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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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SEC LAUNCHES FIRST SATELLITE SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM IN SOUTHAMPTON
The South England Conference (SEC) School of Evangelism journeyed to Hampshire, on Sunday, 26 January, to launch its first satellite school at Southampton church; the first church to be founded in the British Isles, back in January 1880.

The London School of Evangelism has been running since September 2012. It saw its first graduation, of 101 students, at the SEC Camp Meeting in Prestatyn, in June 2013. Since then the school has continued to run, organised by the SEC Personal Ministries director, Pastor Kirk Thomas.

"We have seen a need to take these programmes to our counties", commented Pastor Thomas. "We are proud to be part of the team that is witnessing this historic event; the launch of our first satellite school! For the satellite schools we are also hoping for a great graduation, just like the London school celebrated at Camp Meeting last year."

Students will be presented as graduates at their own area days of fellowship. They will receive their award after having completed courses over 6 Sundays, once a month, beginning 26 January and ending 8 June.

The GO School of Evangelism is a one-year, part-time course that offers various types of exciting evangelistic training. This training is part of the General Conference's plan for Global Mission and outreach.

Courses are available at the new satellite school for Lay Preaching, Lay Bible Workers, Church Growth and Discipleship, Women's Evangelism, Community Leader Evangelism and Fitness Evangelism. These are led by SEC directors and pastors, with input from several lay leaders.

"When Pastor Vili spoke I thought it was very interesting how he approached digital media", said student, Henry Walls. "I'm one of the technophobes he was referring to in his presentation that doesn't have a Facebook account, but I think going home I will rethink that and get an account to find new ways of evangelising!"

Over 50 people attended the first day of the school and Pastor Doug McCormac was pleased to host the launch at his church.

"It's a wonderful privilege to be able to have the GO SEC School of Evangelism here in Southampton serving the whole of Area 3, and beyond", enthused Pastor McCormac. "Southampton is the oldest Adventist church in the United Kingdom so it seems just right that we're able to allow our members to experience this wonderful event, to be trained in various methods of evangelism and be able to share their stories."
For more information on the London or Provincial SEC School of Evangelism, please contact: mbramble@secadventist.org.uk.

To view a selection of photos from the launch, please visit the Adventist Church's picture gallery.

Also watch a short news video about the School of Evangelism Southampton launch.

[Katie Ramharacksingh]

**ADVENTISTS AND THE EUROPEAN SUNDAY ALLIANCE**

The European Sunday Alliance, active for the past two years, is lobbying the European Parliament with the aim of securing a stronger position for Sunday as a general, primary day of rest by means of European Union legislation.

Comprising a "network of national Sunday Alliances, trade unions, civil society organizations and religious communities", a pledge on their website states, "A work-free Sunday and decent working hours are of paramount importance for citizens and workers throughout Europe and are not necessarily in conflict with economic competitiveness."

While most Sundays were historically 'work free' even just a few years ago in the UK and much of Europe, Seventh-day Adventists, along with others who regard Saturday or another day as holy, can naturally be concerned at the prospect of such legislation. However, the prospect of blanket Sunday legislation across Europe seems unlikely in the current environment, at least according to Hannu Takkula who was one of just two MEPs to attend a conference emphasising the importance of a work-free Sunday, hosted at the European Parliament on Tuesday, 21 January 2014.

As a founding member of the recently formed European Parliament Working Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Mr Takkula says that he supports the principle of safeguarding the opportunity for a weekly day of rest. "Everyone needs a proper break in the working week, or life becomes too stressful. Sunday keepers too have every right to rest and worship on the day they feel is right", he stated.

However, Mr Takkula sees aspirations to a Sunday law as problematic for freedom of faith and belief. He states, "Legislation must never discriminate against people on religious grounds. A law setting up Sunday as the universal work-free day would do just that." He goes on to emphasize that freedom of religion and belief is a core European value. "This principle must be raised and taken seriously in all discussions deliberating the role of a weekly day of rest. The European Union must guarantee everyone equal rights and freedoms to celebrate the rest day of their convictions."
Pastor Claude Lombart has been following the debate closely, including correspondence with Johanna Touzel, a spokesperson for the European Sunday Alliance. He represents the concerns of many Adventists when he states, "As Adventists we would applaud the noble intention of community cohesion, economic prosperity, better health, etc., that a common day of rest might afford society as a whole, however as diligent students of religio-political history, and taking a long view of last day events, we can look beyond this and we can clearly see what the ultimate outcome will be when, 'The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honour the Sunday.'" (Ellen G White, *The Great Controversy*, p592)

While a Sunday conference may have been held at the European Parliament, Mr Takkula sees no Sunday law looming on the horizon. "The European Commission, which has the monopoly on legislative initiative in the European Union, has sent out no signals of interest in anything of this nature", he stated in a 29 January press release.

Pastor Raafat Kamal is responsible for Religious Liberty issues at the Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He did not attend the 21 January conference in Brussels, but notes, "Different activities and projects promoting the same have been around for more than a decade. Because the previous initiatives did not bring the desired results, a new initiative named 'European Sunday Alliance' was launched two years ago."

