Church can be a comfortable place – unless your name is Jeremiah. He discovered that if you are preaching an unpopular message, it can also be a place of persecution. Jeremiah's preaching placed such a heavy burden on his life that he wished he had not been born. His message was so hated that the high priest had him beaten up and the king cut his sermon up and burnt it even as he was reading it.

This was the somewhat scary devotional message presented by BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney at the start of business for the year-end Executive Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland on Thursday, 8 December 2011. It is not that Pastor Sweeney is wishing persecution on the Church – or on himself – but he noted that when called to 'preach the Word', that the message is not always popular. In his gentle way he then asserted that there is not much danger of persecution for Adventists as potential persecutors don't even know we exist!

That is an astonishing statement from the President of a Church that has grown to 32,682 members by 30 September 2011. "The Church must be out there preaching," Sweeney emphasised. "Many times the message will be well received. At other times there may be consequences. What is imperative is that the message must be shared."

That emphasis led right through a day of discussion that covered everything from Financial and Pension Plan Reports, to the Structure of the Board of Governors for Schools, to specific initiatives on Evangelism such as 'The Great Hope Project', 'Ten days of Prayer' and 'Mission to the Cities'. The initiative of World Church President, Elder Ted Wilson, these three programmes aim to make the name Adventist better known in the world – and to work as a catalyst to win people to Christ.
The BUC is fully supporting Operation Global Rain, or 'Ten days of Prayer', as a positive way to start 2012. Between 4 - 14 January, millions of Adventists around the world are signing up and being encouraged to spend one hour each day for prayer, praise and thanksgiving – though with the largest part of the time spent in prayer. For more details visit: <http://www.revivalandreformation.org/ogr-participate>.

Recognising that the largest number of our members live in the major cities of the British Isles, the committee also voted to support another World Church initiative, 'Mission to the Cities'. Over ten thousand Adventists live in the London area – yet even with that number the Church is really only making a minor impact on the lives of much of the population. More detail on this will be released shortly, but a major part of evangelism for 2012 and beyond, states Pastor Sweeney, is to encourage every single church and group in the British Isles to be positively and strategically involved in some active form of evangelism.

This may impact on the way the church conducts business, Sweeney stated, including our timekeeping, our culture, the whole way we worship. "Many churches are only open one day a week. How can we be a part of a community if we only open when we feel like it and close when we feel like it," he outlined, adding, "If Sainsbury's, HSBC and others have an opening time and see it as important … why not us?"

Another important part of outreach for 2012 will be the development of 'The Great Hope' project, allowing the positive message of The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan to penetrate in homes and lives in this country. Members are already being encouraged to read the book, "The Great Controversy" for themselves. Stocks of the book in a variety of formats are readily available at the Adventist Book Centre. Next September it is anticipated that a special fifty page magazine covering the themes of The Great Controversy will be made available for mass distribution. The magazine is designed for the modern mindset and will complement other, deeper study materials. An inspirational video outlining The Great Hope project is now available.

Evangelism is always a local initiative. North England Conference President, Pastor Cyril Sweeney emphasised that they wanted to see every congregation engaged. He is looking for "churches that are centres and are seen as places where everyone can come and feel at home." He stressed, "We may need to change some mindsets." Leadership training is continuing in Ireland, according to Mission President, Pastor David Neal, while in Wales, Mission President Pastor John Surridge is getting very excited about a free Bible programme that he has been promoting via Google Ads on the internet. Scotland is working towards a number of church plants and, according to their President, Pastor Bernie Holford, is training local people to be evangelists. SEC Treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh noted that there has been a huge change in demographics and in the type of outreach in his Conference. While much of it is still traditional outreach, there are many community projects as well. This will be emphasised even more as London 2012 approaches.

Even the annual budget was portrayed strongly in terms of evangelism with BUC Treasurer, Victor Pilmoor, breaking down the figures in easy to understand tables that demonstrated a wide breadth of evangelistic impact. Kwao Tetteh Abbequaye noted that "this signal is quite important for us: How do we use our budget to go and spread the Word?" A cautious budget was approved for 2012 with an anticipated tithe increase of 1 - 1.5%. There will be no annual salary increase for staff but it is anticipated that with the faithful generosity of members that the Mission of the Church can continue to increase.
While the committee had to deal with numerous other issues on the day, one thing was very clear in their minds, evangelism is the #1 item on the agenda.

