FUN RUNS GALORE FOR ADRA

Sunday, 12 April was the day for the first ADRA Fun Run of the year. Together with a Family Day it was organised by the North England Conference Personal Ministries department and is now a firm, annual event held in Victoria Park, Manchester. Although the weather was far from ideal, over 130
people turned up to register and take part in the Fun Run, by either walking, jogging or running.

Bert Smit, CEO for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in the UK, attended the event and was impressed with the determination of those gathered to participate in the Fun Run, in spite of the heavy and gale-force winds at the start. He said that "it was great to see both young and old participating in this kind of fun sporting event, and it really is the spirit of the volunteers that allows ADRA-UK to continue to change lives and empower communities all around the world."

Check out a short video clip of the Fun Run to see if you made our final cut – or simply to be inspired!

That inspiration could come because, with only a few days before the end of the ADRA Annual Appeal in London, enthusiastic participants can 'come on down' to Crystal Palace, London for the South England Conference ADRA Fun Run on Sunday, 26 April where you can walk, jog or even run in aid of ADRA-UK!

Members of ADRA-UK will be there to participate in the event, and can currently be seen practising their running skills during office lunch breaks. They are looking forward to meeting you on the day. In addition, Kennington Community Fellowship will be holding an ADRA Fun Day and Family Day on Sunday, 10 May.

Visit our brand new ADRA events webpage to keep up to date with all the latest events.

[Fabrice Baker-Livingstone]

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On Tuesday, 7 April 2015 the Ladywell Centre in Newtown, mid-Wales, came alive with a fashion show, bouncy castle, face painting and many other attractions. The event was organised by Adventist businesswoman, Mrs Eileen McKenzie, who runs a hairdressing salon in the Centre, and was attended by the Mayor, Mrs Rina Clarke, as well as other local politicians: George Russell Conservative AM, Glyn Davies Conservative MP, and Joy Jones Town Councillor.

Speaking after the event Eileen’s husband, Mr Kenroy McKenzie, who is the leader of the Newtown Adventist Company, explained the rationale for the initiative. "Over the last few years we've got to know the other shopkeepers and there have been many complaints about the lack of 'passing trade' in the Centre. Eileen presented the idea of holding a hair show with the other traders, especially the clothing retailers. Thanks to the enthusiasm shown the date was set. With the support of the fashion retailers and the other businesses, Eileen set about organising and preparing for the day. By getting directly involved like this she was able to have quite a lot of influence on what was done and managed to include an Adventist gospel singer, Marie Jones, from Wolverhampton, and have gospel music playing all day."

The main attraction during the day was a red carpet hair and fashion show, where clothing was modelled, along with various hair styles available from Eileen's salon. "This wasn't an overtly religious event", said Kenroy, "but it was part of our philosophy of being both salt and light in the community. We want to tell our neighbouring business people about our faith but our witness will be a lot more effective if we can help their businesses to prosper at the same time." In the end seven businesses participated.
NEWBOLD COMMEMORATES THE CENTENNIAL OF ELLEN G WHITE'S DEATH

Newbold's Ellen G White SDA Research Centre hosted a Centennial Commemoration of Ellen G White's life and ministry last weekend. The event, which attracted approximately 370 people to the College campus over two days, was designed to commemorate the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Church co-founder's death later this year, on 16 July. Newbold's Centre Director, Dr Radiša Antić, and Dr Merlin Burt, Director of the Ellen G White Centre at Andrews University, gave talks during the commemorative event, which focused on Ellen G White's work and the impact she still has today.

From the age of seventeen until her death nearly 70 years later, Ellen White received what she and many other believed were supernatural prophetic dreams and visions. These dreams, and the writings that came from them, have helped and encouraged many people in their walk with Jesus. They provided a picture of the character of God and the cosmic conflict between good and evil, and served as a guide during the early days of the establishment of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

"Due to a misconception about what God's purpose for Ellen G White was, she was not always fully accepted in the Church during the early years", said Dr Antić. "But Mrs White had a strong passion for Christ, the Word of God and salvation of the lost", he explained during his opening address on Friday evening, 10 April, which paved the way for Dr Burt's presentation the following morning.