Speaking on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Kamal states, "We support the notion that people need a day of rest to achieve a life/work balance to maintain the health and safety of workers. This is modelled by God in the biblical creation week where He worked for six days and rested on the seventh. At the same time, we want to be sure that those who don't have Sunday as a designated religious day of rest will be respected and tolerated. I hope that the partners in the European Sunday Alliance network who are trying to raise awareness of the value of a synchronised free Sunday for European societies will appreciate the pluralistic dimensions of the European Union countries and the importance of respecting those with different religious beliefs and practices. I also trust that this advocacy campaign for the protection of a work-free Sunday will not result in an escalation of tension among different groups."

Seventh-day Adventists value the Sabbath (Saturday) as a special day of rest, linking them back to God their Creator, Redeemer, Saviour and Friend. A London based project, the Sabbath sofa, is now spreading to other parts of the country with over 20,000 people liking their Facebook page. Programmes on the Sabbath such as ViewPoint and Rest, have helped share a biblical understanding of the importance and value of the day. Since April 2012, almost 40,000 people have also watched the YouTube debate between Pastor Victor Hulbert and a strong adherent of Sunday observance, Gerard Chrispin, first aired on Revelation TV.

To find out more on what Adventists believe visit: [http://adventist.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-believe](http://adventist.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-believe).
DEBORAH HARRIS TO LEAD ASI-UK

Known for her financial perspicuity, Deborah Harris, a member of Tottenham church, London, was elected on Sunday, 2 February to lead ASI-UK for the coming year. She succeeds Jim Cunningham, a retired headteacher from the Grantham area who has skilfully led a refocusing of the organisation for Adventist business men and women over the past three years.

Accepting the role following elections at the Annual General Meeting at Staverton Park hotel, Daventry, Deborah acknowledged that while she feels honoured to serve for this year, that it is "the useful, practical leadership of Jim Cunningham, who stepped down after three and a half years, that is the solid foundation on which I hope to build over the coming months."

In his final report as President, Jim expressed how much he had learnt in the role, including that of the significant commitment that many church members make to see their church move forward.

It may be his Glaswegian background, but Jim is not afraid of tackling issues head-on. For an Adventist business professionals organisation this means that he kept the focus very clearly on sharing Christ in the marketplace, facilitating discussion on how to reach out to the larger population of the UK and Ireland, and how to tackle the issues that young professionals face in the workplace, including an understanding of our faith and issues related to Creation.

Jim confessed that taking on the presidency in 2010 woke him up from a 'Rip Van Winkle slumber', as far as his relationship to the Church was concerned. "The Church that I joined in the sixties has changed dramatically, but so has British society of which I am very much a part", he stated. His response is no longer the 'Just leave it in God's hands' adage. That, he argues, "is frequently used as an excuse for inaction or a repetition of old, tired strategies." In handing over the mantle to Deborah, he challenged, "When I examine the Gospels, Christ's disciples played a full, active and sometimes very innovative role in spreading the word. In our Church, we have members who are gifted, creative, innovative, non-factionalist and impassioned about spreading the message. I have no doubt that those people, who are very much in God's hands, can develop a way of engaging the people of this country which can be life changing for them. It is these people that ASI must continue to support."
In taking on that mantle, Deborah, a financial consultant who has always found herself active in church life, states that "ASI-UK will aim to expand the way we support very early stage, lay-led ministries within the UK, endorse and signpost services that support church members who are also business owners and also improve the frequency and ways we use to communicate with our members and supporting friends."

Deborah is also open to ideas. "I want to hear what we can do better, and what else members think ASI-UK could try to do this year, so please do let us know", she adds.

The AGM came at the end of the ASI Annual Convention. For a full report of the weekend and pictures of the event visit the news page of the Adventist Church website. For more about ASI (Adventist Services and Industries) and their support for students and business professionals contact Christine Manners-Smith on 07790452920 or email rovingcms@gmail.com.

Both Jim and Deborah have appeared in recent editions of the Hope TV series, 'In Conversation'. To find out more about their lives, faith and vision, click on the link for either Jim Cunningham or Deborah Harris.

[Victor Hulbert]

SEARCHING FOR IDENTITY

The biblical command to 'Come ye apart and rest awhile' is one that Adventist business people take seriously. In the busy pressure of modern life their annual 'rest' took place at the ASI-UK Convention, Staverton Park hotel, Northamptonshire, 31 January - 2 February 2014.

There may have been quality food, excellent fellowship, and even time to relax in the hotel leisure facilities, but 'rest' for this Adventist business community equally meant stimulation for the mind and the soul in a series of worships and seminars led by some of the incisive minds to be found within British Adventism.
The overall theme for the weekend focused around discovering our identity – in our church, in our relationship with Christ, in modern-day Adventism.

