Unless you were temporarily absent from planet Earth, you could not have failed to note the birth of baby George Alexander Louis, who will be known as His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge. The birth of Prince George was something that the world could not escape, because throughout the month of July hundreds of reporters and photographers from the world’s media were encamped around St Mary’s hospital in London in preparation for the birth of the future heir to the British throne.

The British media provided saturation and blanket coverage of the royal birth in all newspapers and radio and TV channels. The round-the-clock coverage was both exhaustive and exhausting. Reflecting how significant a birth this was, Prime Minister David Cameron stated that the birth was ‘an important moment in the life of our nation’, and the royals should ‘know that a proud nation is celebrating with a very proud and happy couple tonight’.

Another reason the birth of the royal baby could not be missed was the attention of the world’s media. Al Jazeera, the BBC, CNN, Sky and all the rest ensured that it was reported to the waiting world.

Some 2,000 years ago, the news that a royal Baby had been born was conveyed via simple ‘broadcasters’ with no experience. The Gospel of Luke records the incident as follows (Luke 2:8-18, NIV-UK):

‘And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’... When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed.’

This is a most interesting facet of the Christmas narrative, and one which led me to wonder why God didn’t choose the BBC or Al Jazeera to announce that royal birth. Yes, I know they were not in existence, but surely God could have found a more sophisticated broadcaster, even among the limited media of that era! The world has never witnessed a birth as significant and important as that of Jesus, and yet His arrival was not announced by the religious hierarchy, the monarch or the civil government, but by shepherds! God chose shepherds, who knew about caring for sheep and goats but were not skilled or trained in mass media communication, to be the media agency that would announce the royal birth of His Son to the world.

Clearly God chose the shepherds for a reason, and Ellen White suggests it is in The Desire of Ages (page 47): during ‘the silent hours they talked together of the promised Saviour, and prayed for the coming of the King...’ It appears that God used these shepherds because they were focused—not on the latest football or cricket results— but upon the promise of the Messiah’s return.

So what does this have to do with us as a Christian community of Seventh-day Adventists in the British Union? I believe this story has a lot to do with us in this Christmas season and beyond.

While I understand that there are those who would prefer to have nothing to do with the celebration or recognition of the Christmas season, it seems to me that this is an ideal time to exhibit our mission by sharing the message of the advent! The shepherds, having followed up the information from the angel, began to announce the royal birth to the world, and so powerful was their media coverage that all who heard it were amazed.

It is my conviction that we should be announcing to the world the reality of the royal birth during this Christmas season. It is with this in mind that Ellen White posed this insightful question: ‘How can we more appropriately celebrate the coming Christmas, how better express our gratitude to God for the gift of His dear Son, than by offerings to send to all the world the tidings of His soon coming?’ The Review and Herald, 6 December, 1887.

I would encourage us to go to our city centres, shopping malls and public areas to proclaim in song and word that a royal Baby has been born, and that He is coming again to the earth as King of kings!

The Christmas season is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach our community with practical demonstrations of the love of that royal Child. I commend those congregations and families who are planning to feed the homeless and hungry over Christmas, and in doing so become friends to the lonely.

We are the shepherds of 2013, so let us announce to the world:

‘For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’

Isaiah 9:6, NKJV.

**Unto us a Child is born**

by Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president
Bully beef and ration biscuits

grandmother! Yes, when the dinner bell rang on Christmas Day, four generations of our family took their places at the table, with Dad on one end and our matriarch on the other. Strangely though, when my father reminisced about his most memorable Christmas dinners, there were always two that took pride of place. In 1938, as a working lad of 17, he celebrated Christmas away from home for the first time. His pay was meagre, and, after settling the week’s expenses, he had just enough left to treat himself to a “good plate of fried tomatoes on toast!”

There was no family around him that Christmas. No gifts. No traditional dinner. Just “fried tomatoes on toast” – and by the way he told it, they tasted really good!

On 25 December, 1941, he and his mates cooked their Christmas dinner somewhere in the Western Desert, cradled in a foxhole, hovering over a “Benghazi burner.” What was on the menu that memorable day? Bully beef and ration biscuits! According to my dad, and contrary to all expectations, “That bully beef stew was one of the best Christmas dinners I ever had!”

Simplicity

There were no silly hats or Christmas crackers; turkey stuffing or honey-roasted parsnips. No handed out gifts or collected crumpled wrapping paper. They were just too glad for their biscuits and bully beef, a cup of tea, and the silence of the guns!

Why did my father remember those fried tomatoes with such fondness? This is my theory, because they became the simple symbol of a young man’s freedom and financial independence. Similarly, the biscuits and bully beef stood out in his mind as a symbol of survival in a harsh environment of desert, imminent danger and lurking death. There is something hauntingly powerful about simplicity . . . and it doesn’t get simpler than this:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy for all the people. This child is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenely a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. She returned and praised God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” Luke 2:8-20, NIV-UK.

Yes, there is something hauntingly powerful about simplicity—about the Nativity story—about that Nativity scene. That story unfolds about the Nativity story – about that Nativity scene. That story unfolds about the Nativity story – about that Nativity scene.
Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? Each week I’ll be hosting Q&A in an effort to answer them. 

April Pockington

When God laid Moses what the first month should be In Exodus 12:2 and 13:4, did He mean that the year would begin then? If so, then when did the previous years start?

