PARALYMPIC FOCUS
PARALYMPIC OUTREACH AND CELEBRATION: IN HIS IMAGE
REFRESHED, REVIVED AND 'MAKING GOD KNOWN'
WOMEN PASTORS MEET, SHARE AND PRAY AT EPC
HOLIDAY FROM STRESS?
LOUGHBOROUGH MEMBERS OUTNUMBERED 2 TO 1
EDMONTON CHURCH COMMUNITY FOOTBALL & BBQ
LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE
PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK
COMING EVENTS

PARALYMPIC FOCUS  [BUC News with Sharon Platt-McDonald]

A head injury last October has given Sharon Platt-McDonald a new appreciation for the challenges and achievements of the 4,280 disabled athletes who are competing in the 2012 Paralympics, currently running in London. A suitcase falling out of an overhead locker on a flight to a Women's Ministries Conference left her disorientated and concussed, a condition from which she is slowly recovering.

As Disability Awareness, Health and Women's Ministries director at Adventist Church Headquarters in Watford, she states, "In the early days following my head injury in October 2011, I experienced to a small degree what it is like to be 'different' and not able to undertake with ease 'regular' tasks that others were accustomed to."

Life was not easy for her. Due to the extent of her injury she struggled to speak, to make herself understood and even to care for herself. "I mostly had to rely on my husband's assistance, it was a dark period in my life which continued for several months," she says. However, in the midst of this 'temporary disability', she says, "God used the experience to teach me many valuable lessons."

Amongst them was the realisation that when life presents you with a challenge, the gifting that God has equipped us with to persevere against the odds inspires us to press on. Sharon states, "It forces us to look to Him for sustenance and allow good to come out of a negative experience. It taught me also that in spite of seeming limitations productivity is still possible."

Thus, while sympathetically watching the Paralympic opening ceremony on Wednesday she wrote, "If the world can wonder at such remarkable achievements in sports possibilities from 'able bodied' individuals [during the Olympics], what greater applause can be given to those who in spite of a disability pursue excellence to demonstrate what is possible, what can be achieved against the odds and that indeed they too have something significant to give to the world."
That spirit is ably demonstrated in the lives of two British athletes. Winchester church member, Rayna Matthews, now in her 70s, is a national historical champion in dressage. She rides side-saddle due to an accident in her 20s and a debilitating illness. Yet, despite that, and with the support of her husband, Bill, she has gone on to not only compete herself, but to run a disabled horse riding charity where one of her pupils made it into the top ten for Team GB. You can listen to her story in an archive AWR interview recorded in 2001.

Tyler Saunders is younger. A son of Chiswick church, he was born with just one leg. However that has not stopped him competing in basketball. He was just three points short of making it into this year's Paralympic basketball team but is now heading to Germany where he will play professionally and plans to represent Britain at the 2016 Paralympics in Brazil. His inspirational story can be seen in a BUC News video report.

Aberdaron may also be a breeding ground for future Olympians. Tony Welch, who used to teach sailing at the camp notes that Colin Harrison, a former Aberdaron camper who lost his right arm due to cancer at age 27, is back in Britain this week as skipper of the Australian three man sailing boat, the Sonar Class, in the Paralympics. In a very close finish in China last time he got the bronze. If he had been just a boat length quicker in one race he would have won that race and the gold.

More tickets have been sold at this year's 2012 Paralympics than any time in history. With 2.4 million tickets sold ahead of the opening ceremony it is being hailed as possibly the greatest Paralympics ever. London Mayor Boris Johnson states: "Attitudes have changed to the Paralympics in the last 10 years... we will see athletes trained to a very high standard perform with incredible passion in spite of their circumstances."

These sentiments were captured poignantly in the opening ceremony by commentator, Clare Balding, when she said "Fate is what happens to you, destiny is what you do with it."

In the September issue of Zest magazine, an enlightening article captioned 'A To Z of the Paralympics' gives a broad overview of the specifics of what makes the Paralympics unique. Spotlighting what Britain has to offer the article showcases Team GB and some of the 300 strong team members amongst the 4,280 competitors from 166 nations. Some of Britain's high profile Paralympians to look out for are: Eleanor (Ellie) Simmonds swimmer; Hannah Cockroth wheelchair sprinter; Marine Wright sitting volleyball player (who lost both legs in the 77 bombings in London and subsequently took up sports); David Clarke visually impaired footballer and Jonnie Peacock sprinter who will compete against the world renowned Pistorius, affectionately known as The Blade Runner.

