Croydon broadcasts on BBC Radio 4
by Pastor Victor Hulbert (BUC Communication director)

Do Adventists have a relevant message that connects with the thinking audience of BBC Radio 4? Following the vibrant broadcast of a recent worship service from Croydon Church the answer appears to be a resounding "Yes!"

One listener wrote in to the programme, saying, "Thank you so much for one of the best morning services we have heard on the BBC. Joy, truth, clarity and the only hope for the future. So relevant in the light of current world events. Please may we have much more of this."

Another tweeted that they were 'energised and joyous following Sunday Worship'.

They had a right to be. Broadcast on 11 January, the Sunday following the massacres in France, the leadership team at Croydon Church sought to mix topical relevance with Christian hope and a strong Adventist message. Special prayers were said, including the sensitive touch of French member, Marline Levy, praying in her native language.

Pastor Richard Daly's message matched the Radio 4 brief Croydon broadcasts on BBC Radio 4 by Pastor Victor Hulbert (BUC Communication director)

"It's not very often that a national broadcaster comes to us and says, "Tell our audience of nearly 1.5 million why you think Saturday is the Sabbath day of the … of Jesus should give hope to all,"" commented Neil Nunes, a Croydon elder with many years of broadcasting experience.

Those two themes, explaining the name 'Seventh-day Adventist', came through positively and strongly throughout the service.

Radio 4's Sunday Worship often reflects more of a cathedral style of service. With the Croydon Gospel Choir, and terrific congregational singing co-ordinated by Ken Burton, this particular programme shared a life and dynamism that was clearly picked up by the listener. By the end of the recording, Mr Billson, a respected musician and worship leader in his own right, was full of praise for the vibrancy and 'splendid' quality delivered from the Croydon church and choir.

Are there larger lessons to learn? Neil reflects, 'It is clear that there is an abundance of talent in our Adventist churches which even the national media find surprising when they "stumble across us".'

Music director, Ken Burton, who made the original invitation to Radio 4, states, 'We have an opportunity to continue to harness these gifts and talents in our churches and let our Advent light shine so others can worship the true and living God in spirit and in real truth.'

What was apparent to Croydon members throughout the service was the very high standards that they were expected to reach. No distortion would be accepted, no one coughing at the wrong time — everything had to be just right. Their diction during singing had to be spot on.

Herein lies a vital message for all our churches, and especially those reaching out beyond their church walls via various electronic or mass media. Neil concludes: 'Trying to reach a mass market calls for great attention to detail, great planning and excellent standards. We have to deliver top quality in our productions. People hardly have time for religion, let alone mediocre religious service.'

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Mr. James knew what it means to be one of 'The Righteous'.

'Yes, that's true,' said Gerrit.

'You have done very well. I will take care of little Levie now,' said Joop — and he did! Gerrit, Gerrit and Joop — three 'gentiles' who would have been shot had the baby cried! Yet they were willing to put their lives on the line for little Levie.

I guess James knew what it means to be one of 'The Righteous' when he said: 'Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? . . . Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense? . . .'

(From James 2:14-18, The Message.)
Branson might... but Jesus will!

by Stephen Holden

Delays are commonplace in our family’s experience and those we know. It can be frustrating when you have somewhere important to be by a certain deadline.

When our daughter, Anna, was at university in Birmingham we would often find ourselves driving at speed to M intent, New Round (a weekend. Either to meet a late southbound train she was coming home on, or – more critically – hurrying to meet one travelling in the opposite direction from Cambridge to New Street, Birmingham. There would invariably be a delay of one sort or another, we would try to be very comfortable ‘knot in the stomach’ and those repetitive ‘will we, won’t we make it on time?’ thoughts.

Have you noticed how many slow-moving vehicles inexplicably find their way into your winding roads when we are under pressure to meet an appointment? And then there are those L Plate drivers who stall in front of you and struggle to get their cars moving again, not to mention those weekend roadworks that choke the traffic flow through our towns and cities.

