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MISSION TO THE CITIES LONDON FOCUS FOR OCTOBER

London is the direct focus this month for the 'Mission to the Cities' initiative of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. After months of preparation outreach programmes are running in Brixton church as well as Youth Missions in several venues across London.

The Brixton programme started with a full house on Sabbath, 5 October. The speaker, Pastor Kelby McCottry from the USA, is focusing his sermons on Hope.
By looking at different Bible characters, such as Samuel or Solomon, Pastor McCottry is enthusiastically guiding his audience to discover their need for hope. The congregation is mainly members and visitors from Brixton, Balham and Croydon churches.

Pastor Vili Costescu has been tasked by the Division to ensure media coverage, and has been working to set up the streaming service for Brixton so more people can watch the programmes. "It's good to make the programmes available for more people", Pastor Costescu stated. "We are averaging about 50 people who watch online, but I expect the numbers to rise over the weekend."

The programmes are streamed via the Brixton church website or direct from Streamkit TV. The programme runs daily (except Thursdays) at 7:00 pm until 19 October.

Simultaneously, around 200 youth under the leadership of Pastor Steve Thomas, started their restaurant style meetings in the Advent Centre. "It's been an amazing atmosphere", expressed Pastor Thomas, "I'm excited it’s going so well." Following a three course meal, it's an evening of music by the London Youth Federation and a relevant sermon.

The speaker this week was Pastor Rebecca Davis from Atlanta, USA. Under the theme, 'What's love got to do with it', she spoke about real love, great dating and a young person's future. Connecting well with the audience she said, "I'm impressed to see the youth here. They are very opinionated, engaged and talented. It's a group on fire for God."

There are challenges as Pastor Davis noted, principally "they are wondering if there is a place for them in the church."

SEC Teens director Pastor Dejan Stojkovic attended the opening and was impressed how Pastor Davis was able to speak straight to the youth in a language they understood. "I want to bring her over for the teens", he said.

"It was a great evening with spiritual and physical food as well as outstanding fellowship" added Zinze Bishop. "We were excited to see people from the community coming in on Sunday."

The youth are bringing in different speakers, as well as visiting several different churches midweek and Sabbaths throughout October ending on 2 November. For more information and up-to-date schedule please visit the SEC Youth Facebook page.

Mission to the Cities – London, is more than a month of meetings. Two long-term church plant projects in Uxbridge and Potters Bar are building up work in their communities. At the moment they are conducting research and meeting the community to discover how best to make a difference in people's lives. Volunteers have been recruited to help with the project.
With so much activity you may feel in the need of rest. Providing that rest is another initiative born on the side of the other planned projects. Taking the organisers by surprise, it is the 'Sabbath sofa' project. Led by Pastor Costescu, a sofa is placed in a busy shopping area and people are invited to take a seat and engage in a conversation about rest. This leads to an introduction to the Sabbath principle of a 24 hour period of rest. For more information see the dedicated Sabbath website or Facebook page.

[Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist / BUC News]

COMMISSIONING OF PASTOR

NERINE BARRETT

On Sabbath, 5 October Nerine Barrett was commissioned as a pastor at Brixton Seventh-day Adventist church. Pastor Barrett expressed quite clearly in her response that "My dream wasn't to be a pastor, or a pastor's wife, I would have laughed if anyone said one day I would be a commissioned pastor."

With a degree in electronic engineering, and working in her field, she felt a call to ministry in 1995. This led her to pursue pastoral studies at Newbold College. She began working for the South England Conference in 2007.

In the midst of the busy Mission to the Cities programme, the South England Conference and British Union Conference leadership took time to affirm Pastor Barrett in her ministry. In his sermon the SEC President, Pastor Sam Davis, spoke from the gospel of John chapter 10 on the importance of feeding God's sheep, not to the point of indigestion, but giving them good food.

He spoke about protecting the flock against those who come to church and hold clandestine meetings and Bible studies and work in the dark to draw people away from the church. "You will be called", he said, "to defend your flock, stand up and speak for the flock so people know there is a preacher in the house."

Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President, led the charge by encouraging Pastor Barrett to "never lose your joy as you serve. You are called and fully qualified to serve as a minister."
An unusual part of the service was a poem written and recited at a fast pace by Anthea Davis. 'You're not just a woman, you're an army' described the challenges in ministry.

Pastor Barrett recognises the seriousness of the advice given by both Pastors Davis and Sweeney. She stated, "I'll dedicate my life to endeavour to live up to what both pastors have said today… It is the highest calling to be God's servant." Like the prophet Isaiah responded to God's calling, Pastor Barrett responded by saying "Here I am, send me."

[Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist]

UNIVERSITY & THE CHRISTIAN

Coventry Central church made special efforts on Sabbath, 5 October, to make the new intake at Coventry and Warwick Universities feel welcome. Returning students were embraced at the front door, a new international student from New York received a special welcome, and all students were invited to stay after the service for a delightful lunch, a time of fellowship, and an opportunity to organise student relevant activities.

Happy faces demonstrated that the welcome was genuine, one girl from the London Luganda congregation even asking to pose for a photo with the visiting preacher to 'prove to mum' she was in church!

Coventry Central church is another example of excellence in helping students maintain and develop their faith while away from home. Yet talking with students during lunch it was also clear that there were many more Adventist students who had maybe chosen sleep over worship, or were taking the opportunity to quietly drop the faith their parents hold dear.

Those Adventist student numbers may be multiplied by a multitude more students from other Christian faiths, identified in recent research published by Durham University. It states, "Religious leaders face a fresh challenge in engaging with young Christians, after new research revealed that large numbers of Christian university students are affirming their faith in private, but staying away from church on Sundays."

Surveying 4,500 undergraduate students the survey noted that over half of Christian students never attend church during term-time. The researchers concluded that "The Church needs to consider how it can better engage with 'the interests and enthusiasms of this generation'."

Pastor Jonathan Burnett knows that well. Caring for two churches with large student populations on the south coast, he is working with Adventist students at the University of Sussex to launch an on campus 'Connect
Project' that, he says, "will give students an opportunity to experience the Sabbath in the way it was intended."

Reflecting on the recent research he states, "At a first glance what it seems to suggest to me is that there are far more people who consider themselves to be Christian on the average university campus then one might have previously thought. For some reason these young people have become disengaged with the established Church, even the more vibrant evangelical 'brand' of Church."

He sees this as an important group to reach out to: "If there are 10 times more liberal Christians at universities than evangelical Christians then this presents the Church with an opportunity. Although this is a generalisation but liberal Christians tend to be much more interested in orthopraxy (right doing) than in orthodoxy (right thinking). In other words they are much more likely to want to get involved in doing something practical to end sex trafficking, than to maybe sit in a youth meeting at church debating the issues surrounding homosexuality after a carb heavy vegetarian lunch."

The plan is to encourage active Christianity within the student lifestyle. Let them sleep in and get some rest on a Sabbath morning, then join at midday to go and do something to bring 'shalom', peace, and healing to the community. This may be feeding the homeless, helping to clear the garden of an elderly person, or being involved in an environmental campaign. This would then lead to a time of food (very important for students), and an afternoon for a worship period which "reflects on what we did and provides an opportunity for us to connect with the God who gave the Sabbath."

That practical type of approach is already benefiting students and others from the community based around the St Austell Project in Cornwall. Including students from Falmouth College, the project leaders have joined with Christian surfers on a Saturday morning beach clean. Food and 'church on the beach' follow.

In an 'In Conversation' programme to be released on Revelation TV and Hope Channel in the New Year, Pastor Burnett argues, "Show students the true meaning of Sabbath rest. Give them permission to escape from the library to something better, practical and different."

If you are a student reading this, how do you react? If you are a church member in a student area, what are you doing to help welcome students? Your comments would be welcomed on our BUC News Facebook page or by sending an email to bucnews@adventist.org.uk.