If these Paralympians can inspire us by not letting their disability hinder them from fulfilling their potential and pushing the boundaries of what is possible, we too can overcome what we deem to be 'life challenges' to shine and give others hope.

The 2012 Paralympics will be a window through which we can view the extent of human possibilities in the face of challenge. For 11 days the world will receive the positive message of inclusion, equality and access for all as we celebrate 'difference' as a strength and realise that God has indeed gifted all of us to become the very best that we can be.
PARALYMPIC OUTREACH AND CELEBRATION: IN HIS IMAGE  [Sophia Nicholls, SEC Disability Ministries Coordinator]

Attending the opening ceremony festival of the Paralympic Games at the birthplace of this fantastic event, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, on Wednesday, 29 August, I began to realise the impact of the event on the UK. Despite the rain, hundreds of people came to the Stoke Mandeville Stadium to enjoy an evening of celebration and to watch the opening ceremony on a big screen.

As an inclusive support team member, I attended with my whole family to enjoy the atmosphere and to support the Aylesbury Church Network who organised the event. My role, along with twenty other inclusive support team members, was to enable the activities organised to be as inclusive as possible ensuring everyone could be part of the celebrations.

The grass, though wet was accessible for all wheelchair users due to the raised ramps across the field. Speaking to the BSL signers, also part of the inclusive support team, I got a sense that everyone felt a sense of celebration and togetherness. One parent with a young lad spoke of the friendly and inspiring atmosphere as she watched her young son playing 'blind football'. "It's great to see him enjoying himself without limits" she said.

Nigel Nicholls, Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) chair, stated how much he enjoyed "a wonderful awe-inspiring event where people are so positive about their abilities and are able to show these abilities through the thoughtful games and community spirit." Tim Wood, CEO of 'Through the Roof' and chair of the inclusive team agreed the event brought a "unity and great spirit" in spite the rain!

As we move into the weekend of the Paralympics, the SEC Disability Ministries department would like to encourage all churches to consider and celebrate the diversity within our Church and church community. We would like to encourage our members to allow the Holy Spirit to move our hearts to an understanding of the need to be welcoming and inclusive of the differences within our community, and to celebrate our diversity in the image of our Father and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Over the next two Sabbaths, there will be a series of programmes to celebrate this diversity. The SEC Disability Ministries department has organised a Music and Praise Concert featuring Neville Peters, international Christian singer songwriter and musician. Supporting Neville will be a number of accomplished UK artists such as Resurrection, JADA, and more. The concert is free with a freewill offering. It will take place at Newbold College, Salisbury Hall on Sabbath, 8 September at 7:00 pm.

This Sabbath, 1 September, Oxford Adventist church and Newbold church will host Disability Sabbath celebrations. Croydon church will have a special programme the following week. If your church is involved in a programme – do let us know!

REFRESHED, REVIVED AND 'MAKING GOD KNOWN'

You should get a good sermon this Sabbath! To be fair, you should get one every Sabbath, but with your minister having just spent five days at the European Pastors' Conference under the theme, 'Making God Known', expect him or her to be standing in our pulpit with extra vigour and vitality.
Roman Šmejkal ministers in Long Eaton and Loughborough. For him, the five days, 21 - 25 August, at the hotel/spa complex in the heat of Rogas̋ka Slatina, Slovenia were a "time to reflect on the work which is ahead of us." With 1,200 pastors and their spouses in attendance he says, "I have never connected with so many colleagues in my whole ministry. We need one another and our churches need our collective effort rather than just an effort of one minister. I am looking forward to future opportunities like this."

Pastor Marcel Ghioalda from Dundee, Scotland, would agree noting, "inspiring and erudite presentations which enriched us spiritually, wet our exegetical appetite, and challenged our theological minds. Not to mention the wonderful singing experience, in the company of over 1,000 like-minded people."

Different speakers appealed to different pastors. For Teesside minister, Colin Woodford, it was Pastor Derek Morris. He says, "His plenary session 'Misplaced Devotion' was simple and effective preaching looking at Acts 6:1-7, which really touched the heart. The presentation on 'Preaching that Connects' was so helpful I cannot wait to put into practice the nine principles he taught." SEC Youth director, Pastor Steve Thomas, was delighted that prayer was a strong part of the event. "I enjoyed the workshop by Jerry and Janet Page. I am indeed glad that prayer was a part of the seminars." Cornish pastor, Chris Peake agrees. "I was impressed that the Spirit was working through all the speakers bringing forward a deep consensus on the theme of the need for both pastors individually and churches as groups to prioritise prayer and authenticity." Steve, among many, also really enjoyed the fellowship and worship. "The fellowship was great because we had the opportunity to spend quality time together over meals and after the services. We were up late laughing and playing games."