Dr Antić described Dr Burt as a fine theologian, a deep thinker and one of the most knowledgeable people today of things concerning Adventism and other issues in Adventist theology. He is also Professor of Church History and the founding director of the Integrated Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University.
During his sermon on Sabbath, Dr Burt highlighted the blessing that people continue to receive from Ellen White's writings, and that millions are able to access her work as it continues to be translated into new languages. He described this as fitting in the context of the purpose of her writings and ministry, "to bring people to Jesus and the Bible."

Dr Burt reminded the congregation that Mrs White did not regard her prophetic role to be equal to that of the Bible prophets, nor did she regard her work to be canonical, but instead felt that it should be seen in a lesser light to the greater light which is the scriptures to which her writings direct. He challenged the audience to read Mrs White's writings alongside the Bible and to discover how her writing helps with understanding the Bible.

The Ellen G White Research Centre at Newbold was the first centre to be established outside the United States, and provides the facilities and resources to enable research into both the life and writing of Ellen G White and the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To find out more, or to contact the Centre, visit their website.

[Judith Makaniankhondo]

GOD, LANGUAGE, MIND AND GENDER

"Do our thoughts influence our language or does our language influence the way we think?" This was the question posed by an Estonian linguist and Seventh-day Adventist pastor from Tallinn, Estonia in the April Diversity lecture at Newbold College on Tuesday, 14 April. Mervi Kalmus, was a lecturer in Linguistics before she graduated with a Theology degree from Newbold.

Her lecture delved into the complicated web of our linguistic relationships with the world we live in. She focused particularly on the findings of cognitive linguistics and demonstrated first that languages are different from each other in the ways they conceptualise the world. Going a little deeper, she questioned whether we see the world differently because we speak differently. Or do we think the same way and notice the world the same way but only speak differently?
Looking more closely at European languages Mervi showed that there are both differences between language and correspondences in structure which enable translation to happen. She went on to demonstrate the theory at the heart of her lecture: that linguistic categories do influence the speaker's thinking. In Spanish and German, for instance, the language is 'gendered' i.e. it names inanimate objects as if they were biologically masculine or feminine.

Research discovered that people then ascribed gender qualities to those inanimate but linguistically gendered objects. For example, the word 'bridge' is masculine in Spanish and feminine in German. When asked to describe bridges, German speakers use adjectives like beautiful, elegant, fragile, peaceful, pretty, and slender, while Spanish speakers are more likely to use words like big, dangerous, long, strong, sturdy, and towering.

This then led on to the religious focus of the lecture: "If linguistic categories actually alter non-linguistic representations, how will this shape our God language?"

Such a question has led some theologians to suggest that all speech about God is inherently idolatrous because, in some way, it cuts God down to the size of our speech. And what is worse, Mervi suggested, is that the language we use to talk about God has been developed by the powerful in society and can reinforce wider patterns of exclusivism and social marginalisation.

So – is it time to stop talking about God? Mervi did not think that was practical. After all, language is the only means we have to share and shape our ideas of God. Instead she recommended that "the best we can do is to be aware of our limits, to step back for a second and think about what our language really does to us." She added, "Every generation ought to do this hard work again."

One of the themes which she believes needs rethinking is the question of the maleness of God. Mervi described the tension in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures between the male images for God, the universal use of the male pronoun for God and the small number of feminine metaphors for God. She pointed out that although we generally give very little thought to the connection between our understanding of the world and our naming of it, the implications of these pictures of God have profound and personal bearings on relationships in families and in communities. She suggested that in its original meaning, the important implications of this word are its emphasis on relationality and security rather than dominance or subordination.

