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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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ORDINATION: THE ONGOING SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING
How do you condense 700 pages of meticulous research into a one hour lecture? On Tuesday, 10 September, Dr Bertil Wiklander, President of the Trans-European Division (TED) made a valiant attempt as he shared the results of his two-year search for the biblical roots of ordination.

What the audience of 90 at the Newbold College Diversity Seminar heard was not so much his role as administrator, politician, and academic, though there were elements of all three. Instead, here was a Bible student and a conscientious pastor, concerned to teach and guide his people.

Dr Wiklander began his lecture by explaining the latest round in the process which the global Seventh-day Adventist Church is going through, as it struggles once again to decide whether to ordain women to the gospel ministry. He described the appointment by the General Conference of the Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) and his co-operation with Newbold College theologians and other TED leaders in the Division's own Biblical Research Committee with a brief to report to TOSC. He made clear how central to the whole process is a developed view of exegesis and interpretation, and he listed clearly the principles his committee had agreed on.

Dr Wiklander went on to describe his biblical findings. He described a variety of processes of 'imposition of hands' in the Bible. Laying on of hands was used to transmit virtue but also, as in the scapegoat ceremony, to pass on responsibility for sin. Laid on hands could dispense blessing, healing and baptism. Certain patterns of Jewish scribal ordination in the Old Testament might have influenced the early church to lay hands on deacons – a practice neither recommended nor repeated in the rest of the New Testament. Jesus did not ordain but He made or appointed apostles and warned them not to be like the scribes but to follow the servant model of leadership. There is no general command to the Christian church to ordain anyone to a leadership position. The concept of ordination is not found in the Bible and emerges in the second and third-century as the Roman church mirrored what was done in the Roman Empire's legal and civic system. This Roman Catholic concept was not fully challenged during the Protestant Reformation and unbiblical practices remained. "In the New Testament", said Dr Wiklander, "there is no term for ordination as a process of induction to church leadership. It is a pagan practice."

After focusing on the Reformation, the lecture moved on to look at early Adventist history. Dr Wiklander had researched in depth the ecclesiastical heritage of James White and many other Adventist pioneers. They brought with them into the Adventist Church from their previous group – Christian Connection – the three orders of ministry: pastor, elder, and deacon. The idea of apostolic succession – that only ordained ministers could ordain ministers – took hold but, "it has no biblical root", Dr Wiklander insisted.

Finally the audience was treated to a whistle-stop tour of an extensive list of church leadership tasks which Ellen White told the church leadership in 1901 that women should take and for
which they should be paid by the tithe. "And she said this", said Dr Wiklander, "at a time when women were not even allowed the vote in political life."

After an hour, Dr Wiklander concluded the lecture on a personal note. "I become quite emotional when I speak about this", he said. "The research has given me a big question. I believe we should bring men and women into the ministry on equal terms."

As usual, the question and answer session brought more fascinating insights. "I've been ordained...so I feel a bit pagan now!" said one pastor. "If ordination is a pagan not a biblical practice, should we ordain at all?" Dr Wiklander admitted that he had considered that possibility but rejected it. "We need to have a way of ensuring that we are led by educated and appropriate church leaders and we need a practical way of doing that. There are a lot of traces of paganism in our lives, praying with our hands together, Christmas trees, and the names of the days of the week. Our significant concern needs to be what meaning we assign to ordination. I believe we need a deep reform to make our practices of ordination more biblical."

Questions explored the possibility both of what might happen in the church if women's ordination is agreed and if it is not. People shared concerns about submitting to a vote rather than to the voice of scripture. Dr Wiklander explored the worst possible scenario – a massive schism in which people go their own way and the tithe system is threatened. Some will be unhappy whatever is decided and research needs to be in place as a basis for our teaching. Either way, we need to have a big reform of ordination in our Church and in relations between clergy and laity so that members do not feel the status of pastors separates them from lay people. We can only go forward together if we are all together as servants.

Finally, the President gave more personal commitments to his belief in the ordination of women. "I am converted completely to what I said tonight. I would die for it."

Newbold's pastor, Patrick Johnson, was impressed. "There was a great deal for pastors to think about in this lecture", he said. "I've heard Bertil speak many times but I've never heard him speak with such passion and conviction."

[Helen Pearson]
REBUILDING THE WALLS AT NEC DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

The event was bigger than it looked! With over 2,000 people in Sheffield City Hall, scores more churches relayed the North England Conference Day of Fellowship by live-stream to their congregations. On Sabbath, 7 September 2013, more than a third of the members of the NEC were then able to hear Pastor Israel Leito challenge them to look back to the past for guidance, but to not "get stuck in your proficiency trap."