SEC President, Pastor Sam Davis, may not have so much time for late night laughter. However, he was delighted to be in attendance. "For me this was the best ever EPC that I have attended of the three that I have been to. I believe that the TED administration got it right on the standard of accommodation and food. These are two of the most important ingredients that go to determine the success or failure of an event. It was great to meet up with colleagues from all over the TED and to fellowship and worship with each other."

He continues, "We had a good quality of excellent speakers which fed us spiritually. The music was excellent and there was a large selection of workshops that workers could choose from."

Pastor Davis was among many ministers who were impressed with the management and execution of the programme, labelling it 'excellent'. "TED staff were very visible, accommodating and welcoming," he says. "They ought to congratulate themselves on a job well done."

Naturally there are things that could be learnt for next time. NEC Evangelist Adam Ramdin loved the variety of speakers in the plenary sessions but notes, "I would have preferred if the focus of the plenaries was more pointed with less variety but the workshops keeping the multiple variety." Expanding his ideas, he says, "For example some of the plenary speakers such as Laurence Turner, Derek Morris, Lowell Cooper I would have liked to hear more from which would have kept the focus more pointed and allowed the speakers to share on a wider scale the knowledge that they have."

Pastor Michael Mbui from Chiswick church states, "The programmes were rich in diversity, good in quality and relevant to some of our needs." However, he too saw a potential for improvement. "One area fell short of my expectation which I would have done differently. Structured and scheduled fellowship between ministers. I would have loved several slots in the programme when ministers from
different countries were put together in small groups to share between themselves their experiences in various aspects of ministry." Adam agrees suggesting some 'intentional networking'. Pastor Thomas would have liked practical training and experience witnessing in the community.

A number of ministers, including a Conference President, wished there could have been slightly more free time. Some took that time anyway, and others squeezed in opportunities when they came. Lincoln pastor, Peter Jeynes, arrived a day early, and despite the 35C+ temperatures states, "The most memorable moment was a four-hour walk, in the heat, in the mountains where I photographed lizards, watched high-flying honey buzzards and drank fresh peach juice and grape juice with friendly locals – all the while looking down on our week's venue from a great height."

Peter didn't spend all his time on the mountain. He was faithfully in attendance is the giant marquee and at workshops. Reflecting back he says, "The most helpful meeting to me was Kalervo Aromaki's workshop where he sought to give a view on how to encourage our young people away from addictive, damaging and alienating behaviour. Simply put he suggested that we create an environment in each church where our young people, from the age of 10, become involved in helping other people directly with an adult mentor." Peter adds, "He didn't suggest work on clean-up projects. He didn't suggest work on a building project. He recommended working to help people in need." Peter found the workshop helpful because he felt it affirmed the work of his church back home who were "blessed by the news that they were doing the right thing."

Ministers have now "come down off the mountain" and back to their home churches. Revived, refreshed and joining with their colleagues and the church members of the 22 countries that make up the Trans-European Division to 'Make God Known in Europe'.

Pictures from the Conference can be seen in the BUC Picture Gallery, while comprehensive reports, videos and photos are on the TED website.

WOMEN PASTORS MEET, SHARE AND PRAY AT EPC  [Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, SEC Communication & Media Director]

At the Trans-European Division Pastors' Conference the women clergy have traditionally gotten together for a meet and greet. This year the European Pastors' Conference (EPC) met in Slovenia, 21 - 25 August, but the programme was so packed that such a meeting was not scheduled. Nevertheless, on Friday, 24 August, 50 of the 60 women pastors and leaders from across the Division met up to share and pray.

As with their male counterparts, most pastor multiple churches by themselves, such as Pastor Maslin Holness from the UK, who cares for four churches. A few pastor together with their husbands. Some women are in leadership, but most are congregational pastors. As diverse as the countries that they served, so was the diversity in gifts, talents and ministry. Some were nurtures, preachers and writers; others were leaders, organisers and administrators. While coming from a variety of countries and cultures, one thing all the women shared was they were clear that God had called them to minister and
that they were following His leading in their ministry, whatever the situation and challenges they encountered in answering the call.