On Friday evening, Pastor Victor Hulbert, Communication and Media director for the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, used his storytelling techniques to share family history, and his own personal history, of coming into a positive relationship with Christ, and then trusting in God even in the 'scary times'. Relating his own experience to that of the disciple John, he demonstrated that once we have 'beheld His glory' [John 1:14] we become changed ourselves, finding our identity and purpose in Him. With that accomplished, it is then easier to take the challenge and share the message of Christ with those around us.

Pastor Gifford Rhamie, Lecturer in Pastoral Studies at Newbold College, continued the storytelling theme Sabbath morning as he shared the challenges of identity he sometimes had growing up black British. Basing his message around the Apostle Paul's theme of becoming 'like' others in order to win them to Christ [1 Corinthians 9:19-23], he noted that Paul 'made himself a servant'. In other words, he reached out to see life from their point of view. "You do not become them," Gifford emphasised, "but you find what you have in common with them in order to understand them." Watch the Sabbath morning sermon: 'What identity are you?'.

The highlight was a Sabbath afternoon seminar by Dr Daniel Duda, Education and Ministerial Association director for the Trans-European Division of the Adventist Church. With his analytical mind and following careful research, he showed how the Adventist Church comes within the strong tradition of Christian thought that constantly rethinks ideas. That history lesson showed how the enlightenment era challenged the traditional theology, and how that in itself was challenged by the consequences of the Great Lisbon Earthquake when most of those killed in the city were involved in worship at the time.

William Miller followed the same trend, questioning his world view during the American Civil War. Following the 'Great Disappointment' of 1844, there was another need for rethinking as the young Adventist Church moved forward. The rethinking continued in 1888 with the discovery of Righteousness by Faith, and then in the 20th century with heated discussions around the book, Questions on Doctrine. Rethinking continues today and causes both progress and fragmentation in the Church with some groups looking back to 'historic' Adventism, others focused around the 'culture' of the Church while still others see themselves as 'mainstream', 'evangelical' or 'progressive'. Rethinking, Daniel noted, is both healthy and essential.

That fragmentation may be painful for some. However, he noted that the solution may be in remembering that Jesus invites us to show the love of God to all people, in all creation, in all our pain and trouble, right now and until Jesus returns. Watch the Sabbath seminar: 'Overcoming the crisis of identity in modern day Adventism'.

Also download a PDF of the PowerPoint slides, 'Adventist identity', that accompany the above lecture.
The last seminar of the day brought that love of Christ into practical action as Pastor Obi Iheoma showed how even a simple thing like baking and sharing bread with love and prayer can change lives, overcome barriers, and win souls to the kingdom. Discussion that carried on long past the benediction, strong evidence that the thoughts of the day were stimulating many minds. Watch: 'Building bridges in multicultural communities.'

For a selection of photos from the weekend visit the Adventist picture gallery. For more about ASI (Adventist Services and Industries) and their support for students and business professionals contact Christine Manners-Smith on 07790452920 or email rovingcms@gmail.com.

[Rising Up From Typhoon Haiyan]

Following the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan many in the Philippines have had their fishing boats and livelihoods ruined.

Emelyn (pictured) had her house completely destroyed as well as sustaining severe damage to her three fishing boats. Currently her family is lodging with her husband's brother just behind their house. The house is made of bamboo; the wall is about to collapse as it was not spared by the strong waves.

ADRA is providing a livelihood recovery programme in the coastal community of Ajuy, Iloilo through provision of boat repair materials, fishing gear and nets, alternative livelihood training, capital equipment and disaster preparedness training for more than 8,000 households.

These families will be transformed back towards normal through restoration of their livelihoods. ADRA is making a difference by changing one life at a time. Thank for your continued support!

Keep up to date with ADRA, by visiting our website – www.adra.org.uk.

[Reading West Focuses on Children with 'Messy Church']
'Messy Church', at the Reading West Adventist church, meant it was time to focus on children for the day, on Saturday, 25 January.

The children, and their guests from the local community, were treated to a Sabbath of activities and crafts, all focused on the story of Samson, found in the Biblical book of Judges, chapter 13.

Under the leadership of Rosalind Boakye, and the Children's Ministries Team, the children, youth and even parents took part in over half a dozen activities, including lively sessions of praise and worship and a play on the story of Samson.

The play reinforced the power of God's influence in the life of Samson and in our lives today. It was put together by the youth of Reading West church.

'Messy Church' welcomes all children within the Reading community and offers them opportunities to make friends in a safe and friendly environment, as well as learn about Bible stories in very practical ways.

Reading West church holds 'Messy Church' once a month. The February edition will be themed 'Our Family', something the church believes is a fundamental unit in society.

Reading West Seventh-day Adventist church at 24 Portman Road, Reading, RG30 1AE also runs a Life Development Centre at the same address. This engages all ages within the local community and offers help in improving the quality of life for all.

[Alison Awuku, Reading West Communication Leader]

ALL AGE APPEAL OF MOHAP DAY RETREAT

What does a thirteen year old do at a prayer retreat? Seven apprehensive teenagers were among the 170 attendees at the first Ministry of Healing and Prayer (MOHAP) day retreat of 2014, hosted at the Advent Centre, London on Sunday, 26 January.
The Plumstead teenagers joined adults, mainly from around the South England Conference, but with others from the North, including a group from Leeds, led by Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi. These mixed with and welcomed others from other denominations and even the unchurched.

