BUSINESS LEADERS & PROFESSIONALS RESPOND TO MISSION

Advice from the ASI-UK Convention: 'Venture on an outreach mission, just don't expect it to be easy! You'll face challenges, but don't give up. Just keep going.... Your job, wherever you are? Keep fishing... Let God judge the success of the catch!'

These insights came in response to the theme: 'How do you evangelise a secular country?' With 120 people attending Staverton Park during the weekend, 10 - 12 February 2012, the convention welcomed board directors, medical and finance professionals, self-employed, educators, entrepreneurs, independent ministries, students, families, the retired and local church leaders. "It's wonderful we had so many full weekend delegates!" said Christine Manners-Smith, ASI Committee Secretary.

The Friday night devotion by BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, gave delegates their first challenge: How do we gauge 'mission success'? If it's just about the numbers, then is Noah seen as a 'failure' or rather a powerful witness of a consistent life that matched a loving judgement message?

Jim Cunningham, a retired Headteacher and ASI-UK President, set out the aims in his welcome. Defining the "indigenous population" as, "the many generations of both black and white peoples who make up our diverse population in Great Britain," he noted that "over the years, our young people often choose to walk away from the church. We must reclaim and find ways to avoid this loss being repeated in new immigrant communities."

This was not just a talking shop but a weekend that developed wider, practical aims for ASI. Formal strategy during sessions, and informal discussions during the gala dinner and other mealtimes challenged and inspired Church leaders to radically new ways of thinking. Indeed, the presence of Church leaders at Union and Conference level
demonstrated the importance and interest in the new strategies. However, the inspiration for Newbold Business lecturer, John Crissey was that it "Reinforced in my mind the tremendous commitment by the laity to the success of the Church."

Two papers were presented: Jim Cunningham offered a landscape for outreach to a secular nation, while Pastor Julian Hibbert, MESSENGER Editor, outlined the strategic approach of the apostles as a way of responding to this challenge. Coleen Lewis responded that this created "healthy feedback and a sense of going somewhere with purpose in reaching out in our church and the community."

The convention was filled with singing – whether led by the enthusiastic stylings of Rob Pearce, guitarist Charlotte Bramble or the house praise team. Delegates also heard inspiring testimonies including one-to-one and group-led ministry that was seeing results: impacting the life of the homeless for Christ in South Africa (Julian Hibbert), providing a welcoming and sensitive service to the unchurched in Leamington (Rob Pearce), creating an alternative service aimed at member reclamation (David Burgess), door to door evangelism (Adam Ramdin, PEACE) and two internet-based evangelism projects (Pastor John Surridge and youth-led team 'The Preaching Place').

Charlotte Bramble, a student member of ASI stated, "I have been encouraged that God wants me to use my gifts in His service even more than I currently am. I've also been challenged to be more open-minded about the next step in my career path that God may want me to take."

The highlight of the convention was a five-person panel session led by investment fund manager and author, Herta von Stiegel, Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC President Pastor Cyril Sweeney, SEC Music director Paul Lee and business owner Brian Davison. With very lively debate, moderated by Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication and Media director, the panel session was punctuated with anecdote, laughter and strategic insight, including how to find the balance between ministering to people's needs and sharing 'the truth' with them; the relationship between vibrancy of worship and church attendance; the decline in church emphasis on temperance as a form of mission, and suggestions on how to reach out to the larger population of the British Isles.

Paul Lee came simply to help with the sound system but found his life challenged and changed. "From the example of simple but effective love and change brought to just one life as demonstrated in Pastor Hibbert's sermon to Rob Pearce's example of newspapers spread out on the floor detailing current issue topics which could be used for initiating conversation and becoming a witnessing opportunity; and from Jim Cunningham's presentation to Pastor Sweeney's desire to lead people to baptism, maybe for the first time in a number of years I wasn't just sitting behind a desk undertaking my roles for the SEC or singing in a concert or appearing on television. No, I was challenged to recognise what I do when no-one is looking! What is my purpose on this earth and can I afford to let one-on-one opportunities pass me by?"
Former ASI president, Audrey Balderstone, is excited. "It has taken a long time for ASI to get to this point and it is up to each one of us to give to the leadership all the support and encouragement we can so that what has begun this weekend will be carried forward by the leading of God's Spirit."

