'SOWING SEEDS' AT REGIONAL CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION

"If we don't sow a seed it can't grow!" exclaimed Pastor Mick Smart. He was at the Seventh-day Adventist Church stall at the Christian Resources Exhibition West (CRE West), Bristol, on Wednesday 23 January.

Since November 2012, Albert Gardiner, Shiloh Harmitt and Grace Mason, from the Gloucester, Bristol and Weston-Super-Mare churches, planned for an Adventist stall at this two-day, Christian event that attracts around 3,500 people. With support from pastors in their area, they gathered materials and put together a display ready to interact with as many attendees as possible from 23-24 January.

"We wanted to make sure that the Seventh-day Adventist Church had a presence amongst all the other Christian leaders that would be present", explained Grace Mason. "While a Christian myself, I have only been an Adventist for the last five years. I knew about the CRE and felt we needed to be here and show people that we are indeed Christians and that our main difference is that we worship on Saturday, the Sabbath, not Sunday."

The CRE West is a regional exhibition that brings together various denominations and Christian companies, from architecture, to media, to clothing companies. This year is the first time it has been held in Bristol and the venue, inside the University of West England, was bustling despite the heavy snow falling outside.

Supplied with materials from organisations such as the Adventist Discovery Centre, the British Union Conference, Stanborough Press and the South England Conference, the stall was stacked with
Halfway through the first day of the exhibition, Pastor Smart commented, "It's been fantastic so far, we've had lots of conversations with people wanting to know about the Church, what we stand for, who we are. They're all Christian folks and they're coming and meeting Adventists, finding out a bit about us, why we keep the Sabbath, why we baptise by immersion. Meeting and talking with people in this way is what we hoped would happen from the start."

The upcoming CRE International, at Sandown Park, will see around 10,000 attendees and the Adventist Discovery Centre already has a stand booked for the four-day exhibition, from 14-17 May. Adventists have had a presence at the Sandown Park event and at other regional exhibitions on numerous occasions in recent years. To sign up for and explore the CRE International please visit <www.creonline.co.uk>.

NEWBOLD LAUNCHES NEW NAME, LOGO, STRAPLINE AND WEBSITE  [Kirsty Watkins]

Newbold College has launched a refreshing new visual brand identity, complete with a new official name – Newbold College of Higher Education. This new name is embraced within a new logo and supported by a new strapline – Life Changing – Faith Affirming. Last week Newbold also launched a new, more flexible and future-student oriented website to complement the College's new identity.

"Our revitalised identity will be rolled out across all of our communication tools and channels over the coming weeks" Dr Philip Brown, Principal, announced while addressing new and returning students and staff on the theme Life Changing – Faith Affirming at the College's Opening Assembly this week to mark the start of the new semester.

"We are passionate about energising the identity of Newbold with our Church stakeholders and communities throughout Europe and beyond", Dr Brown said. "Newbold College of Higher Education is the right name for us to embrace as a private higher education provider in this country. Our new strapline articulates what our alumni and students repeatedly say for them captures the essence of their Newbold experience", Dr Brown added.

The new name, logo and strapline were voted by Newbold's Board of Governors when it met in plenary session in November 2012. This action follows the approval of new vision, mission and values statements that were voted by the Board of Governors in May 2012.

In welcoming the identity revitalisation initiatives, Dr Bertil Wiklander, Newbold Board of Governors Chair and President, Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists, said: "We continue to need young people who have had the life-changing, faith-affirming experiences that Newbold affords to help make God known throughout Europe. We need Newbold College of Higher Education to help us in achieving the strategic plans of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Europe", Dr Wiklander added.

During his Opening Assembly address, Dr Brown expressed his personal thanks to students and staff for the 10% increase in total enrolments and the 45% increase in students living on campus achieved
in 2012-13. "Our occupancy rates within the halls of residence are the highest for some years and we are excited about the renewed interest that young people across Europe and further afield have in studying at Newbold this year."

Newbold College of Higher Education is a learning community that attracts students from over 60 countries. The College is located in Binfield, Berkshire, United Kingdom. It offers programmes of study in theology, religion, media studies, English literature, business studies, history, music, psychology, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

SNOW DISRUPTION – BUT MISSION CONTINUES

The January snow may have disrupted flights, cancelled church services and closed schools, but modern technology has helped church leaders and members to stay in touch.