[Victor Hulbert]

**NEC JAMAICAN TRIP 'NOT A HOLIDAY'**

Following the recent BUC News article, 'NEC pastors learn to let go', a number of readers have written in with questions and comments as to what a trip to Jamaica for seven North England Conference pastors can really teach the Church in the UK.
BUC News put those questions to the trip organiser, Pastor Richard Jackson, in a short video interview recorded outside Coventry Central church on Sabbath, 5 October. He described the main purpose of the visit as a means of trying to "re-establish the pastor/laity working relationship."

During the seven day trip which climaxed in a Festival of the Laity, the pastors learnt how church growth can happen not by the pastors working, but by the pastors working together with a skilled and committed laity. Attending board meetings and members' meetings with their Jamaican colleagues, the British pastors saw how they allow "the members whom the Lord has gifted, to exercise their gift in the running of the church." Pastor Jackson added, "We as pastors try to do too much and we have skilled and gifted members in the congregation and we do not 'employ' them to carry out those gifts."

Reacting to a comparison of lifestyles and pressures between Jamaica and England, Pastor Jackson commented that even with that, what he is looking for here is the word, 'commitment'. "What we want to see is more of our membership being involved in the mission and the life of the church." He also noted that church is community. The church needs to be at the centre of community.

Pastor Israel Leito, President for the Church in Inter-America, recently spoke at an NEC Day of Fellowship and provided training for church leaders in the North. Speaking at the Festival of the Laity he told ANN, "It just reaffirms the value the Church places on our laypeople, especially our church elders who are crucial in assisting pastors every week in thousands of congregations."

Now that the team have returned to the UK they will be reporting and sharing their findings with the NEC leadership.

See also an Adventist News Network report on the Festival of the Laity in the Inter-American Division.

[Wctor Hulbert]
not Jew, not African, not West Indian, not Welsh! We are bound together in His love and His mission."

The focus on working together began during Sabbath School with Pastor David Foster when we formed small groups to discuss the distinctively Adventist topic of the Heavenly Sanctuary. Later, in his sermon, Pastor Vontzialidis quizzed the congregation about the first 'small group' described in the Bible. The answer was enlightening yet logical as we considered Genesis 1:1-3 with its reference to God the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Then "Let US make man in our image..." (verse 26) who Pastor described as, "a group in harmony, no conflict." He extrapolated that God created woman so that man was no longer alone, as she was to be his helper, in essence, a rescuer from his loneliness. We were not created to be alone, he said. In addition, the Church is His body and should provide the vital fellowship we need. Pastor Vontzialidis ended his message with a very lively, interactive children's story which included the use of a spoon with a long, long handle with which to try to eat. The children's conclusion was central to the topic. We need to feed and care for each other!

The day's musical feast began during the morning when Swansea Church Choir sang two pieces, "I'll never be the same again" and "In Christ alone," beautifully supporting the essence of the day. Cardiff North Church Choir with their conductor Prince Olokotor made the earnest plea, "Let me touch Him." Then in the afternoon Newport Church Choir directed by Chii Chigbo requested "Make me a mirror of your love today" and their second song described Jesus as the fulfilment of our need. "Ancient words" was the choice of the Newtown Company Choir led by Marlene Scott. Obviously from a very talented family, Mariah (12) on the violin, Jeremiah (14) on the keyboard and Christopher (15) on the bass guitar added to choir's presentation. Soloist Barbara Griffiths meaningfully sang the beautiful hymn, "Come ye thirsty" and Leslie Riskovitz made the piano sing as he played a Chorale by the famous composer Cesar Franck (1822-1890). Guitarist Boris Sliskovic ably accompanied his own singing of "The greatest need of the world" – a song he had written himself.

