemned and judged. The speakers themselves felt that God was working through them as they shared their stories as the songs in their hearts." Dana expressed her thanks to "those strong women that made a big change in all who listened to their testimonies!" "My heart was touched by the women who courageously shared their testimonies," said Jadana.

The testimonies were shared not to create sensation, but encouragement and hope. Anna, a ministerial student, established a prayer room where women sought reflection and prayed together.

To make sure as many women could attend, Eileen arranged for a crèche for children between 5 and 12 and even arranged lifts for those in need. The warm welcome, the authentic stories of restoration and friendship and even the goody bags at the end ensured that it was an unforgettable experience. The event was brought to a close by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist briefly sharing how Jesus reached out to women with His healing touch as seen in Luke 13:10. She concluded by reading Psalm 23 as a prayer. The hope of the prayer group is that more women's prayer groups will now emerge, as women of faith come together in support and prayer.

ADRA-UK BUILDING THE CAPACITY FOR WOMEN'S LITERACY  [Bert Smit. CEO ADRA-UK]

Imagine not being able to read! What impact would that have on your job prospects and being able to support your family? On 1 July 2011 ADRA Rwanda began implementing a new project focused on building the capacity of women in Rwanda. The Rwanda Eastern Province Capacity Building for Women's Literacy project is funded by the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) and ADRA-UK.
The project focuses on building the capacity of seven national civil society organisations to deliver Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) programmes to 16,800 adult learners (80% vulnerable people including widows, people living with HIV & Aids and rural women). This three year project (2011 – 2014) is being implemented in seven Districts of Rwanda's Eastern Province with the support of the Ministry of Education, Parliamentary Forum for Women, UNESCO, UNICEF, DFID, IRDP, Rwanda Women's Network, Pro-femme Twese Hamwe, Action Aid, ADEPER, African Evangelical Enterprise (AEE), ASOFERWA, Women's Ministry of Seventh-day Adventists (MIFEM) and the Catholic Education Council. The overall aim is to increase adult literacy rates to 90% by the year 2015.

In order to prepare the new project staff, ADRA-UK organized a start-up workshop in July that centred on reviewing what the project was planning to achieve and ensuring a full understanding of what needed to be done in order to accomplish the objectives of the project. The workshop was facilitated by Tom Pignon, ADRA-UK's Programmes Officer and supported by Howa Avan-Nomayo, ADRA-UK Programmes Team Leader.

The project is now fully underway with its implementation and is working with a consultant on the baseline to secure better results in the Eastern Province. Similar projects have been implemented in some sectors of Nyagatare and Karongi Districts and have already brought about positive change in the social, political and economic aspects of people's lives. It is hoped that this project will achieve similar results.

ADRA has been working in Rwanda for more than 30 years. During this period the agency has contributed to the development of the country by implementing activities in Education, Health, Food Security, Economic Empowerment and Relief and Disaster Management.

For more information visit the ADRA-UK website: <www.adra.org.uk>.

LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

'We need to wake up and look at the reality' is the lead headline in the 25 November edition of the MESSENGER, official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. The article challenges numbers, vision and mission in the British Isles, something Julian Hibbert then expands on in his editorial, 'October 31 reflections'. Also in this edition, Nurture looks at 'A child's Communion' and how to make the service inclusive. John Ferguson reflects 'On being vile', and the centre-spread takes you on 'An African adventure'. Available now online or this Sabbath at a church near you.

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 28 November, 8:30 pm. Organ Donation. A second opportunity to see this moving programme looking at the issues and the Christian ethics around organ donation, especially within the ethnic minority communities. Last Monday's programme, "The Christian and Personal Finance" is now available online.
'Adventists In Conversation', Thursday 1 December, 8:30 pm. Kidney transplant coordinator, Sonia Clarke-Swaby was awarded one of five Mary Seacole awards for her project to examine the attitudes of black and minority ethnic people towards organ donation. But Sonia's motivation for her life's work stems from an unhappy and lonely childhood and the untimely death of her father at a young age. This is a very personal story of past sadness turned into a future of hope.

On Hope TV you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and website including the following episodes of 'In Conversation':

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
Monday 28 November: 12:30 am and 9:30 pm: Roy Chisholm – Passion and Commitment
Wednesday 30 November: 8:00 am: Dr & Mrs Ncube – Shot in the head and left for dead,
8:30 pm: Victor Marshall – My life is a miracle, 12:00 midnight: Roy Chisholm
Friday 2 December: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: When is Violence Good? (Available online next week)
Sabbath 3 December: 12:30 am, 9:00 am & 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: When is Violence Good?