"What has begun" will be refined shortly in an ASI board meeting, but in the Sunday morning strategic planning discussion members looked at how to be the yeast in our local communities, how to support and mentor various outreach projects, and how to help the church raise its profile in the local and national community.

For more about ASI-UK, visit the website or email the ASI Secretary, Christine Manners-Smith, manners_smith@yahoo.com. For pictures and video from the event visit the BUC picture gallery.

VALENTINE CUPCAKE WITNESS  [Katie Ramharacksingh]

What students will do for food! Hayley McKenzie-Sealy and Sharon Mensah, of Brighton and Hove Seventh-day Adventist church, chose Valentine's Day to launch their 'With Love Ministries' with a Cupcake Giveaway. "The world has become such a sceptical place that people don't believe you want to give them something for free!" exclaimed Hayley. Eventually, people stopped resisting and came over to the team who gifted over 450 cupcakes to unsuspecting students and lecturers at the heart of Sussex University.

With each cupcake, the team handed out leaflets that detailed why they were giving the cakes away. They likened the small, free and edible gift to that of the best, free gift we could ever receive – God's love. The ladies were encouraged when people started giving them hugs. Sharon commented, "People were so grateful and also interested to know why we were doing it. This gave us an opening to talk about our association with the Adventist Church and gave them an opening to ask us about our faith."

The Cupcake Giveaway was the first event from 'With Love Ministries'. They plan on doing much more over the coming months. "We want to do health checks, help the homeless, and interact with the students," enthuses Hayley. "We basically want to show how, with love, we can make an impact."

70 YEARS AND COUNTING....  [Helen Pearson]

Newbold Primary School celebrated its 70th birthday in fine style on Saturday night, 11 February with a varied concert organised by the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association. The audience almost filling Newbold Church Centre were entertained by the school choir and the school band, a string quartet along with mime, poetry, songs and reminiscences from past and present students, teachers and parents. There were a number of guests of honour for the occasion. Former heads Mrs Verna (Houston) Anderson, Mrs Vicky (Sharp) Chilvers, Mrs Pat Eastwood and Mrs Margaret Wastling. Former students Mrs Joan (Raitt) Maxwell and Mr Llew Meredith, both of whom attended the school in its first decade sat on the front row with Mrs Maureen (Pink) Lucas who attended the school in the late 1940s when she lived in Bracknell. "I can't tell you how delighted I am to be in touch with Newbold School again and to be here tonight," said Mrs Lucas, who now lives in Wokingham.
Mrs Vicky Chilvers, herself a former student of Newbold School, has done two stints as headteacher 2005-2006, then 2007-2008 and is well-qualified to describe its spirit. "Newbold School is a place where children have always been taught two important truths: 'that Jesus loves them and they can have confidence in their own abilities,'" she said. The concert concluded with a collection which has raised over £600 so far. A spirited rendition of 'This Little Light of Mine' followed in which both performers and audience participated and the children waved glow sticks.

Displays of pictures on screens and noticeboards covering the seven decades of the school's history attracted excited attention and there was plenty of opportunity to compare the sophisticated images of former students now grown up with their schoolchild selves!

After the concert, parents and former students and staff queued up to sign the visitors' book and to film their personal tributes to Newbold School. Meanwhile, the PTFA seemed to have prepared sandwiches, cakes and drinks to feed the audience for a week in the church cafe area. Nobody could possibly have gone home hungry!

