HEALTH MINISTRIES AUTUMN FOCUS FOR CAMP HILL

An autumn health emphasis at Camp Hill church, Birmingham, has been stimulating not just church members but also the local community. The programme, which started with a Health Emphasis Day on Sabbath, 27 September and will climax at the end of this month, has included health expos, training, youth programmes and activities focusing on specific age groups and genders.

The Health Ministries team purposely worked to
engage Camp Hill church members and friends in a range of presentations and activities aimed at motivating them to work towards improved health.

A presentation by Dr Harris Phillip during the Personal Ministries slot at the launch on 27 September focussed on pear and apple shaped obesity types and emphasised the importance of a healthy diet and exercise to enable weight loss.

During divine service Marcia shared the story of a girl called Hayley who developed bone cancer, had her leg amputated but managed to raise funds for the hospital where she was treated to show her gratitude to the staff and to God. Later Hayley received a Queen's medal for bravery. The children prayed after the story, giving thanks for their physical attributes. This was followed by the North England Conference Health Ministries director, Sister Grace Walsh, whose message focused on 'The river church' of Ezekiel 47:1-12. Her message highlighted that if the church, any church, could flow outside of the confines of the building into the community it would bring hope, life and health to the community and many would benefit.

Grace stated, "As Adventist Christians with the benefits of the health message and trust in God we have the expectation of longer lives due to our prayer to communicate with God the Creator, fellowship with one another, and our adoption healthy lifestyles." She also encouraged the church to help the homeless, needy and the poor.

Many people in the UK die from preventable diseases each year in the UK. The World Health Organisation recommends better prevention and encourages those with knowledge on health to share it. This gives an added imperative to Seventh-day Adventists – possibly the healthiest Christians in the UK!

From theory on Sabbath to practice on Sunday, the next day saw a health expo training session. Pastor Obinniya gave a practical overview of the process of health expo delivery. The opportunity to practise on the various stations helped to prepare volunteers for the real-life experience.

Following this presentation Adil Habib and his wife Cherie gave a clear and interesting presentation on the interaction potential with other faiths, including a short testimony of Adil's journey to becoming a Christian which included a period of time incarcerated in prison. They made reference to Acts 49, 1 Corinthians 9:22, 2 Corinthians 4:4 and 2 Timothy 2:26 as texts that guide on the 7 steps to take forward Christ's ministries.

Sometimes a survey focussing on community needs will bring us members into contact with new
friends in the community and give opportunity to both communicate with others about our faith and collaborate with other community groups. They suggested that there is scope to keep connected with others through programmes such as knitting clubs, weight management, or healthy living programmes.

The Health Ministries team ran an expo in Sparkhill Park on Sunday, 5 October. [See full report here.] This was followed by a series of presentations, Youth programmes and seminars over the subsequent weeks. Camp Hill members, friends and expo attendees in the community were invited to attend. Topics covered included the value of occupational therapy, sleep disorders, a further in-house Health Expo, and a Fun and Family Fitness evening on 15 November. To conclude the series, important aspects of nutrition will be looked at on Saturday, 22 November with woman's health being the focus on 29 November.

All of these meetings and sessions have been fruitful, positive, uplifting, encouraging, motivating and educational. The health knowledge of each attendee has been boosted individually and collectively.

The team plans to expand in number and continue in 2015 with further expos and educational events.

This will include helping those among Camp Hill membership and its close friends who are seeking advice. They are always welcome to speak to members of the Health Ministries team. We see the health message as yet another service of the church through which some may come to know that Jesus is real for themselves.

A selection of photos from the autumn health season can be seen on the Adventist Church's picture gallery.

[Jacquie Halliday-Bell]

A DIVERSITY OF WITNESSES – CAN WE REALLY KNOW WHAT GOD SAID?
There are 24,000 manuscript copies of the original biblical text, many differing in small details. So can we be certain that we know what God said? Certainty about the reliability of the Word of God was the subject of Newbold's last Diversity Lecture of 2014 on Tuesday, 11 November.

The forty students, staff, and members of the wider Binfield community gathered in Newbold's Smith Centre could not have had a more knowledgeable guide through the labyrinth of ancient manuscripts. Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia, Principal Lecturer in New Testament at Newbold College is the co-editor of two Bible translations and numerous books and articles about the Bible. He began by demonstrating that despite the numerous both fragmentary and lengthy manuscripts available, there is a basic consistency between the documents. "If we read it in a good modern translation", he said, "we can trust what we read."

Although the documents are consistent, they are not always identical. Verrecchia illustrated this fact with quotations from different manuscripts. "For centuries", he said, "many Biblicists had the dream of finding the 'original text'. They wanted to find a 'fixed version' of what Isaiah wrote or what Luke wrote." But Verrecchia made it clear that that is not going to happen. "The truth is, we are too wealthy", he said. "The more manuscripts we have, the more unlikely it will be that we can find an 'original text'."

