Edition #865 (14 February 2014)

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

Contents:

ADRA GIFT BOX SMILES IN SIERRA LEONE
UK CHURCHES CELEBRATE MULTIPLE 'BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS'
MORE THAN LIBERTY, RIGHTS AND RESPECT
HALESOWEN CHURCH PLANT HITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY
NEC BOOSTS ROLE AND VALUE OF DEACONATE
NEWBOLD COLLEGE TAKES PRIDE IN LOCAL COMMUNITY
BREAKING FROM GANG LIFE: ADVENTIST TV THIS WEEK
COMING EVENTS

ADRA GIFT BOX SMILES IN SIERRA LEONE
Her name was Mamajio. As she picked up her crutches, standing a little taller than waist height, she weaved in and out of us patiently awaiting her gift box. As she climbed onto her patient bed at Masanga, a hospital in the depths of Sierra Leone, I saw the need for her walking aides. Visible from her pink cropped trousers was one strong and sturdy leg – and only one. Mamajio's right leg had been amputated after a tree had fallen onto the limb. The hospital staff said they had first known her for the countless tears she shed after the accident, and when we asked Mamajio if she still cried, she looked at us and said "not any more."

It was then that I really saw the calibre of children our gift boxes were going to benefit. Children who refuse to be defined by their surroundings, whose dignity and resilience shine through their circumstances. So as I picked up Mamajio's box, a box prepared thousands of miles away and lovingly wrapped with a distinctive red ribbon – even I could barely wait to see what her gift held.

Her fingers moved tentatively over the box at first, so I used my own to help her prise off the decorative ribbon. Her fingers, now eager the closer she comes to opening the present, finish the unwrapping and as the box opens, I think how similar she looks to Khaya, the little girl who had packed this very gift. Both girls were small in stature, dark skinned in appearance, with neatly plaited hair and a seemingly shy demeanour; but whether from the United Kingdom or a small village hospital in West Africa, these two girls also shared the innocence of childhood. It has been Khaya's, and the multitude of other gift boxes our churches packed that has allowed thousands of little Sierra Leonians hold onto their childhood for just a little longer.

To my surprise, it was slowly and steadily that Mamajio began to inspect the contents of her box. She picked out item, after item, after item, looking at each one and putting them to one side as she searched through her gifts. Amongst the notebooks, pens and education sets, the real moment of joy was seen as Mamajio found a doll neatly packed at the bottom of her box. She picked it up, looking me firmly in the eye and smiled.

It is for this real and tangible moment, plus the hundreds of others we at ADRA-UK experienced in Sierra Leone that we have to say a resounding thank you. Your gift boxes, lovingly given, have had an impact that you may never know, to a child that you may never meet, but with an effect that has been overwhelmingly felt.

The children of Sierra Leone say, "thank you, bless you and may God give you long life." Watch a video report of the distribution here.
Interested in being an ADRA Volunteer? Find out more online today at http://adrauk.org/help/volunteering/register/ or visit the ADRA UK Facebook page.

[Sophie Gordon]

UK CHURCHES CELEBRATE MULTIPLE 'BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS'

One baptism is something to celebrate in itself, but having several baptisms on one day is an experience that several churches have recently witnessed and celebrated.

Siblings Selithemba and Mkhaliphi Ndlovu were joined by Bianca Chikanya in celebrating the same 'baptismal birthday' at Luton Central church, on Sabbath, 11 January, 2014.

Bianca, who was supported by her brother on the day, chose Jeremiah 29:11-33 to be read before she was baptised by the church's pastor, Ottakal Chackochen.

The mother of Selithemba and Mkhaliphi told the congregation how happy and grateful she was that her children had made such an important decision, in publicly choosing to follow Jesus.

A few weeks earlier, further north, in the Walsall church there was an equally exciting baptism, where seven people chose to give their lives to God during the church's Homecoming Day, on Sabbath, 7 December.

Pastor Adam Ramdin, Youth director at the North England Conference, preached at the Homecoming Day. It was to be a time to reminisce on the changes that Walsall church had experienced over the years but became a day that would have to be included in the church’s history.

Harold Smith, and his wife Lucian, Ethlyn Taylor-Plummer, Earnestine Moyo, Albert Muvuti, Nothonda Sibanda and Phindile Tshuma, were baptised by Walsall’s pastor, Richard Brookes.

Friends and families from across the world witnessed Chelmsford church's last baptism of 2013, on Sabbath, 28 December.
Pastor John Melki baptised Mr Bishop, Mrs Wong-Varghese, Mr Varghese and Ms Kelly, welcoming them into the membership of the worldwide Adventist Church.

The candidates expressed how important they felt it was to be baptised in the presence of church members who had impacted and shaped their spiritual life so positively.