There were informative and inspirational presentations on spiritual, physical and emotional healing by Pastor Emmanuel Osei, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, and Dr Daniel Duda. Pastor Osei's devotional focussed on the leper, his faith and the obstacles he overcame in order to meet Jesus and receive His healing. Dr Ngwaba outlined the detrimental effect of sugar on one's health in particular diabetes and hypertension. He recommended diet and lifestyle changes including sugar consumption reduction, to aid in the reversal of these chronic conditions. Dr Duda addressed the topic of fear and anxiety in the Christian's life and highlighted appropriate and inappropriate responses to fear and the correct mindset required in order to overcome the inappropriate responses.

The attendees praised and worshipped God in song and testimonies throughout the day and there were also opportunities for a variety of prayer times: quiet meditation, corporate and prayer in twos. Eleven pastors provided the ministerial service of pastoral prayer, brief counselling and anointing. Joyful testimonies followed.

And the youth? While apprehensive at the start, by the end of the day they stated, "We have been so blessed, we want to attend other retreats and we are going to bring some of our friends."

The next day retreat is on Sunday, 23 March 2014, at the Advent Centre. Book or download a booking form at www.mohap.org. Please see advert for more details. For queries phone 07407 692 256.

[Janet Hamilton]

VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY, RICKETS AND THE ADVENTIST DIET

Many BUC News readers have contacted our office following media reports that incorrectly linked an Adventist diet with the case of a baby who died of rickets. The Adventist Church did publish a well-
received statement in response to the media coverage and this was expanded on by ANN, the General Conference news service.

Among those in the UK responding to the media and giving very sound, balanced advice are both Adventist GPs and nutritionists.

Dr Rosemen Channer, a London based GP, has seen an increase in the incidence of rickets over the past couple of years. She explained that rickets occurs as a consequence of poor bone mineralization usually caused by factors such as vitamin D or phosphate deficiency; disorders of the gut, pancreas, liver or kidneys; or some congenital defect. The most frequent cause is severe vitamin D deficiency.

Those most at risk are children and those aged over 65, certain ethnic groups with darker skins, those who cover their face and bodies routinely, infants exclusively breastfeding especially past 6 months of age, also pregnant and breastfeeding women. She states that these group are advised to take vitamin D supplements noting that in 2012 the government's chief medical officer recommended that all infant babies and young children should have daily supplements as drops, and all pregnant and breastfeeding woman need a daily supplement of 400iu vitamin D.

Explaining the importance of vitamin D, Dr Channer stated that "primarily it is essential for maintaining bone health throughout life." Vitamin D is synthesised in the skin by exposure to sunlight meaning that, even in the dark days of winter, it is important to get outdoors for some natural light.

While 90% of our vitamin D may be derived from sunlight, she notes, "the rest is obtained from the diet. Foods high in vitamin D are usually fortified, e.g. margarines and cereals."

As a GP who is concerned at the increasing incidence of rickets that she is seeing in her practice she advises, "Eat a wide range of wholesome plant foods with grains and nuts; also undertake regular exercise, especially in the sunshine enjoying outdoor exercise. Also, having a daily generous intake of water cannot be too strongly emphasized." These guidelines sit well with the balanced health emphasis given by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"The vegetarian diet is often associated with health benefits", explains nutrition expert, Angelette Müller. "However just like any other dietary choice, the vegetarian diet can vary considerably." She refers to Winston Craig, Professor of Nutrition at Andrews University, Michigan who states that, "Appropriately planned vegetarian diets, including total vegetarian and vegan diets are healthful and nutritionally adequate."

Angelette emphasizes that appropriate planning of meals is key to his statement though she recognizes that this can be a challenge in our fast-paced lifestyles. "It is particularly important that we plan our diets carefully whether we are vegetarians or not, but in the case of vegetarians lower intakes of specific nutrients have been observed. These nutrients include: vitamin B-12, calcium, vitamin D, zinc, and long-chain n-3 fatty acids." (Craig & Mangels, 2009)
Education is key including becoming familiar with the types of foods that provide health benefits and nutrients. "Educating yourself about the vegetarian or vegan diet and the types of nutrients that may be lower and how to obtain them is key to ensuring a healthy balanced diet", Angelette states. "It is also important to think about how to provide the best balance of vegetarian nutrition for the needs of children, in pregnancy and breastfeeding and for elderly or people who are unwell."

Referring to press reports, and to those who may take health reform to an extreme, Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director, released the following statement:

"As a Church we seek to embrace the 'health message' as outlined by our denominational principles. We do so within the context of evidence based research and the promotion of a holistic balanced lifestyle in relation to diet, exercise, rest, spiritual connection and social interaction. We recognise that there are individuals however who may seek to overemphasize and take out of context certain aspects of health practices. As such, I have published guidelines on the use of natural medicines and holistic lifestyle programmes to safeguard the integrity of our health programmes and the well-being of our members."