The afternoon presentations were impressive and meaningful. Pat Eastwood, Children's Ministries Sponsor, shared Kid's in Discipleship, small groups in homes to mentor children to make a lifelong relationship with Jesus. Chii Chigbo who is involved in promoting this in the Newport Church said, "It is our responsibility to lead children to Christ." Pat's commitment to Children's Ministries had been experienced by the younger children earlier in the day as, armed with flannel boards, and baskets of craft materials she had kept them educationally entertained during the Sabbath School time. Her sister and brother-in-law, Janet and Jon Meredith, similarly cared for the older children.

Youth Report in words and pictures shared the activities during the year. Crystal Knight gave a lively review of Three Missions Youth Weekend in Ireland. Arianne and Joel brought to life the exciting adventure of attending the huge Youth Congress in Serbia. One of the activities there was Impact Day in the community. Some of the youth chose to give fruit to people in return for their cigarette. One man, a doctor, later returned to give up his whole pack of cigarettes saying that their action had prompted him to give up smoking altogether.
Jovan Adamović then described the experience of camping in Montenegro in temperatures exceeding 40 degrees. After a week of swimming, boating, walking shaded by umbrellas from the blazing sun, the group attended the local Adventist church where they participated in the services by preaching and singing. Back in Wales the Teen Camp at Llantrisant included worship and a very demanding water-rafting day.

Pastor Vontzalides brought the day to a conclusion with a powerful and spiritual presentation: Praying and Bible Reading with Secular People. He carefully described the principles of Conversational Prayer and then, with a group of volunteers of men, women and a young boy, we realised the exceptional value of this experience as the whole congregation in prayerful mode participated with them and joined in the singing of spontaneous scripture songs.

The planning by everyone that went into the day was well rewarded. We were all renewed, refreshed and inspired by meeting together, listening, looking and sharing the experience. Thank God for fellowship in groups both large and small.

70 pictures from the day can be seen on our gallery page.

[Miriam Wood]

MAKING GOD KNOWN AT LONDON GHANA

When was the last time you heard a pastor play the trumpet? This is just one of the talents of Pastor Hermann Kuma, Multi-Ethnic Ministries director of the Greater New York Conference. As well as being an accomplished trumpeter, he can also deliver a thought inspiring and powerful message – as he did during the London Ghana church campaign, 'Making God Known'.

Starting on Saturday (Sabbath), 7 September Pastor Kuma, delivered 3 weekday messages plus Sabbath messages to the congregation for thee consecutive weeks. The messages focused on Getting to know God, What happens when we die?, Why sin exists in the world and the Second coming of Christ. These themes were chosen as they address specific questions that individuals may have with the Word of God. He made the message personal to each individual. For instance, he drew on Bible personalities such as Zaccheaus, individuals who are strong characters but that may be misunderstood by many Christians.
Pastor Kuma's philosophy is that "where the Bible speaks we speak and where the Bible is silent we are silent." He explained that salvation itself is based on the Word of God, not by misrepresentations of the Word of God or false prophets. He emphasised that the role of electronic evangelism in the modern world is important as it enables the message to be spread easily, however he stated that regular church attendance is also important as it allows people to fellowship and receive strength.

The last Sabbath of the campaign concluded in a six person baptism. Esther Amponsah, Francesca Adu-Gyamfi, Susana Ababio, Theresa Adams, Annette Serwah Bonsu and Mercy Frimpongmaah all gave their hearts to God, their lives touched by the powerful message of Pastor Kuma. The campaign was rejuvenating and spiritually helpful to the congregation.

[Grace Mansah-Owusu]

SEC AREA 2 DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

"Go Area 2! Go Area 2!" With arms held high, Pastor Kirk Thomas led the chants for the gathered churches of the South England Conference Area 2 at the Day of Fellowship at Sidcot on Sabbath, 28 September 2013.

More than 400 people met from churches from as far afield as Weston-Super-Mare, Cheltenham and Gloucester, in the beautiful surroundings of the Quaker School near Cheddar Gorge at the edge of the Mendips. Dubbed by some as 'the flying pastor', as his feet never seem to touch the ground when he is preaching, Kirk delivered a more subdued and cerebral message connecting Jeremiah's commission to both Christ's commission and our own.