Perhaps the hardest of all is to have to turn back for that crucial pair of

Announcements

Special Needs Camp

Have you ever been on the team or would you like to find out more before committing yourself to volunteering?

Join us at a reunion/information day

Hereford Church, Aspire Community Hub, Canal Road, Hereford, HR1 2EA

14 March 2015

Hereford members are providing lunch, but contributions would be welcome.

North England Conference

Family Ministries Announcements

Family Camp bookings

Dates for Family Camp 2015 are 24 July to 2 August.

Bookings will open on Sunday, 26 April, at 5pm, on the Conference website, www.recadventist.org.uk.

Alternatively, you may request a booking form from the Family Ministries secretary on 0115 9606312, or via email from yweekes@necadventist.org.uk.

‘Keeping the Church Family Safe’ training 2015

Saturday 19 April from 10am at Sheffield Bursgave Church, Andover Street, Pittsman, Sheffield, S3 9EE (for Areas 1-3)

The specific online DBS training for the Child Safety officers will be delivered separately.

Please note that all members working with children in any of the departments such as Children’s Ministries, Sabbath School, Adventurers, and Pathfinders, or planning to attend the Master Guide Training Course 2015, should attend this ‘Keeping the Church Family Safe’ training.

North England Conference Family Ministries Announcements

Did you have a question you’d like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk. Please ensure your question doesn’t appear in the next issue, don’t despair – we will deal with it if due course.

What exactly is a General Conference Session, and what will happen at the Session this year?

The above topical issues, and others, need discussing to maintain everything here today might well be gone tomorrow – do you see how essential it is to live a holy life now?

So, what’s to ‘gather and communicate’ about this year? Among other things, both our leaders and the departments such as Children’s Ministries, Sabbath School, Adventurers, and Pathfinders, or planning to attend the Master Guide Training Course 2015, should attend this ‘Keeping the Church Family Safe’ training.

Aberdaron Advent Campsite

Summer 2015

Volunteers are needed for the summer of 2015: nine maintenance staff required for 10 weeks. Food and board provided along with a monetary allowance. Please post your CV to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glen e Vivian, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT or email it to: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com

Closing date: 26 February 2015.
The birds and the bees have left the trees

by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt

O nce you remember the birds and the bees—the euphemism that many parents have used to describe their bumbling attempts at providing sex education to their offspring. If you can remember this phrase, then you will also be aware of just how society’s attitudes towards sex and sexuality have radically changed. Nowadays there is so much explicit information available at the click of a button that we can honestly say that the birds and the bees have ‘left the trees’.

Having said that, however, for most Adventist churches there is still a culture of uneasiness and reluctance when it comes to speaking or teaching openly about sex and sexuality. I propose that it’s now time to become more proactive, honest, open and intentional in dealing with the subject. In reality, the ‘birds and the bees’ have left the trees, leaving us to face the ‘tigers and lions’ of our over-sexualised society. Something we will have to do if we ever hope to provide our youth and children with a balanced, biblical, beneficial and God-centred attitude towards sex and sexuality.

When I was at secondary school, if you wanted to know about sex, you would have to join the lads in the boys’ toilet or behind the bike shed to be given tips, information or a quick peek at a certain type of magazine. Today’s children, however, no longer have to go to the school toilet block or bike shed; instead, they can find all that and a lot more on their smartphones and iPads at the push of a button. So, at what age are children pushing these buttons and what are they seeing?

Regrettably, they are seeing pornographic material. A study by Healthy-Mind.com found that the average age of first exposure to online pornographic images is six. Other recent studies have suggested eight. The most trusted consumers of internet porn are the 12-17 age group.