A key aim of the guidelines is to highlight the safe and effective evidence based use of natural medicine whilst balancing the message about the use of complementary medicine in chronic and acute cases of illness.

A much fuller report will be published in a future edition of Messenger.

[BUC News with Sharon Platt-McDonald]

**ADRA APPEAL TOPS £150,000**

The 7 February edition of Messenger, the official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland highlights thanks on its front page. Thanks to you, the reader, for your generosity in supporting ADRA to help families in the Philippines pull their lives together again following Typhoon Haiyan. Also, discover that sugar is not so sweet, ask 'Why does God allow disasters to happen?', discover 'So, you think you is man?', rejoice in baptisms, and learn about a creative Adventist. Pick up a copy from your local church or read it online here.

[Julian Hibbert]

[Image of Messenger front page with ADRA appeal]
THE WILL TO SUCCEED & BREAKING FROM GANG LIFE: ADVENTIST TV THIS WEEK

Thursday 6 February, 8:30 pm – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 9 February, 1:00 pm)

Deborah Harris, entrepreneur and money expert draws together the principles that have formed her life. Where does she find the joy in numbers and advice giving, and what influences determined her will to succeed? Find out more in 'Adventists In Conversation', Revelation TV (Sky 581, Freesat 692 and Roku).

Sabbath 8 February, 8:30 pm – Hope Channel (www.hopetv.org.uk, smartphone app or Roku)

Animal Encounters. Part 3 of the new series on Hope Channel that gives you the best nature without the evolutionary dialogue. This week Gabi, Kezia and Cassila go diving with sharks and share their personal experiences as they encounter God's creation.

Thursday 13 February, 8:30 pm – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 16 February, 1:00 pm)

Former gangster, Gwenton Sloley reveals his cry to God from a London prison cell, how a police officer who believed in him changed his life, and how, in his streetwise style, he now mentors youth, attracting them to positive lifestyles.

HOPE CHANNEL is no longer available on satellite in Europe. There are several positive ways to watch your favourite programmes – and to have more choice:

1. Purchase a Roku box to gain access to a vast variety of Hope Channel and other Adventist programming. Roku transmits programming via the internet. Simply connect it to your HD ready TV and the wireless internet in your house.

2. Watch on your smartphone or tablet. Get a free app from the iTunes store or the Android Play Store.

3. Enjoy a range of programmes on the www.hopetv.org.uk website. Watch the live stream and a range of on-demand programmes. Find links to other international channels.

[Victor Hulbert]

COMING EVENTS

Continuing to Friday 28 February:

Bible Boot Camp 2014. Every weekday during February. Time: 0500-0530 GMT. The online
campaign is an international affair, hosted by Pastor Paul Graham (USA) and is sponsored by the Youth department at Peckham church. Log onto: bootcamp.fullcircleministries.com (do not add www).

**Friday 7 - Sunday 9 February:**
SEC Elders' Retreat 2014. Our annual Elders' Retreat will be held at De Vere Venues, Wokefield Park, Goodboys Lane, Mortimer, Reading, West Berkshire RG7 3AH. Click here for Elders' Retreat letter. Click here for Elders' Retreat Application form.

**Sabbath 8 - Sunday 9 February:**
NEC Deacon & Deaconess Spiritual Retreat. Guest speaker: Pastor Dr Nerval Myrie, senior pastor at the Toronto Perth Adventist church in Canada. For more details and to book click here.

**Sabbath 8, 15 & 22 February:**
Revelation of Hope Evangelistic Campaign – will run for three consecutive Sabbaths and it will be presented by Tristan Cuniah. Venue: Breath of Life Seventh-day Adventist church.

**Saturday 8 February:**
United: Worship Nights – with live music from Jader Feijo & Michaela Mathieu-Marius. This is all FREE! Venue: Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, RG42 4AN. Time: 7:30 - 8:45 pm.

**Sunday 9 February:**
SEC Certificate in Family Life Education Training. Continues on 23 March & 27 April. Time: 10.00 am - 4.00 pm (lunch provided). Venue: Stanborough Park Church Centre, 609 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford WD25 9JL. Contact: Anna McLarty on 01923 23 27 28 or fm@secadventist.org.uk.
London Adventist Credit Union Annual General Meeting, 13:30 - 17:30 at the John Loughborough School.

**Tuesday 11 February:**
Newbold Diversity Lectures: Spring Semester 2014. Lecturer: Ganoune Diop, Director for United Nations Relations for the global Seventh-day Adventist Church. Title: More than Liberty, Rights, or Respect: Adventist Approaches to Global Relations. Venue: Smith Centre, Newbold College, St Mark's Road, Binfield, RG42 4AN. Time: 19:30 - 21:00.

**Friday 14 - Sunday 16 February:**
Irish Mission Family Ministries – Couples Weekend. A Family Ministries retreat for couples held in the idyllic setting of the Kippure Estate just outside Dublin. Contact: Pastor Stephen Wilson or Belinda Mappa. Cost: Email the above contact persons for more information.