Music throughout the day was assured by Austin Blackburn, who played the piano, and the saw, (if you haven't seen him check it out on YouTube, and Elvira Duarte, who led out in the vocals. The sound of jubilant singing really did fill the hall!

In the afternoon, Tihomir Lazic, who is currently researching a doctorate in theology at Oxford University, on the meaning of the church, spoke about the Sabbath. Tihomir's academic insights, remarkable personal testimony, and musical prowess were the talk of the Day of Fellowship. Thanks to Wayne Erasmus for having organized a successful event. We felt blessed for having attended.

[James Shepley]

ADRA Gala Dinner
9th November 2013

An evening out with ADRA? How does that work?

Bert Smit, CEO for ADRA-UK explains: “Fundraising knows many different activities. We at ADRA-UK think we need to be developing new ways to raise funds for our work to compliment the Annual Appeal. One new fundraising idea we are now exploring is the gala dinner.”

ADRA-UK is organising for the first time a fundraising gala dinner on Saturday, 9 November. This special event, hosted in Watford, is open to supporters of ADRA-UK that want to spend an evening enjoying fine food and entertainment while celebrating the work of the agency.

Smit says: “At least 50% of the ticket price will benefit our work. ADRA-UK staff and trustees will be present to talk with you about the impact ADRA is having in the lives of people around the world.” The evening will feature a guest speaker from Africa who works for ADRA on the ground in Zimbabwe, a special photo exhibition, previews of new promotional videos and an opportunity to hear the latest news from ADRA. A silent and a life auction will be part of the evening.

Asked if this event would be limited to the Watford area, Smit responded: “This is our base and it is easier for us to organise it here this first time. However, if this event in Watford is a success we would like to organise similar events in other parts of the country. It is such a nice way to connect with ADRA, hear about our work and enjoy a good evening out.”

To purchase tickets at £75 each or discuss sponsorship opportunities please contact Sandra Golding at sgolding@adra.org.uk or call 07956 429522. For more information visit our website: adra.org.uk

LATEST MESSENGERS ONLINE

A change in lifestyle can make a significant difference – as campers from the Watering Hole project discovered during a week of camping at Chapel Porth. Find out more in the 11 October edition of Messenger, the official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland.

Also: find out about Community Cooking Hubs, discover why 'The more things change, the more they stay the same', discover if there are indeed, 'Too few good men', and stand in awe of the great baptismal photo on page 11. Pick up a copy from your local church or read it online.

[Julian Hibbert]

DEATH OF PASTOR DOUGLAS JOHN DUNNETT

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Pastor D J Dunnett on
Monday 7 October 2013. Born on 7 April 1922 in Folkestone, after completing school studies he attended Newbold College, graduating with a Ministerial Diploma in 1942.

John commenced work with the South England Conference in June 1942 and two years later married Mabel (née Howlett) whom he had met at Newbold. In 1946 John and Mabel returned to Newbold where John was a Lecturer and later their daughters Jonquil and April were born. Between 1953 and 1954 the family went to Washington DC where John completed an MA and later on to Trinidad where he taught Bible in the then Caribbean Training College until their return to the UK in 1959. After a period of teaching at Stanborough School (1959-1965), a short period as a pastor (1965-7) and another again as teacher at Stanborough School (1967-8), John returned to Newbold as a Lecturer where he continued until his retirement in 1984.

Our sympathies are extended to Jonquil and April as we remember this quiet and dedicated servant of the Lord. There will be a graveside committal service on Wednesday 16 October and a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at Newbold church, St Marks Road, Binfield, RG42 4AN, on Wednesday 23 October at 3:00 pm.