Newbold School was founded with a vision for well-rounded Christian education which has lasted 70 years thanks to serious and consistent support from people who shared that vision. If the school is to continue to shine in and for the children of the 21st century, it will need more of the same. Many Happy Returns Newbold School!

If you wish to support Newbold School, or have memories of your own time there, send your contributions to Mrs Ruth Ohman, Headteacher, Newbold School, Popeswood Road, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 4AH.

MILITANT SECULARISATION THREAT TO RELIGION

Religion is being "sidelined, marginalised and downgraded in the public sphere..." is a message that Baroness Warsi, a Conservative Cabinet Office minister shared on a visit to the Vatican this week and then shared with a wider public.

She argues that "Britain is under threat from a rising tide of 'militant secularisation,'" she wrote in an article for the Daily Telegraph. In the article she stated, "I profoundly believe that faith has a vital and important role to play in modern society. But mistakenly, faith has been neglected, undermined – and yes, even attacked – by governments in recent years."

Her stand has been equally trumped by Oxford professor, Professor Roger Trigg, a leading figure in the University's philosophy and theology faculties, who states that courts in the West are putting equality issues before the right to religious freedom. The Christian Institute quotes him as saying, "In recent years there has been a clear trend for courts in Europe and North America to prioritise equality
and non-discrimination above religion, placing the right to religious freedom in danger. No State can be a functioning democracy unless it allows its citizens to manifest their beliefs about what is most important in life. I am calling for these rights to be balanced."

He made the claim after studying recent cases in the UK, USA, Canada and mainland Europe.

Meanwhile the Prime Minister, David Cameron, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, have both backed prayers in the Commons despite last week's controversial ruling on local council prayers. Last Friday, 10 February, a judge in the High Court ruled that the saying of prayers as a 'formal' part of local council meetings was unlawful. This was following a case brought by the National Secular Society against Bideford Town Council in Devon which has, recently, twice voted in support of continuing with the prayers.

The BBC News religious affairs correspondent, Robert Pigott comments that "By and large, judges have been unsympathetic to the Christian case when people have argued that they don't want to do things like advising homosexual couples." He adds, "The tide has been flowing pretty firmly against Christianity in public life and it's caused huge concerns for the churches. They say it's being driven out of public life."

This was highlighted on BBC Radio 4's 'Today programme' on Wednesday 16 January, when secularist, Richard Dawkins challenged that Christianity is a much smaller influence on national life then people imagine and that even those who 'tick the Christian box' often do so for social more than religious reasons. The Christian corner was robustly defended by Reverend Giles Fraser, former Canon Chancellor of St Paul's, who called Dawkins' findings "extraordinary" and maintained that it was not fair to trump people's "self-identification" as Christians. Listeners were also mildly amused to find Dawkins, a militant atheist, stating "O God" under his breath when asked to give the full title of 'The Origin of Species' as part of his defence.

"There is a God shaped hole in all of us," states Pastor Ian Sweeney, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles, "sometimes we just don't recognise that it is there." At a recent convention of Adventist business professionals he accepted the challenge that Adventists need to play a larger part in public life and that as a Church we have a significant voice and important point of view that should help influence the moral compass for a modern Britain.

NEWBOLD COLLEGE JOINS TWO INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS  [tedNEWS/BUC News]

Newbold College is now an international member of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). This is an association of 600+ small and mid-sized private liberal arts colleges and universities in and outside the United States. "I am delighted to welcome Newbold College of Higher Education into the Council of Independent Colleges membership. My colleagues and I look forward to working with you," advised Richard Ekman, President, CIC.

"It is good that we have been approved for membership in the CIC," said Dr Philip Brown, Principal, Newbold College. "As a member of this association we will share common attributes with other members such as our dedication to teaching, purposefulness about moral and civic values, small class sizes, close partnerships between the campus and its surrounding community, and governing structures that are not part of government," Dr Brown added.
Dr Brown suggested that joining the CIC was appropriate for Newbold College at this time, particularly given that the Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) Board of Directors voted recently (late October 2011) to welcome the College as an affiliate member of Adventist Colleges Abroad, a consortium of Adventist colleges and universities in the North American Division. "Most of our Adventist colleges and universities in the US are members of the CIC," Dr Brown confirmed.