**Saturday 15 February:**
Victory in Praise. A concert that delivers an offering of praise, fights discouragement and teaches truth. Location: Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Church, 95 Selhurst Road, London, SE25 6LH. 18:00 - 20:00. For more info call/text Joanne Miller 07940243719.

The Reason Why We Sing Fundraising Concert. Just Right Promotions in association with Media Net Gospel invite you to our fundraising concert. Place: The City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2DE. Time: 7:00 pm. Tickets are £10 in advance and £12.00 at the door.

Watford Town Curry Night. Enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship and food, whilst raising funds for Watford Town church building project. Chilli Lounge, 328 St Albans Road, Watford at 7:30 pm. Contact Anroulla Best for more info: 07869132901.

**Sunday 16 February:**
Careers Fare – London Credit Union. Calling all students and adults considering a change in career, to the 3rd LACU Careers Fair! Time: Registration 11:00 for a 11:30 start until 16:00. Venue: Ilford Seventh–day Adventist Church, 14-16 Coventry Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 4QR. Register at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-adventist-credit-union-careers-fair-tickets
Monday 17 - 21 February:
SEC Prayer and Faith Conference 2014. Unfortunately because of space limitations, we are not able to accept all the applications so book now on the SEC Teens website to avoid disappointment! Venue: Stanborough Park School, Watford, WD25 9JT. Contact Pr Dejan Stojkovic by email or phone 01923 232728.

Sabbath 22 February:
Lighthouse Day of Fellowship. The Orient Lighthouse Foundation is inviting all Nigerians to its Day of Fellowship. Venue: Memorial Hall, Maldon Road, Off Victoria Road, Edmonton N9 9QP. Time: Worship starts at 9:30 am. Not Nigerian time.

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

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.

SMALL ADS

CHURCH CLOSURES. Ŷ DUBLIN RANELAGH ROAD CHURCH is now closed for renovations. Services will take place at Dundrum Methodist Church each Sabbath at 14:00 EXCEPT Feb 22 and March 1 when Ranelagh will be joining Castleknock at 10:00. (Find the location at http://www.dundrummethodist.com.) 14:00 Worship, 15:15 Lesson study, 16:00 Break, 16:30 Afternoon programme. Ŷ NORTH WEMBLEY CHURCH is also closed for renovations. They are currently meeting with Burnt Oak Fellowship, Watlington Community Centre, 145 Orange Hill Road, Edgware HA8 OTR. Meeting times, 10:00 am-13:00 each Sabbath. Please see website: http://www.northwembley.adventistchurch.org.uk or Facebook page to keep abreast of progress.

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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Adventist Identity Today

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ASI UK Spring Meeting
Staverton Park Hotel
1st February 2014

Outline

1) Why? Adventism as a re-thinking movement. (History of Ideas)
2) How? Biblical (NT) understanding of identity
3) What? What it meant for Adventism
4) So What? What are the consequences of the fact that Adventism is a re-thinking movement for our dogmatics, identity, mission, etc.?

Why Are We Here?

What is the reason for our existence?
We used to be clear – After 170 years not so
Adventism worked well with the shortness of time mentality – If not us, who else would do it for the Lord?
Various solutions for the present day crisis were proposed – that's why we are more fragmented than any other time in history!

Crisis of Identity

A wide-spread, contemporary issue:
Young vs. old people – values, generation gap
Whole nations – Membership in the EU, NATO;
To have Euro or a national currency?
Various religious Groups: JW, Salvation army
Whole people groups displaced – Darfur, South Ossetia, Nagorny Karabach
We are no exception!

Enlightenment

Started 1700-1750
• Tradition or authority are no longer an acceptable source of answers
• Beliefs must be based on reason
• If everyone applies the correct principles of reason, all will come to the same conclusions
• Before Enlightenment, the identity was clear:
  • God is up there; we are down here
  • If we are good, God rewards us; if we are bad, He punishes us

Lisbon Earthquake

• Saturday, 1 November 1755 at 9.40
• Out of est. 275,000 population 60-90,000 died
• All Saints' Day – people in the church, going out of the church, or going to the church
• Most people who died, died in cathedrals
• After Lisbon earthquake, people no longer believed that earthquakes are a punishment from an angry God
• In Science – start of Seismology
• In Theology – start of Deism
William Miller (1782-1849)
- A Baptist farmer
- Deist – God not involved with the world
- Science, technology, era of discoveries – Gold age
- War of 1812 – Battle of Plattsburg (1814) =>
- Change of thinking – post-millennialism to pre-millennialism
- Carefully studied prophecies for many years
- Between 1831-1844 no problem with identity
- Wednesday, 23rd October 1844 – The Great Disappointment

What have we learnt?
- Millerism started as a re-thinking movement in response to Enlightenment and deism
- As with every re-thinking, it brought some positive results and it also created some confusion
- To sort out the confusion, another re-thinking was needed
- Out of this re-thinking, Seventh-day Adventism was born and moved forward

Questions for Discussion
Discuss in a small group:
1) What leads people today to question their place in the world? What are your current crises of identity? What are the events, books, trends, etc., which shake your identity?
2) How does the global history of Adventism influence the development of Adventism in your country?
3) How does the local history of a particular SDA church influence the type of church you find today?