**25 YEARS SINGING FOR PRISONERS**  [Erica Hole, Newbold College]

A serendipitous phone call has resulted in an Adventist led choir providing twenty-five years of service for the prisoners' charity, *New Bridge*. The phone call was from Eric McGraw, then director of the charity, asking if the Newbold College Choir could sing in a fundraising concert at The Guards Chapel in London. As the College students would be gone for their Christmas break, I suggested that he contact Gisela Winandy, the founder of Adventus Domini, to see if they would perform instead. With an unbroken stretch, Adventus Domini is still providing a concert in aid of New Bridge, this year helping raise £1250 to support their befriending service.

Adventus Domini is a choir made up of both Adventist and non-Adventist members from the Newbold community and other churches in the south of England. The choir is directed by Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett who has a most romantic tale to tell how through one of the concerts she met her husband, former guardian and Chapel Keeper of The Guards Chapel, Fred Barrett. The annual Christmas charity concert now takes place in St George's, Hanover Square in London, the magnificent 18th century church of George Frederick Handel.

Princess Alexandra, who is the patron of the New Bridge charity, attends the concert most years and greets all the musicians after the concert. To their surprise and pleasure, the Princess remembers the faces of those who have been regular performers in the concert.

This year on Thursday, 8 December the Adventus Domini Choir was joined by the Newbold Primary School Choir and a host of very talented instrumentalists and vocalists to provide a delightful evening of Christmas music. Dr Rigby-Barrett has the skill of combining beautiful musical contributions with very meaningful readings often specially written for the occasion, and read to the congregation by various celebrities. This year BBC radio presenter, JoAnne Good, read poems written by prison inmates expressing their struggle to find hope, their need of human contact and their very tentative reaching out for something better – "God, if I let you in, will you let me out?" The New Bridge charity's mission is to create links between the offender and the community. A former inmate testified to the congregation how human care and contact had changed his life and inspired him to train to be a probation officer.

As on so many of these evenings over the last 25 years, the church was packed, the congregation was thrilled, moved and blessed by the music and the thought-provoking readings. The joy of the musicians in performing was evident, the children's performance was delightful and some thought the twenty-fifth Adventus Domini Christmas charity concert was the best ever.

For more on the New Bridge Foundation visit their website: [http://www.newbridgefoundation.org.uk](http://www.newbridgefoundation.org.uk).

How do you bring the story of Seventh-day Adventist pioneer and co-founder, Ellen G White to a twenty-first century audience? For Mark Grey of Carmel-Greystone Productions the answer was clear: Use his lifetime of experience in the world of drama to highlight, entertain and raise discussion under the title, 'Storyteller or Prophetess'.

The Logan Hall Theatre, London, could have been fuller on Saturday, 10 December – a variety of other concerts competing for an audience – but for those in attendance the performance was passionate, humorous, enlightening and thought-provoking.

The drama, directed by Mark Grey, portrayed a down-to-earth Ellen White (played by Kae Corion) who was, as members of the audience commented, a pleasant contrast to the more traditional image they had created of her during their lives – causing some to re-evaluate the picture they have of her.

Playing her counterparts were Sammy Messiah, as James White, and Casimir Hector, as Joseph Bates. They played their characters well as honest men ready to agree to change if change was needed, yet always using scripture as their compass to lead them forward.

Mark Grey states that his motivation for the drama was the amount of debate about Ellen White both from within and outside the Adventist Church. He said, "Members are quite polarised in their views and often when they give their view it is not balanced and often one-sided…. I wanted to do a presentation that would at the very least stimulate a discussion and hopefully lead them to search deeper into the life of one of the founders of our faith and a pillar of the Church."

It was described as a delightful night and the discerning audience who attended enjoyed the programme and found themselves challenged. Pastor Sam Davis, President of the South England Conference, praised the drama commenting, "It was an excellent production that, if not for the busyness of the festive season, would have filled the auditorium." It is hoped that there will be a repeat performance in the New Year.