However, Mervi pointed out, the 'father' metaphor has, in some parts of the Church, come to symbolise hierarchy, dominance and subordination. It has been turned into a downright sexist concept in a very literal way which reaches and influences on a subconscious level our understanding of God. It's a metaphor which doesn't work as a metaphor any more but often as a literal truth which then affects some people in a real and deep way, privileging human males over females, making the human males more 'god-like' and powerful in society and sanctioning a patriarchal society.

Finally, Mervi came to the most sensitive questions of all: 'Do we need to change the gender of the term we use for God? Should we? Could we? What would happen if we did? What would change in our mind if we changed it? What would God be like, would God be any different or
Mervi did not answer the questions. But she concluded on a personal note describing how helpful it had been to her after her mother died to ask God to be her mother. She concluded with an encouragement to her audience occasionally to stop and think about the language they use about God. They took her advice. Along with last members of the audience and following deep discussion, she left the lecture room two hours after the lecture finished.

[Helen Pearson]
conditions, history, architecture and anthropology.” Because her job involves dealing with the details of buildings, research and some history she says, "This is absolutely perfect."

Perfection comes also from a second direction. Nathalie is the first Adventist in her family having attended Bible studies with her mother at age 12, joined the choir and then choosing to be baptised at age 14. That commitment has never faded. She says, "I always wanted to work for the Church and have even considered pastoral work." While throwing herself into this new role she plans to continue her theological interests in her spare time and simply states, "I walk wherever God wants me to walk."

For more on the SDAA visit the Adventist Church website.

[Victor Hulbert]

GLOBAL HEALTH IMPACT DAY

This Sabbath, 18 April 2015, has been designated by the World Church as the annual Health Impact Day. This special day is an initiative of the General Conference Health Ministries department.

Amongst the activities suggested for this Sabbath is for church members to share health literature with the public, engage in health outreach and other activities to demonstrate to our local communities that we care about their well-being. See Health Impact Day News for more information.

BUC Health Ministries director Sharon Platt-McDonald is excited about the potential impact of this day and its positive witness in the community. In her communiqué to Health Ministries leaders earlier this year Sharon wrote:

Part of the initiatives for Health Impact Day that I would like to promote across our churches in the UK and Ireland could include the following:

• Holistic Health Outreach programme involving community members
• A 24-hour Health Evangelism programme
commencing the Friday evening and concluding the Saturday evening
• On the Saturday evening to operate Supper Clubs in the churches that have undertaken the Community Cooking Hubs training
• A evening Walkathon event on the Saturday evening

In addition to the above in order to ensure the holistic approach to the programme, we are encouraging our health teams to undertake the following:

**Physical Health**

1) A healthy potluck lunch at church led by the Health Ministries department
2) An organised walk following Sabbath lunch

**Emotional Health**

1) An afternoon programme on emotional resilience
2) An afternoon programme on forgiveness

**Social Health**

1) Visits to hospitals with relevant health literature e.g. CELEBRATIONS – Living Life to the Full; FOCUS (Special Health edition) Health and Wellness: Secrets That Can Change Your life or other relevant health literature.
2) Visits to nursing homes with relevant health literature as stated above
3) Distribution of health literature as part of the Street Witnessing initiative
4) A Health Relates afternoon programme in the park

**Spiritual Health**

1) An outdoor Sabbath service
2) Special Sabbath School programme. For example in the past I have written an interactive Sabbath School programme which engaged the audience as if they were attending a clinic setting using both physiological interventions with the spiritual applications.
3) A sermon on the body temple
4) A sermon on forgiveness
5) A sermon on positively relaying our health message in a holistic way
6) Dramatization of Bible individuals who were healed by Jesus
7) A witnessing endeavour (health related) with members of all ages interacting in the community
8) Age related activities which will look at health activities across the age spectrum

We look forward to hearing your reports on whether any of these activities took place in your
church this weekend. For instance, Basildon church have hired a hall to offer free health checks, juicing and tips on healthy diet and lifestyle. Happy Health Impact Day!