In an article by The Sunday Times dated 16 June, 2013, entitled ‘Generation Porn’, Eleanor Mills cites Shrin Rose Monks, a leading authority on the subject of children and internet pornography, according to Monks the most frequent reason given by children for viewing porn websites was to ‘find out about sex’. She went on to say that viewing such sites for pleasure was fairly low down on the list of reasons. It doesn’t stop there though. An article in the Gloucestershire Echo (6 February 2014) quoted a teenager as saying that ‘easy internet access via smartphones has led to a generation of boys “addicted to porn”’. The teenager went on to say that when boys view porn, it messes up the way they view girls, sex and relationships. This concurs with a forensic psychological study in 2013 which pointed out that pornography has been linked to . . . beliefs that women are sex objects . . . . Some researchers even suggest that the viewing of porn by boys can increase the possibility of them using aggression and violence as a tool for sexual gratification against women, especially if it includes acts of violence or abusive language.

Speaking on this aspect, states: ‘The violent behaviour young people see in pornography becomes indistinguishable from rape.’

Sad, porn also affects girls and alters the way they see themselves; the way they see boys; and their expectations during sexual encounters.

Based on the above discussion, four points should be clear: . . .

1. That children, even young children from the age of 6, become inquisitive about sex. Although some of this is due to natural inquisitiveness, there is a growing danger that our over-sexualised society may be stimulating an unhealthy interest in the subject through the public and social media, perhaps even in the classroom via the national curriculum. . . .

2. That children viewing porn on the internet, by children or young people, can distort (a) their self view; (b) their view of the opposite sex; and (c) their view of a sexual relationship.

3. That viewing porn may negatively influence young male attitudes towards aggression and violence as a normal component of sexual relations. The danger here is that pornography is turning boys into desensitised, sexually dysfunctional sexual predators who may experience a relationship/marital break-down, depression and unhappiness later in life. Sadly, such affected young males may go on to become abusers if they are not helped.

4. The time at which we should ask ourselves a few tough questions. Is it possible that some of our children may turn to the internet because we have failed our children in this area and do not feel so well to recall that Hosea 4: 6 (KJV) says: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

The time has come for a change. We need to become proactive. We have to equip our precious children and youth with God’s view about sex and sexuality, and let them see how it nourishes within committed marriages where there is mutual respect, honour and love between spouses. However, to achieve this we have to be willing to talk to our children and young people about these topics and stop ignoring the issue.

So, how can we achieve this?

Here are a few suggestions:

Firstly, ask the Holy Spirit’s guidance and wisdom to make your planning sensitive to the issues as well as to the cultural expectations of each group. Proverbs 16:1-3.

Raise the matter with the pastor and church board in a respectful manner.

Create a team of partners from across the whole range of church departments, including Family Life, Youth, Children’s Ministries, Stewardship, and Health and Temperance. Also identify any wise professionals within your congregation who may work in related fields. For example: youth workers, nurses, counselors, social workers and teachers. At the same time, don’t forget those senior members who have many years of experience, particularly those who relate well to young people and children.

Clearly identify the aim and remit of this partnership. For example, to promote the biblical view of sex and sexuality among God’s youth between 15 and 18 years of age.

Develop appropriate resources and a teaching scheme/ presentation to be delivered to them over a number of sessions.

Consider using existing Adventist resources, such as the SMART Love programme advertised by Pastor Patricia Douglas, NEC Children’s Ministries director, or her counterpart in your region.

Speak to your local conference or ministry department for whatever resources or personnel assistance they may have on offer.

Plan age-appropriate discussion groups within which to begin this equipping process.

Ensure that all those involved with the project are DBS-cleaned.

Make sure that your group regularly evaluates and prays about its programme in order to ensure success.

The process outlined above may prove challenging, but it is a challenge that we can’t deny or run away from if we wish to prepare our young men and women to become what God desires them to be. We need to be intentional now so that we can save a generation from the snares of the enemy and so prepare them to build secure, lasting relationships for the future.

Articles published in the Perspective pages do not necessarily represent the views of the BUC staff or the BUC.
Please visit: www.adventistpictures.org.uk/megapixels for more pictures.

Simply beautiful . . .

. . . and no arguments!

Nature excites me! Does it you? It does me!

If I see a red kite through the car window, my wife quickly tells me to ‘Watch the road!’ Whether you’re looking at a grand vista, or the close-up detail in a flower, it’s all just so perfect . . . beautiful!