North Wales may have been battered by storms recently but saw a touch of heaven on Sabbath, 1 February when Lee Holland was baptised at the Rhyl church. From being a member of the British Army he stated that he has now become a member of 'the Lord's Army'.

The day was also a first for local pastor, Malcolm Turner. Not only was it the first baptism where he officiated, but as a result of an appeal in this small, Welsh congregation, two more men have now requested Bible studies.

From being a member of the British Army, Lee now says he has joined Christ’s Army and his declaration from the baptistery confirmed his desire to devote his life to the Lord. - See more at: http://adventist.org.uk/news/2014/2014-wa/a-touch-of-heaven#sthash.4eV3DC7q.dpuf

Do you want to share a recent baptism from your church? Send a report with some accompanying photos to your local Conference or Mission Communication department!

[Photo: Peggy Rusike / Mark Taylor / Joyce Swamy]

MORE THAN LIBERTY, RIGHTS AND RESPECT

"There are times when I sit across the table from people who I know are doing terrible things to others. Sometimes when I talk with people I know that they are lying to me. But I also know that we share the same humanity." These and other startling words came from Dr Ganoune Diop on Tuesday, 11 February 2014 during the February Diversity Lecture at Newbold College.
Dr Diop is the Director for United Nations Relations for the global Seventh-day Adventist Church. He gave his lecture 'More than Liberty, Rights or Respect' as he returned from Togo in West Africa where he had been in talks at the highest levels of government concerning several imprisoned Adventist members. He was able to provide an update on the progress of the cases.

Dr Diop is a French citizen with roots in Senegal. "In Senegal," he said, "people do not shout. Anyone who shouts is thought to be a little mad." His gentle, gracious spirit made it clear to all present why he is ideally suited to this key ambassadorial role.

With the United Nations and many other agencies at work in many trouble spots around the world, he posed the question as to why the Adventist Church should become involved in this diplomatic work. His answer was that Adventists believe that we are created in the image of God, and so every human being, victim and perpetrator, is sacred and deserves to be treated with the greatest dignity. "Things change when you treat people as if they matter", he continued. "People need to know that I am for them. Within the Church and beyond we need to create a culture of human dignity."

Part of the problem, he said was that we really do not know or understand each other. "As Adventists we are here to heal misunderstandings. I tell government leaders that they should regard Adventists as assets to their society." He emphasised his view that Adventist pastors and members should maintain connections with a variety of local organisations. He cited Adventist Church co-founder, Ellen White, to underline the point: 'the Church abolishes all territorial lines'.

He was clear that human beings cannot solve their problems in any final way. "A new conflict starts somewhere in the world every month. Human beings have a very ugly side." He continued, "But like the old rabbi I want to say that even if I believed that the world was going to end tomorrow I would still plant a tree today."

"As Adventists we should go beyond giving people rights and treat them with great dignity. We should go beyond showing them respect and treat them with great generosity." Dr Diop, who comes from a Muslim background, became an Adventist because he saw it as a way of becoming free. "We must offer that opportunity for personal freedom to people we meet in our everyday lives simply because we share a common humanity."

[Michael Pearson]
Halesowen, a commuter town approximately 7 miles south-west of Birmingham at the edge of the industrial Midlands is now home to a thriving Adventist congregation. One year ago, a small group of members with burning hearts to spread the gospel decided, with lots and lots of prayer, that Halesowen is a great place to start evangelism. The small group held their first Sabbath School and worship services in February 2013.

One year on, on Sabbath, 8 February 2014, those members celebrated their first year anniversary as a church under the theme, 'One Spirit, One Mission, One Faith'. The singing group, Advent Melodies, turned the theme into songs and Pastor Michael Simpson, during the sermon period, reminding us as a church we should remember the community around us and start knocking on their doors.

We were happy to have the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Consort, Councillor Margaret Aston and her son Councillor Adam Aston join us during the worship service. She commended Halesowen Adventist church for the different activities that they are involved with in the community over the past few months.

A celebration would not be complete without a hearty meal. After all the lovely food we ate, we prepared ourselves to do some evangelism within the community. As on the inaugural Sabbath, 'Mr Weatherman' was wrong with his prediction because we were blessed with sunshine. The teens with some adults went out to different houses and dropped tracts, while the singing group went to visit a nearby nursing home to share the gospel through music. One elderly lady asked local pastor, Obinnaya Iheoma, that the group should visit her on regular basis.
On their return, Pastor Iheoma led a commitment service. He inspired us with his message that we should keep our light shining bright, not only within the community of Halesowen, but wherever we go, whatever we do. A candle lighting ceremony was followed with a song rendered by Stephanie Flores entitled 'Make Me an Instrument'.

