Edition #840 (16 August 2013)

Email Newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland
For additional and updated news and a full listing of coming events visit our website:
www.adventist.org.uk

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ONE CONGRESS, 12 BAPTISMS, 200 COMMITMENTS

Over 100 youth from the UK and Ireland attended the Pan-European Youth Congress in Serbia, 30 July to 4 August.

Further to the previous report, the weather remained in the high 30s all week, which was almost too hot for Friday when all 2,500+ attendees hit the streets in Novi
Sad to paint fences, clean up a school playground, give out bottles of water and water melon, give blood, and exchange fruit for cigarettes to passers-by in the street. These were among the activities on offer that the youth enthusiastically helped with on the Service Day.

The Friday evening service culminated in a baptism. Eleven candidates were presented on the platform, and after they proclaimed a profession of faith, a carefully instructed movement of the attendees adjourned to the outdoor amphitheatre. It was at this point that Kari Rothwell, an Irish Mission youth, came forward and requested baptism.

A phone call to family in Ireland, and an enquiry with her pastor, resulted in Kari joining the last group of four into the baptismal pool. For Kari, this was the right time to make this public statement. On request by Pastor Nathan Stickland, the large crowd of youth agreed with a loud "YES!" to be Kari's witnesses on her commitment to God, and then she was baptised.

For some, a carefully staged baptismal programme is planned. For others, like Kari and the Ethiopian man in Acts 8, when they believe with all their heart, there and then is the appropriate time. Noteworthy is that along with other requests for Bible study and commitments to continue in faith, 200 people at the Congress requested baptism. That is about 7.5% of those attending!

On Sabbath the General Conference Youth Ministries director, Pastor Gilbert Cangy, talked about the 'Power of One' leading in our life. In the evening a symbol of commitment was portrayed by all attendees breaking glow sticks and lighting the auditorium as a sign they will let the power of God go with them and let their light shine.

Many other stories, pictures, and Facebook comments have been made during the week. While sad to depart, attendees are now excitedly looking forward to the next Pan-European Youth Congress in Spain, 2017.

In the meantime, there will be a UK and Ireland Adventist Youth Congress over Easter 2015. For more information about all youth activities in the British Union Conference see <www.adventistyouth.org.uk> and on Facebook join and like 'Adventist Youth, UK & Ireland'.
Almost 100 local Prayer Ministry coordinators came together at Denham Grove, Hertfordshire, for their Annual Retreat, 9-11 August 2013. Last minute changes meant that the planned guest speakers were unable to attend due to medical matters. However "The Lord works in mysterious ways", said Pastor Emmanuel Osei, Ministerial Association and Prayer Ministries director at the South England Conference. He continued, "God knew what this group needed, and Pastor Mike Hamilton, director of Spiritual Formation and Prayer Ministries at the Trans-European Division, stepped in and inspired the coordinators with his presentation on Revival and Reformation, extending a call to Godliness and the spiritual disciplines."

Pastor Rupert Bushner from the USA challenged the attendees during his Sabbath morning devotion. Pastor Hamilton then helped everyone to understand their different personality types and admonished the coordinators to be tolerant with those who behave differently to us. Testimonies were shared about what the Lord was doing in the local churches, and how local churches were engaging in outreach into their communities.

Whether it was walking in the beautiful grounds or making use of the rooms available, much of the time during the weekend was spent in prayer.

"Messages requesting prayers kept trickling in via text messages throughout the weekend," stated Pastor Osei, "enabling the attendees to join in praying for specific, tangible concerns and needs. It reinforced how prayer is important in our faith, and the privilege it is to pray for someone else and their needs."

"Many expressed the joy that they experienced at the conference," concluded Pastor Osei, "and the Prayer Ministry coordinators felt ready to return and implement their newfound knowledge."

The weekend concluded as the prayer coordinators expressed gratitude to God for hearing and answering prayers during their time together.

[Sabrina with Emmanuel Osei]
service. With face beaming, he proudly announced to the congregation that Sabbath, 3 August marked the 10th wedding anniversary between himself and his wife, Camelia.

Only two church members were aware of this 'secret' occasion and had quietly prepared a large anniversary cake at the back of the church. Pastor Bran invited the equally surprised and joyful congregation to partake of the fare provided. Camelia, who is also renowned for her beautiful singing, received a bouquet of flowers.

In a world where the power of a positive relationship and a good marriage is often downgraded, Derby Chester Green members were delighted to be able to value and appreciate the pastoral couple. A quick check on Facebook demonstrates such positive appreciation also extends far beyond the three churches under their care, namely: Chester Green, Bethel and Burton.

[Richard Shaw]

"IRON SHARPENS IRON' MEN'S DAY OF FELLOWSHIP"

Sunday, 28 July saw hundreds of men make their way to the Emirates Stadium, home of Arsenal Football Club. However, they were not gathering to worship 'The Beautiful Game' or its 'superstars'. Instead they gathered together to praise the Lord Jesus Christ and encourage each other to rise higher for Him.