In addition, Newbold College is now an international affiliate of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), an association of intentionally Christian colleges and universities with 116 member campuses in the US and 69 affiliate campuses located in 25 countries outside the United States.

Dr Brown added, "It is good to be partnering with an association such as the CCCU that shares a commitment to advancing the cause of Christ-centred higher education and to helping institutions like Newbold transform lives by faithfully relating scholarship and service to Biblical truth." A related benefit for the College joining the CCCU as an international affiliate includes the opportunity to participate in a range of special programmes such as governance and programmes for Presidents (Principals), governing board members and other senior administrative leaders.

Meanwhile the senior management team is working hard to conclude affiliation agreements in a European context. This will especially benefit UK and EU based students in terms of recognition and access to government grants and loans.

"These are exciting times as we seek to reposition Newbold College as the English-speaking Seventh-day Adventist Christian not-for-profit higher education institution of choice in Europe," Dr Brown concluded.

SONGS OF PRAISE PENTECOST SPECIAL

A special 'gospel music' edition of the well-loved BBC1 programme, Songs of Praise that will air at the end of May will focus on inspirational singing at the heart of the programme with the whole congregation making up a 'combined choir' led by Ken Burton, a past winner of the BBC's Choir of the Year with the London Adventist Chorale, and a man who has had a long association with the programme.

Ken will have a core choir for the event made up of the Adventist Vocal Ensemble and others, but is encouraging a diverse range of Adventists across the greater London area and beyond to be part of the combined choir on the day. The primary requirement is that you can sing! Rehearsals will take place on Sunday, 22 April 2012 between 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm at St John at Hackney Church, Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, London, E5 0PD with the actual recording being made the following Sabbath afternoon, 28 April between 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm. Garry Boon, Producer for this particular edition, is keen to have a strong Adventist presence in the combined choir and so is encouraging church members, either as individuals or as groups, to apply for free tickets for the rehearsal and recording.

He says, "We have seats available for enthusiastic singers to join us. The repertoire will consist of gospel 'classics' such as Soon And Very Soon and well-loved hymns such as What A Wonderful Change. The singers become a specially formed combined choir, who will lead the viewers at home in the singing."

Tickets can be applied for by email to songsoppraise@bbc.co.uk or by calling the Songs of Praise ticket line, 0161 335 8429, or by post to 'Songs of Praise' (Pentecost tickets), 1st floor, Dock House,
Media City UK, Salford, M50 2LH. Please note that the deadline for ticket applications is Tuesday 27 March 2012.

After over fifty years, Songs of Praise continues to be enormously popular and this special programme for Pentecost is a special opportunity to be part of an inspirational event. Please consider whether you and your church/choir would like to be a part of this memorable recording. Group booking of tickets can be arranged by downloading an application form from the BUC website. There is also an invitation letter from SOP producer, Garry Boon.

SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

The 17 February headline for the latest MESSENGER, official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland is 'Soldiers of the Cross', highlighting a church plant and baptism in the UK's largest military garrison. Julian Hibbert's editorial quotes two kinds of people described by C S Lewis, 'those who say to God, "Thy will be done", and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way."' Also, learn about the SEC Evangelism Expo, find out about 'The fight of my life' and catch up on all the latest news. Read it online now, or pick up a copy from 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:

Searching for a God to Love, Monday, 20 February, 8:30 pm. Part of a series of presentations by Dr Chris Blake during the Newbold Week of Prayer. This week's title: 'Suffering, Why so much?' – the discussion. This series now also airs on Hope Channel Europe each Friday at 8:30 pm and Sabbath at 7:30 pm.