And there's a reason for the variety of manuscripts. The early copyists were not interested in perfect copies of texts; rather they were interested in conveying the truth that was in them. Recognising this Verrecchia asked two challenging questions for us as 21st century people: "Could it be this question about the precise text does not belong to the biblical world view? Is God that interested in text?"

Throughout the Bible the verb 'read' is not used in the imperative form. The Jews were told to hear and listen to the Word of God. Listening was vital. "Instead of a writing God", said Verrecchia, "imagine first a speaking God."

The bulk of the lecture then was devoted to a history of the biblical manuscripts showing that the biblical text is stable rather than fixed. Throughout the ages of the scribal and rhetorical cultures, throughout the centuries when few people could read or write the transmission of the Word of God was through someone in authority writing or reading from a manuscript. Listening and memory were vital parts of being a believer. Only since Gutenberg and the invention of the printing press has a 'fixed' text seemed important to some believers.
Verrecchia concluded by saying that, unlike Islam and Judaism, Christianity is not primarily "a religion of the Book." It is a religion of the Son. He affirmed "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ", Romans 10:17. Not surprisingly the lecture led to a long question time. It had stirred something deep within the audience and some of the issues would need to be mulled over for some time. But it left us with the desire to go and hear again the Word of the Lord.

A recording of 'A diversity of witness' can be viewed online.

[Helen Pearson]

TWO CHURCHES, BUT ONE CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

Lucy Sesay shared a profound thought at her baptism at Luton Central Adventist church on Sabbath, 8 November 2014. She has chosen the Adventist Church because, she says, it is "one Church for everyone."

It was her friend, Sherwin, who introduced her to the Adventist church in Stevenage. Lucy was raised in a Christian home and accepted Jesus into her life when she was young. However, she started to discover more Bible truths as she made friends at the church, and then during Bible studies with Pastor Jonathan Barrett. She remains eager to learn more. Her two children could barely contain their excitement as they watched their mum being baptised.

That idea of being "one Church for everyone" spread across the other three candidates and a congregation of family and friends from the Stevenage and Luton churches as they witnessed the four beautiful baptisms. It was even seen in the joy on the faces of the two pastors, Barrett and Chackochen who jointly baptized all four candidates.
Seventeen-year-old Melu Nyathi used to be hesitant about getting baptized because he felt that he was not ready. However, after attending Pathfinder Camp and Extreme Teens' Camp, the essence of baptism struck home for him. The pastors at the camp explained, "When you get baptized God's not saying it will be easy, but all things work for good", this encouragement made him realize that there was nothing to fear.

A year younger, Nigel Zizhou, like Melu, found Pathfinder Camp and Extreme Teens' Camp instrumental in helping him decide to follow God. At these camps he was impressed by the close relationships these young people had with God and desired the same. Nigel and Melu are now members of the Stevenage church.

Sibongile Matumbu Dube was Luton Central's candidate and the final person to enter the pool. She desired to make a fresh connection with the Lord and beamed with joy as she was baptized, the congregation singing 'On Jordan's Stormy Banks' as she exited the pool.

Kelly Ah Chin Kow and Kelvin Jarrett

MIDDLESBROUGH SABBATH SCHOOL CELEBRATION DAY

With a refreshing change to the usual Sabbath, Middlesbrough Adventist church held a Sabbath School Celebration Day on 11 October. This was well attended with seven visitors in addition to the regular congregation.

Songs of worship and a prayer may be a normal part of Sabbath worship but the lesson study was special. A panel of four: Josphet Hapazari, Colin Woodford, Herbert Dirahu and Ben Chisanga endeavoured to answer questions that were posited by the congregation with Annelie Woodford trying to keep everyone in order.

Chris and Sindi Dube, and then Bob Khialani sang
inspiring songs. Young Ryan Gibson gave a children’s viewpoint of Sabbath School. Herbert presented a thoughtful sermonette, after which the Male Choir sang a rousing hymn. The morning ended with Colin leading a prayer garden. A DVD rendering of the song 'Above All' then put everyone in the mood to socialize over refreshments.

[David Wilson]

NICE, QUIET PEOPLE… BUT UNDOUBTEDLY CRANKS

Have attitudes to the Seventh-day Adventist Church changed in 100 years? A historical journey into the depths of the British National Archive discovered that in 1913, a Hertfordshire Constabulary investigation focused around the Adventists on Stanborough Park, Watford. It concluded that they are 'nice, quiet people … but undoubtedly cranks'.

The investigation was commissioned by the Home Office after receiving several letters from a Mr William Marris of Grimsby. He wrote to the home secretary complaining about 'these Yankee Adventist groups'. His major hurt was that his twenty-six-year-old daughter had become an Adventist after reading the magazine, Present Truth that had been sold at his door. It appears that she had started attending Friday evening meetings, had eventually become an Adventist and then chose to go and study at Stanborough Training College.