Officers from the British Union Conference office in Watford were unable to make it to Scotland due to cancelled flights but nevertheless took a full part in the committee via Skype. Scottish Mission President, Bernie Holford, reported in the Scottish Mission Newsletter that "Snow in England had caused the cancellation of three flights that were to bring the BUC Officers to Scotland this weekend; also many local members of the committee were unable to travel because of the condition of the roads, but they were able to join the committee by conference call and Skype. The work of the Church must go on!"

Ministerial moves, the voting of an annual budget, and plans for the Dunfermline church rebuild were all discussed during the 4½ hour committee.

With a number of churches closed, a timely reminder on the BUC News Facebook page allowed technologically savvy members to still join in worship from their own homes as they tuned into a choice of live-streamed services from churches across the British Isles, or watched a service from Pioneer Memorial church at Andrews University on Hope Channel. Miriam Wood could not get out the front door of her Cardiff home. She says, "I watched the morning service at Newbold which was great. Also encouraged a friend from Ystrad church to watch it too. Wonderful to see it on Livestream."

Others chose to get out into nature or to battle the elements. Manchester member, Jason Chang, hales from China and is used to cold winters. He commented on Facebook, "Let's all enjoy the snow...God created snow beautifully...so many benefits of having snow....for someone like myself growing up in an area where we have -25 degree centigrade...I will never understand when people say the train will be delayed, schools will be closed!"

A good walk in the snow was an act of worship in itself, according to reports from members in Devon, Northampton, Scotland and other parts of the country. They enjoyed the beauty and wonder to be found in a snowscape. Another aspect of His creation to admire.

Finally, intrepid kayakers planning for an ADRA 100th anniversary fundraising trip down the River Wye this Sunday are not being put off by the weather. "We've put so much effort into the planning and fundraising that we really don't want to disappoint", states Welsh
Mission President, Pastor John Surridge. "We are keeping a close eye on the weather forecast and river levels – as well as the website where people are being very generous with their donations." In his pastoral newsletter, he has also encouraged his members to ask friends and family to support the ADRA well digging project. If friends want to donate they can text WYER77 £5 to 70070 or visit <www.justgiving.com/100-years>.

JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL PUBLIC MEETING

Berton Samuel, Chair of the Governors at John Loughborough Adventist School in Haringey, North London, is encouraging members of the London Adventist community to take an active part in a public meeting organised by Haringey Council.

He states, "Haringey Council have now published a statutory notice of their intention to close the John Loughborough School. This now triggers a formal 6 week consultation process which ends on 17 February 2013. This provides us with one last opportunity to challenge the intent of the local council, and once again I am enlisting your help."

Berton is concerned that whilst members have declared their interest in the school, this has not transformed itself into action. In a letter to the London Lay Advisory Council he wrote, "It appears as if the London Adventist community are ambivalent regarding the future of the John Loughborough School."

The council have called a public meeting to discuss the future of the school for Monday 28 January commencing at 7:00 pm. It will be held at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre, 1 Philip Road, London, N15 4JA.

"It is imperative that we have people present to declare their interest and support for the ongoing future continuance of education at the school," Berton states, adding, "This is a critical time for the school and your support and that of the LLAC is so important to secure the future of the school."

WEDDING BELLS RING FOR PASTORAL HAPPINESS [Elisabeth Carnell]

Weddings are always special – but generally not reported in BUC News. However, when two much loved and respected people, both of whom have had periods of sadness in their lives, find happiness in each other, we could not resist a short report.

Pastor Douglas Sinclair, now retired but much loved by the members of every church that he pastored, and Sheila Bell, widow of the late Pastor Martin Bell, joined their lives together on Friday, 4 January 2013 at the Grantham Adventist church.

A congregation of family and friends came from across the country to share their love with the couple. Sheila wore a dress suit of ivory with bronze trimmings. She was accompanied by two young bridesmaids and a pageboy: Evie, Lucy and Callum, in complementary colours; and Kerri and Melissa Thorogood, Doug's granddaughters, in deep purple.