COMING EVENTS

DEACONS' AND DEACONESSES' 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 <m williams@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 Raymon 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.

DAY OF FELLOWSHIP – UNITED IN CHRIST. Sabbath, 3 December. Bringing together all the churches in the Milton Keynes District – Fishermead, West Bletchley, Wolverton, MK. Guest speaker, SEC President Pastor Sam Davis. Dynamic singing and music, special children's programme, Youth presentations, sumptuous catered food. Ample parking, come and be blessed! Venue: Milton Keynes Christian Centre, Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook, Milton Keynes, MK6 2TG. Time: 09:30 - 18:00. Contact: Pastor Augustus Lawrence <augustus.lawrence@gmail.com>. Phone: 07957 274246.

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 cardboard boxes, 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, 381Holloway 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.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH CONCERT 2011. Saturday, 10 December. The Hampstead Adventist Choral Society & Semi-Chorus invites you to an evening of the most awesome and wonderful oratorio ever written – George Frederick Handel's Messiah. Soloists include: Antonia Adellita Francis, Kay Smith & Chike Akwarandu. Accompanied by the Millennium Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Edison A A Weekes. The last performance of the Messiah by the HACS was back in 2000, before that Edison conducted the same work at Porchester Hall 30 years ago in 1981. This will be his last conducting assignment for the Messiah. Entry is free and refreshments are provided after the concert. Please feel free to invite your friends, relatives, work colleagues and whoever you wish. Venue: Hampstead Adventist church, 66 Haverstock Hill, London, NW3 2BE. Time: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Contact: Fiona D Pacquette <dwanell@googlemail.com>. Phone: 07746359839.

ANTHEMS OF PRAISE. Saturday, 10 December. Come and join us in concert at 'Anthems of Praise' – a night of Praise and Worship. All are welcome: musicians, artists, families, kids, community. Venue: Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX. Tickets are on sale. November £8, until 9 December £9, on the door £10. Doors open at 5:45 pm for a 6:30 pm start. If you need to make any inquires or require any information contact Morgan: 07983044175, or Francis: 07875994456. Email: <morganandfrancis@hotmail.co.uk>.
ELLEN G WHITE – AUTHOR OR PROPHETESS? THE EVIDENCE. Saturday, 10 December.

Some facts are beyond debate; Ellen White was born as Ellen Harmon on November 26, 1827 in Gorham Maine. She grew up to become a prolific author and an American Christian pioneer. She firmly believed in the seventh-day Sabbath, and with fellow believers formed what is now known as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Most Seventh-day Adventists believe Ellen White was a prophetess but she had many detractors and was surrounded by sceptics. Some believe she was nothing more than a storyteller or claim much of her work was plagiarised. So, what is the truth about Ellen G White? Carmel Greystone has undertaken deep research into one of the pillars of the Adventist Church. Agape Theatre Company will present the findings. Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, WC1 0AL, London starting 7:30 pm. Tickets and details at ellenwhitetheevidence.eventbrite.com. Contact: Agape Christian Theatre <mark@carmel-greystone.com>. Phone: 0800 112 3152.

JULIA'S WISH – FUNDRAISING CONCERT. Saturday, 10 December. A night of music on behalf of Julia's Wish – the charity started by the late Julia Smith. Your hosts for this fundraising concert will be the Chiswick Gospel Choir plus: By Faith Singers, A New Beginning, Chiswick Junior Gospel Choir, Leon Barclay, Paulette Prendergast and The Boldeau Brothers Steel Band. Venue: St Michael and All Angels Church, Bath Road, Chiswick, W4 1TT (just down the road from Chiswick church). Tickets: Adults £10, Concessions and Children 5-15 yrs £7, Family tickets (2 adults & 2 children) £25. For details on the charity, please go to http://juliaswish.org. Contact: Jose Morgan <choir@chiswicksda.org.uk>. Phone: 07432 655969.

BECKENHAM HOPE COMMUNITY ANNUAL BANQUET. Saturday, 10 December. Our annual fun filled event will be held at Kingswood House, Seeley Drive, Kingswood Estate, West Dulwich, SE21 8QR. The cost will be £25 per adult and £18 per child which will include a 3 course meal and drinks. More details will be announced soon. Contact: Rachel Gray <rachelgray78@mail.com>. Phone: 07957916662.

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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