Whitnell Anderson

Exodus 12:2 (NKJV) says, ‘This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you—“from the month Abib (Exodus 13:4—also spelled ‘Avev’) you shall count all your days.” It is likely that ‘Abib’ derives from Akkadian ‘Abar’ meaning ‘firstborn’ and ‘firstfruits’. It is not clear why ‘Abib’ is used rather than ‘Nisan’ as the name for the first month in the Jewish calendar. We do know, however, that the first month in the Jewish calendar is the month of Nisan, in the spring, when Passover occurs. However, the Jewish New Year is in Tishri, the seventh month, and that is when the year number is increased. This concept...
The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul on the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son. (Emphasis mine.)

The call is for each of us to rebuild—not those physical walls that we read about in Nehemiah—but our relationships with God. Then He will give us the grace to be gracious in our relationships with others as we reach across to them.

We are called as Seventh-day Adventists to declare the goodness of the Lord. Through transformed relational living, we will naturally bear witness to Him and to the communities around us; becoming a spectacle to the world. We will not just restore people, restore relationships and inspire excellence. No matter who you are—male or female, young or old, church member or visitor, church employee or pastor—you challenge us to reach up to Jesus so He can impart to you the spirit of wisdom, patience, acceptance, goodwill and meekness.

My prayer is that the circumstances, trials, challenges and even successes will cause us to draw closer to one another—to shine all the brighter—because by this all men will know that we are His disciples. Let us build our relationships with others in every area of our lives so that there is really only one answer, and He is the answer to all of the world’s needs. Our primary task is to tell the world about Him so that they can have the opportunity to invite Him into their lives and communities, where He can make the changes that will lead them not only to a better life, but to eternal life.

So what should be the main item on our business agendas this year? Preparing to enter the door. Of course, we cannot forget the door itself—opened only from the inside. ‘Into my heart, into my heart, into my heart, into my heart, into my heart, heart, heart, heart, heart—’ (Emphasis mine.)

The people of Ireland are still trying to hold on to religion and faith. Many continue to see God through the filter of their church—a church which continues to have a serious trust deficit. Likewise, the people of Northern Ireland are also trying to hold on to religion and faith. Many continue to see God through a Calvinistic filter.

My hope for 2014 is that we will continue to ‘Make Known’ to our family, friends and colleagues through the clear lens of Scripture. I hope we will demonstrate through word and deed how wonderful it is to ‘eat with Him, and He with me’. My hope is that as we continue the journey of ‘restoring’ biblical truth to our lands, we’ll also continue to personally re-examine the ‘great painting’ of Scripture and discover the new and deeply personal truths the Lord wants to reveal to us. 

‘Believe, I have before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.’ (Revelation 3:8, ESV.)

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Evangelism is the key

Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

Throughout this year, as with so many previous years, we have witnessed numerous disasters in our world, both natural and man-made. Each disaster is quickly followed by soul-searching, hand-wringing, and sermonizing (including my own) on the fact that time is running out for our world. The problem is that we often end up letting it slide. Time passes, the disaster gets forgotten, and our lives carry on as before.

In fairness Adventists are very good at giving to good causes, and ADRA appeals for specific needs are usually well-supported. But deep down we know that even an ADRA response is just a sticking plaster solution for a problem that is not going to go away. The suffering and needy in our world, like the poor of Jesus’ day, are always going to be with us.

So what should we do? Well there is really only one answer: and He is the answer to all of the world’s needs. Our primary task is to tell the world about Him so that they can have the opportunity to invite Him into their lives and communities, where He can make the changes that will lead them not only to a better life, but to eternal life.

This task is so fundamental to our role as Christians today that we cannot ignore it to the occasional burst of door-knocking or leaflet distribution as the mood takes us. It needs to be a routine, regular and systematic activity, engaged in by every local congregation. It should be the main item on our business agendas and

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An update on this important evangelistic outreach by Pastor Sam Davis and his South England conference team.

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**Mission to the Cities: London**

**London Areas**

In Area 6a, as part of the Mission to the Cities initiative, every church has conducted an evangelistic or revival series. These include different programmes involving the community, such as the Community Fun Day and the Women’s Ministries Retreat run by Lea Valley. Also, an initiative by the Central London church called ‘Dialogue Café’, which has gone extremely well, with members eagerly inviting their friends to attend. Most importantly, the church’s doors have been opened to the community and each night that it has taken place, members of the community have walked in – off the street – and stayed for the distribution of the evening, some returning each time the programme has been presented.

Engaging the community is key to this initiative and six churches have risen to the occasion by presenting health expo programs (Hamptead, Central London, Edmonton, Clifton, New Life and Kings Cross). CHP programmes were conducted by three churches in Area 6a, along with health and fitness classes. Some of these churches have extended the social and spiritual aspect of community programmes by maintaining ongoing ministry programmes such as youth clubs, free English and mathematics tutoring, clubs for the elderly, fitness clubs, and even seminars on prostate cancer by the Men’s Ministries department. As a result of these and some more spiritual programmes, Area 6a has reported baptising sixty-six individuals. There was some considerable effort by the churches of Area 6b. They hosted the Mission to the Cities ‘Hope 2013’ series with guest speaker Dr Kelby McCottry. Music played an integral part of the overall spiritual experience and five people were baptised as a result of the series. With planning starting early, churches opted to have individual projects in differing styles designed to reach areas of the community previously untouched. South-East London Community Church embarked on their Jesus and Ministry (JAM) programme. Although this is not new, their youth hosted their third campaign and also launched their university campus ministry C.R.A.V.E. under the watchful eye of the SEC Youth department. Brixton hosted ‘Mission Impossible I and II’ with guest speaker Dr Dextor Thomas, who is legally blind, and Pastor Donette Blake. Droyton, always a vibrant church in their evangelism and music, hosted the ‘Abundant Living’ series, while Plumstead, the Downham branch and Wallington all had their own outreachs. Their combined efforts harvested fifty-nine baptisms. In total, there have been 163 baptisms since the beginning of the year and seven professions of faith in 6b. Area 6c has a large Muslim community and in an effort to make an effort to interact with members of this community. Churches like Plaistow, with Dr Elliot Williams, held evangelistic campaigns but also reached out to other churches that connected with people of all persuasions. The Women’s Ministries department embarked on community sewing classes for a nine-week period. The lessons have received a positive response from the local Muslim community, which was reflected in their attendance at the classes. This is the second year of the Immigration Advice Service to both church members and the local community. This attracted a wide range of people from the local community. Plaistow also ran a summer school, and its community services provided voluntary support to residential care homes for children and adults with special needs. This was also an opportunity for the church to witness through distribution of literature and sharing personal testimonies. In the Plaistow area, Pastor Williams conducted three concurrent house campaigns and reported that they have two clear advantages: they are much more economical to run (renting a hall would have cost £50 per hour, and the warm, friendly setting of the house made it much more welcoming for the unchurched and people from other religious communities to attend.