Pastor Audrey Andersson, TED Executive Secretary, shared that there will be a special Women's Pastoral Council in 2013. The last women's clergy council was held three years ago when Pastor Chris Oberg, senior pastor of the La Sierra University church, California, was the guest preacher and facilitator of many good discussions.

As a Friday morning preacher at EPC, Pastor Oberg was again at these meetings and was delighted to join with the female pastors. She wrote, "Among the highlights of being with pastors in the TED was an hour of hearing the voices of women clergy scattered throughout the Division, faithfully responding to God's call. I am impressed with how many of these women are solo pastors, leading two, three or four congregations. Their experiences are diverse, and they show strength of character and unwavering conviction to serve the Church. Such an inspiration! May God be praised!"

Some of the women had been hesitant, as they were uncertain what the meeting was about, but like Sonja Kalmberg from Sweden, expressed afterwards, that it was so great to meet so many other women in ministry. Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist from the UK encouraged the women to connect with each other, reminding the group how important it is that we see each other and that we continue to lift each other up in prayer across our Division.

She stated, "It has been my female colleagues in ministry that have been my support in the most challenging times of ministry." Pastor Karin Wieczorek agreed stating, "We are here for supporting and praying for each other." This is important for people like Lidija Djordjevic Runic, recently married and moved from pastoring in multicultural Chicago to being the only female pastor in Bosnia.

Pastor Oberg closed the meeting with a prayer for strength and blessing in the various areas the women serve.

The Trans-European Division counts 601 pastors and according to Dr Daniel Duda, TED Associate Ministerial Association and Education director, women pastors now account for ten percent of the workforce.

HOLIDAY FROM STRESS? [Julian Hibbert, tedNEWS / BUC News]

Friends and church members back in England light-heartedly teased ministers that they were on holiday at the European Pastors' Conference at Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia last week. Yet the overall results from health tests run during the conference indicate that a holiday is just what ministers need.

According to Elsie Staple, Health Ministries director for the South England Conference, more than eight percent of pastors tested are suffering with raised blood pressure and other signs of stress, and a number have been referred to their doctors when they get back home. Elsie was part of a dedicated team of health professionals from a number of countries who, under the umbrella of ADRA-TED, ran health checks and provided practical advice, recipes for healthy eating and suggested exercise routines during the conference.

Did it work? "Absolutely!" states Victor Hulbert, Communication and Media director for the British Union Conference. He had a health check at SEC Camp Meeting back in June that indicated a very high cholesterol level. Millie Williams, one of the nurses, gave him practical advice on diet, drinking
more water, and increasing his exercise level. You should have seen the smile on his face when he was retested on the Wednesday morning and discovered that his cholesterol level had almost halved. He cannot praise the programme enough. While busy at the meetings he also made sure he took time to walk in the surrounding hills each day. "Mark Finley's sermon encouraged us to walk in the hills and listen to the 'still small voice','" Pastor Hulbert states. "I'm doing that and improving my health. It's great!" [A few photos from the hill walking are included in the BUC Picture Gallery.]

While designed for ministers, local residents from Rogaška Slatina also took the opportunity for testing. ADRA Slovenia director, Olga Popov, met two ladies who were selling jars of locally produced honey. She invited them into the exhibition tent where they did a brisk trade. They then asked about the Health Expo, and with Olga as translator, delightedly completed the course and engaged in deep conversations about health and then faith. A major outreach programme is planned for the city next Spring.

"The Health Expo proved to be a tremendous blessing," states BUC Health Ministries director, Sharon Platt-McDonald. She noted one attendee who, following a full health screening, clearly saw the need for urgent lifestyle change. Armed with the relevant advice and documented information she is now making the necessary changes. She was just one of over 300 people who passed through the various 'health stations'. As an added bonus for visiting the Nutrition stall, Sharon offered participants a tempting choice of freshly made smoothies. One of her recipes included 3 bananas, 1 pineapple, 1 tin of coconut milk, 1 lime, and a peg of ginger all blended together with a cup of apple juice to sweeten and lighten the mixture. Fruits used should be ripe as this makes the drink sweeter. An alternative version included two handfuls of blueberries for a 'berry' version. Delicious!