As President of the Inter-American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Leito shared his experience as leader of the Adventist world's largest region with members of the North England Conference, part the world's smallest region, the Trans-European Division. From over forty years' experience as a pastor and a church administrator he noted that there are dangers in looking back at 'the good old days', using examples such as bloodletting to show that sometimes the good old days were not as good as we think.

"Mission does not change but the way we do mission changes with the times", he stated. "I can't do mission the same way as the apostles. I have to do it the way that will reach modern man."

Talking to a very international and diverse congregation, Pastor Leito urged caution that just because something worked well 'back home' does not mean that it is the right thing for the new country and culture where you now worship. That is the 'proficiency trap'. In his own territory he noted that while tent evangelism is extremely successful in some areas, take it into Mexico City and it would be a disaster. "People would think it is a carnival or a circus." Mexico City had to move out of the proficiency trap by consciously focusing directly just on the city. They "did something different" and doubled their membership.
His statement that, like the post-resurrection disciples by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus had to help them refocus on mission. First they had to spend a nostalgic and mournful night looking back at the past. The next morning they could make the life transforming discovery that "It is the Lord." While throughout the Gospels they had seen Him as a 'heroic leader', now they were to truly see Him as the Lord of Mission. The experience on Galilee changed their lives.

Pastor Leito's sermon fitted in very carefully with the overall theme of the day – and the vision for the North England Conference, 'Rebuilding the Walls'. In both a morning and an afternoon session, NEC President, Pastor Lorance Johnson, emphasised the now familiar vision of Nehemiah to 'rebuild the walls', laying out his strategic plan around three principle goals:

- To build a real meaningful relationship with God
- To build loving relationships with fellow members
- To build saving relationships with others

Pastor Johnson sees this "not as a top down strategy, but as something for every area, every church board to consider, discuss and implement at their local level." He noted that "people are getting tired of the gimmicks and the display. There is a desire for a transforming relationship with God."

The vision to 'rebuild the walls' has now been clearly shared. It will continue to be enunciated. Pastor Johnson believes the gauge of success will be in seeing transformed lives, developing churches and growing mission. He concludes, "We want to empower our people to realise that change can happen."

Enjoy a six minute BUC News video report with Dr Leito and Pastor Johnson. A selection of pictures from the day can be found in the Adventist picture gallery. For more on Pastor Johnson's vision for the NEC, read here.

See also: A report of the late afternoon ordination service.

[Victor Hulbert]
Ordination to the gospel ministry is such a special event that the North England Conference decided to hold one for the second time this year. This time it was for two more senior men who took career changing decisions in order to follow God's call.

Pastor Ebenezer Daniel was baptised into the Adventist Church, aged 14, albeit against the wishes of his parents. He studied science and then theology in India, serving at Adventist institutions in Bangalore before moving to England with his wife, a nurse, and his family. This led to soul-searching as he regretted leaving full-time ministry and yearned to be actively involved again. With support from his local church, Manchester South, and from his family and the NEC, he resumed employment as a Bible Worker in 2008 and was soon ministering to the Merseyside district of churches. Today he cares for Manchester Central, Manchester North and Oldham.

By contrast, Pastor Orlando Holder worked in the telecommunications industry for many years. However, his home, school and church background ignited a desire in him to become a pastor. Completing his ministerial studies at Newbold College in 2005, he began ministry as an intern in the Leicester district, then moved to Erdington, Tamworth, Cannock and Chemsley Wood before his current district of Stoke.

In the late afternoon service on Sabbath, 7 September 2013, Pastor Ian Sweeney asked the two pastors if they had considered resigning! A strange question for the serving President of the British Union Conference of the Adventist Church to ask ministers on the day they are being confirmed in ministry. However, it is one that started to make sense as he opened his Bible and shared the human emotions of the prophet Jeremiah. Pastor Sweeney stated that he had come to fall in love with Jeremiah because he is transparent. "He tells it as it is, and 'as it is' is not always a pleasant story."