50 YEARS OF JOY FOR WATFORD CHILDREN [June Coombs]

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill's words certainly applied to the Annual Toy Service held at Stanborough Park church on Sabbath, 10 December. Despite the current economic climate or perhaps even because of it, organiser Pat Walton reported that there were more toys than ever this year, although there were not as many 'high value' toys as usual.

The service was founded in 1961 by Pat's father, the late Alf Kelly MBE, who was concerned that local children were missing out at Christmas because their parents were unable to afford presents for them. Alf started a tradition which this year celebrated its Golden Jubilee and is the longest running such event in the Adventist Church and the only surviving one in the Watford area.
To help celebrate this historic service, the Mayor of Watford was joined by the Chairman of Watford Borough Council along with several of her predecessors. They were joined by several of the church's previous senior ministers.

In her address the Mayor, Dorothy Thornhill, remarked that for her Christmas always begins with the church's Toy Service. She added that she considered the church to be a 'quality church' where 'everything was done to perfection'. This view was echoed by former mayor Tim Williams who was to be seen with his toddler daughter in the queue of children waiting to put their own gifts into the open sacks on the platform.

Pat gave a brief history of the Toy Service and was surprised to be on the receiving end of a small gift herself in recognition of the work she does for church outreach. Accepting the toys on behalf of the people of Watford, Council Chairman, Lindsey Scudder, commended her for taking up her father's baton and 'doing it so successfully'.

In his address church minister, Pastor Paul Clee, spoke on the topic of giving, a message which, judging by the large display of toys around the church, his congregation had already taken on board! After the service the special visitors remained for a meal and all spoke glowingly of how much they enjoyed the day.

START THE YEAR WITH PRAYER

While many families are still gearing up for the festive season, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is looking more distinctly to the needs of 2012 and is calling for all members to specifically set aside ten days for prayer at the beginning of the New Year. BUC Church Growth director, Pastor Eglan Brooks states, "This year is quickly fading into your past. 2012 is an open book filled with glorious opportunities to serve the God we love. I want you to join with me and the BUC in spending 2012 in celebration for all that God has graciously done for us. Let this year be a year where we give back to the Lord a joyful service as we celebrate what He has done and continues to do for us. For His goodness to us, we should joyfully work to tell others of His awesome love."

How we 'give back' will be the focus of a special ten days entitled, 'Operation Global Rain', 4 - 14 January 2012 when Adventists across the world will be praying together. Within the UK and Ireland, BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, is specifically asking members "to devote their personal devotion time to praying for those persons whom they know who have not accepted Christ." He says, "I am also asking that the church members pray for their pastors, church boards and churches." There will be more information and suggestions in next week's BUC News – along with a video interview with Pastor Sweeney. However, to help you prepare to participate in 'Operation Global Rain' the BUC has set up a dedicated webpage at <http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/globalrain>. Many churches do spend special time in prayer and dedication at the beginning of a New Year. Global Rain is a simple initiative that can help enhance that experience.
"Over 40% of cancers due to lifestyle" was the caption of a BBC Health News report on 7 December 2011. The report by Michelle Roberts stated: "Nearly half of cancers diagnosed in the UK each year – over 130,000 in total – are caused by avoidable life choices including smoking, drinking and eating the wrong things...."

Based on a report from the Cancer Research UK (April 2011) it revealed tobacco as the major cancer culprit, causing 23% of cases in men and 15.6% in women. Next were two key aspects – food and weight. For men the lack of fresh fruit and vegetables in their diet increased cancer rates, while for women being overweight increased the risk.

Lead study author Prof Max Parkin said: "Many people believe cancer is down to fate or ‘in the genes’ and that it is the luck of the draw whether they get it." However he adds, "Looking at all the evidence, it's clear that around 40% of all cancers are caused by things we mostly have the power to change." This fits in well with the health lifestyle promoted by the Adventist Church for over a century.

Earlier this year the National Cancer Action Team (NACT) approached the British Union Conference Health Ministries department inviting them to participate in their national work in order to better understand some of the key lifestyle factors which impact the delivery and uptake of their services to people with cancer. They were particularly interested in religious and cultural practices. This included the experiences of Adventists who had cancer, their family and church support were also sought.

