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Email Newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

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Editor's Note: With the General Conference Session of the Worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church running in San Antonio, Texas, 2-11 July, please visit our website, Facebook and Twitter feed for latest updates and news. Regular publication of this newsletter may be delayed due to reporting responsibilities in San Antonio. For more on how to follow the meetings read 'Preparing for San Antonio'.

PRAYERS FOR TUNISIA

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is joining in solidarity with other Christians in the UK and around the world to pray for those affected by the massacre of 38 people, mainly tourists, killed by a
gunman at the beach resort of Sousse on Friday, 26 June.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives and the heartbreak that has been brought to so many people", Pastor Ian Sweeney, President of the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland stated. He called on people everywhere to pray for peace and, where possible, to actively work towards that peace.

"It is our prayer that God will not only bring comfort but that men of peace would rise up among the organisations that commit such atrocities", he said.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that God is characterised by gracious love toward all mankind and requires similar mercy of us all. Thus acts of terror do not honour Him but rather desecrate any understanding of His character.

The majority of those killed in the attack were British holidaymakers but it is likely that the attack will have a devastating effect on the Tunisian economy and beyond. Adventists join with the Anglican Bishop of Tunisia, Rt Revd Bill Musk, who, in calling on Christians to pray told Premier Radio that, "the majority of Tunisians are such lovely people and want to make a success of what they started back in 2011. They are frustrated by what the few individuals can do."

Currently up to 70,000 Adventists are travelling towards San Antonio, Texas, for a five-yearly world convention. There, up to 180 nationalities will worship, pray and actively seek ways to make this world a better place. Prayers for Tunisia will be among those offered there on behalf of the many troubled areas across the world.

[Llew Edwards with BUC News]

**ALL EYES ON SAN ANTONIO**

There is a sense of expectation in the air around San Antonio, Texas. For some, it is literally 'in the air' as over the past couple of days 2,566 delegates along with exhibitors, administrative support teams, media, and thousands of interested Seventh-day Adventists have crowded airport terminals, queued for taxis or taken road-trips across the United States to make it to the sixtieth General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
Sitting on a delayed flight from Houston to San Antonio I found myself in conversation with Ennedy Muchula, Women's and Children's Ministries director for the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. She was nearing the end of almost two days of flying from Johannesburg to Frankfurt, London and Houston before reaching San Antonio. Visas had been complicating her life but, she told me, she was excited, particularly by the women's ordination debate, but also by the music, the worships, the women's meetings, and simply the power of seeing so many Adventists together in one place, worshipping the same God and looking for His soon return. Her expectation and joy inspired me and put my 16 hour journey with flight and customs delays into perspective.

Delegates and staff from the Trans-European Division have equally chosen different routes. Pastor David Neal, Irish Mission President, flew to New York with his wife and then spent a week driving south towards the heat of a Texan summer. He even found time to browse in a second-hand book shop in Staunton, Virginia, an old town with mock Tudor architecture. He told me that "it was pure joy to find a bookshop - one of those bookshops where a receipt for purchase is written by hand."

On the shelf, he found the autobiography of Michael Green, probably, he claims, the best UK evangelist to university students in the 1980s and '90s, and who devoted his life to helping congregations grow. It is growing churches and congregations that excites Pastor Neal. Discussions on mission will engage him for the next ten days.

That is also important for TED President, Raafat Kamal. Greeting people by the TED registration booth he told me that for him, GC Session is "a celebration of mission". He hopes this focus comes through in the meetings where God will be glorified – even in the midst of some of the more tricky issues.

He would agree with Julian Kastrati, Executive Secretary of the Albanian Mission.
His first time at a Session, Julian is looking forward to lots of vigorous discussions but with "a good spirit overall". At the end he hopes we will come out "very much united".

Worship is a vital element of the meetings. TED Evangelism director, Janos Kovacs-Biro leads the very first devotional on Thursday morning. From then on business will be interspersed with times for prayer, glorious music, evening worship periods and special Sabbath services.