While ministers and their spouses have enjoyed and been blessed by the many lectures, devotionals and workshops, the health aspect of this break has also been important. Time to walk and enjoy the stunning countryside, to relax in a swimming pool or sauna, or just to sit in the shade and chill with friends, old and new – all of this has helped to bring down the stress levels and revive our clergy for the joys of service.

LOUGHBOROUGH MEMBERS OUTNUMBERED 2 TO 1 [Vivienne Barratt-Peacock]

Sabbath, 11 August was a day for rejoicing for the members of Loughborough Adventist church as the 35 in usual attendance were joined by about 65 more people from the local community, many of whom had never been to a church service before.

The special service marked the end of a Holiday Bible Club, attended by 52 children. Our visitors enjoyed watching their children act out Bible stories and sing some of the songs they had learnt during the week, then stayed to share lunch with us afterwards.

The theme of the week was 'Winning with Jesus'. The children learnt that Jesus can be their friend and that we can follow Jesus just like the disciples did. Five-year-old Robert went home and told his parents very excitedly, "Did you know Jesus loves me all the time, Mummy, even if I'm naughty?" Olivia, also five, was pleased to learn that Jesus would always help her and that she could tell Him about anything that was bothering her.
Kyle, aged 11, was due to join us but, following a nasty accident, was instead in hospital. 5-year-old Travis did not know Kyle at all but was so touched when we prayed for him that he asked us to send the craft item he had made that morning to Kyle to help him feel better.

The children responded very enthusiastically when asked to write their own prayers. The following were written by children from a non-Christian background and show that Jesus had become real and approachable to them: "Dear God, Thank you that I am here." "Dear Jesus, I love you." "Dear Jesus, Please help my dad feel better." "Dear God, You are my friend." "Dear God, Thank you for the great Olympics. I watched it all on TV."

The area surrounding the building we rent is comprised almost entirely of indigenous white people. In recent years, Adventists have encountered increasing difficulty in reaching this group but we are finding that they are very open to any form of evangelism involving children. Our club was running to capacity for the space available this year and the positive response from families to what we are doing is overwhelming.

As a result of the Holiday Bible Club, more local children have joined our monthly Bible Club and we are currently working out how we can manage to fit them all into the available space! Of course, each child is part of a family who will be invited to join us for many services and events throughout the year. Many of the families ask us to pray for them at times of need as well.

**EDMONTON CHURCH COMMUNITY FOOTBALL & BBQ** [Candice Henry / Cerise Johnson]

In the lead up to a Teens and Youth campaign, taking place during 8 - 23 September 2012 in a tent at Jubilee Park, Edmonton, the Edmonton Teens and Youth departments held a football and barbecue event to promote the campaign.

Sunday, 26 August was a busy day, starting with a football tournament in Jubilee Park. Young boys and men of all ages took part in the match, where males from various churches joined forces with males from the community to produce an action packed, and fun filled 90 minutes, resulting in a score of 5-2.

Following the match, participants and spectators made their way to the church's new building on Houndsfield Road for a delicious barbecue, including burgers, hot dogs, salad, cake and ice cream. While everyone ate and socialised, music was played by a member of Edmonton church while in one of the smaller rooms a serious FIFA II tournament was taking place.

Thanks to a cleverly placed sign outside the building, a few people from the community walked in off the street to take part, with one resident commenting that she was really pleased that she was walking by with her kids and saw the sign. Those children were already busily taking part in the FIFA tournament, and as she states there is nothing in the community for young people, she and her children will definitely be coming to the campaign.

The day was both a great time and, by God's grace, a positive introduction to many people who enjoyed the promotional event and who will also come to the campaign.
LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

Tottenham church hits the front page of the 31 August MESSENGER, the official journal for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. Their special recognition service brought the local MP, and representatives of the fire and police services into the building, a year following riots in that part of London. Also in this edition: 'King Canute goes to church', 'What's your plan?', Jamaica celebrates 50, and a recognition that 'Ancient methods bring success'. Read it online now, or pick up a copy this weekend at a church near you.

PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK

Here are some programme highlights for the coming week:

On Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist talks about global warming and asks, "Is it an issue for Christians?" on Thursday, 30 August at 8:30 pm. Repeated Sunday lunchtime, 2 September, 1:00 pm. Next week, Thursday 6 September and Sunday 9 September, the subject is, "Does God exist?"