The Health Ministries department was invited to the launch of their ‘Cancer Does Not Discriminate’ campaign at the House of Commons on 7 December 2011. Chaired by David Lammy, MP for Tottenham, this was a targeted campaign aimed at increasing the awareness of the early signs of cancer in black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. It was also an opportunity to hear the early findings from the NCAT’s qualitative follow-up to their 'culturally sensitive cancer services trust audit'.

Grace Walsh, NEC Health Ministries director, attended the event, and stated that she was pleased to hear some of the messages common to Adventists. "Professor Mike Richards emphasised the importance of lifestyle changes and Diane Abbott MP said the same thing which lends itself nicely to our Health Message in NEWSTART." This has given new opportunities to work with professionals and the media.

If you would like to be involved in the Cancer Awareness work that we will be further developing in 2012 please ring the BUC on 01923 672251 and register your interest with the Health Ministries department.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS AND THE HOMEOWNERS [Angela Hunter]

On the weekend of 10 and 11 December Edmonton Central, Edmonton, Harringay, Tottenham, Wood Green and Hampstead churches, again found themselves feeding the residents of Harringay when they congregated to distribute literature on Sabbath in addition to selling produce on Sunday.

Bracing themselves for plummeting winter temperatures, the warmly dressed volunteers arrived at Harringay church at 8:00 am on Sabbath to affix church address labels onto books and...
magazines before setting up and dressing their stalls prepared by event organisers just two roads away. The church had been invited to participate in this smaller new format winter festival on the strength of the success of the Summer Harringay Food Festival held in September.

The church volunteers were delighted to take up the invitation to witness to the residents. Sabbath and Sunday we offered spiritual food in the form of religious literature, health and lifestyle choices and children's books, then on Sunday adding healthy foods for sale in the form of vegan soups, fresh juices and smoothies together with winter clothes.

The crowd was mainly middle class homeowners and families with young children drawn by the allure of an ice rink set up in the school playground. Both young and old were interested in our stalls, even our fellow stall competitors came along to have a browse. The atmosphere was warm, jovial and inviting by singing seasonal hymns, playing spiritual music to the passers-by and showing The Cosmic Conflict and Final Events DVDs on our projector screen.

At the end of the two day event, in the final trading hours we sold off our produce and donated the leftovers to a church situated 50 metres away who daily operate a night shelter and soup kitchen for refugees, asylum seekers and the homeless.

The proceeds of our sale will be donated to the SEC Health and Community Ministries department to go towards the purchase of a mobile unit. For further details and to make a donation please contact Sis Elsie Staple at the SEC Office, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts, or email estaple@secadventist.org.uk.

[Photos: Frank McKenzie-Cook]

**BUC HOSTS TED/GC CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES ADVISORY** [Heather Haworth, BUC Children's Ministries Director]

Dr Linda Koh, Children's Ministries director from Adventist World Church Headquarters in Washington DC, was guest speaker at the Trans-European Division Children's Ministries Advisory, 21-25 November at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire. The TED hosts these meetings once every five years, providing training, sharing resources and listening to reports of how God is touching the lives of the children.

Dr Koh contributed many resources, including an annual Bible Reading Guide and Sharing the Good News bookmark. The BUC Children's Ministries director, Heather Haworth emphasised the value of such materials as 'Tell a Child', 'Tell the World Leader's Manual' (already adopted by the North American Division and on their website). Also freely shared were the latest training materials on 'Keeping the Church Family Safe', the 'Core Skills training course' along with the three leaflets on nurturing a child's faith. These leaflets will help to form a GC resource pack.

Mrs Clair Sanches, TED Children's Ministries director, shared her vast experience from working in Children's Ministries in the Netherlands Union. Her four prayer boxes, CD and memory stick of resources, DVD of Messy Church (filmed at Stanborough Park church and introduced to the group by Judy McKie), samples of a future teen Bible study series by Team Twente NL, as well as the Dutch Bible food stories, were all received as beneficial materials. Clair had also invited, from the NEC, Mrs Grace Walsh to demonstrate a Children's Health Expo.
Future plans were shared and a discussion also took place on such challenging topics as 'Children and Communion'.