The wide range of services across this area meant that the churches have been quite inventive in making the MTTC effective in as many lives as possible. Baptisms for the year total seventy-one, with two ascensions by faith.

For Area 6d (West London) the collective decision of the churches was to raise a new campaign in an area that has experienced emotionally and spiritually has been on the downslide and remains a steep learning curve for those involved.

A three-phase strategy was adopted for this mission. Firstly, making contact with the community through community surveys and direct interactions. Secondly, Bible study with a view to building confidence by ministering to the community needs in the areas of health and family life. Thirdly, making converts through the sharing of the Gospel.

Pastor Michael Mbui, Area co-ordinator, says that ‘the contact-building stage took longer because we needed to set up a supporting structure for the taskforce and many were uninterested by the group. 42% registered social issues that affect them.’

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**South London Hispanic Church**

The South London Hispanic church (SLH) has also been actively engaged in an MTTC outreach. They have been out on the streets three times giving away literature (15,000 magazines), praying with the public, doing ‘free hugs’, street theatre and many other activities.

Church members discovered that sharing the Gospel could be attractive, creative, innovative and easy to do if they develop their own spiritual gifts. Everyone can share Jesus according to their lifestyle.

As a result of MTTC, the church has formed a new company, the South-East London company, initially started in church members’ houses, in the tradition of Acts 2:46, 47.

The SLH church has encouraged non-baptised attendees to develop an Adventist lifestyle. Many of them have been practicing faithful stewardship, sharing the Gospel and being active ‘church disciples’ before baptism.

Pastor Wilson Lagos tells of the experience of Luis (Peruvian male) and Elena (Filipino female) who both came from Spain and found jobs in Southend-on-Sea. They attended the South London Hispanic church. Once they discovered the joy of knowing Jesus Christ they started to return home just one afternoon: they started returning a second time to the church budget.

**SEC Youth department**

The SEC Youth department ran a four-week ‘What’s love got to do with it?’ campaign from 5 October to 2 November in four local churches under the Youth Mission to the Cities project. Specifically geared towards a young couple’s world, each week a different speaker spoke on pertinent real-life issues, including sex, sexuality and drugs. Featuring music, drama, workshops and sermons, the topics were designed to challenge young people to be intentional about their Christianity and to live exemplary lives. Set in a restaurant style and starting at 7pm with a meal, the participants enjoyed both physical and spiritual sustenance.

**CRAVE**

is one of the youth MTTC initiatives. The main purpose of which is to support the SEC campus ministry programme as it reaches out to university students, searching for something to meet both their nutritional and spiritual needs. Pastor Steve Thomas had a vision for CRAVE and believes that the youth are our future, and that they need our full support. As a result of the CRAVE programme at Greenwich University, an official group has been set up and will be run by the Adventist students.

Also launched during the project was an SEC Youth app, which is available for download from the App Store and Android Apps on Google Play, and features information...
Mission to the Cities report

Amazing and daring

A report on the recent TED Field School of Evangelism by Pastor Egian Brooks, BUC Evangelism director

For ten days, sixty-three delegates from the eleven Unions of the Trans-European Division (TED) met in the Britannia Hotel, Central London, to attend the TED Field School of Evangelism as part of the Mission to the Cities initiative. Starting on Thursday, 10 October, they explored the biblical principles of evangelism in the context of how to ‘impact’ the world’s major cities. They also observed comprehensive and practical methods of reaching ‘city folk’, through the juxtaposition of evangelistic activities in London.

The purpose of the Field School was to inspire and equip the Union, Conference, and Mission leaders with the necessary tools to develop and engage in a cyclical evangelistic approach ‘back home’.

Dr Bertil Wiklander, TED president, believes: ‘Reaching people with the Gospel today requires connections with them, allowing us to mingle and share our faith. Pastors, like delegates of the TED Field School, need to understand and adapt their methods, as the world is becoming more secular and complicated. The simplicity of the invitation engaged a number of individuals.

The Sabbath ‘sofa’ was a great hit in Oxford Street. Situated in the middle of one of London’s busiest streets, it was definitely a ‘talking point’. This unique concept invited passers-by to stop and rest for a while. The simplicity of the invitation engaged a number of individuals.

Pastor Samuel Telemaque, South England Conference (SEC) 1st class, shared a personal story of how he was inspired to engage with the Church, having been raised with religious beliefs. He emphasized the importance of sharing our faith with others, as it can inspire others to engage with the Church as well. The seminar also explored the concept of engaging with the community through different channels, such as the ‘Sabbath sofa’.