That does mean a lot of behind the scenes work. For instance, Tor Tjeransen, Media director for the Norwegian Union, flew in two days early to start building his photo collection. He is a volunteer photographer with Adventist Review. I caught him early Wednesday morning on the hotel rooftop gaining atmospheric shots of the sunrise. He is one of many volunteers from our Division who will help make the programme happen.

Another is Karl Da Silva who has worked with Adventist World Radio in building their unique 360° mission video. Meeting him during set-up time in the exhibition area he told me that it was just fantastic to see so many booths. "I feel overwhelmed to see what the Church is doing."

At least six music groups or soloists from across the TED will be performing. These include the world renowned Croydon SDA Gospel Choir, skilful musicians such as violinist Victoria Balan, young soloist Jeharna South, and singing groups, Advent Ambassadors, and the Levites.

That in itself is enough reason to come. There is one more reason. For Camp Hill members, Ken and Christine Burt, it is their fourth GC Session. Christine is a delegate but Ken comes too because, he says, "The reunions just keep happening." He has already met one of his "fellow youth" from back in the day in Birmingham. He expects to meet many more, and a stroll through the exhibition area or past the registration desks may take a long time as people call out your name, greetings are shared, and memories rekindled. Perhaps, for Ken and many more, a GC Session is just a little taste of what heaven will be like.
More coverage of the GC Session from a European perspective can be found by following daily updates on the Trans-European Division news page. For global perspectives visit Adventist Review. Brief news updates will also be posted on a regular basis on the BUC News Facebook page.

YOUTH TAKE EVANGELISM TO MEXICO

"How many of you have preached an evangelistic campaign before?" None! "How many of you have preached more than five sermons?" Three hands go up. "How many of you have never preached a
These questions were being asked to a group of 18 young people from the UK as they arrived in Mexico. It was an orientation meeting preparing them to stand before a church that very evening and preach on Daniel chapter 2. That evening would just be the start, however. Each youth would then be preaching in his or her assigned church every night for over two weeks as part of an evangelistic campaign.

It was almost a year ago that ShareHim director, Jeremiah Weeks, flew to Europe to promote a youth ShareHim trip to Church leaders. A chain was set in motion, and with strong interest from all who heard about the trip, 18 rose to the challenge, signing up to fly to Central America and preach a full, two-and-a-half week evangelistic campaign on their own. Two pastors, NEC Youth director Adam Ramdin and Ian Philpott from Southport, accompanied the group as mentors and group coordinators. We were also joined by Pastor Stephen Wilson from Dublin, in Mexico to preach in his own evangelistic campaign.

On Tuesday, 16 June, these twenty-one youth and pastors from the NEC and Irish Mission boarded planes in Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, London and Dublin heading for the same destination: Villahermosa, Mexico. Notwithstanding a few delays and rearranged itineraries, we all arrived safely and settled into our accommodation in the centre of the city. Villahermosa is a rapidly-growing city of around 500,000 people, with almost 20,000 Seventh-day Adventists and 240 churches. We are able to see first-hand how the Church is working in a part of the world where growth is incredibly strong and rapid.

On the first Thursday we were taken to the town's main church to be introduced to the pastors, elders, leaders and translators. After this the youth were introduced more specifically to the teams for the churches they would be preaching in. It was an exciting time, as phone numbers were exchanged and anticipation grew for the night ahead.

The churches range in size from 20-member congregations in rural villages, to 300-member urban services attended by professionals – and everything in-between. 19-year-old Tim Carr from Bury is preaching in a small village where a church is being planted. The meetings are held on the road, with chairs taking up half the thoroughfare for a section of 20 metres. They have set up a sound system, projector and screen, and as the meetings start all within earshot of the loud, loud speakers are invited to come. Almost 80 people have been in attendance each night, in a 'church' where the heavens are the roof and the congregation is cradled in, not by brick walls, but palm trees. Tim has preached here every night, and although he competes with cars, bikes and
scooters thundering by, the Holy Spirit has been convicting hearts. Several baptisms have taken place already and more are scheduled this coming Sabbath.