'Adventists In Conversation', Thursday 23 February, 8:30 pm. Known as the "Pastor's Pastor" for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, Alan Hodges reflects on his early childhood, his father's return from the war in Burma and growing up as a young man in post-war Britain.

On Hope TV you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and website. Next week's schedule includes the following UK produced programmes among its much larger international output:

Friday 17 February: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: Why should Christians care for the planet?, 8:30 pm: Searching for a God to love: Why I don't abstain (1)
Sabbath 18 February: 12:00 am & 9:00 am: Viewpoint: Why should Christians care for the planet?, 7:30 pm: Searching for a God to love: Why I don't abstain (1)
Monday 20 February: 12:30 am and 9:30 pm: Steve Logan – If you can't ask questions in church… then where can you ask them?
Wednesday 22 February: 8:00 am: Ricky Porter – Prejudice, despair and hope, 12:00 midnight: Sue Matthan – Activist for Jesus
Friday 24 February: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: Christians and Politics, 8:30 pm: Searching for a God to love: Why I don't abstain (2)
Sabbath 25 February: 12:00 am & 9:00 am: Viewpoint: Christians and Politics, 7:30 pm: Searching for a God to love: Why I don't abstain (2)
COMING EVENTS

YOUTH DAY OF FELLOWSHIP (18-35+). Sabbath, 18 February. Theme: Use Me Lord. "Now we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:19-20. Venue: The Rock Tower, 49 Tufnell Road, London, N7 0PS. Time: 10 am - 6 pm (lunch will be at 1 pm). Speaker: Dr Rupert Bushner (USA), supported by gospel artist, Maurette Brown-Clarke. (Maurette will sing during the Praise and Worship service as a taster. For more songs, get your concert ticket). Contact: Steve Thomas <sthomas@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 232728.

"GIVING MY BEST" CONCERT. Saturday, 18 February. "Giving My Best" Fundraising Concert at New Life Adventist Church, 5:00 pm. Hosted by Pastor Hypolite. Artists: New Life Choir & Friends, Mark Bunny, Steadfast & Friends (from Birmingham), Alicia Charles. Address: 8-10 Lennox Road, Finsbury Park, London, N4 3NW. Contact: Louanne Sampson <music@newlifesda.org.uk>. Phone: 020 7272 0449.


MADISON ADVENTIST ACADEMY CHOIR TOUR. Saturday, 18 February. The Madison Adventist Academy Choir from Nashville, Tennessee, USA, will be touring the London area in February 2012. Comprised of about thirty high school students sharing the gospel through music, they are currently accepting invitations to perform at churches, schools, etc for their tour, tentatively scheduled for 18 to 25 February 2012. Please contact Michael Santos at misantos@madisonacademy.com for inquiries.

NEC SABBATH SCHOOL LEVEL 1 TEACHER TRAINING. Sunday, 19 February. Presenter: Beulah Plunkett Sabbath School director. Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. The event will run for two Sundays: 5 & 19 February 2012. Lunch is provided. Venue: Newtown Church, Lichfield Rd, Aston, Birmingham, B6 5SX. To book a place: Call NEC Sabbath School dept on tel: 01159606312. For course information: Call 07961643597. Learn the art of teaching and facilitation; Improve your communication skills; Plan interesting and interactive lessons; Make your Sabbath Schools classes a place of learning; Help students get the most out of Bible and lesson study. Contact: Orlene Dunkley <odunkley@necadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 0115 9606312.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH EXPO TRAINING. Sunday, 19 February. The Children's Health Expo is based on two concepts: discovery and application. Help children discover the eight natural laws with the help of banners and games which enable them to experience each law as it works in nature. Pictures of animals engaged in different activities are used to help children understand how the laws affect the animals' way of life. Secondly, the children receive age-appropriate information (the Expo is designed for 7 to 11-year-olds) to help them apply the laws to their lives. Venue: Nottingham Central church, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Contact: Grace Walsh <gwalsh@necadventist.org>. Phone: 0115 9606312.