The economy of our faith follows a separate track. It is based not on security, for the Church, along with the many who depend on the dynamic exchange economy, calamity was a real possibility. We are still here though, and the Church has survived and grown, though not without scars. Between the shattering of New York’s twin towers and the financial downturns that have hit the world, many have been struck down, and our trust in a large-hearted economy has dissipated. Many no longer have trust in institutions, including the Church. They look for undistorted and do-it-yourself solutions. Our belief systems have again become a source of contention rather than consolation.

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Hello Stars!

Do you know why your mum and dad gave you your name? You may have been named after your parents, grandparents, or even a family friend. In the time of Jesus, if you were a boy, you would have two other words added to your first name. Cross out X A Y B Z in these letters to find them:

Z S B X O A N B Z O X A F Y

This month we will discover more about the special way Jesus was ‘Son of’. Look up Luke 3:23 and write here who people thought He was the ‘Son of’:

When he grew up into a Man His disciples realised Jesus was also the Son of:

Matthew 14:33.

If the religious people in the time of Jesus had studied the Bible they would have known the Son of God was alive before their forefather Abraham. Do this crossword and discover one such occasion. This event is found in Daniel chapter 3.

Across
2 One of the instruments played at the worship to the image.
5 Where those who did not worship the image would be put.
6 Nebuchadnezzar’s image was made of it.

Down
1 Who protected them in the fire? (3, 2, 3)
3 Name of one of those thrown into the furnace.
4 Where the image was set up.

This is the prophecy written in Genesis 3:15.

between thy seed and her seed; and thou shalt bruise his heel. I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and I will greatly multiply thy sorrow. thou shalt bear children, and thy pain shall be multiplied, because thouwert the adversary of the woman.

Jesus would be born as a Man to fight Satan.

Satan would hurt Jesus but not defeat Him.

God promises to fight the enemy, Satan, for all on Earth.

Jesus will mortally wound Satan and defeat death.

The mission of Jesus, Son of man and Son of God, is found in the most famous Bible prophecy about Jesus. You find it written in poetry language in Genesis 3:15.

In section 1 you can read the Bible poetry. In section 2 it is explained. Read it in the correct order by reading blue, red, green and purple.

Write (or say) or draw a picture describing how happy you are that Jesus loves you so much that He fulfilled this prophecy.

Because Jesus loves us so much He died on the cross. Unravel this chain to find how Jesus explained His act of love. Start in the middle and write the words in the spaces. These words are from Luke 19:10.

Jesus is unique

Because Jesus was the Son of God and born from Mary, a human mother, He is the only One who is Son of man and Son of God.

Fill in the blank spaces with the vowels (a, e, i, o, u) to discover why it is hard for many people to understand how Jesus could be God and a Man.

1 Timothy 3:16, NIV.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD

G D L N S S N B D Y

Because Jesus said He was alive before Abraham, what did the religious leaders do? Look up these texts and write the answers next to them.

John 10:31-33
John 10:36-39
Matthew 26:63-66
Matthew 27:39-43

Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars children’s pages – or from their parents – is welcome. The address is children@adventist.org.uk.

Heather Haworth, Children’s Ministries director, BUC
children

NEC Children’s Ministries Mission Weekends
by NEC Children’s Ministries director: Pastor Patricia Douglas

The NEC Children’s Ministries department has recently been on a mission to get the adults of the Conference to involve the Church’s children in its services. Sadly, most church services are pitched to the level and needs of adults, with children usually having only the children’s story to look forward to. Then the activity books and toys come out, the daydreaming commences; they chatter with friends, or the gadgets surface, those mobile phones and iPads with their mesmerising apps that ensure silence throughout the service.

To counter this trend the department ran three special weekend events. The first was the parenting seminar at Leeds Central Church (29-29 September), intended to make parents aware of God’s job description for them as stipulated in Deuteronomy 6:1-7. God makes it clear that He wants parents to spend time with their children, teaching them about Him, helping them discover their identity, training them to become Jesus’ disciples.

The second weekend seminar was held at Leicester West (Sabbath) and Leicester Central (Sunday), 5-6 October. The third weekend was held at Manchester Central (19-20 October). These children’s emphasis weekends were held under the leadership of Pastor Patricia Douglas, NEC Children’s Ministries director, who also conducted the worship services. The children were involved at each of the locations, leading in the praise and worship, praying and collecting the offering. Their little faces beamed with joy as church became a place where their little needs were being met.

During the afternoon a plenary session was conducted, during which there was a ‘Big Read’. The children sat with parents and other adults within the congregations forming small groups, to which age-appropriate Bible story books were given. Each group shared a story. The children were the first to comment on how much they enjoyed it, but the adults also found it to be a time of bonding too. The books used are available from the ABC, which has many wonderful titles to aid in the mission of giving children a clear identity as we take them on their ‘discipleship training’.

The plenary session was followed by a number of workshops:

- One on drama, presented by Marlene Simpson, who engaged children and adults alike, helping them to appreciate drama and its effectiveness in conveying a powerful spiritual message.
- One by Pastor Carlton Douglas, who, together with the local Children’s Ministry teams, conducted the Arts and Crafts Workshop, which was most popular among the children. Using the theme for each Sabbath they created amazing pieces of art.
- Another by Pastor Patricia Douglas on preaching, which enabled the participants to more readily appreciate the purpose and craft of this activity. Participants lost all inhibitions as they preached for a minute on a Bible story of their choice. This task was repeated after they received guidelines on how to approach the text, and the improvement was remarkable.
- And the fourth one by Alex Douglas, the NEC Music and Worship sponsor, who assisted parents and children alike to see the importance of aiming for excellence as they seek to praise God through their musical instruments and song.