[BUC News]
8:00 pm: The Journey: The Tunnel – Keeping our eyes focused on Jesus
Monday 14 October: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: Audrey Balderstone – Church was just for entertainment,
9:30 pm: The Journey: Sabbath Rest
Wednesday 16 October: 8:00 am: The Journey: Sabbath Rest,
11:00 pm: In Conversation: Robert Hines – Working with teens
Friday 18 October: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Lynette Allcock – Youthful missionary adventures,
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Christianity and business,
Midnight: The Journey: The Sanctuary
Sabbath 19 October: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Jim Cunningham – The power of education,
7:00 pm: In Conversation: Lynette Allcock – Youthful missionary adventures,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Christianity and business,
8:00 pm: The Journey: The Sanctuary

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.

[BUC News]

COMING EVENTS

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

Continuing to Sabbath 12 October:
Christian lifestyle series, It’s All About Him at Nottingham Central Seventh-day Adventist church.

Continuing to Sabbath 19 October:

Continuing until Sabbath, 2 November:
What's Love got to do with it? Mission to the Cities Youth outreach.

Friday 11 October:
Central London Church's Dialogue Cafe Worship Nights ministry is celebrating its first year – join us!

Friday 11 - Sabbath 12 October:
Holloway Church Homecoming, with Pastor Orville Woolford.

Friday 11 October - Friday 1 November:

Sabbath 12 October:
New Life church – Day of Historical Reflection, with Dr Tony Talbut and The Orion Chorale.

Sunday 13 October:
ABC Book & Food Sale at Willesden church.

Tuesday 15 October:
The Essential Energizer Talks, at the Stanborough Centre, Watford. Every Tuesday for 10 weeks.
Beach Lecture: The Elusive Quest: Religious Peace Building in a World of Difference, Speaker: Canon David Porter at the Smith Centre, Newbold College.

Thursday 17 October:

Friday 18 - Sunday 20 October:
"You can't go through life stoning people", with Dr Saustin Mfune, pastor, teacher, administrator, author and presenter, is presently an associate Director of Children's Ministries at the GC.

**Sabbath 19 October:**
Irish Mission Day of Fellowship, at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

**Saturday 19 October:**
Love Sax and all that Jazz (The Beginning), CLC (The Regal), Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 2AS.

**Sunday 20 October:**
ABC Book & Food Sale at Nottingham Central Adventist church.

**Monday 21 - Sunday 27 October:**
The Rock Project, exhibition of the most spectacular prophecy ever, Wimbledon Library. Free entry.

**Thursday 24 October:**
RESPECT – The Movie is a film that introduces the concept of faith to a non-believer by award winning director Mark Grey. Bernie Grant Centre, Tottenham.

**Friday 25 - Sunday 27 October**

**Sabbath 26 October:**
Jaime Jorge's Anniversary Tour! Central London church. Do not miss this free concert @ 4 - 5:30pm.

Dawn Remy in Concert. Free gospel concert at Peckham Seventh-day Adventist church, 7:00 pm.

Gospel Voices in Action, a charity fundraising concert on behalf of East Lancashire Hospice. Wesley Hall, Blackburn, 7 - 9 pm. Tickets £7.50 available from Blackburnadventist.church facebook page.

**Sunday 27 October:**
Craft Fair & Exhibition, 11 am - 4 pm at Lewisham Seventh-day Adventist church.
ABC Book & Food Sale at John Loughborough School.

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**

LIVE-IN NANNY, LISBON, PORTUGAL. A Portuguese family living near Lisbon is looking for a live-in nanny to help them with their three children: 8 (girl), 6 (girl) and 4 (boy). The ideal candidate would preferably be a Christian, be an English speaker (preferably mother tongue), have qualifications and/or experience in child minding and have a driving licence. Employment to commence ASAP for a minimum of 6 months and up to 12 months. For more details contact Helia Mateus in the first instance: 07702 408994 or Helia.mateus@gmail.com.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES: Part-time Classroom assistant, Newbold Primary School. Final week to apply for two important ADRA-UK positions: Volunteering Programmes Officer & Communications Officer. Full details of these and other vacancies on our Jobs Page.

**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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