HEALTH LECTURE. Thursday, 23 February. Stanborough Park church in Garston, Watford, will be showing the DVD "Forks over knives", which traces the lives of two eminent medical doctors as they independently discover the secret of better health, through diet and lifestyle, despite objections from their colleagues. A light supper will be provided at 7:00 pm followed by the film at 7:45 pm. Contact: Pat Walton <walton@groats.co.uk>. Phone: 01923 672500.
MADISON ADVENTIST ACADEMY CHOIR AT CHINGFORD. Sabbath, 25 February. The Madison Adventist Academy Choir from Tennessee, USA, will be presenting God's message in song, at Chingford Community Adventist Church, Highams Park United Reformed Church, 40 Malvern Avenue, Highams Park, London, E4 9NP on 25 February. Sabbath School, 9:30 am, Divine Service 11:00 am. The programme concludes at 4:00 pm after fellowship lunch. Nearest underground, Walthamstow Central (Victoria line) then bus 275 to Hale End Road, Woodford Green (bus stop outside S 'n' S Local). Nearest overground, Highams Park (from Liverpool Street). Contact: Angela Austin <angela024@btinternet.com>. Phone: 07981 872123.

RAISING CANCER AWARENESS. Sabbath, 25 February. 4-6 pm at the Balham Seventh-day Adventist Community Church in partnership with the Paul's Cancer Support Centre. Speakers include Abi Ajose-Adeogun BME Project Consultant; Beverley van de Molen Macmillan Information & Education Officer and a speaker from the Prostate Cancer Charity. The event focuses on breast and prostate cancer and includes the risk factors, how to recognise the signs and symptoms and the benefits of early diagnosis. There will also be personal perspectives from two users of the centre. We must know how to access the support available. Do come you won't be disappointed. Contact: Patricia Thomas-Guy <ptgpat68@yahoo.co.uk>. Phone: 07943789226.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING CONCERT. Saturday, 25 February. With various projects ongoing in the Greenwich area, including a weekly drop-in centre, the Greenwich Community Services department is hosting a community fundraising concert on 25 February @ 5:00 pm to aid in their outreach efforts. This event is not to be missed as it promises to appeal to all audiences, so invite your friends and family and come along for a special blessing. Adults £5, children under 16 £2.50. For more info please email info@greenwichadventist.org.uk or call 07557051054. See u there! Contact: Elsa Conreaux <info@greenwichadventist.org.uk>.

BREATHE FREE. Sunday 26 February. The revised Breathe Free™ The Plan to Stop Smoking prepares the student to organize and conduct a stop smoking clinic for interested participants in their church or community. This course, (the updated 5 Day Plan) gives techniques and principles on how to successfully overcome the smoking habit. Fifteen hours of in class work and approximately 5 hours of work outside the classroom are required to complete this course. Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Venue: Yardley Adventist church, Berkley Road, Hay Mills, Birmingham, B25 8NW. £15 per person. Contact: Grace Walsh <gwalsh@necadventist.org>. Phone: 0115 9606312.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH EXPO TRAINING. Sunday, 26 February. Time: 1000-1700 at The Advent Centre, 37-39 Brendon Street, London, W1H 5JE. This training is for those who would like to facilitate Children's Health Expos. It uses the acronym NEWSTART which allows the participant to move from station to station where they will be given relevant, child-friendly information. This holistic approach aims to enhance the health of children and will assist in decreasing some of the common health conditions among children namely obesity. This event can also be planned for one day during half-term, summer school and even during the Olympic events in your community. The cost is £20 which covers a hot meal and training resources. Contact: Elsie Staple <estaple@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 232728.