In his address, Pastor John Ferguson, NEC Executive Secretary, compared the 'Love is not...' and 'Love is...' statements of 1 Corinthians 13 with Shakespeare's sonnet 116, which he read in today's
language. His final charge to Doug and Sheila was that their love be unchangeable, reliable, unaffected and enduring.

After a brief honeymoon in York, the happy couple will be making their home in Crieff, Perthshire. We wish them God's blessing in their future life together.

WINTER CONCERT RAISES ALMOST £2,200 [June Coombs]

Two young, talented Adventist music students shared a winter concert at Stanborough Park church on the evening of Saturday, 19 January, helping to raise almost £2,200 towards the church's building fund.

Minyoung Bae and Victoria Balan are both studying for their BMus degree at the Royal College of Music in London. Victoria is in her final year, studying the violin and Minyoung is a third year student studying piano.

Both young ladies regularly play in the church's orchestra with Minyoung often playing the violin, her second instrument. On this occasion they were persuaded to perform an entire concert with Minyoung playing piano works by Mendelssohn, Chopin and Prokofiev and Victoria playing violin works by Mozart, Szymanowski and de Falla.

Appropriately entitled 'Winter Concert', the event was well-attended despite the snow and ice and a total of £1,720.00 was raised of which £1,394.51 was gift-aided. The Gift Aid, together with £126 from that sale of refreshments and cakes brought the total to £2194.63.

I LOVE SNOW [Jimmy Botha]

[Editor's note: First published in the January 2013 Scottish Mission Newsletter, this timely devotional shows how much a South African can adapt to the rigours of the British climate!]

Let's talk about the weather.

There is no doubt in my mind that for most of us summer is preferred over winter. For some, summer in a different country altogether would take preference. Perhaps it is because of the wet summers and the dark winters we have here in Scotland.

It may surprise you that for me personally, the summers and winters in Scotland are simply very enjoyable. For me, the long days in summer allow me to do much more, and you get that feeling of accomplishment as the day draws to a close. In summer, as the year draws on, you begin to see the days become shorter, and the promise that winter is once again on its way. Then the calculations start, how fast will the days become shorter. And when you get to the end of October, you really start to feel it, the cold evenings and crisp mornings.

You may say, Jim, are you OK? Are you sure you know what the word 'enjoy' means?

I should say that I have always liked strange weather. Since I was a boy, I liked when the weather did something out of the ordinary. I suppose if I were given the opportunity, I could be a 'storm chaser'.

But enough about how I feel about the weather. There is a reason for telling you about the current 'bad' weather we are experiencing. As you know we have had some bad very wet weather recently,
especially in the highlands. Who knows what the short future will present us. It looks like there is more snow in England just now than here in Scotland, but it is the snow that fascinates me.

As a South African, snow is still somewhat of a novelty. Snow is just beautiful, when it is white and fresh and dry. Forget for a second the slush. Forget also the traffic and flight disruptions. For the purpose of this letter, slush is not part of the equation. White flakes, dry, light and beautiful. As they collect, without producing any noise. It changes the landscape in no time.

Many consider this to be magical, and magical it is indeed. As a pastor I can't help thinking about this within the framework of salvation. From Genesis 1 all the way through the Bible, we find the theme of light and darkness. And I immediately see the way which God also uses to talk about darkness and light, evil and good, using the imagery of weather and elements of it.

When you step outside and go for a walk, and the ground is covered with fresh snow, it just gives you that change in mood and it lifts your spirit.

Then you can admire what is happening around you, especially when you realize how much 'mud' and 'muck' your life had been filled with recently. The fact is, we all have to walk this earth, and I would like to compare this walk with our spiritual experience.

I cannot help thinking about our spiritual life like this when I read what the Bible says in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

While winter is not the preferred season for most, it is the time when we see that which is 'ugly' transformed into beauty. In the same way God uses our lives, which may sometimes be ugly, and turns them into His beauty. God understands better than anybody, the issues you go through. God, unlike anybody else, has experienced the same and worse of muddy muck.

We learn about light and darkness in Genesis 1, and as the theme develops throughout the Bible, whilst darkness had a hold over the lives of those we read of in His Word, Jesus became that which we were supposed to be, that which we deserved, to die because of our muckiness.