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 31 August: 8:00 pm: Wayne Erasmus – Culture and ministry,
8:30 pm: Faith Talks: Why is Christianity so divisive?,
Midnight: Wayne Erasmus
Sabbath 1 September: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: Wayne Erasmus,
7:30 pm: Faith Talks: Why is Christianity so divisive?
Monday 3 September: 12:30 pm: Andrew Rashford-Hewitt – Minister to the community,
9:30 pm: Viewpoint: Christians and Finance
Wednesday 5 September: 8:00 am: Christians and Finance,
Midnight: Ron Clemow – Nurse to minister.
Thursday 6 September: 00:30 am: Searching for a God to love, (Suffering: Why so Much? II)
Friday 7 September: 8:00 pm: Mervyn Weir – Creative Arts, Creative God,
8:30 pm: Faith Talks: "Is Religion Good For Children?",
Midnight: Mervyn Weir
Sabbath 8 September: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: Mervyn Weir,
7:30 pm: Faith Talks: "Is Religion Good For Children?"

COMING EVENTS

'THE BETTER OPTION' SERIES. Sabbath, 1 September to Sabbath, 15 September. An Evangelistic Campaign at Willesden Seventh-day Adventist church, 1 Glebe Road, London, NW10 2JD. Nightly (except Thursdays), 7:00 pm and Saturday's 11:00 am and 7:00 pm on 1st, 8th and 15th. Speaker: Joseph Smith (Northern Caribbean University). Contact: Serene Allen <sgallen89@gmail.com>.

HAPPINESS IN JESUS. Sabbath, 1 September to Sabbath, 15 September. Come and support the 2-week Evangelistic Community Campaign at the High Wycombe Community church (formerly Sands). Main speakers include international evangelist Pastor Mark Braithwaite and co-evangelist Pastor Moore. 7:30 pm start all nights (except Thursdays). For additional information, call 01494 539 802 or visit website – www.wycombecommunitychurch.org. Contact: WCC <info@wycombecommunitychurch.org. Phone: 01494 539 802.
DRS POLLARD SPEAKING AT GRANTHAM ADVENTIST CHURCH. Sabbath, 1 September, Dudley Road, Grantham, Lincs. Contact: Elizabeth Parkinson <eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk>. Phone: 01476591700.

STANBOROUGH PRESS OPEN DAY. Sunday, 2 September. Contact: Mr Paul Poddar <ppoddar@stanboroughpress.org.uk>. Phone: 01476591700.

CROYDON PARALYMPICS DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY. Sabbath, 8 September. Croydon Adventist church, 95 Selhurst Road, South Norwood, London, SE25 6LH. Contact: Pastor Daly <richarddaly7@gmail.com>. Phone: 07958433744.

HEAVENLY OLYMPICS: GOING FOR GOLD. Sabbath, 8 September. Wednesfield Adventist Church Youth Day. The Olympics united 204 nations and gripped the attention of hundreds of millions of viewers worldwide. We hope to unite youth from both the community and churches to learn and gain knowledge about an incorruptible heavenly prize on offer which will last for eternity. The preachers (renamed coaches) for the day are two well abled members of our Youth department. Assistant Youth leader Jonathan McCool and Febbie Sulumba will deliver short, practical messages. Contact: Leon Ferguson <leonferguson@live.co.uk>. Phone: 01902865471.

CONFLICT - THE FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE. Sabbath, 8 September. An intriguing and real life dramatic Christian stage play depicts the lives of two families and various conflicts they face. It reveals deep, authentic, emotional yet entertaining insight into everyday life situations many of us can relate to. A scintillating production for the entire family. Tickets: £15 (standard); £17.50 (at the door); £12.50 (groups); £10 (students). Fairfield Hall, Croydon. Doors open 7:30. Show Time 8:00pm. Tickets from the Box Office: 0208 688 9291. Contact: Jackie Wright <damariproductions@yahoo.com>. Phone: 07852002545.


DO YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT? Starting Sunday, 9 September 2012. Want to improve your health? Interested in the latest research on weight and well-being? Join the 8-week Weight & Wellness Project. 4 free Sunday sessions. Presentations: 9 & 23 September. Weight Checks: 4 November, 2 December. Presenter: Heather McKeen, University of Birmingham, School of Sport & Exercise Sciences. Venue: Aston-Newtown Adventist Church, Lichfield Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 5SX. Participant conditions: participants must have a BMI of 25+; no major health conditions that may be affected by a diet & exercise regime; not currently attending a weight loss club session. Register by emailing Heather on hcm908@bham.ac.uk by the close of 1 September. Queries to 07780 605379. Sponsors: NEC Health Ministries department, University of Birmingham School of Sport and Exercise Sciences & Start A New Lifestyle Counselling Services.