Please keep sending in your pictures, such as these, which are all great, to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk – just remember to keep them ‘hi-res’.

DAVID BELL

‘And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”’

(Genesis 1:20, NIV)
Ebola volunteer motivated by love

Reading West church member, Edward Vandi, has returned to Sierra Leone for a second stint as an NHS volunteer. He will be working in an Ebola clinic and providing training and public awareness in the community.

Edward, who is a clinical team leader at Broadmoor Hospital, Berkshire, spent five weeks in the country in the run-up to Christmas, returning home on the same flight as Ebola victim Pauline Cafferkey, who has thankfully recovered from the disease.

Edward volunteered not only because he has the knowledge and skills needed, but because he has "a passion to help vulnerable people". As a child growing up at Masanga Leprosy Hospital in northern Sierra Leone, he was given love and care by two Swedish doctors, Roland and Birgitte Kazen. He claims he is the man he is today because of them.

Edward has been involved in charity activity for the past 12 years, including his support for ADRA projects in Sierra Leone that work with blind and deaf children. Why is he so involved with all these charity commitments? – because Jesus said: "If you do it for one of the least of these, you do it for Me."

Flying out in mid-November, Edward found it to be a distinct advantage that he spoke the language and that he could culturally identify with those he was seeking to help. This broke down a lot of barriers and prejudices – important in encouraging patients to attend the hospital.

SMART Love at Bourneville

The Bourneville church’s Youth department organised a SMART Love seminar for its young people recently. Some of the topics covered in the seminar included ‘How to develop feelings of worth in yourself’; ‘What is acceptable in a dating relationship?’ and ‘The difference between love and infatuation’.

An electronic anonymous question box was created for the youth to post questions via their smartphones during each session. This worked very well, giving them an opportunity to post sensitive questions while remaining anonymous. The presenters were the local pastor, Obi Iheoma, and his wife, Elizabeth.

The seminar ended in a graduation and banquet for those who attended, during which Pastor Patricia Douglas, NEC Children’s Ministries director, encouraged the graduates to commit their lives to God and be faithful. This was followed by the signing of a pledge to live a life of purity and obedience and a commitment song.

Jimena, who attended the sessions, found the SMART Love seminar to be very informative. She felt that it had prepared her for future relationships and for marriage.

Emma, who recently got baptised, said: ‘I feel that after these weekly sessions I have gained a vast amount of knowledge, not only about dating, but about the role God plays in these relationships. I feel I can go out and be more confident, knowing that somewhere out there, God has chosen someone special for all of us and that He does in fact have our happiness as a priority as well as our spiritual and emotional health.’

Emma was impressed with the seminar because: ‘It has taught me to be patient, as well as to keep in touch with our Father up above. I would encourage any youth organisation to hold a SMART Love seminar for its young people.

Horace Radcliffe, the Bourneville Youth leader, felt that the seminar was ‘very informative and fun. It created an opportunity where we were able to learn, discuss and ask questions openly – issues that are considered to be taboo, such as sex, ... . As one of the older youths that attended the seminar, I wish such information had been presented to me when I was younger.’

Baptisms at Windsor Street South

The Windsor Street South congregation took its new extension in use on 18 January last year and celebrated the event with the first baptism in their new baptist pool.

One candidate for that first baptism was Emmanuel Coley. He was so keen to be baptised in that new pool that he put all his efforts into helping to finish off the church extension! His efforts are greatly appreciated and the congregation is thankful that he has chosen to be baptised in the pool that he helped to create.

Edward Vandi, an Ebola volunteer, was another candidate for baptism. Edward has been involved in charity activity for the past 12 years, including his support for ADRA projects in Sierra Leone that work with blind and deaf children. Why is he so involved with all these charity commitments? – because Jesus said: ‘If you do it for one of the least of these, you do it for Me.’