Sharing the difficulties and challenges of being a pastor might have wiped the smiles off the ordinands' faces. Where was this message going? But ultimately the story of Jeremiah is one of hope as God encourages him, "Before you were born, I called you." [Jeremiah 1:5]

Encouragement, according to William Barclay, is "One of the highest of human duties." He writes, "It is easy to laugh at men's ideals; it is easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a man on his feet. Blessed is the man who speaks such a word."
God gives Jeremiah strong encouragement. In the midst of the people complaining He says, "I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze." [Jeremiah 15:20]

That encouragement was a personal message for Pastors Daniel and Holder. It was also a message for supportive church members across the Conference. It set a positive tone for the prayer of ordination given by Inter-American Division President, Dr Israel Leito, for the charge presented by NEC President, Lorance Johnson, and for the emotional response given by Pastor Daniel.

It was the end of a special day for church members at the NEC Day of Fellowship in Sheffield, but for two Spirit filled pastors, it was a confirmation of God's calling, an encouragement for their lives to be dedicated to positively changing the lives of others.

A selection of photos from the service can be found on the Adventist picture gallery.

[Victor Hulbert]

**LEWISHAM PATHFINDERS AT BROMLEY HIGH STREET GARDEN**

For just one weekend, part of Bromley High Street was turned into a garden, with grass and plants transforming the grey concrete into a lush, green area to promote the council's plans for enhancement. Members from Lewisham's Pathfinder Club and Drum Corps were also there, Sunday, 1 September, to showcase their skills and talents and tell the community about themselves and what their group has to offer. They hope this will encourage more young people to join them.

The High Street Garden was part of a range of initiatives designed to enhance the town centre and show residents the plans for future projects the council will be undertaking. The Lewisham Pathfinder Club took the opportunity to be there and share their club's ethos and principles in order to show the local community what they do and encourage more young people to join.

The Lewisham Drum Corp was one of the main attractions of the morning as they showed their skills and captured the attention of those passing by with their complicated rhythms and well-orchestrated routines. While the people listened, the Pathfinders spoke to them and delivered
questionnaires to determine the needs of children in the area. The Club aims to promote positive influences for the youth in the area and give them an alternative type of recreation to what is often found in today's society; one that gives them good, solid values.

Many shoppers, residents, visitors and interested passers-by filled the busy town centre during the Sunday. The Club did a great job of promoting their organisation, with several people expressing an interest in their children attending, and the town centre manager thanking them for a job well done.

[Justin Victor]

'UNSUNG WOMEN' HONOURED BY COUNCIL AND CONFERENCE

An MP, High Commissioners, a Chief Detective Inspector, and an array of ministers joined together to honour two exceptional ladies in a surprise ceremony at Hackney Seventh-day Adventist church on Saturday evening, 7 September 2013.

Ann Williams and Ruby Merchant, both members of the church were, to their amazement, honoured for their tireless work in Hackney which between them both collectively spans some 70 years.

"If it falls to your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music… Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well."

Quoting those famous words from Dr Martin Luther King Jr, former Hackney pastor, Humphrey Walters, used them by way of introduction to the two special ladies who had lived out that mantra. They were then given the 'This is your life' treatment for 35 years outstanding service to both church and community.

Ruby Merchant, 73, who came to Hackney from Jamaica, had trained and worked as a sales and leisure clerk for over 25 years. This prepared her for a role as Church Clerk which she served faithfully for over 20 years. She has also been a Head Deaconess as well as a member of the Treasury and Prayer Ministries departments. Visiting nursing homes as well as feeding and clothing homeless individuals within the community continues to be one of her passions.
After hearing all the tributes paid to her from family, friends and church members she said, "I am so shocked. I had no clue this was happening. I can't believe all my family is here. I've been a part of this church since 1977. I thank the church, my family and God for bringing me this far."

Equally as surprised was Ann Williams, 83. She came to Hackney from the Island of Montserrat in 1955. A pioneer and founder member of the Hackney church, she was one of the few entrusted with the task of assisting the branching out of the church from Stoke Newington to its current location on Haggerston Road in 1980. Not one to shy away from work, she has served as Church Elder and Family Life and Women's Ministries leader. Even at age 83, she currently holds an office as Sabbath School Superintendent and continues to be a highly influential member of the Prayer Ministries team.

For many years Ann kept the children of Hackney safe on the streets during her time as a road crosser (lollipop lady) while also preparing meals at Great Ormond Street Hospital. Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, is one of many to have been treated to her cuisine.

"We thank you so much. The Lord has blessed and kept us and at 83 years of age I can happily say I've not experienced any sickness and have always been in church and able to help others."

Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney called the ladies, "Unsung women who as examples of faith, unity and love have contributed to creating a thriving and vibrant Hackney community."