I was excited about the whole day, but really blessed with the messages and songs that I heard. I was not alone. Many said they were really blessed, and that they were already looking forward to the second anniversary! One young person added that she enjoyed her day which made her think of how far Halesowen church had come and how far we can still go.

[Mariel Joy Brigole]

**NEC BOOSTS ROLE AND VALUE OF DEACONATE**

Pastor Richard Jackson, North England Conference Ministerial Association Secretary, has taken seriously the Adventist World Church decision to place the ministry of deacons and deaconesses under the Ministerial department. He has organised what is thought to be the first Deaconate Spiritual Retreat in the history of the NEC.

189 deacons (male and female) packed the retreat held at the Eastwood Hall Conference Centre in Nottingham over the weekend, 7-9 February 2014. Pastor Nerval Myrie, a much loved former minister in the South England Conference who is now ministering in Canada, ably fed the delegation with rich spiritual lessons and challenges.

He defined the service of the deaconate in terms of an obsession with a love relationship with Christ that leads to serving, with the disclaimer that Jesus is responsible for equipping, leading and for the results of what we do as deacons and deaconesses. He also stated that a deaconate who is obsessed with Jesus will exhibit certain characteristics such as loving indiscriminately, welcoming sinners, demoting themselves and promoting God, giving joyful service, as well as making God the priority in all things.

Pastors Lorance Johnson, NEC President and Llew Edwards, from the BUC Ministerial Association, gladly supported this wonderful weekend.
Delegates remarked that they had been spiritually blessed and were eager to take what they had learnt back to their churches. One delegate stated that she planned to be more patient and show more willingness to do God's work as well as being friendlier in her role as a deaconess. Another delegate stated that they would be going home from the retreat refreshed and invigorated and would endeavour to have a positive attitude and a deeper commitment to service for God.

The retreat ended with the expressed desire by all that this be an annual event to give appreciation for, and empower the marvellous ministry of the deaconate in the NEC.

[Yvonne Chambers]

NEWBOLD COLLEGE TAKES PRIDE IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

Last week students and staff from Newbold College of Higher Education participated in Bracknell Forest Council's 'Take Pride' campaign, an initiative that supports the UK-wide 'The Big Tidy Up' and encourages local voluntary organisations to clean up their neighbourhood and set a positive example.

Through the Newbold Voluntary Service (NVS), groups of students head out into the community each Friday afternoon to take part in projects such as raking leaves, cleaning residential areas for elderly people who need assistance, and, most recently, preparing the ground for a wheelchair access ramp at the Jealotts Hill Community Landshare project – a six acre tract of land donated by agriculture research and technology company Syngeta for community use.

NVS coordinator, Snezana Kordovan, said that students loved putting on wellington boots and getting muddy to work on this latest project. "There is always a lot of laughter and enthusiasm, no matter how physically hard the work is, demonstrating the benefit they are getting from spending time outdoors and knowing that they are volunteering their time to benefit others. Even though digging the ground was hard and most of our students have never done any physical work of this kind before, they have all asked to go again. Surprisingly, three of our gentlest female students who had never held a shovel before were the most enthusiastic diggers of all at this week's project!"

Rossindra Davis, Projects Officer from Bracknell Forest Council Environmental Services said that Newbold's community work has definitely been noticed in the Council. "Volunteers,
councillors and parish and town councils are starting to appreciate and acknowledge what Newbold College has done."

In addition to those who took part in the recent Take Pride initiative, around 50 Newbold students volunteer every week in projects with the local Beech House Care Home, Bracknell Forest Youth Services, Newbold Church, Newbold School and the Royal Voluntary Service. "At Newbold we are committed to providing opportunities for our students and staff to serve, and we encourage participation wherever possible. We are very happy to see the wholehearted enthusiasm our students show for these projects", said Snezana.

[Kirsty Watkins]

**BREAKING FROM GANG LIFE: ADVENTIST TV THIS WEEK**

Roku and Internet viewers of Hope TV have been asking about scheduling changes, particularly to their Friday night viewing. Hope Channel Europe stopped transmitting on 31 December 2013 and the Friday night line-up finished with it. Currently the North American channel is airing as the primary channel on Roku and on the web. You can find the full schedule here. (Remember to change the time zone to London.) There are plans for a UK stream to come online later in the year. A Hope Channel upgrade on Roku expected in the next few days will also give a greater selection of UK based 'on demand' programming.

Meanwhile, please enjoy these special selections on Revelation TV and Hope Channel.

**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. Also, why does he talk to Adventist youth? Surely they don't get involved with gangs? Find out more in 'Adventists In Conversation', **Revelation TV** (Sky 581, Freesat 692 and Roku).