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JUNE RICHARDS (COMMUNICATIONS TEAM)
Breath of Life in action

The Breath of Life church in Smethwick, Birmingham, had an active programme last December. Firstly they held a special community lunch for more than fifty guests at the Brackhouse Centre in Smethwick (14 December). Apyr Pearl and Monica Smith managed the catering along with a team of church members.

This was followed the next Sabbath (20 December) by an hour-long a cappella performance of the church’s choir outside the Bearwood branch of Matalan in Birmingham, under the direction of Henry Jones. This event many books and New Year cards were distributed and a good sum of money was collected for a local charity.

ROY LITCHFIELD

Langley shines

The Langley church’s Children’s Ministries department, under the leadership of Agnes Gill, put on a very special Christmas programme which included a traditional nativity play called the Christmas Hope. The church has also installed new Christmas lights to beautify the outside of the building.

ROHEET SUBRAI

Bolton’s carol singing

Bolton Church was blessed to have had the permission of Bolton Council to sing carols in the town centre on 20-21 December last year. The church had been invited by the Bolton Council to sing carols in the town centre, and this resulted in an amazing opportunity to bring joy to our community and remind the Bolton residents that Jesus is the reason for the season.

CHRISTINA CHIEGBOKA (COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADER)

Christmas at Bolton soup kitchen

During December last year the Community Service team of Bolton Church served a three-course meal to its soup-kitchen friends, some of whom are homeless. The guests were treated to the good food, carols by the Bolton Melodies Choir and lots of lovely gifts. Bolton members are glad to be God’s hands in their community, reaching out like Jesus did, serving others, helping the less privileged.

CHRISTINA CHIEGBOKA (COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADER)

Herd boy to health professional

A church member has turned published author with a revealing and inspiring account of his childhood in a rural African village and his determination to succeed against all the odds. From humble beginnings, his journey from herd boy to health professional, via an Adventist education, is a thought-provoking story for those who may question sustainable aid to developing countries.

Now a staff nurse at a leading Scottish hospital, Calvin Ndlovu is also Glasgow’s Family Ministries leader and Sabbath School superintendent. He intends to devote part of the book’s proceeds to an appeal to build a school library at his former primary school in Nemane, Zimbabwe.

The book, From an African Village to Glasgow, is now available online at Amazon.

JOHN WILBY

Liverpool Stoneycroft show the Christmas spirit

Liverpool Stoneycroft Church’s Women’s Ministries department, accompanied by Pathfinders, Adventurers and their directors in full uniform, once again visited Whitechapel Centre for the homeless in Liverpool. It happened on Monday, 22 December, last year and there they delivered a very large donation of toiletries. From there they proceeded to Bridge Chapel Food Bank with various dry and tinned food donations amid cheers from both service users and staff.

Last May they did the same and were just in time to meet the mayor, who was on an inspection tour. He was very happy to see that some of his constituents had heeded his call. VOP booklets on health, Bible studies and Focus magazines were also distributed at these visits and much appreciated by the recipients.

LIVERPOOL STONEYCROFT COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Rediscovering Christmas

Traditionally Christmas is a season of goodwill, a time to share gifts and spend time with friends and family. It can also be a time to feast on tasty food while watching the Queen’s speech. While for many people Christmas can be a very enjoyable and gratifying experience, for others it can be a very lonely and isolating time. For this reason members of the Hackney Community Ministries team ventured out to the many homeless and destitute individuals in the heart of central London. The team gave these vulnerable groups of people a Christmas to remember, for all the right reasons. As well as providing an appetising hot meal, every individual also received a specially wrapped gift to their surprise and delight.

“This is one of the ways in which we give back to our community,” said Vema Williams, Hackney’s Community Ministries leader. She added, ‘Each month we go out to these people, often distributing as many as 170 hot meals and drinks along with blankets and clothes.’

In a world where the true meaning of Christmas is losing its significance, it’s reassuring to know that there are some people making a real difference within a community that is all too often shunned.

LIVERPOOL STONEYCROFT COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Leeds Central hosts Christmas meal

The Leeds Central Community Services department held its annual senior citizens’ Christmas meal for church and community members on 14 December last year. More than fifty people attended and were served a wonderful three-course meal. The occasion provides an opportunity for church and community to meet together in a more relaxed environment where people can share stories and make new friends.