The speaker of Hackney Council, Michael Desmond, who presented the ladies with special crystal plaques, concluded, "We must look to the past to know how to move forward in the future. These two exemplary ladies are two fireworks who haven't fizzled out and we are all challenged to do the same. The council is proud of you both and congratulates you."

Other dignitaries from the community included the Jamaican High Commissioner, Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, the Montserratian High Commissioner, Janice Panton and Chief Detective Inspector Shabnam Choudhury.

Those in attendance representing the South England Conference were former Hackney pastors, Humphrey Walters (1987-1992), Michael Mannix (2001-2005), and current Hackney pastor, Shepherd Chitura via a live Skype link in Zimbabwe. Also Pastor Emmanuel Osei, who stood in for SEC President and former Hackney pastor, Sam Davis (1992-1996).

Pastor Osei presented the ladies with a certificate of commendation before laying hands on them along with the church elders as a prayer of consecration was offered thanking God for equipping them in their continued work within both the church and community.

Read more: This event was also reported in the Hackney Gazette.
TEAMWORK THE WAY FORWARD

On Sunday, 8 September, and following his presentations at the NEC Day of Fellowship in Sheffield, Pastor Israel Leito, President of the Inter-American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, met with pastors and elders to practically demonstrate why and how they should work together.

Meeting at the Wolverhampton Central Seventh-day Adventist church under the headline, 'Teamwork is the way forward' the day's training progressed as Pastor Richard Jackson, Conference Ministerial Association Secretary, introduced Pastor Leito.

The work of elders and pastors was described as that of spiritual leaders, out to serve together as servants to the membership. The primary key is to recognise that the common aim is to develop people into active participants in the mission of the Church. The second key is to recognise that neither the pastor, nor the elder are to be lords of their own kingdom but rather are to work as a team to train, teach and guide their membership.

The closing part of the programme saw numerous questions answered by a very wise and diplomatic leader who drew the comment from one of the attending elders, "this training event has really helped me see that we are moving together to rebuild the walls of the Conference."

BUILDING COMMUNITY RELATIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Graisley Community Police have donated £1,500 towards Community Service projects run by the Wolverhampton Great Brickkiln Street (GBK) Seventh-day Adventist church. PC Martin Danher and PC Steven Wales made the donation on Tuesday, 27 August, noting that the church's plan to help those in need in the community is also the core message of their service.
Earlier in the month church members took up the invitation to join in the Graisley Community Police and the local council's Fun Day. Community Services leader, Edna Malcolm and her team had lots of fun setting up their marque and stalls alongside other local community groups. Despite rain reducing the turnout the day was a blessing building community relations with the other stallholders and the police. The police donation came as a direct result of links made on the day.

The GBK soup kitchen started 6 months ago and their food pantry is now up and running. A charity/gift shop is under development where items will be sold at cheap and charitable prices.

[Rainford McIntosh]

**MOHAP ANNUAL RETREAT 2013: 'LORD MAKE ME WHOLE'**

The annual Ministry of Healing and Prayer (MOHAP) retreat is designed and run by Adventists. However, when James, who saw the retreat advertised on a poster, phoned the MOHAP director to enquire if only "members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church could attend?" he received a warm welcome. After a weekend spent at Wokefield Park, Mortimer, with 90 Adventists from across England, Scotland and Wales he found his initial shyness overcome by "a wonderful welcome by all!" His memories will be, "Words of warmth and wisdom, singing of our Master's glorious return, fun and fellowship at a deep, Christ centred level with dear souls."

During the retreat, from Friday, 30 August to Monday, 2 September 2013, speakers delivered a total of 13 presentations on the theme 'Lord make me whole' and covered the spectrum of emotional, physical and spiritual healing.

Pastor Dennis Smith (USA), author of 16 books on the Holy Spirit, presented four deeply provocative devotions on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. He challenged attendees to allow Jesus to live His life in and through them and to daily seek the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Smith highlighted that the Holy Spirit desires to provide healing from emotional oppression. He led the attendees through the prayer of forgiveness, in which he modelled how to forgive those who had wounded them in the past. Tears freely flowed down faces, as the Holy Spirit moved upon minds and hearts. Pastor Aris Vonzalidis, SEC Church Growth director, touched by the message, stated that it needed to be heard, throughout the British Isles.

Colin Hone (Australia), International director of Holy Spirit Ministries, shared how he attended a revival weekend in 2009, conducted by Pastor Dennis Smith. After completing Pastor Smith's '40
days of prayer and devotion' he discovered a new spiritual life. His subsequent preaching has resulted in thousands experiencing revival.