On the Sunday of each weekend there was the opportunity for everyone to experience ‘Creative Church’, a warm atmosphere where the entire family may enjoy learning about Jesus, Patricia Thompson, an experienced primary school teacher, led out in this area. She used the God Loves Me in 28 Different Ways book – a child’s version of the 28 fundamental beliefs of our Church. The craft activities consisted of making a promise box, which they filled with promises from the Bible, and a prayer book to record prayer requests. It was such a wonderful time, made even more special when two girls from the community came to join in the fun! ‘Creative Church’ shares the same ethos as ‘Messy Church’ in seeking to cater for the needs of families with young children.

In the afternoon Alex Douglas presented part two of the music workshop, stressing the importance of knowing the words of songs and choruses, and of pitching songs just right for both children and adults.

He also demonstrated the art of encouraging boys to sing. By the end of these sessions it sounded quite heavenly as all voices were united in praise to God.

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The initial reaction to Celebration: Living life to the full has been overwhelmingly positive and orders are streaming in. For example, Pastor David Neal (Irish Mission president) has booked 10,000 copies for the Mission’s 2014 evangelistic projects; Sharon Platt McDonald (BUC Health Ministries director) has ordered 1,000 for use in her UK-wide training programmes; and the GC Health Ministries director, Dr Peter Landless, has asked for 500 to be shipped to him.

Celebrations: Living life to the full is the latest witnessing tool on offer from the Stanborough Press. This 64-page, full-colour A4 magazine has been produced in collaboration with the General Conference Health Ministries department for use in personal witnessing, health expos, cooking schools, evangelistic seminars, and so on.

The magazine features the essential elements of the Adventist health message in a positive and engaging manner. These are the topics covered, each one written by a medical expert:

- Choices
- Exercise
- Liquids
- Environment
- Rest
- Air
- Temperance
- Integrity
- Optimism
- Nutrition
- Social support

This attractive magazine is available at only £1 per copy (plus postage and packaging) – an unbeatable offer!

To order yours now, contact your Personal Ministries secretary, or phone our sales team on 01476 591700.

Monday to Thursday, 8am-5.30pm.
Wood Green health fair

How do you measure success? It’s great when members and visitors are enthusiastic, but there’s a success when people from the community show up. The health fair at Wood Green Church on Sunday, 15 September, started before it began. Two weeks prior to the event the team reported that there were dropped through doors in the local community and posted on the BUC website. The night before the event, the fair was transformed into a replica GP surgery (with a waiting area); a massage salon; a seated cookery demonstration; a Boots pharmacy; and a Boots health consultant in preparation for the fair.

The weather for the day did not look promising – the forecast was heavy rain; however, God showed up and gave us not just a dry day but sunshine as well. The day started with a buzz in the air as team members erected a welcome tent at the side of the church and a gazebo for a nurse station/CPR demo area in the church yard. While we were erecting the tent an Asian passer-by enquired what was going on. Once it was explained to him he commented that we were ‘doing something good for the community’ and said he would go and get his wife and come back. Everything was set up and ready our pastor (Pastor Roberts) prayed for the team and the fair was officially opened. By then the years I’ve been in Wood Green I’ve never seen so many people from the community come through the church doors in a single event – people are truly interested in their health.’ Another simply said, ‘WOW, this is great stuff!’ while others said, ‘We need to do this more often.’

The day was so exciting that many lingered on to chat. From among the many that attended the health fair the doctors and physicist associate reported that they had many consultations between them. Surely that defines real success!

Dr Harris was excited, in turn, that the BUC Women’s Ministries department intends to start a UK chapter of Praying for Our Children. Outreach and witnessing are central to being a woman of virtue, and to emphasise this a prayer blanket saying ‘This child is covered in prayer’ was presented to the PA technician at the event. The gentleman, a non-Christian, had a three-week-old baby boy and both he and his wife were delighted to know that the women would be praying for them. Beautiful shades of purple could be seen during the Sabbath as the women grazed the room with their array of clothing and accessories in purple, which is the Women’s Ministries colour.

During the Saturday evening banquet, much fun was had by all, with some of the women stating they had not laughed so much in a long time.

Sunday morning was devoted to various workshops, including ‘Breast Cancer Awareness’ by Grace Walsh; ‘Praying for Our Children’ by Dr Deborah Harris; ‘Single, Sassy and Saved’ by Sandra Golding, and ‘Time of Your Life’ by Geraldene Farmer.

In the closing plenary Dr Harris encouraged the participants to remember that they ‘are not in the race alone, and that God is always beside us through the pains, trials and tribulations. If God never does another thing for us, He has already done enough!’

On their evaluation forms many women stated that the weekend had been ‘life-changing’ and that they would be implementing the things learnt. ‘Dr Harris’ words filled me up. ‘Dr Harris, Lord, for a beautiful and spiritually uplifting experience!’

A selection of photos from the event can be seen on the BUC website at: adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/women-of-virtue.

Sandra Golding

Bank holiday expo

On the 26 August bank holiday the Erdington members held an enormously successful expo-cum-street party for the Wood End Lane community and visitors from further afield.

The event’s invited dignitaries included Councillor Penny Hobmock, Stockland Green Ward Councillor; and Councillor Mike Finnegan of Birmingham City Council. A lot of emphasis was put on the health expo, which checked on the health and well-being of both members and visitors. Representatives from Wolverhampton Central, Dudley, Windsor Street, Othall, and Erdington took part in this health awareness day. Frederica Reid, Chrissie Jamandu and Naomi Watson were in attendance to give visitors a ‘good health check’, while Grace Walsh, the NEC Community Services director, was there to ensure that everything went according to plan. The Erdington & Welcom Forum also played a vital role in this health exercise.