**Sabbath 15 February, 8:30 pm – Hope Channel** (www.hopetv.org.uk, smartphone app or Roku)
**Animal Encounters.** Part 4 gives you the best nature without the evolutionary dialogue. Join Gabi, Kezia and Cassila as they share their personal experiences as they encounter God's creation.
Thursday 20 February, 8:30 pm – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 23 February, 1:00 pm). Discover the life of Messenger Editor, Pastor Julian Hibbert. Find the courage of his father on 'the long march' as a German prisoner of war at the end of WW2, and how his humanity then passed onto his son today.

HOPE CHANNEL is bigger and better on Roku. The satellite may no longer be available in Europe but here 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. (An anticipated Hope Channel upgrade in the next few days should give you even more choice.)

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 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.

Friday 14 February:
The Dialogue Café, with Dejan Stojkovic & others. It's FREE and doors open from 7:00 pm. Central London Church, The Advent Centre, Crawford Place, (off Edgware Road), London, W1H 5HD.

Sabbath 15 & 22 February:

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. **MIX & MINGLE Evening for Single Christians. Venue:** Hotel Russell, 1-8 Russell Square, London WC1B 5BE. Time: 19:00 - 22:00. **Cost:** £12 per person. Tickets can be purchased over the phone by contacting Anna McLarty on 01923 23 27 28.

**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-10084297405?](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/london-adventist-credit-union-careers-fair-tickets-10084297405?)

**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](http://adventist.org.uk/events) 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.

**Saturday 22 February:**
**House of Praise 2014.** An evening of Praise, Worship & Thanksgiving for you, your family & friends. The event is FREE, doors open at 6.30 pm, event begins at 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm. **Venue:** Newbold Church, St Marks Road, Binfield, Bracknell, RG42 4AN. Refreshments on sale.

**Thursday 27 February - Sunday 2 March:**
**GAIN//Europe: Media & Communication Conference.** Conference Price: £100 (includes lunch on Friday, Sabbath & Sunday). **Venue:** Newbold College, St Mark's Road, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 4AN. For more information about Speakers, Presentations and Accommodation visit: sec.adventist.org.uk/gain

**Friday 28 February - Sunday 2 March:**
**Irish Mission Preaching for Lay Leaders Seminar.** **Cost:** 50 Euro [inclusive of accommodation & catering]. **Where:** Kilnasoolagh, Nemarket-on-Fergus church, County Clare. **Presenters:** Pastors Llew Edwards and Paul Clee. **To book**, contact Marci Neal. (Tel: 028 3888 1159 – Northern Ireland or 048 3888 1159 – ROI)

**Making God Known – Belfast with David McKibben.** **Venue:** Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church, 74-84 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6AF. For more information contact: Pastor Adam Keough.

**Saturday 1 March:**
**Marriage Enrichment Fellowship.** Enjoy an evening at a beautiful venue with great fellowship, fine food, and enhance the romance with your spouse. Time: 19:00 - 23:00.

**Sunday 2 March:**
**The Agape Wedding Fair.** To book a table or register your interest please contact Michelle Richards, mobile: 07967-483691. Email: belagapeweddings@icloud.com or go to events at [www.belagapeweddings.com](http://www.belagapeweddings.com) and register your details today. FREE entry!

For a full listing of Coming Events please visit [http://adventist.org.uk/events](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](http://adventist.org.uk/events) 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**

**Holy Land Tour** – An experience of a lifetime, a journey to the very source of your Christian experience. An opportunity to visit sites where Christ once walked, including the opportunity to experience a baptism in the River Jordan. 11-18 May 2014. Price £965 all inclusive, based on two sharing. Single supplement available. Contact Pastor Richard Daly for a booking form on 07958 433744.

CHURCH CLOSURES.  Ÿ **CHISWICK church** will be worshipping at the following address from 22 February due to rebuilding work:- Chiswick Methodist Church, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, London W4 4NL. 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 Castleknoct at 10:00. (Find the location at [http://www.dundrummethodist.com](http://www.dundrummethodist.com).) 14:00 Worship, 15:15 Lesson study, 16:00 Break, 16:30 Afternoon programme. Ÿ **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](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](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](http://www.adventistnews.org.uk).

You can manually unsubscribe from this mailing list by clicking on reply and including the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line. You can subscribe to ANN (Adventist News Network), the email news bulletin of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, on the GC website at: [http://news.adventist.org](http://news.adventist.org). You can subscribe to TED News, the email news bulletin of the Trans-European Division, by sending your name and email address to: [tednews@ted-adventist.org](mailto:tednews@ted-adventist.org).
The British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church accepts no liability to any party for any error, omission or mis-statement by any contributor in any material published in this newsletter.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please send an email marked unsubscribe to bucnews@adventist.org.uk.