They were joined by Dr Magna Parks (USA), a Counselling Psychologist and author, who focused on emotional healing and mental well-being, and Dr Scott Grivas, MD, from Wildwood Seventh-day Adventist Hospital and Lifestyle Clinic. He focused on the laws of health and the causes and treatment options for a number of common diseases including cancer. His presentation on the role of botanical medicines (herbs), in the treatment of common diseases in particular, elicited much interest and an extended discussion.

Lloyd Lambert, pastor of the Coventry church and an ex-physical education instructor in the British Army, led the outdoor prayer walk each morning, which focussed on light exercise and prayer with an emphasis on thanking, praising and supplication to God.

Sabbath morning panel discussions, a Saturday night celebration with the Croydon Gospel Choir, and a Sunday morning anointing service gave a variety of positive experiences for the weekend.

Delicious vegan wholefood was also part of the experience, modelling the Adventist health message and the nutritional element within the health presentations. David, the chef, had never before cooked vegan wholefood, but he rose to the challenge and produced an array of tasty delightful dishes, for which he received many compliments. He is now keen to learn more about vegan cooking and promised it would be 'even better next time'.

The next MOHAP day retreat will be on 17 November 2013 at Stanborough Park church, Watford. Please book online at http://www.mohap.org or alternatively please request a booking form, by sending a SAE to MOHAP, PO Box 6894, Basingstoke, RG24 2SR. For queries phone 07407 692 256.

[Janet Hamilton]

'SPEAKING KIND WORDS': WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DAY AT GBK
A lovely ambiance was created by the sunshine for the celebration of Women's Ministries Day at Great Brickkiln Street, Wolverhampton on Sabbath, 31 August. The day's programme was coordinated by Lesa McIntosh, the local church Women's Ministries leader and her team.

The theme 'Women Full of the Spirit' was reflected throughout the day. The Sabbath School led by Pernel Henry and Verona Roberts, featured a journey through biblical times. Through interviews and storytelling, it highlighted a number of heroines whom God used to fulfil specific needs of His people during critical moments in their history.

Geraldene Farmer, North England Conference Women's Ministries director focused on 'speaking kind words' and addressing different types of abuse. Talking about 'Christ our Refuge' she outlined different types of abuse noting that people in abusive situations should seek help and where possible, remove themselves from such situations. In every circumstance, we should remember to turn to Christ, our Refuge.

Following a delicious lunch the afternoon programme, 'The Time of Your Life', challenged all to be better stewards of the time God has entrusted in our care.

[Rainford McIntosh]

MISSION TO CAMBODIA

Inspired by a three month sabbatical at an orphanage in Tanzania several years ago, nurse Katrina Walker of the Hemel Hempstead church has put her NHS career to one side to head for Cambodia.

On Wednesday 4 September she flew to Pnom Penh where she will work as a self-financed volunteer for 12 months amongst the Cambodian people. Buddhism is the main religion out there. As a qualified nurse, she will be using her skills as well as bringing aid to help poor families and to share the love of Jesus. Following her Tanzanian experience where she saved several children's lives, she has chosen to give a longer period of service, mixing the spirit of adventure with her desire to do something extra special for the Lord.

[Michael Walker]

READERS' LETTERS
The world can change a lot in just one week. Last Friday we lived in expectation that an attack on Syria was imminent. While civil war and a humanitarian crisis remains there, this week there is a glimmer of hope regarding a resolution to the chemical weapons situation.

Following last week’s video report on Syria, Dumisani Ndlovu wrote, "I agree 100% with Pastor Sweeney that let peace prevail in dealing with humanitarian crises in Syria. No war has ever brought peace in this world of sin. I think as believers we need to join hands and ask God to intervene, we cannot do it without His mighty power."

Not every reader agrees with the content of BUC News articles. Lemky was concerned about the headline in the Community Camp report. Noting that one of the participants at the camp had stated that "This evening was the best fun I have ever had in my life", after going down a 15-metre water slide built on the Chapel Porth campsite, he asked, "Where do we find Jesus using games, food, and 'amusement park religion' to evangelize, to attract people to Him?"

It is a valid question to ask. We should not be doing things 'just for the sake of fun'. Nevertheless, fun is a valid part of the Christian experience, and in the context of a community camp, reaching out to people, a number of whom live in very difficult situations at home struggling with many problems, physical, emotional, financial, as well as spiritual, having fun in a positive Christian environment seems to be very appropriate and to fit with the wise counsel of Church co-founder, Ellen White.