ShareHim is an evangelistic ministry of the Carolina Conference. They arrange evangelistic campaigns all over the world. They use specific software designed for people who have never preached before; the programme provides prompts in the form of notes on the speaker's computer to aid them as they preach. Each day we have worship, then share testimonies and prayer requests. After this we go over the day's message, noting key points and explaining any parts not fully understood. For the rest of the day each person will go through the message 3-4 times so that it is fresh and clear in their minds when delivered that evening. The meetings run every night for two weeks, with no nights off. It is a pretty intense programme!

The campaigns end this coming Sabbath, 4 July, with a baptism scheduled in most churches. Most of those who have made decisions for baptism have been undergoing studies and preparation since long before we arrived. The evangelistic climate here is not limited to an event every year or two, but runs continuously throughout the year. Many of the churches only finished their last campaign a month or two ago.

Nikki Holmes, from Sheffield Carter Knowle church said, "It has been a very eye-opening experience and although it sounds cliché, it's been life-changing. It's made me face things that I have been afraid to do and that's been really good."

Sofenna Lowe, 18, from Newcastle remarked that "It's been challenging, but I have seen God working and it's been triumphant."

As messages are prepared each day and preached the same evening, the youth are forced to grapple with and understand what we believe until they can articulate it clearly to their listeners. Some on this trip will be involved in NEC Youth campaigns later this year, in some cases as preachers. It is clear that ShareHim is giving them wonderful preparation for the task. Please continue praying for the preachers, the churches and those hearing the messages.
JUST REGISTERING!

Just registering!

Registration is a formal process through which presence is acknowledged. We show up at a booth and sign a bunch of documents that indicate that we have arrived at the right place for the right purpose and have the right kit to do our job.

However there are other things that register.

The taxi driver who took us to our hotel, greeted us with benign silence until we had travelled a block or two, then talked non-stop about the oppression of immigrants in the USA. She also commented that she had been a Sabbath-keeper for 27 years and an Adventist for some of the time, but felt used and alienated. We just listened, it registered that there are a lot of hurting people in this world.

It registers that people of San Antonio have been most welcoming. Apart from banners on the lamp posts, the sometimes bemused Sales Assistants are conscious of a deluge of foreigners and do their best to offer a Texan welcome. The waitress at Denny's described herself as 'awesome' which is not quite a phrase we use in British understatement, she got the point when I suggested that if I felt 'awesome' on the day, she probably would prefer not to know... Beyond the fun of cultural banter there are civic greeters on every street corner helping people – register where they are – which is a nice touch.

The Baptists have a booth at the entrance of the Conference Centre in which they offer delegates a welcome bottle of cool water. Very refreshing thought I. By contrast, the JWs had a cadre in town giving the grim impression of turf protection. It registers.

It registered when I see one of our number trying to thrust a thick book into the hands of one of
those delightful ladies who had volunteered her time on a street corner to offer us hospitality. Charming, thought I.

En route to the registration booth a stranger decided that she should pray with me. Curiously, I declined, though I hope she did not find me rude. It registered that we do not have a presumptive right to orchestrate the Almighty onto our agenda without a prior relationship.

Meeting friends is always refreshing, indeed when in a strange place it registers just how important friendship is. It registers that those who we presume to be colleagues and acquaintances in a distant kind of way, turn out to be more friendly than we imagined.

On registration we are given a goody bag full of 'gubbins'! I confess that most of this stuff will not make it back home, neither does it pass the ruthlessness of my 'do I need this?' test. It registers that we are dealing with a marketplace trying to buy recognition, influence and donations. The exhibition halls were not ready for business and while I look forward to experiencing creativity and passion, I am less comfortable with commercialisation. Some of it leaves a pit in my stomach.

The dining room is vast, with the intent of feeding 5000. It registers what a miracle that really was. Far from engaging a handful of disciples to distribute the loaves (sorry no fishes) there is a platoon of servers, all charming in their way. 'Are you hungry?' they ask. 'Do I look hungry?' I ask. Ah well, it registers that Haystacks are not so bad, particularly if the conversation is good.

History has never been high on my register, less still that of Texas. However the battle of the Alamo (a fortified mission station in San Antonio) is another of those stories where a few determined men triumph against the overwhelming odds to alter the course of history. It registered again the 'might and right' are not necessarily determined by numbers or the power of the gun.

[Victor Pilmoor]

SPIRITUAL WELLNESS EMPHASISED AT SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RETREAT
It was a beautiful warm day when our visiting speaker, TED Women’s Ministries director Clair Sanches-Schutte, arrived at Edinburgh Airport for our Scottish Women’s Retreat. As a result, I was able to show off some of the beauties of Scotland as we drove to the venue, Lendrick Muir, past Falkland Palace to lunch at a wholefood café and then past the lush green Lomond Hills. This pleased Clair since her homeland, Holland, is so flat. The approach to the venue, which is in wooded parkland, was also very beautiful, with deer grazing in the fields along our route.

The theme of our weekend, 12-14 June, was 'Spiritual Wellness, God's Plan for You', and Clair had planned an interactive series of devotionals, which involved everybody most enjoyably and inspired us to be ready to find out what God's plan is for each of us. She introduced it by citing people in the Bible, men and women, who were open to God's guidance and His plans rather than their own, and pointed out that we do not know what is round the corner, that God chooses the most surprising people to work for Him in the most unexpected ways.

Inspired by 1 Corinthians 5:17; "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come", we were invited to shred our problems, symbolising God's never-failing forgiveness, so that we could make a new beginning. In a very practical session, we designed a dress to 'clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience'. [Colossians 3:12] We were invited to identify those qualities that each of us needed personally to work on.

After Clair’s final session on the Sunday we vowed that our lives would be 'the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.' [2 Corinthians 2:14, 15]

It was a very collaborative weekend, with lots of variety. All the church groups contributed, using their many talents, taking turns to lead out in the praise and worship sessions, and being involved in other parts of the programme, with the result that we had a range of well-organised sessions, and lots of enthusiastic singing!

We also had outdoor activities. Our Sabbath afternoon walk alongside the woodland path to the nearby waterfall was dry for the most part, and the waterfall, to our surprise, was lower than last year. The planned Sunday morning volleyball session did not take place because of the weather, so we all joined the craft session with Karen Holford, who showed us the art of paper folding to make beautiful, cheap decorations out of old books, and to make beautiful paper lilies and roses by following a template.

The women expressed their appreciation and
enjoyment of the weekend. One person said: "Everything we learned was very powerful and inspirational", and these sentiments were repeated in different ways.

We thank Clair for coming to Scotland and sharing her uplifting message with us. Even the disappointing weather didn't dim our enthusiasm and the quality of our time together. We hold on to the inspiration, the warmth of our gathering, and the memories of the experiences we shared throughout the weekend.

[Judith Martin]

**ADVENTIST TO BE FEATURED AT THE JUST V SHOW, OLYMPIA, LONDON**

On Sunday, 5 July, vegan cook Kirly-Sue (aka Susanne Kirlew) will be one of the featured cooks and chefs at the Just V Show at London's Olympia.

A member of Walthamstow Adventist church, Kirly-Sue's 2:15 pm slot will show her demonstrating three delicious vegan dishes. Entry is by ticket so those wanting to support her, and enjoy all the other delights of the show will need to purchase tickets online. The Just V show a vegetarian, vegan or meat reducing lifestyle.

Kirly-Sue was also recently featured in a vegan documentary project called '365 Vegans'. The documentary featured vegans from all walks of life. Director Amanda Hinds is on a quest to meet 365 vegans. During her slot Kirly-Sue was able to mention her faith. You can watch a clip on YouTube.

[Victor Hulbert]

**FUNERAL OF PASTOR EGERTON FRANCIS**
Following last week's announcement of the death of Pastor Egerton Francis, and the many kind tributes that have poured in, we can now inform you that his funeral service will be held on Friday 17 July at 11:45 am at St Mary's Church, High Pavement, Nottingham, NG1 1HN. This will be followed at 2:00 pm by a cremation service, at Bramcote Crematorium, Coventry Lane, Bramcote, NG9 3GJ (the main chapel seats 109). Family flowers only. Money in lieu of flowers may be given at either service for Cancer Research UK (cheques should be made payable to Cancer Research UK). We are awaiting further details about the reception.

[Specific parking details for both venues can be found here]

[Paul Lockham]

LATEST MESSENGER GIVES SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

The 3 July 2015 Messenger is now online. Rejoice with SEC youth as the Conference buys a new campsite, reflect on the Mediterranean migrant crisis, learn more of Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM), Intelligent design and Dancing for peace, and celebrate baptism reports from around the country.

[Julian Hibbert]

ESSENTIAL TV VIEWING THIS WEEK
Morning devotionals, the evening concert and mission reports, and all Sabbath worship services from the General Conference Session currently running in San Antonio, Texas, will be live-streamed on the Hope Church Channel available via www.hopetv.org.uk or on your Roku box. Tune in for inspiring worship with a global flavour. Click here for the broadcast schedule noting the six-hour time difference between CDT and British Summer Time (e.g. morning worship at 8:00 am CDT will be airing at 2:00 pm UK time).

Tune into Revelation TV or visit the Hope TV website or Roku for Animal Encounters, back by popular demand. Watch Adventist programming every Thursday night at 8:30 pm or Sunday lunchtime at 1:00 pm. Coming this week:

**Thursday 2 July 8:30 pm (repeated Sunday 5 July 1:00 pm).** Animal Encounters. By popular demand we return to the series that takes a look at nature and creation through the eyes of three girls while they travel around Africa. Part 1: Elephants.

**Thursday 9 July 8:30 pm (repeated Sunday 12 July 1:00 pm).** Animal Encounters visits the Big Cats of Africa.

[Victor Hulbert]

Friday 3 - Friday 10 July:
**Kilberry Camp.** Come and enjoy being together with the freedom of living apart on the beautiful unspoilt coastline of the Kintyre Peninsula. You can bring your own tent, caravan or motor home or rent a site static caravan. Book now directly with the camp on 01880 770 224 or email portban@aol.com. You can also book through the SM office by calling 01764 653 257 or email office@adventist.scot.

Sunday 5 July:
**Charity Bike Ride.** Join the Curative Music Foundation for a charity bike ride, raising funds to help with orphanage projects in Kenya. If you can't ride, please help support this worthy project. Donate or register your interest by clicking here. Time: 10:00 - 16:00 Venue: Forty Hall, Forty Hill, Enfield EN2 9HA.

**Hope Community Family Fun Day.** FREE ENTRY – family challenge, register on the day. Farm animals, go-karts, fairground rides and much more! Contact: 07957 916 662. Time: 12:00 - 17:00. Venue: Croydon Road Recreational Ground, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 3PW.

**Sabbath 18 July: Homecoming Day.** Willesden invites you to the big family reunion day at 9:30 am. Lunch is
provided and a Concert later on at 5:00 pm. Bring the whole family, and anyone who has ever set foot at Willesden that we may worship and fellowship together. Venue: Willesden SDA Church, Glebe Road, London, NW10 2JD.

**Hyland House: 90 Years of Educational Excellence.** Hyland House Primary School will be celebrating over 90 years of educational excellence with a Homecoming Day, in 2015! Rejoicing about the past, Celebrating the present and Securing the future... Time: 10:30 am - 8:00 pm. Venue: Walthamstow Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 6HE. For further information, please contact Ruth Stewart on 01923 232 728 or at hhhc@secadventist.org.uk.

**Sunday 19 July:**

**Sunday Family Fun Day.** We are holding a Family Fun Day at the New Life Centre, 8-10 Lennox Road, London N4 3NW. Time: 11:00 - 17:00. Stalls, DJs, Talent show, Fun run or cycle, bouncy castle, there's something for all the family! Please contact Elisha for further information: 0785 270 2787.

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**SMALL ADS**

**AU PAIR OPPORTUNITY.** A top-grade student from Spain is taking a year before university to improve her English and expand her horizons. Dafne has a 4-year-old brother and so is experienced with children. Her hobbies include reading, singing and guitar playing. She would love to work with an English-speaking family as an au pair and is available immediately for up to 12 months. A pastoral reference can be supplied on request. For more information email xxicadafnee@gmail.com.

**JOB VACANCIES.** The Watering Hole outreach project near Southampton seeks three volunteers to help support new outreach initiatives. Application deadline, 24 July 2015. For more information about these and other jobs, please visit the Job vacancies page.

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](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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