Mr Marris stated, "I shall be glad if you can bring the 'missionary' college under supervision and I hope if the marriage laws of the country are being broken you will discover some means of bringing the managing hypocrites to justice." Scribbled on the side of the letter he noted, "My daughter is at the place entirely against my wishes."

Anyone involved in witness knows that there will be the occasional complaint. It is maybe surprising that there are so few complaints recorded. Elizabeth Yap, recently writing about her grandparents who joined the Church during or just after WWI wrote, "The Church was very small in those days and SDAs were considered to be really weird with their strange ideas about
the Sabbath and food and drink. It's a wonder the Church grew at all."

And yet, a quick browse through the Missionary Worker magazine of the time highlights some astonishing results. With only around 2,500 church members in the UK and Ireland at the time, the Church had not only managed to purchase Stanborough Park where it hosted a training college, a sanatorium, a printing press and a food factory, but committed members across the country regularly gave of their time to sell Present Truth door-to-door in astonishing numbers. Colporteurs, many of whom had given up their former trades due to Sabbath issues, would make their way across the country selling books and literature. Sometimes living in one area for a few months, sometimes for longer. Their influence started many a church such as the one in Croscombe, planted in 1914.

In 1922 a Mr Barker of Brighton also wrote to the Home Office complaining about Adventists door-to-door work and prophetic interpretation. "In view of the fact that a member of my family has become estranged by means of their teaching. I make bold to ask you if you will use your influence, on behalf of the public health to have this nonsense exposed and stopped."

While the Home Office did an investigation via the Hertfordshire Constabulary in 1914, in 1922 their minute states, "This need perhaps not be treated seriously."

How about 2014? Today we still get an occasional letter of concern from a parent whose child has chosen to become a Seventh-day Adventist, or from someone who has picked up and disagrees with Adventist literature. However, it is doubtful whether an official police report in 2014 would state 'nice, quiet people… but undoubtedly cranks'. Yet even if the thought should still be there, it's not one the Apostle Paul would complain about. In 1 Corinthians 4:10 Paul didn't describe himself as a 'crank', but he was willing to be a 'fool for Christ'. He was willing to step outside the norms of his day to make a difference for the Christ who had changed his life around. He challenges that we need to step outside the mould that the world tries to force us into.

Paul didn't describe himself as a 'crank', but he was willing to be a 'fool for Christ'

Paul describes this process in very simple but profound language: "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering." [Romans 12:1 Message] Even in 2014 you may still get called a crank, but hopefully also recognised as a 'nice, quiet person', sharing God and doing good in your community and sphere of influence.

Next time we will take a look at how that influence may have moved from selling Present Truth to share the love of Jesus using different methods.
LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

The Creation debate targeted Darwin's home town, Shrewsbury, in a special lecture on Sabbath, 20 October. Read a full and informative report in the 21 November Messenger, now available online or from your local church.

Also in this edition: Find the definitive answer on whether or not we should be keeping 'lunar Sabbaths', ponder on how you could make Christmas special for someone in your community, double-check the Pope's comments on evolution, and remind yourself of the values of traditional marriage.

THE LONG MARCH: ADVENTIST TV THIS WEEK

Enjoy these special selections on Revelation TV and Hope Channel:

Thursday 20 November, 8:30 pm – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 23 November, 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. Revelation TV (Sky 581, Freesat 692, internet and Roku).

Thursday 27 November, 8:30 pm – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 30 November, 1:00 pm). Growing up in a country where her Church was deemed illegal, Elisabeth Sanguesa's father was a printer of Christian books, Elisabeth developed both a love for God and for literature. She also loves travel, just as well as she is Marketing Manager for the Stanborough Press and travels the
world promoting Christian literature.

NEW HOPE CHANNEL PROGRAMMES ON ROKU. You have been asking for them. The technical team have responded! There is now a greater selection of on-demand programmes available for you on Roku, including a selection of documentaries. Get all your favourite programmes on Roku, or online, including all your international favourites plus an immediate selection of UK based 'on demand' programming. A schedule, and a selection of ways to watch Hope Channel is available by visiting www.hopetv.org.uk.

[BUC news]

Back to top... Email Story...

COMING EVENTS For a full and continuously updated listing of Coming Events please visit http://adventist.org.uk/events

Friday 21 - Sunday 23 November:
**Mystery of Music.** Hear the testimony of an ex-record producer. Learn the right and wrong uses of music. Learn of music from the heavenly realms – a four part programme. Venue: Oxford Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1a Chester Road, Oxford OX4 1SL. Check link for further details.