In total twenty stalls were set up, ranging from the food and drinks pavilion to textiles and book stalls. Jay Sewell had the chance to use his skills as a carpenter by using the church’s publications at the display in his stall. The Great Ormond Street charity sold raffle tickets, and did face and balloon painting to raise money for the Birmingham Children’s Hospital. There was also plenty of food for the visitors to sample in an atmosphere that was friendly and welcoming.

The Food’s Glory Band, led by the manager Richard Wall, provided music throughout the day. There was a talent competition for young artists, which was won by Jojo of Erdington. Other local artists such as Barrel McLaughlin and Ken Ryin also entertained the crowds, while Brother Massey and Alvin Dawati of Camp Hill provided music with a Christian flavour. The MC for the occasion was Derrick O, a radio presenter from Radio SANDWELL.

The fire brigade and St John Ambulance were in attendance, as were the police. In fact, PCs Yarnall and Sweetman took the children for rides in their police van, giving them a taste of being a police officer on the streets of Birmingham.

At the end of the party a professional cleaner, Bancroft Tabnor, with his team volunteered to help clean the street without charging the church.

Not only did the event meet a need in the community of Erdington, bringing them together by using the church as a centre for the community, but it also helped raise money for the local Adventist youth activities and the Birmingham Children’s Hospital.

ASNA carers’ weekend

Wood Green health fair

It was the best weekend I have had in a long time,’ said the parent of a young man with autism. ‘This was the best carers’ weekend ever; the atmosphere, the scenery, the people. ‘This weekend was very relaxing. I learnt a lot from all the speakers,’ observed Mrs Ramsey, as a supporter of ASNA.

ASNA carers’ weekend

endocrinologist, spoke on Sabbath morning about the effects of exhaustion and looked at the life of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane as our example of how to...
Clapton’s ‘fantastic’ harmony!

Clapton Community Church’s women came out with a ‘bang’ on 14 September, when they graduated from a ten-week programme of learning to play music using steel pans. The group, aged between 28 and 80, consisted of ten women and one man, and they skilfully demonstrated their new-found talents by playing the songs they had learnt both melodiously and harmoniously.

Following the group’s debut at Clapton’s yearly community fair in August this year, the church recognised their achievement through a programme led by Pastor David Burnett and Women’s Minister, Wanda Wadler. Rosemary Phillips, supported by Mr Harry Hughes and his young apprentices Shakira (13) and Shabazz (15).

The Women’s Ministry leader was inspired to do something special for the women in the church community which would enhance the theme of ‘togetherness’ and bond them together. She felt it important to empower and motivate the women and build their confidence by learning something new. After gaining £1,000 from local funding, Rosemary was able to set up the classes. According to her, ‘The steel pan was not unfamiliar to me, as I grew up in a house where steel pan was being played every day and every night. I knew a little about the instrument and I wanted to pass this knowledge on to the church.’

When asked what motivated her to complete the course, Angela Burnett stated, ‘It wasn’t just the act of learning something new and unusual . . . it was the fellowship and warmth between us, the dedication and support.’ Terence A. Donaldson was excited that ‘the cycle of home-to-work, work-to-home was broken. I was refreshed and revitalised while having fun with my church sisters. This experience has made me restart learning the violin.

Karen Goodey said that the participants’ feelings that ‘giving God through the steel pans was [an] excellent, highly recommended and simply “fantastic” way forward for developing future community spirit for both men and women.’

Inspiring speech night

On Thursday, 17 October, Stanborough Secondary School celebrated its students’ achievements for 2012-2013. Nathaniel Peat was the guest of honour and delivered a dynamic and inspirational keynote speech. ‘It’s not about affluence,’ said Nathaniel, ‘it is about influence.’

Faithful to his motto, at the age of 25 Nathaniel founded The Safety Box – a non-profit organisation that seeks to help young, vulnerable people and foster academic achievement. He is also co-founder of Gennex, a company that provides renewable energy products to middle- and low-income communities.

Nathaniel shared his own struggles with the students, confessing in them how discipline and faith in God helped him to conquer his initial setbacks and obtain a degree in Mechanical Engineering. This work ethic eventually led him to become the first double award winner of the Enterprising Young Brits Awards, and to be listed on the Courvoisier Observers Future 50 Next Generation List. Nathaniel encouraged the students to aim high in their life journey, and not to allow challenges to stop them.

In her annual report, the head teacher, Mrs Dixon, pointed out Stanborough’s strong academic results at KS3 and GCSE level, with 100% of the students achieving A*-C grades in Art, Physics, French, Spanish, and Music; 85% in Maths, and 83% in Biology and Chemistry. Mrs Dixon also commended students for their spiritual development through involvement in activities such as the school’s Community Service Day and the annual humanitarian trip to India.

The school choir, conducted by Miss Ji Eun Ahn, beautifully performed ‘You Raise Me Up’ (By Secret Garden), while the music ensemble delighted the audience with ‘Memory’ (by Andrew Lloyd Webber & Trevor Nunn). The voice of the students was represented by the head boy, Caleb Thompson, who closed the evening with a heartfelt vote of thanks to the staff.

The ministry of ‘health screening’

Our ‘health-screening’ team was once again active on the prime spot in Market Gases Shopping Arcade, Great Yarmouth town centre, on Sunday 6 October. The centre management appreciates the service our health team offers to the community and grants us their best site free of charge, with permission to display any literature we choose. We now run the health-screening programme at least twice a year.