JUMBLE SALE: STANBOROUGH PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL. Sunday, 26 February. Where? At Stanborough Primary School, Appletree Walk, Watford, WD25 0DQ. When? Sunday, 26 February from 12 noon to 2:00 pm. Stalls with books, china, face painting, clothes, cakes, children's toys and excellent value cafe lunches. Bring your family and friends and come early to get the best deals! Contact: Helia Mateus <helia.mateus@gmail.com>. Phone: 07702408994.

STANBOROUGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY EXAM. Sunday, 26 February. Stanborough School's Scholarship scheme aims to make Adventist Education more accessible to outstanding students. Candidates must apply for entry for the following academic year and demonstrate academic potential. Stanborough School's Bursary scheme aims to support families that are currently opting out of the Adventist education system due to financial considerations. Candidates will be required to demonstrate both academic potential & financial need. Both types of award are multiannual. The first wave of scholarships and bursaries will provide up to 15 places for prospective
students applying for entry in Year 7, Year 8, Year 10 or Year 12 (IB). Candidates must register and pay an administrative fee of £10. The examination will be held on Sunday 26 February, 14.00 to 17.00. To find out about the eligibility criteria please contact Mrs Sonia Poddar at registrar@spsch.org or call 01923 673 268.

CHARCOAL THERAPY PRESENTATION. Sunday, 26 February. Presenter John Dinsley, medical missionary and author of many books on Charcoal Therapy. Time 6:30 pm. Venue: Balham Seventh-day Adventist Church, 83 Elmfield Road, London, SW17 8AD. Admission free but come prepared with an offering. Books will be on sale. Your knowledge will be heightened as a result of attending this event. Contact: Elsie Staple <estaple@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 232728.

DEPRESSION RECOVERY TRAINING. Friday, 2 March to Sunday, 4 March. This programme is designed to train leaders who would like to plan and hold successful 8-week Nedley Depression Recovery Programmes in their local communities. The focus will be specifically on how to help others overcome depression. Time from 2-4 March at Preston church, Grimshaw Street, Preston, PR1 3DD. Cost: £50.00. Contact: Grace Walsh <gwalsh@necadventist.org>. Phone: 0115 9606312.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER. Sabbath, 3 March. International Women's Day of Prayer – Faith In Action', Hope Community (Beckenham) Church, 56 Churchfields Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4QW. The essential purpose of this day is for prayer and fasting, praise and worship and to provide women with an opportunity to strengthen their ties with other Christian and non-Christian women as they pray and fellowship together. Guest speaker to be announced. Contact: Maxine Stephenson <maxinestephenson@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07719892417.

SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP AWARENESS DAY. Sabbath, 3 March. A whole day event for information on the ministry of Special Needs Camp at Newcastle upon Tyne Adventist church, Nesham Street, off Westmorland Road. Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7BE. Repeated on Sabbath, 31 March at Ringway Life Church, Sunbank Lane, Altrincham, WA15 0PS. Contact: Joy Bussey <jsbussey@ntlworld.com>. Phone: 01923 461044.

SMALL ADS

SUMMER AU PAIR OFFER. Kristin Bleisch from Germany would like to be an au-pair in England for up to two months in July and August. She is a nineteen-year-old school leaver who has learnt English for nine years but would like to improve it in England while spending time with children and helping in the household. She is an experienced babysitter and a youth leader in her local church. If your family is interested please send an email to <kristin@bleisch.eu>.

HOST FAMILY FOR ONE MONTH. Galina Lysymanka writes, I am 25 years old. Originally I am from Ukraine but am now living in Germany where I am studying to become a nurse at the Adventist hospital Waldfriede (Berlin). I am searching for a host family for one month (July 2012) and I am offering to help with babysitting, housekeeping, gardening and other departments in exchange for a place to stay and the chance to learn something about the English culture. Through my two year's au pair work in Germany and Austria I am experienced in working with children. I speak German, Russian and Ukrainian and would be most happy to learn some English. I would be happy to hear from you soon. My email address is: halyna.lysymanka@web.de.

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