She wrote, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'."

The fun in the article is also balanced with the strong, positive spiritual atmosphere and the worship programme.

Do you want to comment on one of our articles? Visit our BUC News Facebook page where your comments, observations and discussion are welcomed.

[BUC News]

HOPE & REVELATION TV SELECTIONS THIS WEEK
Programme highlights for the coming week include:

On Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): In FaithTalks, Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist looks at Depression and faith with guests, Andreas Bochmann and Dr Chidi Ngwaba: Thursday 12 September, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday 15 September at 1:00 pm. Next week, on Thursday 19 September, repeated Sunday 22 September: Faith in an urban community.

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 13 September: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Robert Hines – A farmer's life,
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Depression and faith,
Midnight: The Journey: Seeking the lost
Sabbath 14 September: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Lutz Rental – Walking into faith,
7:00 pm: In Conversation: Robert Hines– A farmer's life,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Depression and faith,
8:00 pm: The Journey: Seeking the lost
Monday 16 September: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: Ian Sweeney (archive interview),
9:30 pm: The Journey: Masada
Wednesday 18 September: 8:00 am: The Journey: Masada,
11:00 pm: In Conversation: Michael Omolewa – Former UNESCO President
Friday 20 September: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Richard Poulton – Atheist, legalist, Christian,
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Faith in an urban community,
Midnight: The Journey: The angel song
Sabbath 21 September: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Robert Hines– A farmer's life,
7:00 pm: In Conversation: Richard Poulton – Atheist, legalist, Christian,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Faith in an urban community,
8:00 pm: The Journey: Masada

[Victor Hulbert]

COMING EVENTS

For a full listing of Coming Events please visit http://adventist.org.uk/events

Continuing to Saturday 21 September:
The Art of Living, learn how to move on in life. Battersea church campaign.

Friday 13 September:
The Dialogue Café, Central London church opens its doors for the next Dialogue Café event.

Friday 13 - Sunday 15 September:
Zimbabwe Day of Fellowship, Luton church.
Flower Festival 'Ode to Joy', at Stanborough Park church.

Friday 13 - 28 September:
Hope for today – Holloway campaign.

Sabbath 14 September:
Saturday 14 September:
Love without end – Croydon Gospel Choir at Guildhall Arts Centre, Gloucester.
Da mans Dem – Gospel comedy play at Oxford.

Sunday 15 September:
Community Health Fair, Wood Green.

Wednesday 18 September:
Stanborough Secondary School Open Day for Year 5 & 6 pupils.

Friday 20 - 22 September:
The theology of health and well-being – a weekend mini-seminar for doctors, dentists and medical/dental students, Ringway Life Building, Cheshire.

Saturday 21 September:
ASNA 'In His Presence' music concert at Newbold church.
Devon and Cornwall Day of Fellowship at Rattery Village Hall.

Sunday 22 September:
ABC book and food sale at Peckham and Reading West Adventist churches.

Thursday 26 September:
Health Talks at Stanborough Park church – Topic: 'Why we sleep and how to improve it'.

Friday 27 September:
Dinosaurs – the monsters that God made – with John Mackay, a world leading expert on the Evolution-Creation debate, Stanborough Park church.

Sabbath 28 September:
BUC Power of 35,000, Union-wide literature distribution.
Area 2 Day of Fellowship – Sidcot School, North Somerset. Please bring a packed lunch.
Exposing Evolution – Confirming Creation, with John Mackay at Stanborough Park church.

Saturday 28 September:
He's Able – an evening of Praise at Nottingham Central Adventist church.
Rugby church building fundraiser Musical Concert, United Reformed church, Rugby.
Fundraising Gospel Concert – in aid of the Church Building Fund, Derby Chester Green.

Sunday 29 September:
ABC Book & Food Sale at the John Loughborough School.
'Writing for God' – Writing workshop, led by Pastor Willie Hucks (USA) Associate Editor, Ministry Magazine, Croydon Seventh-day Adventist church.

Sunday 29 September - 12 October:
The start of a Christian lifestyle series, It's All About Him at Nottingham Central Seventh-day Adventist church. 7 pm nightly except Thursdays.

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

CHURCH PHOTO COMPETITION. The UK Adventist Church website is looking for creative photos of the outside of your church but that include people – showing that your church is a place where visitors are welcomed. Visit the website for more details.
STUDENT HOUSE SHARE: NOTTINGHAM. 27 Forest Road East, Nottingham NG1 4HT is a six bed property 10 minutes easy walk from Nottingham Trent University and Nottingham City Centre.