In thanking the 25 who attended, Dr Koh commented "I am taking with me ideas and resources that will enrich the World Church."

**ADVENTISTS RESPOND TO 'CIVIL PARTNERSHIP' CONSULTATION**

With a motion on civil partnerships being discussed in the House of Lords on Thursday, 15 December, and with the Scottish Government asking for input on a proposal to allow civil partnerships to take place on religious premises, it is important for the Church to take a stand. Pastor Bernie Holford, Scottish Mission President, worked in consultation with the Religious Liberty department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Communication department and the Conference and Mission Presidents to submit a document to the Scottish Government highlighting that while Adventists value the right of everyone to be respected and valued, and that while Jesus and the scriptures demand genuine love for all, that nevertheless the scriptures offer clear teaching on the definition of marriage as a lifelong union of a man and woman.

As well as outlining the principled Adventist belief on marriage, the document made two strong points, asking the Scottish Government not to change the legal definition of 'marriage' as a lifelong union between a man and woman, recognising that civil partnerships already offer the legal privileges of marriage to gay couples without compromising the traditional understanding of marriage.

More significantly, the Church expressed the concern that while the current consultation states that the government will ensure that "religious organisations and celebrants do not have to register civil partnerships against their will", that this can nevertheless be the start of a process that may be changed in the future. This could then cause a potential clash between genuinely held religious belief and the dictates of legislation.

Baroness O'Cathain is leading the debate in the House of Lords and expressed her thanks for the statement writing, "It was a great help to me in expanding my knowledge of the particular points that have been endorsed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

An Adventist Statement on Homosexuality was voted during the Annual Council of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committee on Sunday, 3 October 1999 and is available on the [World Church website](#).

**ADVENTISTS, WORLD & COMMUNITY**

A 4 November BUC News report focusing on Adventists reaching out to the majority populations of the British Isles has caught the interest of the World Church with the article being reprinted in [Adventist Review](#) and, more recently, being highlighted by an in-depth interview with Pastor Ian Sweeney on the Adventist News Network under the headline, "Where did London's majority white church population go?" When asked, "How are you going to integrate faith and prayer into an action plan?" BUC President, Pastor Sweeney replied, "Jeremiah cried for the people, cried over Jerusalem. The one thing we as Adventists are not seen to do well, when last have we cried..."
over the lost? And I ask that starting with myself. We cry for money, for jobs, for this, for that, but what [Jeremiah] was doing was crying for the people who have been lost. One of the things we're emphasizing for 2012 is that if you're not crying in prayer for the lost, you're certainly not going to be interested in seeing them saved and working for their salvation." Pastor Sweeney is also grateful to the many and thoughtful submissions to the blog he has started on the same subject. All the points there are being taken into consideration.

Locally, Adventists are also in the news with a Newbold College report supporting a charity in Ethiopia making it into the Bracknell Forest Standard, and the Stanborough Park church Golden Jubilee Toy Service being highlighted in the Watford Observer.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE

Please note that the BUC, Conference and Mission offices will be closed from noon on Friday, 23 December reopening on Tuesday, 3 January 2012. Next week will see our last BUC News for 2011. As usual, please ensure you submit articles by 6:00 pm Wednesday.

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 19 December, 8:30 pm. 'Technology. Is it killing us?' Can we live without glancing at a Smartphone, having constant music in our ears or following a celebrity's tweets? With new products to tempt my pocket with every passing day – is technology a good or a bad thing – or good but gone too far. While Rosemarie Plimmer claims social networking is anything but social, three 'gadget men' defend their positions – and highlight their concerns. [Also, last Monday's stimulating debate, What Is Truth? is now available to watch or download online.]

'Aventists In Conversation', Thursday 22 December, 8:30 pm. **Sophia Nicholls**: How do you take feelings of disappointment, anger and despair and turn them into a force for good? Since the birth of her disabled son, Sophia Nicholls has experienced first-hand how negative beginnings can be the start of something positive. With the support of her husband she now runs a special needs charity which aims to provide help and support to disabled people and their families. Sophia will also return on Boxing Day, 26 December at 8:30 pm to share her views on Christmas, living in a special needs family.