FRIENDSHIP HOME CARERS - LUTON. Thursday, 13 September. Notice of Annual General Meeting for Luton Friendship Home Carers. 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Luton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1 North Street, Luton, LU2 7QD. Contact: Jean McLeary <none@none.org.uk>. Phone: 01582 736157.

LEADERSHIP BOOT CAMP: "THE MOUNTAIN WITHIN". Continues Sabbath 15 September and 17 November. Central London church is hosting "Leadership Boot Camp: The Mountain Within" Part 3. Inspirational and practical sessions that will help you in your team building skills in everyday life and family relationships. Time: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm with Herta von Stiegel. Two remaining session/workshops. Please contact us for further details or questions. Contact: Svetla <office@centrallondonchurch.org>. Phone: 07956196643.
AREA 6D PATHFINDER RALLY DAY. Sabbath, 15 September. Inviting all Area 6D Pathfinders and Youth to come and enjoy a Day of Fellowship and meeting your fellow club members in your area at the Little Eden Independent School, Eastcote Lane North, Northolt, Middx, UB5 4HW. Featuring: Drum display, Puppet school and much more... Afternoon programme includes the Area Bible Bowl Experience competition. This is a free ticket event. Contact us for more information: Kennedy Kundan <kkk_kennedy@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07534978222.

ROLLER GOSPEL JAM 2012. Saturday, 22 September. Fundraiser in aid of the New Life Adventist church Youth Club project. Come and roller-skate to the latest in urban Gospel music played by DJ Ministry plus surprise live PA. Starts at 7:30 pm until 11:30 pm. Food & drink on sale all night. £10.00 entry includes skate hire; knee/elbow pads plus free skating lessons. Venue: Newham Leisure Centre, 281 Prince Regent Lane, Plaistow, London, E13 8SD. Please contact Clive on 07946457108 for more info. Email <youthclub@newlifesda.org.uk>.

SEC SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM – GRAND OPENING. Sunday, 23 September. The South England Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries departments are launching the School of Evangelism at John Loughborough School. Course fee: £40, with a non-refundable registration fee of £10. Registration closes Friday, 7 September. Contact: Mavis Bramble <mbramble@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 656513.

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

SMALL ADS

REQUIRED: Additional staff to lead out and/or assist in children's activities (up to age 15) at the Support Network for Adventist Parents Family Weekend on the weekend of 26 to 28 October at Hill House Christian Retreat Centre, Otterhampton, Bridgwater, Somerset. Staff must be CRB checked for Adventist church activities. All reasonable expenses will be reimbursed. If interested, please contact Mike & Vicky Beamish on 01242 890566 or email: snap.sda@tesco.net.

AU-PAIR AVAILABLE: Christiane Kopf, a seventeen-year-old girl from Austria would like to work in the UK as an au-pair for 3 - 4 months from September 2013. For further details please email chrissy.kopf@gmx.net.

WANTED: A small but 'growing' church group in Inverness is in need of the following items; Seventh-day Adventist Hymnals, Advent Youth Sing (song books), a felt set for children's Sabbath School. If your church is having a clean out or replacing old for new, we are happy to take the old. Please contact Michelle on 0785 985 8899 or email mmsully07@gmail.com.

BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and edited by the Communication Department. Victor Hulbert, director; Mary Kapon, secretary. Items for inclusion should be sent to <bucnews@adventist.org.uk> and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, preferably as simple email text. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events and Small Ads should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: <www.adventist.org.uk>. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed by individuals cited in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, though we try to ensure that they do. You are free to re-print any portion of this bulletin without the need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you identify BUC News or other sources whenever you publish these materials. Back issues and an RSS feed including photographs are available on our website at <www.adventist.org.uk.

You can manually unsubscribe from this mailing list by clicking on reply and including the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line. You can subscribe to ANN (Adventist News Network), the email news bulletin of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, on the GC website at: <http://news.adventist.org>. You can subscribe to TED News, the email news bulletin of the Trans-European Division, by sending your name and email address to: <tednews@ted-adventist.org>.
The British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church accepts no liability to any party for any error, omission or mis-statement by any contributor in any material published in this newsletter.