[Sharon Platt-McDonald]

ALSO IN THE NEWS

As we head towards the close of the ADRA Annual Appeal the Guardian newspaper has posted a fascinating human interest report from an ADRA worker based in Vanuatu and their life during and after Cyclone Pam.

A Scottish church rejoices and shares its thirty year history as the East Kilbride congregation moves from company to church status. Read their report: A Modern Day Genealogy.

Peckham church 'got serious' with their Youth Week of Prayer and youthful lay preacher, Clarence Jackson.

Many newspapers also picked up the news that a 'Holy Sexuality' Conference organised by one of the south London churches has been cancelled. While the papers are not entirely accurate in their reporting – either of the purpose of the conference, or the reasons for its cancellation, what is true is that an event that had been organized to look at particular issues related to sexuality was targeted by elements of society who disapproved of the kind of help or advice the conference was perceived to offer.

This resulted in activists setting up a Facebook event to organise a demonstration outside the venue, a mass blocking of tickets, and later, an online petition to try and block the speakers from entering the country. In a statement to the press Church leadership stated, "Seventh-day Adventists are a people of peace who believe in hope and dialogue. However, it appeared that rather than drawing people together the conference had the potential to divide." As a result the conference was cancelled and the invitation to one of the speakers to also appear at the North England Conference Camp Meeting was also withdrawn.

In seeking to learn lessons from the cancellation Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President, noted, "As Adventists we need to be considerate and empathetic in the language we use in advertising or explaining an event as our language will be understood to reflect our attitude towards people. As
Adventists we will need to understand the prevalent world view in which we live so that we will be more effective in our engagement with people." For more on the subject of language and when to speak or stay silent read Pastor Sweeney’s article on page 6 of the 10 April Messenger.

LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

The 10 April Messenger highlights the UK winners of the Pathfinder Bible Experience 2015. The Stanborough Park team will now be heading to America to participate in the North American Division finals.

Also, Julian Hibbert ponders on the lost art of chivalry, Ian Sweeney challenges that maybe 'You talk too much', and the feature article highlights 'Why Stanborough Secondary is a top choice for your child'. Pick up a copy in your local church or read it online now.

NEW RADIO AND TV PRESENCE FOR ADVENTISTS

Paul Lee, former Music coordinator for the South England Conference launches a new two-hour music slot Sunday evenings on Premier Radio. Paul plans to "take the listeners on a journey of the history of gospel music in the UK and abroad." He will also be giving listeners an idea of what the future holds.
as he recommends 'one to watch', whether that is a singer, a preacher or perhaps a youth worker. Support Paul by tuning in this Sunday at 5:00 pm. Watch Paul talk about his motivation for the show in a short video. Premier Radio can be heard on Medium Wave (AM) 1305, 1332, 1413 & 1566 in London and Surrey, DAB nationally, Freeview 725, iPhone and Android apps and via their website.

A new series also starts on Revelation TV next week with the return of 'The Journey'. In the new series Victor Hulbert will be drawing out spiritual lessons from a desert safari, looking over the edge of the world's tallest building, and searching for the principles of a strong marriage. This series will also include guest appearances from Pastors Ian Sweeney and John Surridge. They will share their unique perspectives on life in the real world and how it relates to Christian faith.

Coming to Revelation TV this week: Thursday 8:30 pm repeated Sunday at 1:00 pm

Thursday 16 April (repeated Sunday 19 April): In the last of the current series of FaithTalks, Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist and guests tackle the subject of Domestic Violence. Is this a tricky one for Christians?

Thursday, 23 April (repeated Sunday 26 April), The Journey: John Surridge finds himself rushing down a raging torrent in a kayak and finds the value of 'Keeping to the mainstream'.