Matthew 16:13-18 (NIV)
13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"
14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah, and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Biblical Identity
The Question of Identity:
Who is Jesus?
The person of Jesus precedes the doctrines of Jesus. The doctrines of Jesus are important because of who Jesus is. Christianity = Jesus
If Adventism = Christianity =>
Adventism = Jesus

Biblical Identity
The Question of Identity:
Simon, bar Jonah + Christ's revelation = Peter the rock
Johnson + Christ = Rock
Anyone + Christ = Living Stone
All of us + Christ = Living Stones = the Church
Biblical Roles of Doctrines

The role of a doctrine is to deepen my relationship with Jesus, to make it more practical, liveable. To make me a more loving, gracious and tolerant person.

In that sense, doctrines are important! (False doctrines ultimately devalue your relationship with Jesus!)

Questions for Discussion

Discuss in a small group:
1) How does a doctrine fulfil its role? Does knowing the right doctrine(s) have any advantages that are not pragmatic? If yes, what are they?
2) What do you think about the thesis that "Adventism = Jesus"? Does it threaten or underline the importance of our unique doctrines?
3) If the Identity of Adventism is in Jesus, how is this compatible with the doctrine of the Sabbath, or the state of the dead?

A Crisis of Identity

- Millerism started as a re-thinking movement in response to Enlightenment and deism
- As with every re-thinking, it brought some positive results and it also created some confusion
- To sort out the confusion, another re-thinking was needed
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History of Adventism

1) 1844-1888 – Eschatology
2) 1888-1956 – Soteriology
3) 1956 – now – Fragmentation
   a) Historic
   b) Cultural
   c) Mainstream
   d) Progressive
   e) Evangelical

The Trinity Doctrine in Adventism

The importance of the Trinity Doctrine
1) 1844-1888 – Eschatology
   - Unimportant; (Suspicious-Catholic)
2) 1888-1956 – Soteriology
   - A proper understanding of Trinity is needed for a proper Soteriology
3) 1956 – now – Fragmentation
   - The essence of Ultimate Reality is relationships [community]

Judgment in Adventism

Who needs the Judgment?
1) 1844 - 1888 – Eschatology
   - God, in order to know who to save
2) 1888 – 1956 – Soteriology
   - I, in order to get to heaven
3) 1956 – now – Fragmentation
   - The universe, in order to see God's fairness so that His government is ultimately vindicated
A Solution for Identity Crisis

- New events and new patterns of thinking always cause a crisis of faith, an identity crisis
- The only viable solution is re-thinking our faith and identity
- Adventism started as a re-thinking movement: a response to Enlightenment, deism and millenism
- Every re-thinking brings some positive results and also creates some mess
- To progress further, another re-thinking is needed
- Adventism needed to do a re-thinking a few times in its history and so far managed to do it well
- The future of Adventism depends on our ability to re-think our identity

Questions for Discussion

Discuss in a small group:
1) To what extent the movement that had the attribute "re-thinking movement" written in its "birth certificate," became just an institution that replicates itself and its traditions?
2) What changes can you see in your current environment in the last 10 years? In what way these challenges require a new response? What are we telling the people around us?
3) Is it of any significance that Jesus had more to say about serving the poor than about prayer and being born-again together? If yes, what?

So What?

Kingdom life is the only life worth living. Live to the fullest, use the gifts you've got! Do not get discouraged when things do not work out the way you expected. The judgment of people around you is not decisive. One day a heavenly judgment is going to vindicate you. For the sake of Kingdom, be the best person you can be! One day you will be happy you did! You will hear: Well done!

Questions for Discussion

Discuss in a small group:
4) What are the implication of fragmentation of Adventism for you? Do you see it as a threat or an opportunity? Does it threaten/shake your religious identity?
5) If the SDA Church in the UK wants to be the 'salt and light' for people in today's society, what needs to change and what needs to be preserved?
In 2011 the BUC Health Ministries Department launched its Natural Medicine and Wholistic Lifestyle Strategy.

A key aim of the strategy is to highlight the safe and effective evidence-based use of natural medicine whilst balancing the message about the use of contemporary medicine in chronic and acute cases of illness. As part of the strategy launch, guidance on these issues has been given to both health leaders and ministers.