V MAYNARD

Gathered Together MOTHERS PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Hallelujah Kidspraise (Mums in Action) Team cordially invites you to attend this Gathered Together Mothers Prayer Breakfast. Come let us enjoy breakfast together, prayer together, praise together and encourage one another together. God is moving mountains on our behalf.

SUNDAY 1ST MAR 2015

Advent Centre
37 Brandon Street
London, W1H 5HD

0.60am MST

Limited places available! To get your FREE ticket visit www.adventcentre.co.uk/i/gathered-together-mothers-prayer-breakfast-tickets-15191646881

For more information please contact Barbara Lawrence on 07940 073733 or Toyin Awoyinde on 07537933535

CHRISTINA CHIEGBOKA (COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADER)
Joan Richards (1924-2014) d. 3 October.

She was born in Worthing, a long and varied life. Perhaps the words of her son Garry were adequate when he said of his mother: ‘You never told us how to do things but your example certainly was the light that showed all of us the way to live.’

On 28 August 1947 Joan married Stanley Thomas Richards, who at this time was a confirmed Seventh-day Adventist. During courtship and early marriage Joan converted from the Church of England to become a lifelong member of the Stoke-on-Trent church.

Joan was one of eight children born to Winifred and Alfred Richards. She was the second of five girls born to the family and was closely related to siblings Winifred, Margaret, Doris and Joan. In her later years she was known as ‘Granny Snailham’, where she became an active member of the community. She was a generous and kind-hearted woman who was always willing to help others.

Joan’s funeral was conducted on 28 August 1947 at the local church, and was attended by over 30 people from the community who remembered her kind nature and her dedication to helping others.

She was cared for and spoilt by her immediate and extended family of five children, nineteen grandchildren, twenty-five great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She was a loving and caring grandmother who was always there for her family.

Our sister rests in the sure and certain hope of our Saviour’s promise to ‘come again and take us to be with Him where partings will be no more’.

JOHN BUTTERS
Newbold College of Higher Education, United Kingdom, seeks to appoint two full-time lecturers in its Department of Theological Studies. The department is internationally recognised in Seventh-day Adventist Christian circles as being a centre of excellence in biblical, theological and pastoral education. It attracts students from many countries and cultures and its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes require highly qualified teaching staff who are able to relate their disciplines to the diversity of the college’s constituency.

Applications are invited from women and men with expertise in the disciplines of: (a) systematic, historical and biblical theology, with a special emphasis on Adventist theology, and with an ability to contribute to at least one other discipline; (b) Old Testament studies, and with an ability to contribute to at least one other discipline.

Selection criteria for both vacancies:

- Relevant successful teaching experience and an ability to contribute to flexible distributed learning;
- A PhD in a relevant subject field;
- A demonstrated understanding of current developments in the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Relevant experience in pastoral work;
- A demonstrated understanding of the European context;
- Excellent people skills.

Successful applicants will be required to perform the following tasks:

- Teach within a UK/European and US context;
- Work within the guidelines of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education;
- Work sensitively in a multicultural environment;
- Assume some academic administrative tasks within the department;
- Supervise research at undergraduate and postgraduate levels;
- Serve as tutor to a group of tutees;
- Maintain an active research and publishing schedule;
- Be involved in appropriate student-recruitment activities;
- Contribute actively to the wider spiritual and extracurricular life of the college and of the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout the Trans-European Division.

All applicants must have the right to live and work in the United Kingdom and will normally be expected to live within reasonable commuting distance of the college to enable them to engage fully with the life of the college and of the local church community.

Starting date: August 2015.

Salary: As per the denominational salary scale.

A letter of application, a CV and the names and contact details of two referees should be emailed as soon as possible but no later than Friday 27 February 2015 to Debbie McReynolds, Office Manager, Office of the Principal (dmcreynolds@newbold.ac.uk).