Thursday, 30 April (repeated Sunday 3 May), The Journey: in 'Looking high' Victor Hulbert travels to Canada, Dubai and Sinai visiting the world's tallest buildings and pondering on Moses' mountaintop experience.

To find out how to watch Revelation TV, click here. The new series will also shortly be released on the www.hopetv.org.uk website and on ROKU, the best IPTV platform for watching Hope Channel and other Adventist programmes.

[Victor Hulbert]
link for full details. Register for free at [www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference). Time: 10:00 - 18:00. Venue: Newbold College, St Marks Rd, Binfield RG42 4AN.

**Sunday 19 April:**

[InspireUrBiz Croydon event](http://www.facebook.com/events/822018214538196/). For information about the speakers and their sessions visit the website. [www.facebook.com/events/822018214538196/](http://www.facebook.com/events/822018214538196/). We hope you can make it! Check out one of the feedback videos [here](http://www.facebook.com/events/822018214538196/) - you really don't want to miss it! Time: 12:00 - 16:30. Venue: Croydon Conference Centre, 5-9 Surrey Street, Croydon CR0 1RG.

**Tuesday 21 - Sabbath 25 April:**

[Holy Sexuality Conference – cancelled](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference). A decision was taken on Monday, 13 April to cancel the 'Holy Sexuality' Conference originally planned for London, 21-25 April 2015. Check link for statement.

**Friday 24 April:**

[Prayer vigil for Kenya](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference). In light of the recent massacre of 148 Christian students in Kenya, students at Newbold College have decided to show our support by hosting a prayer vigil. The programme will include support from the local Anglican Church as friends from the local community. Time: 19:30 - 21:30. Venue: Newbold Seventh-day Adventist Church, St Marks Road, Binfield, Berks RG42 4AN.

**Sabbath 25 April:**

[Wallington Disability Awareness Day](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference). BUC Disability Day at Wallington Seventh-day Adventist church. This will be an all day event from Sabbath School, Divine Service and AYS. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for all our visitors and friends. Venue: St Pauls Church, Mollison Drive, Roundshaw, Wallington (next to the Phoenix Recreation Centre), Surrey SM6 9HG.

**Fundraising Concert – Help Florence Attend TEKOA Missionary School**. Check link for full details. Time: 19:00 - 21:00. Venue: Northampton Central Adventist Church, 74 Highland Avenue, Spinny Hill, Northampton NN3 6BQ.

**Sunday 26 April:**


**Sunday 3 - Monday 4 May:**

[Singing His Praises](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference). SEC Music department and Tottenham Music department present: Singing His Praises. This will be a packed event for all local SDA churches, so please come early to secure your seat. Contact Audrey Soyam – 07824 818 763 for more information. Check link for full details. Venue: 253-255 West Green Road, Tottenham, London N15 5EG.

*Future events that you need to book for now:*

- 17-21 May. [Residential Healthy cooking course](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference) with a difference.
- 24-27 May. Book now to join a [coast to coast cycle ride](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/bible-conference) raising funds for ADRA.

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**SMALL ADS**

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CHALET SHARE SEC CAMP MEETING. Nicola Green-Samuel is seeking a chalet mate for SEC Camp Meeting, 15-21 June. If interested in sharing please call her on: 07577 070 840.

NEED HELP ON BECOMING A VEGAN? Get a free copy of the new vegan e-book entitled 'How To Become A Vegan' by Susanne Kirlew. For more vegan hints and tips follow @KirlySueKitchen on Twitter.

JOB VACANCIES. Volunteer Minister required for North Wales. Accommodation and stipend provided. Closing date: 30 April 2015. ADRA-UK is offering a trainee position based in its Watford office. Deadline for applications: 30 June 2015. Newbold School has two vacancies: a Year 5 & 6 teacher, and maternity cover for a Year 1 & 2 teacher. For details of these and other vacancies please visit our jobs page.

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