**Saturday 22 November:**
**The London All Sax Ensemble Music Programme.** If you are a lover of saxophones, come and enjoy this musical programme. Invite your neighbours, colleagues, family and friends! The evening will be presented by Paul Lee, SEC Music Ministries director. Time: 17:00 - 18:30. Venue: Hampstead SDA Church, 66 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 2BE. Cost: Free entry. Contact: dwanell@gmail.com. **Motherland.** The Eden Independent Adventist School presents their annual production of Motherland. Time: 18:00 - 21:00. Venue: Greenford Hall, Ruislip Road (Junction with Oldfield Rd South), Greenford, Middx UB6 9QN. Check link for ticket costs etc.

'Mercy Said No' Gospel Concert. Mercy is free and available to everyone...and so is this concert. Artists include: Jennifer Phillips | Sanctified | Lois Moodie | Mandy Fishley | The Phenomenal Holloway Music Band | and more... Bring your families, friends, neighbours, colleagues and acquaintances! Time: 6:30 pm sharp. Venue: Holloway Seventh-day Adventist church.

**Milton Keynes Women's Ministries Banquet.** 'Ready to meet a King'. Guest speaker: Shirley Grant of Eagles Wings Ministries. Time: 19:00 - 23:00. See link for further details or email mksdawomen@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday 23 November:
**Pathfinder Fundraising Event – High Tea.** Theme: 1920s Dress. Time: 16:00. Tickets: £10 per person. Please contact Sharon Broaster for tickets: 07539 229958. Venue: Wimbledon
International SDA Church, 11 Stanley Road, Wimbledon SW19 8RE.

**Sabbath 29 November:**

**Enter the Dragon.** Religious Liberty Day at Peckham Seventh-day Adventist church. Time: 09:30 - 18:30. Venue: Peckham Seventh-day Adventist Church, 149-159 Ivydale Road, Nunhead, Peckham, London SE15 3D.

**Saturday 29 November:**
**Jubilee with Handsworth Youth Choir.** Handsworth SDA Youth Choir will present JUBILEE, along with many other singers and musicians from across the UK. Time: 6:30 pm SHARP! Free entry, come and experience worship taken to another level. Venue: 98 Hutton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B32 2JU.

**Sunday 30 November:**
**An Evening of Elegance.** Time: 15:30 - 20:30. Tickets: £15 adults; £10 students & £7.50 for under 12s. Dress code: formal. For more info contact R Blake 0793 041 2346 or Jeffrey 0793 041 2246. Venue: Windsor Street South, Birmingham B7 4HY.

**Saturday 6 December:**
**Marriage Enrichment Fellowship Dinner.** An evening of fine dining with your partner and fellowship with other couples as you enjoy the wisdom shared by speaker on the night. Time: 19:00 - 23:00. Venue: The Park Inn Hotel, Bath Road, Heathrow, Middlesex UB7 0DU. Check link for prices and further details.

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**SMALL ADS**

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR ACCOMMODATION NEEDED, Bracknell/Reading area. Michaela Koch receives regular treatment near the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and needs alternative accommodation from 21-24/25 December and 28 December to 01/02 January. She would be grateful either to stay in someone's home or to house-sit for someone while they are away (can house-sit for a longer period if that would help). If you can help please contact Michaela or leave a message on 0776 114 9473 or email: michaela_koch3@yahoo.co.uk.

PLANNING TO ATTEND NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY next year 2015-16? For the past two years, we have been able to provide a Student Residence where Adventist young people can study, worship and socialise in purity and safety, and grow in a conducive, uncompromising environment. However, only urgent action will prevent this facility from returning to the secular market for the next academic year. If you know that you or your Adventist friends are coming and would like to share with like-minded Christians, please act now and share, reserve and book your place for next year. Early sign-ups will get preferential deals. To find out about 'Advent House' phone 0785 530 1398 or email shaundouglas@btinternet.com.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS NEEDED. Vanessa and Perrine Rebourg-Nacto, two Adventist young ladies from Grenoble, France are looking to do a work placement 4 May - 27 June 2015 to improve their English and discover another culture. This is part of their Higher National
Diploma, training to become Personal Assistants. They state, "we can do this work placement in any company. We ask you to help us find a business for each of us, and we are looking for family who are willing to host us." Recommended by their local church pastor, they can be contacted for more details at: v.rebourg.nacto@gmail.com or perrine.n@hotmail.com.

JOB VACANCIES: Volunteer Youth Worker, Stanborough Park church. Closing date: 19 December 2014. Eden Independent Adventist School in North London is looking for three teaching staff for an immediate start. Fletewood Adventist Primary School in Plymouth is seeking to recruit a nursery assistant – closing date, 25 November 2014. For these and other job opportunities with the Church visit the job vacancies page on the Adventist Church website.

BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the Communication Department of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Items for inclusion should be sent to bucnews@adventist.org.uk and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday. Coming Events should be submitted via the on-line form at: http://adventist.org.uk/events. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed 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..

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