Men came from all over the British Isles to attend the third 'Iron Sharpens Iron' Men's Day of Fellowship.

The Sunday morning began with a wonderful Praise and Worship session led by Paul Lee, South England Conference Music director. There was something special about hearing 400+ men singing praises to God – and possibly making more noise than the regular 60,000 attendants at a game!

Pastor Richard de Lisser, SEC Stewardship director, gave everyone an opportunity to reflect on how and why we are spending the money that God has blessed us with in a talk entitled, 'Money, Men and Me!'.

"Don't go broke trying to look rich. Act your wage!" is a statement that we'll all remember the
next time that we are tempted to make one of those vanity purchases.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference President, has always been a great support to the Men's Ministry department and in his talk 'I Blame the Parents', reminded us all that we are heroes to the young ones around us.

A big part of the Men's Ministry objective is to allow men to develop a deeper relationship with other men. This will lead to greater confidence and trust within our churches and communities. For this reason, there was plenty of time to socialize and encourage each other during the day especially in the lunch break.

After the break, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, SEC Men's Ministries coordinator, shared a few words on how men can save their lives, the lives of those close to them and their marriages by getting control of their anger and resentment. During his talk, 'Homicide, Suicide, You Decide!' he encouraged the men to partner-up and take the 'Anger test', 11 questions which determine how angry you are.

Thought and discussion was stimulated by questions such as "Do you spend more time thinking about people who: a) help you? or b) hurt you?"

The day was broken up with various musical and inspirational videos, and amazing a cappella singing from 'Higher Ground'. The SECmedia team ensured that the technical aspects of the day went smoothly and professionally.

There was never a dull moment. All the talks were short and to the point. This was much appreciated especially by the non-Christian attendees, of which there were many. This is one of the reasons why the Emirates Stadium is used for such an event. Men, young and old, are drawn to the event sometimes just because it is a venue they have always wanted to visit. Members feel at ease inviting their work, college or school friends to such an event. It can be less intimidating than church. The result for many attendees is that they leave with a greater understanding of who God is, what He wants to do in their lives and with several new friends and mentors in the Lord.

Pastor Sam Davis, SEC President, ended the day on a high note by reminding the men of their responsibility to their families, churches, communities and to God in his talk, 'Adam, where are you?'

Many were greatly encouraged by the highly emotional day. Many men have already reported back to personally say that it was just the push they needed to be more involved with their families, to look after their health or to get closer to God.

The Men's Ministry department will also be producing the Men's MOT (Ministry of Training) to
help men work together to:

- Improve their leadership skills
- Be better husbands / fathers / sons
- Be fit for life
- Eliminate debt, gain wealth
- Walk closer with God

A selection of photos from the day can be seen on the Adventist Church website picture gallery.

[Chidi Ngwaba]

**CHURCH PHOTO COMPETITION**

The church is about people – not buildings – yet buildings are attractive. The UK Adventist Church website is looking for photos of the outside of your church but that include people – showing that your church is a place where visitors are welcomed.

Take a look at [http://adventist.org.uk](http://adventist.org.uk) (and the regional sections of the site) and you will see a Church Finder photo among the top four photos at the top of the screen. If you think you can do better, and represent the church in your region (NEC, SEC, Irish, Scottish or Welsh Missions) then your winning entry will appear on the website.

To enter, simply email a good quality photo of no larger than 5mb to buc@adventist.org.uk. Include with it your name, your email address, the church name, and the Conference or Mission you are located in. By submitting the photo you are also giving permission for publication to the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Closing date for entries, Monday 14 October 2013.

All suitable entries will be posted on the BUC News Facebook page. The most liked entry will be the key photo on the national page and the recipient of a £50 photo voucher. Three runners-up will receive a £20 voucher. A selection of photos may be used over a period of time. More importantly, your greatest reward will be the satisfaction of seeing your photo and your church represented on a national website, attracting thousands of people to attend Adventist worship.

**Photo tips.** Note that the left hand side of your photo will be partly obscured by text so try to compose a picture that directs the eyes more to the right hand third of the picture (see current Church Finder photos). Make sure that your photo is vibrant, alive, with good exposure and colour, making a positive statement about the church you love.

For a more general video and PDF guide on taking photos for church use visit the Communication page of the Adventist Church website.
BAPTISMAL ROUND-UP

Baptistries have been busy and church members rejoicing across the British Isles. Pastor Jimmy Botha reports that Bulalani and Ted both made a decision for Christ at Edinburgh church.

Pastor Weiers Coetser delightedly reports on the baptism of his own daughter, Jeandre. The church family in Banbridge were especially delighted, not just for Jeandre, but for the fact that she was supported in her decision by a number of her friends from the local community. Other Irish baptisms this last month include Teniola Sinead Olaleye at the West of Ireland Camp Meeting and Kari Rothwell at the Pan-European Youth Congress.

Not to be outdone, Pastor Petras Bahadur joined with Pastor Mohan Abbadasari, where among the four baptismal candidates at the London Asian church was a lifelong friend of Petras, finally baptised after years of hesitation. It was a special moment for Petras, but especially for Mushtaq Yaqub. The other three candidates were Samina Rehmat and brothers Solomon and Shawn Francis.