It is hoped that the strategy will enable the following:

a) Encourage evidence based practice
b) Train individuals in the safe and effective use of natural medicine
c) Safeguard people, health practices and health related programs within the BUC

Use of natural products

Amongst some of the key messages that our department wishes to get across with the strategy are the following:

- It is advisable to use only alternative or complimentary treatment or therapy that has a scientific validation and is shown to be safe and effective for use
- Individuals taking prescribed medication or undergoing medical treatment must consult their regular practitioner before undertaking any alternative or complimentary medicine. This is to ensure that there are no contraindications, negative drug interactions or serious side effects as a result of additional non medical treatments.
- We encourage members to seek medical help in terms of elective or emergency surgery and use of medication, including where necessary chemo- and radiotherapy for the treatment of serious or life threatening conditions

Guidance on presenters and health programmes

There is a church protocol for invited guests to enter the territory and speak at any designated church or area. The church board is responsible for enacting this protocol. Additionally where necessary for some health programmes, the church board needs to ensure that there is documented action in relation to insurance coverage by the Adventist Risk Management (ARM).

*Check first* with the conference elected Director of Health or Mission Health Sponsor whether they are aware of / familiar with any individual who wants to undertake a health program, run training events or approach members as health practitioners / advisors

* Request evidence of accredited specialist training or qualification in the specified area of practice from individuals who want to act as consultants.
*Health evangelism courses* of up to 4 weeks are not enough to classify an individual as an independent practitioner of any kind; be it natural, alternative or complementary medicine. Courses such as L.I.G.H.T (Lay International Global Heath Training) may be valuable for training in medical missionary work as may M.E.E.T Ministry (Missionary Education and Evangelistic Training) however these do not make individuals competent or immediate practitioners.

**Accredited Medical missionary courses of 6 months and over** may be identified as sufficient to credit individuals to practice however the BUC Health Ministries Department cannot be held responsible for the practice outcome of these individuals as they are undertaking work as independent practitioners. Please check with the BUC Health Ministries Department in relation to the minimum standards for accredited courses.

*Health training from Healthy Lifestyle Centres* – A number of our SDA health institutions undertake comprehensive training in natural medicine. For example Uchee Pines (USA) runs the Lifestyle Educator (6 months), Lifestyle Counsellor (12 months). Individuals undertaking these programs and qualifying as practitioners may decide to practice independently. However the BUC Health Ministries Department will be looking at how this may be undertaken within the parameters of natural medical practice in the UK.

The BUC Health Ministries Department are working to ensure that where any health related programmes from Healthy Lifestyle Institutions are run that the accepted peer reviewed guidelines for health practice in the UK are followed.

In order to safeguard the health choices and health practices of our membership we aim to undertake the following:

1) Encourage pastors and health ministries leaders to ensure that if alternative or complimentary products / therapies are mentioned or presented as part of a health program, it must first be vetted for validity by appropriately qualified medical or health personnel or an individual with a science background. The information should also be presented within the context of a holistic lifestyle in regards to good health maintenance. It should not be presented as a sole treatment for every situation or as a diagnostic for anyone who is ill.

2) If the above is presented as part of a program it must be clearly stated by the presenter that these products are not being presented as a 'cure' or replacement for essential medical treatment. Additionally though some benefit may have been reported by some individuals using these products, this should not be used as an example for every case and assumed as automatic use for those with serious illnesses. Furthermore anecdotal evidence is not accepted as (scientifically) evidenced-based.

3) Encourage pastors, elders and health ministries leaders not to allow the promotion of any brand name products or network marketing schemes as a means of drawing membership or sales. It should also be clearly established by the leaders that marketing techniques should be avoided in health presentations. This is in order to preserve integrity and avoid any issues of conflict of interest.

4) As far as possible seek to ensure that a qualified health professional is part of the church health ministries team. Where this is not possible we advise contact with an area accredited medical or science personnel to oversee health programs and workshop content and be present at events where health programs are presented.

5) We advise that where health-related initiatives are undertaken at local or BUC level that a disclaimer is used.
6) We advise those in leadership positions to only accept health presenters who are in good and regular standing and who do not hold extreme health views which are in conflict with our General Conference Working Policy on Health Ministry practices for institutions.

7) In reference to Supporting Ministries, promotion and fundraising events, please ensure that individuals are acquainted with and adhere to the following: General Conference Working Policies: S 50 25 Unauthorized Presentations and Solicitations, and K 05 05 Criteria for Defining Supporting Ministries.

**Health practices**

- The aspect of health practices, dietary guidelines and anxiety over unregulated therapies and their conflicts with Adventist belief are important and valid areas of concern.

- The General Conference voted in 2007 at the Autumn Council to reaffirm the health guidelines of the Seventh-day Adventist church. This included upholding the list of unauthorised alternative/complementary health practices; guidance against tea and coffee and the serving and preparation of flesh foods on church premises and Adventist institutions. A letter to this effect was sent out to all pastors and health ministries leaders at the beginning on 2008.

- Caution needs to be taken when individuals offer to give a 'healing' testimony in a public setting. Any reports of healing should be accompanied by verification from a medical source e.g. "here is the letter/report that states I no longer have cancer..." or "my GP/consultant told me that I am now in remission/my illness has been cured....."

At the BUC Wellness Summit June 21st – 26th 2011, the above guidelines were reemphasised. At the same event also attendees were trained in specific aspects of the BUC Natural Medicine and Holistic Lifestyle Strategy. This enabled them to become acquainted with the key messages and disseminate the information in their churches.