6 generous sized and furnished rooms recently re-carpeted; 2 full bathrooms, kitchen with utility area, 2 tall fridges, cellar for storage, recently carpeted large living room, wi-fi available, off-road parking for 2/3 cars, fire alarm system, burglary alarm system, emergency lighting. 10-15 minute walk to Nottingham Central Adventist church. Same to offices of the North England Conference. Adventist owners would prefer to rent to Adventist students from Sept 2013 - July 2014. £75.00pppw exclusive; £85.00pppw inclusive (capped). Contact Shaun Douglas: Shaundouglas@btinternet.com or 07855301398.

JOB VACANCIES. **PA to the Treasury department**, Trans-European Division office, St Albans. KS2 teacher at Newbold Primary School, Binfield. Two volunteer positions (with stipend), the St Austell Project, Cornwall. For these and all our job vacancies visit the Jobs page of the Adventist Church website.

THE SMALL PRINT

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NEC PRESIDENT CALLS CHURCH TO ACTION

12th September 2013

NEC President, Pastor Lorance Johnson addressed a capacity crowd on Sabbath morning, 7 September at the North England Conference Day of Fellowship in Sheffield City Hall. They were joined by a record number of online viewers most of whom were watching from their churches around the North England Conference.
Pastor Lorance Johnson explaining the vision during the morning session.

In his first address he made an impassioned appeal for revival and reformation, asking that members ‘recognise the Laodicean state’ of the Church, using the analogy of an alcoholic or a drug addict who could only start on the way to recovery after admitting the current state he was in. He warned that we are retreating towards Egypt through compromise, lack of knowledge of God and the falling away from prophetic foundations. He reminded us that the last deception would be a kindling of hatred against the Spirit of Prophecy, citing the escalating unpopularity of the writings of Ellen G White which registered a 50% decrease in the 2004 Valuegenesis Study report.

He encouraged members to diligently study the Word of God and for prayer to be the first building block of reformation.

His inspired message was designed to mobilise the Church into action to rebuild the crumbling walls of our Church. He declared, "The time to rebuild is now. We want to see a mighty revival of God’s church where we as a people demonstrate that there is a God in heaven."

"We have a work to do prior to the second coming. John called for repentance. We have to make a clarion call to the people as did John. The time is here when we need to examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith, whether we are reflecting God."

In his afternoon address the President outlined the strategic vision in more detail clearly revealing further layers of the plan to rebuild the walls of faith in the North England Conference.

- Reaching up through building a meaningful relationship with God.
- Reaching out through building loving relationships with fellow members.
- Reaching across through building saving relationships with others.

Having listened to the clear explanation from the President, one member, who did not wish to be named, said that it was the clearest vision rolled out by the NEC for thirty years. He added, "The thing is, how are the wheels going to get on to this vision? How are we going to make it work?"

Derby members enjoying worship during a joint Day of Fellowship.

A partial answer may come from Pastor Emanuel Bran, from the Derby district of churches. He has been applying elements of the Conference strategy since its early acceptance at the North England Conference Session held in Cheltenham just one year ago.

He states that: "though the process is still developing, the churches in Derby are beginning to recognise the value of knowing where the church is and where the church is going."

In order to implement the strategy the local church board has taken on board the responsibility for implementing the strategy by assigning departments and individuals to apply the elements of the strategy.

He adds that, "because the strategy is being applied to a church, not a business, the tasks are taken on by departments and individuals who aim to use the Spiritual Gifts that God has given to us."

However Pastor Bran has taken advice from the business environment to make sure that his church leadership are able to assess how the church is progressing. This process is applied at the end of each church board meeting.

Other churches are also working on the application of the Conference Strategy in ways to suit their own environment. Upper Room church in Nottingham have access to short videos and guidelines on their website and will be creating and developing their strategy with their new Minister, Pastor Paul Haworth based on training already provided to the church elders.

The NEC Day of Fellowship has passed, but the vision remains and it is now up to the leaders and members in the local congregations to work together to put the wheels on the vision and move it forward so that the work of rebuilding the walls in the NEC can be completed to the glory of God.