He came to us, and took our ugliness, and in the midst of our winter, in the midst of our bad season, He changes us as if using magic, to transform us into something of beauty.

Oh how great to be a child of God, who is bigger than any sin we could ever commit, and yet small enough to see the beauty in each of us. He is near enough to see the potential in even the worst of offenders. Oh how marvellous the thought that if He could do that for the worst of them, He can change me as well.

I will continue to take my walks in the snow. I will always hope for snow, take many pictures of the changed landscape. Perhaps I will remember how He has changed me as well.
LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

A recent communication survey indicated that MESSENGER readers love local news. So prepare to be delighted with this edition including more than two pages dedicated solely to baptisms. Reason enough for rejoicing, but there is more! 'God hasn't given up on our cities yet!' proclaims the lead article in the 25 January MESSENGER, official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland – and focuses on how God is changing lives in the difficult city of Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Julian Hibbert discovers that 'Life begins at the end of your comfort zone'; while Sarah Jarvis ponders on the Tony Benn division of people into 'Signposts or weathercocks!'. Pick up a copy in your church this Sabbath or download it from the BUC website.

DEATH OF PASTOR PETER HORACE STEARMAN

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Pastor Peter Horace Stearman on Friday, 18 January 2013. Pastor Stearman was born in Norwich on 11 May 1921. Growing up in a Seventh-day Adventist home, Peter accepted Jesus as his Lord at the age of 10 and was later baptised in Lowestoft by Pastor John Howard. Graduating from Newbold College in 1942 he commenced work in Birmingham in the North England Conference. In 1944 he and Vera (née Howard) were married and in 1945 were called to Ghana to work in what was then the Gold Coast Mission. In 1947 Peter was elected as Secretary Treasurer for the Mission, ordained in 1949 and from 1950 to 1953 continued in the mission as an ordained minister. During this mission period three daughters were born to the family, Kathleen, Carolyn and Jacqueline.

The family returned to the UK in 1954 where Peter was deployed to Bristol in the South England Conference. While there the family grew by two more daughters Rosalind and Anita. They served in various parts of the South England Conference prior to 1969 when Peter was elected to serve the Welsh Mission as President, which he did until 1976 when he returned to pastoring in the SEC again up to retirement in July 1985. Peter died peacefully in the presence of his beloved wife Vera and daughter Carolyn, and now is at rest until the Lord's return.

The funeral will take place at 11:00 am at the Stanborough Park church on Thursday 14 February. Our thoughts and prayers are with Vera and Carolyn here in the UK, Kathleen in Australia, Jacqueline in Thailand, Rosalind and Anita in Spain and their families at this time.

FUNERAL DETAILS: PASTOR RON EDWARDS

Following our announcement last week of the death of Pastor Ron Edwards, details of his funeral are now confirmed: Tuesday 29 January, 10:30 am interment at Peterborough Crematorium, Mowbray Road, North Bretton, Peterborough, PE6 7JE. All welcome but be advised that seating is limited in the chapel. 12:00 noon memorial service at St Mary and St Nicholas Parish Church, Church Street, Spalding, PE11 2RA. Donations in lieu of flowers are welcomed and will be shared between the Alzheimer's Society and ADRA-UK. (Cheques should be made payable to his wife, Sandy Edwards and sent c/o BUC Executive Secretary, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.)
PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK

Our programme highlights for the coming week:

On Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): Faith Talks returns with discussion and debate surrounding issues central to the Christian faith. Join the debate Thursdays 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday lunchtime, 1:00 pm.

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 25 January: 8:00 pm: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die?, 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is religion good for children?, Midnight: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die? 
Sabbath 26 January: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die?, 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is religion good for children? 
Monday 28 January: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: Paul Lee – Singing for life, 9:30 pm: Viewpoint: End of Life Choices 
Wednesday 30 January: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: Sabbath Rest, 11:00 pm: In Conversation: Pansi Katenga – Privileged to serve 
Friday 1 February: 8:00 pm: The Journey: Iona and Worship, 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is God a moral monster?, Midnight: The Journey: Iona and Worship
Sabbath 2 February: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Iona and Worship, 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is God a moral monster?