Finally, Pastor Maureen Rock rejoiced, not just with two baptisms at the Hounslow Cornerstone church, but with a baby dedication on the same day. Mum, Leanne, was baptised, baby Ramell dedicated, and a supportive church family committed to support both the family and the second baptismal candidate, Dallas Tunda.

Fuller reports on each of these special occasions for rejoicing can be seen by clicking on the various hyperlinks.

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS

Hezron Ottey, Health Ministries leader of the Telford church, not only made an impact with a well-planned
Forget previous vote

n recently, but now has been invited as an occasional guest to review the Sunday papers from a Christian angle on his local station, **BBC Radio Shropshire**. Hezron was interviewed by the station's Paul Shuttleworth before the Health Expo, then, with the day proving to be a highlight for the local community, the following Sunday morning show included almost an hour of coverage of the Adventist organised event.

An Adventist led charity in Milton Keynes has also been in the news again. **Milton Keynes Citizen** notes that 'Love in Action' "...is aiming to make a change for residents who need it the most."

Change is coming for Preston church as well. While highlighted in their local paper, the **Lancashire Evening Post** for their skills singing in a gospel choir, and with a skilfully taken photograph, the church is most delighted that it has received £197,000 from the Heritage Fund to help repair the spire on their listed building. "The work to repair the spire will help the church to maintain its purpose and mission", states local pastor, Jeff Couzins. He adds, "As part of its mission, the Adventist church is seeking to develop the old school buildings attached to the church into a much needed community centre."

[BUC News]
Friday 16 August: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Michael Omolewa – Former President of UNESCO, 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Community through gospel music, Midnight: The Journey: Sabbath Rest Sabbath 17 August: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Colleen Lewis – Christ in the marketplace, 7:00 pm: In Conversation: Michael Omolewa – Former President of UNESCO, 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Community through gospel music, 8:00 pm: The Journey: Seeking the Lost Monday 19 August: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: Colin Stewart – Ministering to youth, 9:30 pm: The Journey: Giants, myths, saints and legends, Wednesday 21 August: 8:00 am: The Journey: Giants, myths, saints and legends, 11:00 pm: In Conversation: Lynette Alcock – A youthful world of mission Friday 23 August: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Tom Pignon – From Norfolk to Nairobi, 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Can faith survive cancer? Midnight: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die? Sabbath 24 August: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Michael Omolewa – Former President of UNESCO, 7:00 pm: In Conversation: Tom Pignon – From Norfolk to Nairobi, 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Can faith survive cancer? 8:00 pm: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die? For internet radio listeners: Fridays at 8:00 pm, 'My Song' with Mike Johnson, online at www.lightfm.net. Two hours of your favourite songs from across the decades. Send your requests/dedications to radio@lightfm.net. [Victor Hulbert] COMING EVENTS For a full listing of Coming Events please visit http://adventist.org.uk/events Friday, 16 August sees the start of the 60's alumni weekend at Newbold College. Sunday, 18 August: Norbury church Family Fun Day. Monday, 19 August: the start of SEC Extreme Teens' Camp. Thursday, 22 August: the start of the Welsh Mission Youth Camp. Next weekend and beyond: Sunday, 25 August. Megalungs Health Expo at Nottingham Upper Room. Friday, 30 August: the start of the Scottish Mission Pathfinder Camporee, also the Ministry of Healing and Prayer Annual Retreat. Sabbath, 31 August: A very special Communication Day at Wolverhampton Central church. Guest speakers from USA and BUC. Destination Heaven, a Youth Day at Wolverhampton Wednesfield church. Sunday, 1 September: Stanborough Press Open day. Grantham. For more details and a larger selection of events both this weekend and in the future please visit the Coming Events website where events are continuously updated online. Select your region for
events nearest to you. You can also share events important to you on your Facebook or social media profile. You can also submit your event at the same location.

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SMALL ADS

AU PAIR/HOUSEKEEPER AVAILABLE. Danielle, a Seventh-day Adventist from France, and a mature lady, would like to improve her English by working with a family in the UK. She has a certificate in family care and is also experienced both as a mother and a grandmother. For more details email: danielle.guizonne@hotmail.fr.

HEROES – THE GAME. Want a game on your iPhone? Here is a Christian/Adventist one – and possibly about to be the first Christian game to hit #1 in the app store: https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/heroes-the-game/id630242375?mt=8.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE REFRESH – Potters Bar church plant. Willing to devote 12 months of service to helping develop a brand new Adventist community in North London? Enthusiastic about sharing your faith? Find out more by visiting the Jobs section of the Adventist Church website.

JOB VACANCIES. Eden Adventist School is looking for 4 teachers for September 2013. For all our job vacancies visit the Jobs page of the Adventist Church website.

THE SMALL PRINT

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 or submitted online. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: http://adventist.org.uk/events. Small ads should be sent by email. 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 are available on our archive website at http://www.adventistnews.org.uk.

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