On Hope TV you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and website including, during the next two weeks, a special festive flavour pointing people towards the wonder of 'God become man' in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Enjoy the following UK produced programmes:

Friday 16 December: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: God in a Cruel World
Sabbath 17 December: 12:30 am, 9:00 am & 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: God in a Cruel World
Wednesday 21 December: 8:00 am: **David Swain** – Volunteering can be dangerous,
12:00 midnight: **Daren Bullock** – International Children's Care
Friday 23 December: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: The many faces of Christmas
Sabbath 24 December: 12:30 am, 9:00 am & 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: The many faces of Christmas

ERRATUM

Last week's report on 'Is Christmas Christian?' wrongly mixed the Festival of Hanukkah (or Festival of Lights) with the Festival of Tabernacles. It is the Festival of Tabernacles, as correctly stated in the programme, where tree branches were used as part of the celebration.

COMING EVENTS

ZIMBABWE DAY OF FELLOWSHIP. Sabbath, 17 December. ZUSDAF brings you Zimbabwe Day of Fellowship in Derby. Dynamic preaching from Pastor Felix Njini, music from various artists, Youth and Children's programmes. Address: The Riverside Centre, Riverside Court, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8HY. http://www.theriversidecentre.co.uk/contact Contact: Andrew Sibanda <andrewmtshangana@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07737611479.

CHILDREN IN PRAISE. Sabbath, 17 December with Croydon Adventist Children's Church. Come and see our children lift up Jesus through songs, testimony and reading of the Word of God. Address: 95 Selhurst Road, South Norwood, London, SE25 6LH. Phone: 020 8771 3147. Contact: Andrew Newby <childrenschurch@croydonadventist.org>. Phone: 07949220307.

CLAPTON CHRISTMAS CONCERT. Saturday, 17 December. Come celebrate the birth of Jesus with a night of carol singing. Time: 4:30 - 7:00 pm. Acts on the night: Prosperity, Three Angels, Ambassadors, Bertram Patrice, Errington, Higgins, Angella & Kandy, Rema & Donette, and more. A free will offering will be collected in aid of the church's Restoration Programme. Venue: Clapton Community Church, St Paul's Church, Chelmer Road, E9 6AY. Contact: Yvonne Baker <whybaker@gmail.com>. Phone: 07956 238 939.

SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS. Saturday, 17 December. A King is Born! Join us at West Bromwich Town Hall, (B70 8DT) for this grand Christmas Concert. A free will offering will be collected to cover expenses, so plan to come and bring friends. Doors open at 6:15 pm. Contact: Wilfred Masih <drsinclair@necadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 07985390007.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING EVENING. Saturday, 17 December at Birmingham Fellowship church starting from 6:30 pm. Come and sing-a-long with the saints in this programme that will feature some of the greatest hymns and songs played live as the audience joins in the singing. If you have reason to thank God for seeing you thru 2011, you have every reason to come and share and give thanks to the Holy One! The programme will take place at Elmwood Reformed Church, Hamstead Hill, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1BU. Further details please contact Bro Tom, the music coordinator on 07737862384 or email dombokat@yahoo.com.

'MOTHERLAND' EDEN – THE STORY OF THE SLAVE TRADE. Saturday, 17 December at 7:00 pm. Come and see an epic performance of Motherland, The story of the slave trade – music, singing, drama and mime. Presented and seen through the eyes of the students from the Eden Independent Seventh-day Adventist school. Askew Road Methodist Church, Askew Road, Shepherds Bush, W12 9RN. Tel: 0208 423 74 55 / 0776 075 15 84 / 0773 486 79 02. Email: info@theedenschool.com. Tickets: Adult £12; Child/Concessions £7.

GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT. Saturday, 17 December. You are cordially invited to come and enjoy this evening of inspirational and soulful music. Featuring Tottenham Gospel Choir and special guests Testify, Jordan Taylor and Justified. This is a free event although a goodwill offering will be made. Get free tickets at: http://tottenhamgospelmusicconcert.eventbright.co.uk. Contact: Diane Apeah-Kubi <dianeapeahkubi@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07939 626 735.
CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING SERVICE. Sunday, 18 December, 2 - 6 pm. Bring your Christmas gifts to be attractively wrapped for you in the Cedar/Sycamore Rooms at Stanborough Park Church, 609 St Albans Rd, Watford WD25 9JL. Charitable donations will be expected. Light refreshments will be on sale and a warm welcome awaits you whilst you have your gifts wrapped. Contact: Pat Walton <walton@groats.co.uk>. Phone: 01923 672500.

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS THE TRUTH. Sunday, 18 December. Palmers Green church presents "All I want For Christmas Is The Truth", a spectacular play based on a little girl's desire to know the truth about heaven. Good music plus free drinks, and light refreshments. Venue: Winchmore Hill Methodist Church Hall, 611-613 Green Lanes, Palmers Green, London, N13 4EP. Time: 4-6.30 pm. Doors open at 3.45 pm. Nearest Station: Palmers Green. Buses: 121, 329, W6. Adults £3, Children £1.50. For further info contact 07950 387764 or email psmholness@yahoo.com. All funds raised are in aid of the Palmers Green Church Building Fund. Contact: Pastor Holness <psmholness@yahoo.com>. Phone: 07950387764.

CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT. Sunday, 18 December, 7:00pm. Gloucester Adventist church will be hosting a Classical Christmas Concert in aid of REACH UK. Tickets: £6.00; children £3.00(4-15yrs), including light refreshments. The concert will be given by two sisters from Latvia, Ulanta Gaille (violinist) and Elina Gaille (piano), and will include classical and seasonal music and singing. All are welcome. Tickets can be purchased on the door or in advance from Robert Hinds (01594 516 320) or Elvira Pearson (01454260198). For more details please contact Robert or Elvira. Email <robert.hinds40@btinternet.com>.

PRAYER RETREAT. Friday, 23 December to Tuesday, 27 December. This event has the backing of the North England Conference and the British Union Conference. Venue: Quinta Christian Centre, Quinta Hall, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7LR. Dates: Check in – 3:00 pm Friday 23 December. Check out – 3:00 pm Tuesday 27 December. Theme: 'Revival and Reformation Today'. Guest Speakers: Pastor Felix and Mrs Dambudzo Njini and others. Programme: Sacred Music, Fellowship, Sanctuary and Prophecy Lessons, Prayer Sessions. RSVP and Registration: Mr Noel Chitate 07970181973 or 01212417846. Contact: Noel <nochitate@yahoo.co.uk>.

GREENWICH PATHFINDER CLUB FUNDRAISING CONCERT. Saturday, 24 December 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Pathfinder Club Fundraising Concert at Greenwich Adventist Church, Devonshire Drive, London, SE10 8JZ. Come and see Greenwich Pathfinders, Adventurers and friends in action. Food and drinks on sale. A special offering will be collected. Contact: Dorothy Blenman <greenwichchurchclerk@yahoo.com>. Phone: 07572679388.

CHILDREN'S BANQUET. Monday, 26 December. Croydon Adventist Church Children's Ministries presents a Banquet entitled "Disney in Wonderland". Come and enjoy good food, entertainment and laughter all done by our children. Cost: £5 per child. Discounts for parents with more than 3 children. Please contact Bro Augustus 07588272967. Contact: Andrew Newby <childrenschurch@croydonadventist.org>. Phone: 07949220307.

SEC EVANGELISM EXPO. Sunday, 15 January. Pastors and members from all South England Conference churches are invited to this special ONE DAY ONLY training event at Newbold College, St Mark's Road, Binfield, Berks, RG42 4AN. Great choice of materials and ideas to explore and purchase! Contact: Ruth Stewart <rstewart@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 232728.

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SMALL ADS

LOOKING FOR AN AU-PAIR IN SWITZERLAND for our 8-month-old daughter starting in April 2012 or July at the latest. For more information please contact annett.christ@gmx.de.

BOOK NEEDED. I'd like to borrow or buy 'Radical disciples for revolutionary churches' by Russell Burrill. Can anyone help please? Thanks! Please contact Mike Lewis at mike@scotmagic.co.uk.

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