COMING EVENTS For a full listing of Coming Events please visit www.adventistevents.org.uk

NEW TIMES–NEW OPPORTUNITIES. Friday, 25 January to Sunday, 27 January. Study weekend with Bjorn Ottesen. Reflecting on the task of the church and how it can be put into practice in our time. Venue: Crieff Adventist church, Gwydyr Road, Crieff, PH7 4BS: Friday 7:30 pm; Sabbath 10:00 am, 11:15 am, 4:40 pm; Sunday 9:00 am. Pastor Ottesen will also be speaking at the Church Officer's Training Day on the Sunday with the devotional at 10:30 am, and a talk on Leadership at 11:00 am. Contact: Carole Barratt-Peacock <office@sdascotland.com>. Phone: 01764 653257.

BREAKING THE ADDICTION TO CERTAINTY AND SATISFACTION. Sabbath, 26 January. Looking for new skills to share Jesus to postmodern minded friends? Sabbath, 26 January, Balham Adventist Church, 83 Elmfield Road, London, SW17 8AD, at 11:00 am and 4:00 pm to our seminar with Dr Miroslav Pujic, Director of Ministry to Postmoderns at the Trans-European Division. Contact: Joseph D Clem <dominiqueclem@yahoo.com>. Phone: 07879014088.


DIG A LITTLE DEEPER–STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH. Sabbath, 26 January. A series of workshops designed help us how to study different types of texts in the Bible. Worksheets provided, pleasant atmosphere guaranteed. Venue: Stanborough Park Church, 609 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JL; Armstrong Hall at 4:00 pm. Contact: Pastor Ivana Mendez <ivanamendez@hotmail.co.uk>. Phone: 07539326780.
STRESSTHERAPIST.NET MINISTRIES WORKSHOPS. Sabbath, 26 January and Sabbath, 9 February. Stresstherapist.net Ministries Workshops:- Stress and the Bible: Building unity by breaking down stress in our churches and families. The speaker will focus on Biblical and scientific guidance that enable better relationships between church members, families and the community. Venue: Enfield Seventh-day Adventist Church, St Heliers Community Centre, 12 Eastfield Road (off Hertford Road). Time: 4 - 6 pm. Contact: Uche Nwosu <uche_nwosu@stresstherapist.net>. Phone: 07828438849.

POSTPONEMENT OF WMCSF DAY OF FELLOWSHIP. Sabbath, 26 January. We regret to inform you that the West Midlands Community Services Federation Day of Fellowship scheduled for Sabbath, 26 January in Smethwick has been postponed. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. For any further information contact Darius Joseph – WMCSF Executive Secretary. Email <office@csfwm.org.uk>. Phone: 07584661063.

INDIAN MEAL AND AUCTION. Saturday, 26 January. Help raise funds for the international children's charity, STOP. 7:30 pm in the Cedar/Sycamore Room of Stanborough Centre, St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL. Tickets cost £10 per person or you can book a table for eight for £70. A list of items for the auction will be published very soon on the Stanborough Park church website. Contact: Pat Walton <walton@groats.co.uk>. Phone: 01923 672500.


MINISTRY OF HEALING AND PRAYER (MOHAP) DAY RETREAT. Sunday, 27 January. MOHAP seeks to provide spiritual support to terminally sick and chronically ill people of all ages and will provide opportunities for fellowship and friendship within the church and wider community. This ministry will also highlight areas of support, such as found in Adventist ministry of healing concepts i.e. diet, healing (mental, physical and spiritual), rest, prayer and exercise etc. The MOHAP day retreat will include praise and worship, one-to-one pastoral counselling, prayer and anointing, testimonies, prayer, discussion, devotional Pastor Cecil Perry (spiritual healing), health presentations – Dr Chidi Ngwaba (physical healing), Marlene Levy (mental/emotional healing). All attendees must book and be registered in order to receive any materials which will be provided on the day as well as the two course lunch. Venue: The Advent Centre, London, W1H 5HD. Time: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. For more information and booking form see www.secnews.org.uk/events. Contact: Janet <mohaprayer@ymail.com>. Phone: 07407 692 256.

JOURNALISTIC WRITING. Sunday, 27 January to Sunday, 28 April. Many people need to be in contact with the press in one form or another. To fill the need: Five Journalistic Writing workshops in the North England Conference. West Bromwich – 27 January. Huddersfield – 17 February. NEC Office – 17 March. Bury-Fishpool – 13 April. Newcastle – 28 April. The aim of each workshop is to equip people to understand the process needed to create an article for the denominational press (BUC News, NEC Communicator, MESSENGER etc) or for local newspapers. Each student will leave the course having created a short article that is potentially suitable for publication – and will be able to choose photographs that are suitable for print. Anyone can attend the course, it is suitable for all church members and their friends. This includes friends who are not members of the Church. Contact: Pastor Peter Jeynes <pjeynes@necadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 07734 220536.

ASI-UK ANNUAL CONVENTION. Friday, 1 February to Sunday, 3 February. Venue: Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry. Join with either practising or retired Adventist managers, business owners, professionals and students, representing all strands within our diverse Church. Sabbath morning speaker: Pastor Ian Sweeney. Afternoon seminar: Dr Laurence Turner on the beginning of Genesis. Full weekend programme; Convention open to all. Theme: Issues affecting Adventists in the UK.
Full weekend: £140 non-members, £130 members. Concessions and day or 1 night rates available. For further information, or to make a booking, please email the ASI secretary, Christine Manners-Smith at manners_smith@yahoo.com. Contact: Christine Manners-Smith <manners_smith@yahoo.com>. Phone: 07790 452920.

MALAWI ADVENTIST YOUTH DAY OF FELLOWSHIP. Sabbath, 2 February. Join Malawi Adventist Youth in the UK for Worship, Youth Seminars on Youth Spirituality, Youth personal and professional choices; and Choosing life partners. Speakers: Eric Zapita, Jonathan Nyengani and Christopher Khuoge. Hope Kapitao Ngozo will host the finale of worship with talents. Day's moderators: Febbie Sulumba and Hope Kumpalume. Venue: Stantonbury Campus Leisure Centre; Stantonbury, Milton Keynes, MK14 6BN; http://www.stantonbury.org.uk. From 09:00 till 16:15. For further details contact any Malawi Adventist Youth, or email: chriskhuoge@gmail.com. Contact: Christopher Khuoge <chriskhuoge@gmail.com>. Phone: 07881238362.

HOMECOMING AND VISITORS' DAY. Sabbath, 2 February. Come join us at Wolverhampton Central Adventist church for 'From Your House To Our Home'. Speaker: Pastor Richard Jackson. An all-day event with Sabbath School at 9:15 am, Divine Service 11:00 am. Afternoon programme 4:30 pm. Address: Warwick Street, Horsley Fields, Wolverhampton, WV1 3SD. Contact: Chelsie <communicationsdept@mail.com>. Phone: 07794075771.

HOMECOMING DAY. Sabbath, 2 February. Hampstead Adventist church invites all past and present members to join us for our special homecoming Sabbath. Speaker: Pastor Simon Martin with special guests, Croydon Gospel Choir. Venue: Hampstead Adventist Church, 66 Haverton Hill, Hampstead, London, NW3 2BE. Contact: Communications team <hampsteadsda@gmail.com>. Phone: 07852365522.

BIBLE SYMPOSIUM ON PERFECTIONISM. Sunday, 3 February. Venue: John Loughborough School starting at 10:00 am. Drs Jan Barna and Radisa Antic from Newbold College present: What is biblical perfection? What did Jesus mean when He said "be ye therefore perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect?" We will be looking at this and other related topics on perfection. We will also get a view from Ellen White's perspective. Contact: Sam Davis <sdavis@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 232728.

NCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION-UK URGENT MEETING. Sunday, 3 February. Northern Caribbean University Alumni Association-UK Urgent Meeting. John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road, London, N17 9AD. 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Dr Trevor Gardner, NCU President, along with Pastors Patrick Smith, Bylton Clarke and Ms Susan Longgordon will be visiting the UK. The President is desirous of meeting all NCU [formerly WIC] Alumni and Friends. Please do come along and to help defray expenses plan to make a small contribution of £5.00. Kindly share this message with all alumni and friends of NCU. For more information contact Pastor S Matthias Esson, President NCU Alumni Association-UK <simesson@aol.com>. Phone: 07985408669.