During the 6 October event 143 people were checked for blood pressure, blood sugar and body mass index (BMI). We also gave carbon monoxide readings to twenty-eight smokers – and made several GP referrals. On our literature table we had a good selection, mainly of health-related materials, but there were also some other booklets, such as ‘Steps to Christ’ and some containing information about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We also had the opportunity to advertise our free vegetarian cooking demos, which are held in the church on a bi-monthly basis. During the event we surveyed the participants and their response was overwhelmingly favourable. One lady was particularly surprised that the church should spend the time in doing this health work for the community – she was absolutely amazed! We received the following statement from the management after the event: ‘We just wanted to say thank you for the photos and the lovely letter advising of the details of how many people you managed to check and the lovely comments received. Please do not hesitate to contact us for availability of any future screening dates.’

Does your church need a reboot?

‘REBOOT: restart or revive, give fresh impetus to.’

The answer to that question, as far as our church at St Albans was concerned, was a resounding yes! Almost without noticing, we had become so busy ‘doing’ church on a Sabbath morning that we had lost our sense of what we ought to be doing.

While some of us were involved with some good things like helping out at a local drop-in centre and distributing literature, the vast bulk of our time, effort and resources was devoted to the important tasks of making sure our church ran smoothly between 10am and 12.30pm on Saturdays. There is no denying the importance of the worshiping, teaching, fellowshipping and communing that goes on during that time. However, were we having the impact we should on the local community? No! Were we discipling the citizens of St Albans? No! Did our church have a mission focus? No again!

Drastic steps were taken to address this situation. We recognised that our resources were meagre and that we needed the whole church to be involved. We took radical action because we wanted to send a message to ourselves, those who attend frequently and infrequently, that being part of a church is about more than just sitting in a pew.

So we have attempted a reboot. We are experimenting with doing church differently eight times per year. The Sabbath School time on these days includes a study on the book of Acts to give us a spiritual and mission-focused impetus. The service that normally follows this will then be spent out in our local community, worshipping, teaching, fellowshipping and communing.

On the first of these special Sabbaths, 19 October, we held a health expo. Nearly 100 people were involved in some way, handing out invitations to our programme, preparing and performing health checks and tests and more. As a way to revitalise and re-energise our church it had an immediate team-building impact, and that more than fifty people came in from the local community can only be put down to God’s influence on the process.

It is probably too early to write much more about this initiative . . . . . . we’ve only had one such Sabbath. Yet the feedback, the excitement, and the enhanced feelings of togetherness have impressed us to pass on to you at least an inkling of what we have experienced.

Adventist Services and Laymen’s Industries UK (ASI) Convention

31 January – 2 February 2014

House: Staverton Park De Vere, Daventry

Guest speaker: Dr Daniel Ouda, Education director & Ministerial Association associate director, Trans-European Division

Alto: Clifford Hatman, Inceptor in Pastoral Studies (Hawkebridge College) and Pastor Ubunaya Iremina

Music: Paul Lee and company

To book, or for further information, please contact Christine Manners-Smith at: c.manners-smith@gmail.com or on 07799 452205

ASI-UK website address: www.asi-uk.org

Weekend cost: £75

1 night = dinner/breakfast/conference 2 nights = dinner Friday to Sunday lunch/Sunday conference

All bookings include all-day refreshments & spa

Members: 1 night £65 per person/2 nights £130 per person

Non-members: 1 night £75 per person/2 nights £140 per person (but if you join ASI-UK at weekend same as members)

Children (5-12 yrs): Half adult fee (4 and under free)

No supplement for single booking

Sabbath only

( Including conference, refreshments, lunch, dinner, spa) Members: £35 (adult dinner), £25 (no dinner)

Non-members: £45 (adult dinner), £35 (no dinner)

Students: £35 (adult dinner), £25 (no dinner)

Children (5-12 yrs): Half adult price (4 and under free)

Saturday evening dinner only: £19.95

Pre-booking only for these prices

WANTED: Pioneer Taskforce Volunteers

The North England Conference seeks volunteers for the following:

To set up Bible studies through efforts such as door-to-door visitation, health and nutrition seminars, literature evangelism, distribution of Bible request cards, and small group activities. Applicants must have a well-rounded knowledge of Seventh-day Adventist teachings, and prepare contacts for baptism. Their personal lives will reflect the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle. These are voluntary positions for which full accommodation and a living allowance will be provided.

Starting date: 1 December 2013/January 2014. The minimum term of service is one year. Apply online at https://www.adventistvolunteers.org or to Pastor Michael Phillips, North England Conference, 22 Zula Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB. You may also use mophillips@necadventist.org.uk or tel: 0444 1199603/312 or fac: 0444 1196691476.

ROSEMARY PHILLIPS, WOMEN’S MINISTRY LEADER, CLAPTON

ROSEMARY PHILLIPS, WOMEN’S MINISTRY LEADER, CLAPTON

ROSEMARY PHILLIPS, WOMEN’S MINISTRY LEADER, CLAPTON
Fundraising results

The Flower Festival held at Stanborough Park Church in September raised just over £11,000 to be split equally between Retch Cottage Hospice for Children and the local church development fund.

While the handover of the Hospice cheque will take place during the church’s annual Toy Service in December, the festival organiser, Audrey Baidenstone, handed over one for £5,500 to Louis Guenin, chairman of the Church Development Committee, during Divine Service on 2 November.