[Geraldene Farmer with Peter Jeynes]
Ordination to the gospel ministry is such a special event that the North England Conference decided to hold one for the second time this year. This time it was for two more senior men who took career changing decisions in order to follow God's call.
Pastor Ebenezer Daniel was baptised into the Adventist Church, aged 14, albeit against the wishes of his parents. He studied science and then theology in India, serving at Adventist institutions in Bangalore before moving to England with his wife, a nurse, and his family. This led to soul-searching as he regretted leaving full-time ministry and yearned to be actively involved again. With support from his local church, Manchester South, and from his family and the NEC, he resumed employment as a Bible Worker in 2008 and was soon ministering to the Merseyside district of churches. Today he cares for Manchester Central, Manchester North and Oldham.

By contrast, Pastor Orlando Holder worked in the telecommunications industry for many years. However, his home, school and church background ignited a desire in him to become a pastor. Completing his ministerial studies at Newbold College in 2005, he began ministry as an intern in the Leicester district, then moved to Erdington, Tamworth, Cannock and Chemsley Wood before his current district of Stoke.
In the late afternoon service on Sabbath, 7 September 2013, Pastor Ian Sweeney asked the two pastors if they had considered resigning! A strange question for the serving President of the British Union Conference of the Adventist Church to ask ministers on the day they are being confirmed in ministry. However, it is one that started to make sense as he opened his Bible and shared the human emotions of the prophet Jeremiah. Pastor Sweeney stated that he had come to fall in love with Jeremiah because he is transparent. "He tells it as it is, and 'as it is' is not always a pleasant story."

Sharing the difficulties and challenges of being a pastor might have wiped the smiles off the ordinands' faces. Where was this message going? But ultimately the story of Jeremiah is one of hope as God encourages him, "Before you were born, I called you." [Jeremiah 1:5]

Encouragement, according to William Barclay, is "One of the highest of human duties." He writes, "It is easy to laugh at men's ideals; it is easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a man on his feet. Blessed is the man who speaks such a word."

God gives Jeremiah strong encouragement. In the midst of the people complaining He says, "I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze." [Jeremiah 15:20]

That encouragement was a personal message for Pastors Daniel and Holder. It was also a message for supportive church members across the Conference. It set a positive tone for the prayer of ordination given by Inter-American Division President, Dr Israel Leito, for the charge
presented by NEC President, Lorance Johnson, and for the emotional response given by Pastor Daniel.

It was the end of a special day for church members at the NEC Day of Fellowship in Sheffield, but for two Spirit filled pastors, it was a confirmation of God's calling, an encouragement for their lives to be dedicated to positively changing the lives of others.

A selection of photos from the service can be found on the Adventist picture gallery.

[Victor Hulbert]
This is Your Life treatment given to unsung Hackney community heroes

Ann Williams, Janice Panton (Montserratian High Commissioner), Michael Desmond (Speaker of Hackney Council) and Ruby Merchant (left to right).

Monday, September 9, 2013 12:36 PM

Two special ladies were given the “This is Your Life” treatment for the 35 years they have both dedicated to the Hackney Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Haggerston Road and community life.

Ann Williams and Ruby Merchant were shocked when MP Diane Abbott and the Jamaican High Commissioner, Aloun Ndombet-Assamba turned up for a special service held in their honour at the Hackney Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Saturday, based on the hit 1950s TV show originally hosted by Eamonn Andrews.

In the show the host surprises a special guest, before taking them through their life with the assistance of the “big red book”, and both celebrities and non-celebrities have been “victims” of the show.

Ruby, 73, who moved to Hackney from Jamaica to work as a sales clerk, while visiting nursing homes as well as feeding and clothing the homeless said she was shocked.

“I had no clue this was happening. I can’t believe all my family is here,” she said.

“I thank the church, my family and God for bringing me this far.”

Ann, 83, who came to Hackney from Montserrat in 1955, asked how everyone could have kept such a secret.

“We didn’t know what was going on, we thank you so much,” added the 83-year old who worked as a lollipop lady at Gayhurst Primary School as well as preparing meals at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

“The Lord has bless and kept us and at 83 years of age I can happily say I’ve not experienced any sickness and have always been in church and able to help others.”

MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Ms Abbott called the ladies “unsung women who as examples of faith, unity and love have contributed to creating a thriving and vibrant Hackney community”.

Ann Williams, Janice Panton (Montserratian High Commissioner), Michael Desmond (Speaker of Hackney Council) and Ruby Merchant (left to right).
Speaker of Hackney Council, Michael Desmond, presented the ladies with special crystal plaques, and said: “These two exemplary ladies are two fireworks who haven’t fizzled out and we are all challenged to do the same.”

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