SEND ME: A FUNDRAISING CONCERT. Saturday, 9 February. Send Me: a fundraising concert in aid of Impact South Africa 2013 and Aston Newtown Youth department. Be blessed by an array of gospel musical talent by Aston Newtown Community Adventist Church youth and special guest artists. Time: 6:30 pm. Location: Aston Newtown Community Adventist Church, Lichfield Rd, Aston, Birmingham, B6 5SX. Cost: £5 Adults; £3 (Children & Seniors); Tickets available online, from the Adventist Resource Centre at Aston Newtown church or on the door. Contact: Daniel Blyden <astonnewtontcomms@gmail.com>. Phone: 07445346577.

WILLESDEN FAMILY LIFE WEEK. Saturday, 9 February to Saturday, 16 February. Sabbath 9 - Sabbath 16 February, 7:00 pm at Willesden Adventist church, Pound Lane, Glebe Road, Willesden, NW10 2JD. Speaker: Pastor Leslie Ackie – Family Life director, South England Conference. Is your family life chaotic? Does your family communicate by yelling and name calling? Do you and your spouse disagree on how to discipline the children? When is the last time you and your spouse had a date night? Is your relationship safe or unsafe? What is love, actually? Broken relationships with God & man? How do I get back in touch? Come find out – every week night and Sunday afternoon.
Family health check. Men – married or not, plan to be there, your women will love you for it! Contact: Sophia Prince <sprince@adventist.org.uk>. Phone: 01923 672251.

ILFORD FUNDRAISING BANQUET. Sunday, 10 February. A special fundraising banquet at Ilford Seventh-day Adventist church. The funds raised will go towards the Church Building Fund. Cost: £20 per person. Please contact Sonia Roman on 07900 310123 or soniaworld@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

DIVERSITY - FRIEND OR FOE? Tuesday, 12 February. The February Diversity Lecture at Newbold College. Speaker: Professor Lawrence Geraty, President Emeritus, Executive Director, LSU Foundation, La Sierra University. Time: 7:30 pm. Venue: Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, Binfield, RG42 4AN. Contact: Helen Pearson <helenpr@newbold.ac.uk>. Phone: 07775612610.

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SMALL ADS

VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY REQUIRED: Have you ever considered becoming a missionary in this country? Stats show that only 1 in 100 people in the UK consider themselves Christian in any way so there is a lot of work to do! The Watering Hole church plant is looking for someone who is passionate about God, has an enthusiastic personality, possesses leadership qualities and skills in some or all of the following: working with children and youth, music or sports. We need someone like this to come and help us in working with the indigenous majority population of approx. 23,000 people where there are no established Adventist churches. Housing and stipend available for the right candidate. Position available ASAP lasting between 1 - 2 years. Contact Pastor Rosemary Lethbridge at rosy@thewateringhole.org.uk or phone 02380 661781.

100 YEAR FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE: It is just 2 days to go until BUC Communication director, Pastor Victor Hulbert, Welsh Mission President, Pastor John Surridge, and two lay-members launch their kayaks down the almost frozen River Wye in a mid-winter fundraising challenge. Your support has now raised 65% of their goal. In the 100th anniversary of Ingathering, help them to help the villages in Burkina Faso who so desperately need the drinking water that we have a surplus of. Visit www.justgiving.com/100-years, or donate by texting WYER77 £5 to 70070.

JOB VACANCIES: Key Stage 1 teacher, Stanborough Primary School for April or September 2013. Closing date, 25 February. Primary School Teacher, Harper Bell Adventist School, Birmingham, to start as soon as possible but at the latest by September 2013. Web Developer at the German 'Stimme-der-Hoffnung' (Voice of Hope) Media Centre. See our job vacancies page for these and other work opportunities.

EUROPEAN HEALTH CONFERENCE: A Pan-European Adventist Conference focused on 'Healing - Perceptions, expectations and facts; an exploration through science, faith and culture'. Venue: Prague, Czech Republic. 29 April - 4 May 2013. Find out much more about this exciting Europe-wide programme by visiting the Conference website.

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