Coping with stress

Pastor Richard Willis, former BUC Health director and author of a number of books and articles, conducted a stress clinic at Exeter Church on 14 September. Church pastor, Ian Lorer, had planned the day as a follow-up to the health checks conducted in the city the week before. One man, who had come to the checks, attended the morning services, during which Pastor Willis gave an encouraging message on the subject, ‘Trust in God.’ After a few questions from church members and visitors stayed for the afternoon programme when Pastor Willis talked about the different types of stress, the physiological effects of stress and the practical strategies to cope with stress. Our new friend from the health checks, who is a Christian and a veteran from the Falklands War, asked questions relating to his comrades, still suffering from traumatic stress. He wants to help them in a practical way, but also find an opportunity to share the Gospel with them.

Volunteer award

A member of Ystrad Mynach Church in South Wales, Miriam Wood, was recently awarded for her volunteer activities on behalf of MESiG (Mŷniâia Enezphairol Suport i Glamorgan). She serves as political liaison officer for the group, which meets in Cardiff but serves a wide area of Wales.

Her volunteer award was from InterLink ‘in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the voluntary sector in Rhondda Cynon Taf.’

‘All I want for Christmas is a Roku box.’

While Hotbird was the best solution ten years ago, changing technology now means there are other more efficient, cost-effective ways of sharing the message of hope. Moving to internet TV will also increase the potential market for Hope Channel.

FAQ:

- Why are you stopping satellite transmissions? Broadcasters constantly have to evaluate the effectiveness of their transmissions. While Hotbird was the best solution ten years ago, changing technology now means there are other more efficient, cost-effective ways of sharing the message of hope. Moving to internet TV will also increase the potential market for Hope Channel.

- What do I do with my satellite dish? You will still be able to watch 3ABN on Hotbird for the foreseeable future. However, Hope Channel Europe will cease transmission at the end of December.

- Why Roku? We researched a variety of platforms and this internet TV provider is popular, has an increasing market share, and already hosts a number of Adventist channels including Hope Channel North America, Hope Channel UK, The Adventist Channel and 3ABN. Our new channel, available before Christmas, will enhance these offerings and give you not just English, but German, Portuguese, Spanish and Indian languages and a growing variety of other options. It is also very affordable.

- Why choose Samsung? If you choose the smart TV route, the Hope Channel is only available through Samsung TVs. Working together with a variety of other European Hope Channel partners, we have created a free app for their smart TVs at low cost. We may look at additional providers in the future.
We are looking for a high-calibre candidate to join our Senior Management Team as our UK Sales Director to plan and carry out strategies to increase sales of Adventist publications within the United Kingdom in support of the Church's national and global outreach vision.

1. UK Sales Director

We believe that through the publishing and distribution of Christian literature we can help in the Lord’s work by supporting His Church and providing resources for outreach.

Interested persons please send CVs to:
Mr Paul Hammond
phammond@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 31 January.

Job vacancies

Stanborough Press Ltd
Established 1884
Stanborough Press Ltd is a UK-based publishing house of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK with an important international projection.

We believe that through the publishing and distribution of Christian literature we can help in the Lord’s work by supporting Him and providing resources for outreach.

1. UK Sales Director

We are looking for an experienced Sales Director to join our Senior Management Team as our UK Sales Director to plan and carry out strategies for the sales and marketing of Seventh-day Adventist literature in the UK.

Closing date for applications: 31 January.

For more information, please visit our website at www.stanborough.com

The Certificate in Health and Wellness is an all-inclusive package designed to help you make a five-week degree course and is intended for those who intend to advance their career in health and wellness or who are interested in helping others achieve their health goals. For more information, please visit our website at www.stanborough.com/courses

The 'Golden wedding anniversary' section contains information about a special anniversary event. For more details, please visit our website at www.stanborough.com/goldenwedding

The 'Obituaries' section contains obituaries for various individuals. For more information, please visit our website at www.stanborough.com/obituaries

2. Marketing Director

Our international publishing house seeks a bright Marketing Manager for an exciting position within our busy team, to play a key part in driving company growth!

For more information, please visit our website at www.stanborough.com/marketing
The evangelistic window!

Great Yarmouth has a new window. But it is no ordinary window – it’s an evangelistic one!

In recent years we have replaced all the church’s windows except the large one at the front of the building. That window had a large painted wooden cross in front of it, reaching up from the ground. Both the cross and the window were looking old and tired, and it was decided to replace them too – especially as they faced the approach to the church.

Not only is the new window double-glazed, but it also looks as if it is made from stained glass. But, most important of all, it serves an evangelistic purpose because it conveys the Adventist message of hope.

Central to it is the cross, reminding everyone of our Saviour’s loving sacrifice for our redemption. Beneath the cross is an open scroll, representing the Word of God. Upon it is written that wonderful promise that Jesus gave to this world: ‘I will come again’ (John 14:3, KJV).

When it is back-lit at night, it is really attractive to all who pass by. Several local folk have already commented on how beautiful it looks, and it certainly gives us a talking point when we chat to passers-by.

After all, everyone in this world needs hope. Without Christ the future of this world is hopeless!

Sutton hosts Jaime Jorge

Sutton-in-Ashfield Church recently hosted Jaime Jorge, Adventist violin virtuoso of international fame, who has played on five continents and in more than thirty-five countries. Pastor Paul Haworth was responsible for the arrangements. The church was packed for the performance and close on a third of the audience came from the local community.

His performance was inspiring, as was his testimony of how he came into the music ministry. He had a poor upbringing in Cuba, where his mother would often work till late at night making plastic flowers to sell on the streets to raise money for him to have violin lessons – and, as we heard, it has indeed paid off.

A retiring collection of £155 enabled Jaime to put money towards buying Bibles for Cuba, which is part of his ministry.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER