The Way

John Wilby, Scotland’s seventy-six-year-old ADRA sponsor, reports on his 96-mile charity challenge from Milngavie to Fort William.

Much like life itself, Scotland’s West Highland Way is a series of ups and downs, difficult terrain and quickly changing periods of sunshine, dark clouds, strong winds and driving rain. Thankfully, along the Way there are waypoints – engraved wooden posts with the easily recognisable WHW logo that, if carefully observed, ensure walkers will not get lost. It’s an analogy that will be familiar to the Christian mindset.

So it was that my daughter, Vivien, and I set off on the 96-mile walk from just north of Glasgow to Fort William in the Scottish Highlands. The route took us through some of the most beautiful scenery in God’s creation. Loch-side woodland gave way to long, winding, exposed sections and several steep ascents reaching between one and nearly two thousand feet. One hosteller claimed it was the wettest May in living memory. This had made traversing streams, now raging torrents, and long sections of rocky and muddy outcrops, extremely challenging.

The walking day ranged from six-and-a-half to eleven hours, with a welcome half-hour break for lunch. There were occasions when the weight of our respective 6- and 9-kilo backpacks, extreme weather conditions and physical tiredness raised doubts that we could continue. However, we were spurred on by the plight of those in Nepal and by the generous sponsors who had raised over £1,000 for the ADRA earthquake appeal. For me, Philippians 4:13 – ‘I can do all this through him who gives me strength’ (NIV) – was also a source of great comfort and strength. Five days later, as we skirted Ben Nevis, Scotland’s highest mountain, and descended into Fort William, we gave thanks to God for bringing us safely through one of the most challenging, but rewarding, experiences of our lives.

In 1966 I was privileged to visit Malawi for the first time. It was an unforgettable trip, thoroughly spiced with new and exciting experiences. One of these was a trip from the tea-growing highlands around the Malamulo Adventist hospital to the floodplain of the Lower Shire Valley – on the back of a large, off-road motorbike. What was the purpose of this nerve-fraying adventure? It was the easiest way to weave through the floodplain bush behind a legrospy officer who was making his dispersing rounds on a white bicycle. Why a white bicycle? It was an effective anti-thief device, because the only white bicycles in Malawi belonged to the hospital!

It was on this bumpy journey that we suddenly came across a large, red-brick mosque with a towering minaret. What is it doing there? It was a ‘gift’ from Saudi Arabia, part of their oil-funded Islamic evangelisation initiative. But its windows were broken and there were other signs of neglect, and I remember thinking that this type of Islamic outreach had little hope of lasting success.

I was wrong. If one considers the numerical growth of Islam during the past century then I was very wrong to feel so smug: ‘Islam had a much better twentieth century than Christianity did. The world’s Muslim population grew from 200 million in 1900 to 1.5 billion today – still about 550 million behind the Christian Church, but an enormous catch-up. Christianity sidelined

The word... full of grace and truth

In Chistendom’s European heart, while Islam is resurgent across the Arab world. Some Christian scholars predict that Islam will overtake Christianity as the world’s biggest religion by 2050.1

Not only has Islam been ‘resurgent’ throughout the Arab world, but it has also managed to firmly establish a very visible religious presence in Europe, with mosques springing up everywhere. In the UK there were 1,743 active mosques and prayer rooms in 2014.2 Further to that, whether we want to believe it or not:

‘In Britain the number of people who attend mosques every week is closing in on the number who attend Anglican churches – despite the fact that Muslims only make up three percent of the population.3

Many of the world’s Muslim-dominated countries are not flush with money. In fact, some of them are relatively poor. In that case, then, where is the funding for this rapid expansion coming from?

Saudi ‘petrodollars’

The very same source that built that mosque on the Lower Shire floodplains is still pouring vast sums of petrodollars into Islamic evangelism. As Christians we pride ourselves in our efforts to distribute the Bible, but let’s not forget that the Koran has its champions too:

‘The Koran is also going global. But for that it is unduly indebted to a single political power. Saudi oil wealth is supercharging the distribution of the Koran. Saudis only make up about two percent of the world’s Muslim population, but the combination of geology and history – the country’s vast oil wealth and position as the guardian of Mecca and Medina – has turned it into a vast engine for spreading the Word.’

So much so, that a few years ago it was estimated that Saudi Arabia was giving away as many as 30 million copies of the Koran per annum, not to mention vast quantities of other evangelical literature. One has to admire their evangelistic zeal, and their deep commitment to their perceived mission – but we also need to remember one fundamental difference between the Islamic use of the Koran, and the way we use the Bible!

Fundamental difference

The word Koran means ‘recitation’ in Arabic, and the very highest achievement within the Muslim faith is to be able to recite the entire book.

‘One of the most prized hononries in Islamic society is hafiz, or “one who has the entire scripture off by heart”: the Iranian government awards an automatic university degree to anyone who can do it.4

But why is this regarded as such an achievement within the Islamic faith? Simply because: ‘...the Koran is more than just a text: it is a living thing whose power comes from being consumed or recited. Much of the language about the Koran being on people’s lips is similar to Catholic veneration of the holy sacrament.’ 5

This, then, is that fundamental difference between the Islamic ‘word’ and the Christian ‘Word’. To the Muslim the recitation has sacramental value – it is a ritual that imparts spiritual grace. Plainly put, the recitation of the Koran is a ‘deed’ (a work) that secures the Muslim believer’s salvation. And that is why, despite the fact that only 20 percent of Muslims speak Arabic as a first language, and around 40 percent of all Arabs are illiterate, the “faithful” relentlessly recite the words of a book that many do not understand!

According to the Islamic tradition, the Prophet Mohammad was illiterate. He recited the Koran as he received it from the angel Gabriel and others wrote it down. This means that every word of the Koran is regarded as inspired, which explains the reluctance of Muslims to accept any translations of their scriptures.

The living Word

So to the Muslim the recited words of the Koran are the source of his salvation, whereas, for us, the words of the Bible reveal the ‘living Word’ – Jesus our Saviour – the Source of our salvation. And the Islamic shame-faced and guilty among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of

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1 Further

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Go to get hold of these reading materials over the next few weeks.

For more information visit: www.naturalhealthcareinthecommunity.co.uk.

The BUC Health Ministries Department has published specific guidelines in relation to its Natural Medicine and Holistic Lifestyle Strategy. The document includes guidance on the safe use of natural products, evidence-based interventions and health lifestyle practices, and can be accessed on the Health Ministries page of the BUC website: www.adventist.org.uk.

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1 Further
We were walking along the Thames Embankment, making our way to the Millennium Bridge, but before we reached it we paused to look at something that seemed strangely out of place. Something that we fancied would be interesting if it were to be found at a distance by the River NILE than by the Thames. Two stone sphinxes stood on either side of a huge granite obelisk that was covered in hieroglyphics. It was a gift for an Egyptian pharaoh, and had once guarded the great temple at Helopolis. On 12 September 1787, Londoners were invited to see the erection of Cleopatra’s Needle on the Embankment and witnessed the presentation of a time capsule at its base. This tiny piece of Victorian Britain was hidden away to be discovered far into the distant future.

What was in that time capsule? Inside was a set of coins, children’s toys, a city directory, photographs of the twelve most beautiful women of the day, a newspaper, in 215 languages, a verse from the Bible: ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16, KJV.

Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? In each issue I’ll be hosting Q & A in an effort to answer them.

The verse

Nicodemus was shocked and surprised when he found Jesus. Nervously he greeted Him with flattery that was not acknowledged. Instead, he heard this response: ‘Unless one is born again, one cannot see the kingdom of God.’

Nicodemus waited until he was sure that he would not be seen slipping through the shadows to visit Jesus. He wanted to satisfy his curiosity; for on a number of occasions he had been a one of a delegation of Pharisees who had listened to Jesus, carefully checking Him out. He had dug up the prophecies, and the more he studied, the more he recognised that Jesus could be the Messiah.

Nicodemus felt his religious feet! Until that moment he had been confident that he was saved. He had never known anything else. But Jesus’ words had shaken his foundation, and the old Nicodemus began to feel the need for this change in his life: but how? Jesus gently chided him, ‘You, a religious teacher, know so much and yet you struggle with such important issues. Instead of getting flustered when you hear the truth speaking, settle down and listen!’

It was the love with which the words of Jesus were spoken that touched Nicodemus’s heartstrings.

But Nicodemus and Jesus were on opposite sides of a wide divide. Granted, Nicodemus was tending on the book, but men needed more than a copy of good works and hard work were necessary to gain God’s favour and secure the kingdom. Give God your best and He’ll do the rest.

Nicodemus was adamant: ‘You must have a new birth, and in that new birth, and in that new life, you can understand and appreciate the divine love that brings about the salvation of men. For that reason, John 3:16 has become the most famous of Bible verses. It is not that the old Testament is wrong, or that the New Testament is wrong, but that the fact that their translations into the twelve most beautiful women of the day, a newspaper, in 215 languages, a verse from the Bible: ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16, KJV.

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Taking the pain out of the nominating process

by Leslene J. Peat-Brown

I t would appear that sitting on nominating committees is becoming an increasingly stressful and painful experience for many of our members; not to mention the amount of time that is often expended in this process. Why should it be so? Is it because members do not want the responsibility of leadership? Or do they feel unprepared or untrained? Is it a lack of confidence, resulting in fear? Whatever the reasons, the nominating process in a number of churches has become a daunting one. So how can we take the pain out of the nominating process?

Preparation: This is vital. Prior to the nominating process, the church as a corporate body should be called to prayer and fasting; for example, a week before. During the time of preparation the pastor and elders should impress upon their members the importance of allowing God to lead them in (a) to commit themselves to service, and (b) to allow wise decisions to be made during the nominating process.

Skill matching: Another part of the preparation process is what I refer to as ‘skill matching’. Members should be assigned to the various roles and ministries within the congregation based on several criteria, with which we are familiar: for example, local church membership, a strong level of commitment to its mission, and the basic qualities required for leadership. However, I would like to take this a bit further and focus on the area of skill matching. In the corporate world, employees are generally assigned to their roles because they have the appropriate qualifications, abilities and skills to perform them. In the same way members should be matched to various roles of ministry because of the skills they can bring to that ministry. The person’s gifts and abilities must fit the position to which they will be assigned. Prior to nominating committees, some churches will even ask members to indicate what department/ministry they would like to work in. Coupled with that it might be wise for a ‘Spiritual Gifts Inventory’ (SGI) to be carried out so members can enumerate the skills/qualifications they have that would enhance a particular ministry. All too often members are placed in positions in which they feel they themselves completely out of their depth. A form indicating the various offices of the church may also be distributed to the members, allowing individuals to indicate:

- Where they have served;
- Where they are presently serving;
- Where they would like to serve;
- Availability to serve.

A word of caution: Throughout the process it is important that the chairperson not allow negative discussion about any individual. He or she must direct the focus to the skills the person will bring to the position, and whether that person works well in a team.

Database: Information from the SGI can be stored in a database. When new members are added to the church, they can also be requested to complete the SGI. At the time of nomination, the committee members should be provided with a ‘printout’ of the information, thereby making the nominating process far easier and less time-consuming.

Create a climate for potential leaders: If leaders are to be successful, they must learn to develop other leaders around them. It is therefore the duty and responsibility of the pastor, in particular, to create the environment and climate for good leaders. J. Maxwell has said that ‘Great leaders produce other leaders’, and that when they fail to do so it is ‘either because they lack training or because they possess wrong attitudes about allowing and encouraging others to come alongside them’. Leaders must also provide opportunities for growth once they have identified the potential leaders in the congregation. According to Maxwell, when potential leaders are identified we should ask, ‘What does this person need in order to grow?’ He goes on to say that ‘the right atmosphere allows potential leaders to bloom and grow’. It is also important, once we discover how an individual needs to grow, that we also nurture them as potential leaders. Leaders in any organisation, especially in the church, must be the catalyst for change.

Training: This is crucial. In some instances members are placed in positions that they have little or no knowledge about; neither do they have the skills that that post requires. Consequently they end up ‘muddling’ their way through or else resigning after a few months. Training should be ongoing. A one-off ‘training’ on the first Sunday in January as a sort of ‘getting ready’ certainly not enough. It is therefore incumbent on the pastor and elders to initiate and engage in training programmes for each member/potential leader. It must be taught what their various roles entail, in order for them to efficiently and confidently have a positive impact on the congregation and lead others to Christ through their ministry.

The church’s evangelistic programme should be a holistic and strategic plan that includes well-organised and structured training programmes for its members and potential leaders. Training should also take place at another level. For example, if we have a leader and an assistant, it is the responsibility of the leader to train the assistant and team members with the view that they will one day become leaders themselves. This then creates a continuous training cycle, which means there will always be a pool of trained people/potential leaders waiting to lead out. This would certainly make it a lot easier for nominating committees.

Nominating committees will have a much more efficient, less time-consuming system of selecting members, thus avoiding the problems that currently prevail and thereby removing the ‘pain’ from the nominating process. Is this true?

If we are to be the head and not the tail, we must have much more co-ordinated, organised, and structured method for selecting members to office. After all, this is God’s church and His desire is to make it a ‘glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish’ (Ephesians 5:27, KJV).

Andover, 1990; Partners in Prayer, Thomas Nelson.


How do we take the pain out of the nominating process?

1. Are you a ‘conservative’ supporter? They are the members who want everything to stay the same as it was. Change is bad. Any change is bad. New ideas and approaches are a deviation from God’s ‘ordained’ way of doing things. The result is sickness, the worship service songs, music and mission. Change is a threat to these folks. The way things were is good enough for our grandparents, so why change things now?

2. Are you a ‘labour’ supporter? They believe that ‘hard work’ is essential for eternal life. They don’t just want you to work hard, but do it to ‘perfection’. In fact, they can get quite distressed if you don’t quite see or do things their way! They also tend to be very suspicious of that word ‘grace’, because it might just ‘hide’ some weakness in your character.

3. Do you support the ‘independent’ party? They are an interesting group who don’t really like to do anything unless it’s done their way. The ideas and feelings of other members don’t matter to them much — and they are not shy to tell you that. They find it hard to form a team and don’t really play ball unless they are holding it.

4. Then there’s the ‘monster raving loony party’. Fortunately we don’t seem to have too many supporters of this party in our church, but even one or two can cause a stir, unnecessarily distracting us from our real mission and purpose.

Well, what do you think? Do we recognise ourselves as supporters of any of these factions? Do we play politics in our churches or institutions, inviting them to vote for Jesus by forwarding the message on to everyone they know. We also gave out 10,000 leaflets everywhere, the local community to do the same. We hoped it would go viral; that it would spread around, as things do, from church to church, from country to country, and give Christians around the world a chance to show their solidarity in the face of all the evil in this world.

We tallied a final vote of just 127! Even though we contacted several of our churches and institutions, inviting them to vote for Jesus by forwarding the message on to everyone they know, we gave out 10,000 leaflets everywhere, the local community to do the same. We hoped it would go viral; that it would spread around, as things do, from church to church, from country to country, and give Christians around the world a chance to show their solidarity in the face of all the evil in this world.

We tallied a final vote of just 127! Even with the support of all the churches and institutions that we contacted, only 127 responses were received, of which 21 have asked for more information about our church!... up by our pastor, Geoff Smith. He’s happy, because it’s not every day that a pastor gets a handful of contacts like that!

Or are Christians just too busy? Was it a waste of time then? No! For us it is important that the chairperson not allow negative discussion about any individual. He or she must direct the focus to the skills the person will bring to the position, and whether that person works well in a team.

So how do we take the pain out of the nominating process?
Forgiveness Project in Aberdeen

What, exactly, does it take to move past a lifetime of hurts? With many church and community members asking more or less the same question, Aberdeen Church embarked on a mission to provide answers that are both sensitive and appealing to the different audiences involved.

Between 9 and 14 March we partnered with Aberdeen University, Dunечt and Albyn Schools, the Aberdeen Inter-Faith Group and Carl Wilkens to host the Forgiveness Project. To achieve this we transformed our church hall into an exhibition area where over 100 people, including students and parents from the schools and members of the public, viewed the Forgiveness Project during morning, afternoon and evening sessions. The exhibition consists of numerous stories of people whose lives have been shattered by violence, tragedy and injustice and who are learning to forgive, reconcile and move on. It has been displayed in over 300 venues worldwide and drawn together voices from South Africa, America, Israel, Palestine, Northern Ireland and England to examine forgiveness as a healing process, a journey out of victimhood and, ultimately, a journey of hope.

After reading the powerful stories on forgiveness, each person or group was welcomed by Pastor Ndlovu into the sanctuary to debrief and reflect on their engagement with the exhibition and to participate in group exercises, such as writing and reimagining a name or situation from which one wanted to move on. This moving and emotional process was aimed at marking the beginning of various journeys to forgiveness with teachers, parents and church members working together to make the journey easier and relevant to the various age groups. Inevitably, with the reflective exercise happening in the sanctuary, it led to questions on Aberdeen Church’s beliefs, especially the Sabbath.

On Wednesday, 11 March, the Aberdeen University’s chaplaincy invited Reverend Sam Ferguson, their scheduled preacher for their mid-week service, to preach on forgiveness, and Pastor Ndlovu had the opportunity to explain the Forgiveness Project as a community service undertaken by the Aberdeen Seventh-day Adventist church. Part of the Forgiveness Project exhibition was set up at King’s College Chapel and seen by numerous university students, staff, worshippers and members of the public.

On Friday, 13 March, Carl Wilkens, founder of World Outside My Shoes and former head of ADRA in Rwanda, presented a talk entitled, ‘Restorative Justice: Lessons from Rwanda in Healing and Building Peace’. Carl spoke passionately about his experience as the only American who remained in Rwanda when the 1994 genocide began. His thought-provoking talk attracted university students, staff and members of the public. Dr Hilary Homans, the university’s director of the Centre for Sustainable International Development, and Dr Joanne McEvoy, who specialises in ethnic conflict and peace processes, were among the guests attending Carl’s talk.

Commenting on this event, students from Albyn Upper School described their experience as ‘one of the best out-of-school activities’ they had done.

Aberdeen Inter-Faith Group

Members of the Christian, Jewish and Bahá’í faiths were among other faith groups who died to reflect on forgiveness on the evening of Thursday 12 March at Aberdeen Church. Carl quizzed the group on their common and diverse outcomes from reading similar stories from the exhibition, as well as their general thoughts and experiences with forgiveness.

Church members

On Sabbath 14 March church members grappled with forgiveness, and with quotes from the Forgiveness Project and echoes of Carl’s experience with Adventists in Rwanda. Carl’s gripping storytelling, coupled with Teresa, his wife, and her musical ability, graced the morning services, while in the afternoon a meaningful heart-to-heart discussion on the reality of forgiveness for individuals and church groups struck a chord with Aberdeen Church. Forgiveness is generally accepted as having health benefits, not the least of which is spiritual health.

With these initiatives Aberdeen Church has made deeper inroads into the community, with future partnerships already being considered for campus ministries at Aberdeen University, and restorative activities in the Dunечt school community.

One of the most exciting aspects of this mission is that Albyn School (one of the leading independent, co-educational schools in Scotland with over 700 pupils) requested to host the exhibition the following week, 16-20 March. With that, they requested Pastor Ndlovu to assist in leading the reflective exercises for some of the religious, moral and philosophical studies classes.

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On Sunday 26 April, Newbold Adventurers and Pathfinders marched on the streets of Binfield to bring awareness that ‘every child matters’. This event was put together by the staff of the clubs to reinforce their stance on abuse, bring awareness to the local community and raise funds for the clubs and for the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children). The event began with group presentations on abuse. The children were grouped according to their ages and they were reminded that harm is not acceptable and that they have a voice. The different types of abuse were discussed and safety measures explored. ‘Because we love our children, their safety and well-being are paramount to us; our aim is to teach them to recognise abuse and to stand up for themselves,’ said Claudia Da Silva, Busy Bee Adventurer club teacher, who also helped to co-ordinate the event.

The words of the 5-metre-long banner carried by the club staff displayed the bold message: ‘STOP the abuse against children – Be Their Hero’.

‘The march spoke volumes; we saw people come out of their homes and wave to us,’ said Tatenda Chiremba-Nyabango, whose two children attend the Adventurers club. ‘As a parent, this affirms my decision to have my children in the Adventurers club.’

Although the weather was on the cold side, the Pathfinders braved it in their uniforms while most of the younger children wore their sashes over their coats. This perseverance, their co-operation while marching and even their smiles indicated the worth of the teaching in the clubs.

The march ended with a bake sale to raise money for both the clubs and the NSPCC. The event was a full success. Its message had a positive impact within the neighbourhood but most especially on the participating children, who thoroughly enjoyed it and asked to do this more often.

JUDITH MAKANIANKHONDO

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The event began with whole armour of God’ through skits, stories, mime and song, including items from Windsor Street’s group, ‘Young Voices’.

The programme ended with adults and children identifying and writing down the ‘giants’ in their own lives, before throwing them into a pot where they were later burned in recognition that our giants will be destroyed.

As one little preacher said: ‘God does not care how old you are: He just wants you to trust Him and give Him the praise. And we say in faith, Lord, here am I, send me.’

JUNE ARCHIBA (COMMUNICATIONS TEAM)

Fighting ‘giants’ at Windsor St South!

Sabbath 11 March was the day the children at Windsor St South had their say on how to praise, preach and worship the Lord! The theme for the day, ‘Fighting the Giants’, impressed the audience as four young preachers, the youngest of whom was just nine, told of how David, Joseph and Esther conquered not only their physical giants, but also their spiritual ‘giants’ of jealousy, rejection and fear. All were challenged to stand and face the ‘giants’ in their lives and to claim the promise of Romans 8:37: ‘Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us’ (NKJV).

After a scrumptious lunch, the afternoon programme was equally punchy and inspirational as children demonstrated how to ‘put on the whole armour of God’ through skits, stories, mime and song, including items from Windsor Street’s group, ‘Young Voices’.

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Worshipping with the president

Recently the members of Camp Hill Church had the opportunity to host the TED president, Pastor Raafat Kamal, at their worship service. Before he took the service he was interviewed about himself (see this at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQxZU9HWMSg) and the members learned that Lamentations 3:22 is his favourite Bible text; ‘How Great Thou Art’ is his favourite song; and when he meets Jesus he is going to ask Him about a number of different situations and how Jesus brought him through them. The advice he gave the church prior to delivering the sermon was: ‘We are all on a journey, wherever you are on your walk with God. When you woke up this morning you were given a mini resurrection and He has guided your steps, don’t waver about trusting God – He is always to be trusted. God is there. He will pick you up when you fall. He will forgive you and He will bless you!’

Pastor Kamal’s sermon was entitled, ‘What On Earth Are We Here For?’ through which he reinforced the fact that we are all here to be ambassadors of reconciliation; to be missionaries of Christ; and to thrive, not just survive!

NAZIF HUSSAIN (WORSHIP TEAM)

Health evangelism training

Manchester South Church successfully ran a nine-session Gospel Health Evangelism Training Programme during the month of April this year. The main emphasis of the training was the 3H (Health, Hope and Healing) initiative. There were 75 who registered for the course from churches across greater Manchester, including Bolton, Bury, Gorton, Piccadilly, Altrincham, Rochdale, Longsight and Manchester South. There was high turnout, with over 50 participants attending each session. The training equipped the participants to share our Adventist health message within their respective churches and communities.

PRABHU SAHAI (COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT)

Newbold Pathfinders lead ‘Every child matters’ march

On Sunday 26 April, Newbold Adventurers and Pathfinders marched on the streets of Binfield to bring awareness that ‘every child matters’. This event was put together by the staff of the clubs to reinforce their stance on abuse, bring awareness to the local community and raise funds for the clubs and for the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children). The event began with group presentations on abuse. The children were grouped according to their ages and they were reminded that harm is not acceptable and that they have a voice. The different types of abuse were discussed and safety measures explored. ‘Because we love our children, their safety and well-being are paramount to us; our aim is to teach them to recognise abuse and to stand up for themselves,’ said Claudia Da Silva, Busy Bee Adventurer club teacher, who also helped to co-ordinate the event.

The words of the 5-metre-long banner carried by the club staff displayed the bold message: ‘STOP the abuse against children – Be Their Hero’.

‘The march spoke volumes; we saw people come out of their homes and wave to us,’ said Tatenda Chiremba-Nyabango, whose two children attend the Adventurers club. ‘As a parent, this affirms my decision to have my children in the Adventurers club.’

Although the weather was on the cold side, the Pathfinders braved it in their uniforms while most of the younger children wore their sashes over their coats. This perseverance, their co-operation while marching and even their smiles indicated the worth of the teaching in the clubs.

The march ended with a bake sale to raise money for both the clubs and the NSPCC.

The event was a full success. Its message had a positive impact within the neighbourhood but most especially on the participating children, who thoroughly enjoyed it and asked to do this more often.

JUDITH MAKANIANKHONDO

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PRABHU SAHAI (COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT)

Godinterest.org is a blog-publishing service built with WordPress for religion that lets you share your faith online. Contact Dean Jones at deantyronejones@hotmail.com for more details.
Restoration at Clapton

On the evening of Sabbath 28 March the doors opened at 6.30pm sharp, seats were filled, and the roof of Clapton Community Church was soon ‘raised’ by praise to God during the congregation’s second building restoration concert, the first of which took place in June 2014. There was much singing and dancing as the audience thoroughly enjoyed the blessings of the evening. The music was from various musicians and genres: from classical to Afro-beat, from soloists to groups and instrumental solos. Each musical item was a true blessing.

Clapton Community Church is housed in a magnificent Grade II listed building, erected in 1891. We purchased the derelict property in 2006, and have since been busy restoring it to its former glory. Significant improvements have already taken place, and the remaining phase of the restoration project being the building of new toilet facilities. The 28 March concert marked the beginning of our fund-raising efforts for this next phase of the project, towards which any financial support will be greatly appreciated.

JUNE COOMBS

ADRA-UK trainee programme

ADRA-UK is offering the opportunity for someone to work with our office for a one-year period (starting Summer 2015). The ADRA-UK trainee programme will offer the successful candidate the opportunity to work within a high-profile NGO in programme management. The programme is designed to give individuals practical experience in different locations around the world in preparation for a possible career in international development.

The trainee will be involved with supporting ADRA-UK’s implementing partners on proposal development for DFID and the EC, donor compliance, monitoring and evaluation and donor reporting. During the year the trainee will be based primarily at our Watford office with short-term placements overseas with our partner offices in developing countries. ADRA-UK will provide access to professional training at various levels in international development during the year.

Requirements:

- A Bachelor’s degree or NGO in a relevant subject.
- A strong interest in relief and development issues.
- Excellent analytical, verbal and written communication skills.
- Fluency in English.
- The right to work in the UK prior to submission of the trainee application.

- Being able and willing to travel to challenging areas of the world.
- A passion for serving hurting humanity.
- Being an enthusiastic motivator.
- Sympathy with the aims and ethos of ADRA-UK.

ADRA-UK is offering this position as a one-year contract. Possibilities to extend the trainee programme to a career path may be available upon successful completion of the trainee period.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 June 2015.

Langley Day of Fellowship

Langley’s annual Day of Fellowship was a time of blessings. Churches from around the Midlands and further afield were invited, and a number of them supplied their talented musicians to enhance the worship and praise. As many as 200 were in attendance in the evening, which included classical Indian music and uplifting songs.

The main speaker for the day was Pastor Rainford McIntosh, who attended with his wife and son. They were greeted and honoured in a traditional Indian manner by a garland around the neck.

Langley Choir, directed by Steven Joseph, also featured prominently in the music of the day.

The Langley members prepared lunch for all present, after which Pastor S. M. Gill presented various leaders with awards for their leadership within the community.

ROBERT SIWAK

Vacancy: Lecturer, New Testament

Newbold College of Higher Education, UK, seeks to appoint a full-time lecturer in New Testament within its Department of Theological Studies. The department is internationally recognised in Seventh-day Adventist circles as a centre of excellence in both theological and pastoral education. It attracts students from many countries and cultures and its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes require the ability to teach to students who are able to relate to the diversity of the college’s constituency.

Applicants are invited from women and men with expertise in the discipline of New Testament Studies, and with an ability to contribute to at least one other discipline.

Selection criteria

- 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 administration tasks within the department.
- Supervise research at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Serve as tutor to a group of tutors.
- Maintain an active research and publication schedule.
- Be involved in appropriate student recruitment activities.
- Contribute actively to the wider spiritual and extracurricular life of the college and to the needs 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 in order to engage fully with the life of the institution and its local church community.

Starting date: January 2016.

Salary: As per the denominational salary scale.

A letter of application, CV and the names and contact details of two referees should be emailed as soon as possible, but no later than Friday 26 June 2015, to Debbie McReynolds, Office Manager, Office of the Principal, jmcreynolds@newbold.ac.uk.
Developments at RAF Lakenheath

RAF Lakenheath is home to many US nationals involved in military service, who stay and work there until they are transferred to other parts of the world. Of many of these servicemen and women are also members of our denomination and they attend the RAF Lakenheath Outreach Fellowship in Norfolk.

Bonnie Steinbrunner and her family have been supporting the Lakenheath fellowship since their arrival in 2012, with Bonnie serving as the head elder.

During this time she has instituted a variety of programmes, including health, biblical archaeology, and Daniel & Revelation classes. Even in the sensitive environment of the military, where religious liberty is restricted, Bonnie and the Lakenheath team have made a conscious effort to find ways to distribute literature through the chapel and to those being deployed to war zones.

During her time, the Lakenheath fellowship hosted a Day of Togetherness for the Cambridge, Haverhill, Bury and Lakenheath churches, the first district event of its kind in a highly secure venue where new elders and deacons were ordained.

This outreach group from the Bury St Edmunds church has in the past two years seen four baptisms and two baby dedications, and we hope to continue helping others to live a life with Jesus and celebrate his blessings until his soon return.

Bonnie and her family are heading back to the US in June, and by God’s providence her replacements are Kian and Donielle Bridgett, who served respectively as elder and head deaconess at their previous military assignment.


John Marshall was born on 18 December 1920 in Jamaica. He moved to England in 1954 and later married for his lovely wife Nola and their family to join him. While living in England, William was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was duly baptised in July 1964. This was the turning point for William, who was completely committed to the Lord Jesus and rise early in the morning to pray each day, asking God for guidance and protection, not only for himself, but for his family and everyone around him. William embraced his faith in many ways and was an active deacon for many years in the West Park and Great Bricklin churches, Wolverhampton. He would also witness regularly to people he came into contact with, and was rarely missed attending church on a Sabbath day, or mid-week prayer meetings. Being a man of God, he was not fearful about sharing words of wisdom from the Word of God in all forums, whether baptisms, funerals or weddings. William’s words of wisdom left many searching their hearts as to whether they were prepared to meet their Saviour.

It was only in the last eight years, due to ill health, that William’s church attendance slacked off, but not his faith. Throughout this time he looked forward to worshipping at home with those church and family members who visited on a regular basis.

William’s faith grew stronger and stronger by the day, and he was so looking forward to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Sadly, he passed away in the early hours of Wednesday, 20 May, and is greatly missed by family and friends. William is survived by his wife Nola and 94 family members, consisting of 9 siblings, 34 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren – generations deep – what a blessing. His funeral service was conducted in the Wolverhampton Central Seventh-day Adventist church in June.

Camp Hill Family Fun

The Camp Hill Church Family Ministries team ran a Family Fun night on 11 April 2015. The three-hour session at Calthorpe College in Highgate, Birmingham, included swimming, use of the gymnasium and table tennis. The sports hall activities included basketball, netball and tennis. Over 100 members and friends of the church attended the event. All ages were accommodated. They enjoyed the opportunity to exercise and socialise together.

Money collected at the door will be used for ADRA and some future Family Ministries events. The event was started and ended with prayer. Food and snacks were on sale, and there were also health checks for those who wanted one-to-one consultations on how to improve their health. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of Andy, the gym owner.

obituaries


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Although Gladstone’s Library in North Wales is a ‘silent’ library, the ladies who gathered there during the weekend of 8-10 May for the Welsh Women’s Ministries retreat were far from silent – at least for some of the time!

Throughout history the human race has experienced ‘life-changing moments’ and the appearance of angels has often been among these events.

When Barbara Griffiths composed a short song especially for the retreat she was totally unaware of its ‘angel’ theme, but she was inspired to make this the first line: ‘Let us praise with the angels’. What an amazing God we worship!

During the weekend we discussed ‘life-changing moments’ in the lives of Sarah and Hagar and then moved on to the ‘life-changing moments’ encountered by those who lived at the time of Jesus, especially as they witnessed His miracles.

God continued to bless us after lunch as the sun made an appearance and we were able to enjoy the beauties of His handiwork as we strolled through woods and parkland.

We then resumed our discussion and learned that the birth, life, ministry, atoning sacrifice, resurrection and second coming at Jesus Christ are all accompanied by angels, and that the redemption of this world involves – according to 1 Peter 1:12 (NKJV) – ‘things which angels desire to look into’.

We concluded our time together by looking forward to that great day when Christ, in all His glory, will return with an innumerable company of angels, which will, of course, be the greatest ‘life-changing moment’ of all time!

JENNIFER ROWELL (SPONSOR FOR WOMEN’S MINISTRIES IN WALES)

‘Life-changing moments’

PRAYER EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Sponsored by the GC Revival and Reformation Committee

100 DAYS OF UNITED PRAYER
LEADING INTO...
WORLD GC SESSION: JULY 2-11, 2015
SAN ANTONIO TEXAS

“A chain of earnest, praying believers should encircle the whole world...”

Following Clause, p. 120

This initiative begins on 25 March, 2015.

Plumstead Health and Temperance Day

The Health Ministries department at Plumstead Community Church presented an all-day programme on the benefits of regular exercise, irrespective of our age or fitness levels. The speaker of the day, D. Harris, blessed the church with a sermon entitled, ‘Be Active’, encouraging those present to look after their wonderfully made bodies and aim for optimum health.

In the afternoon, after a wonderful vegetarian lunch, various health professionals took readings of visitors’ and members’ blood pressure and glucose levels, after which they were encouraged to take a thirty-minute walk. Upon their return to church a second set of readings demonstrated how a gentle walk can help lower both glucose levels and blood pressure.

Plumstead Church was supported by professionals from Greenwich Public Health and Well-being departments, who took the time out to share health information about local services and specialist agencies. They also expressed their willingness to work alongside the church again in future events.

ANGELA LEWIS (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER)

EDITOR’S NOTE: Unfortunately, photos were too poor for publication.

Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the British Nautical Almanac Office.

Lond    Card      Nott      Edin      Belf

June 26  9.22      9.34      9.35   10.03   10.04
July 10  9.16      9.29      9.30     9.57

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Angela Taylor – 01923 232728

Family Ministries (Leslie Ackie), Child Ministries (Malika Bediako)

British Union Conference – 0345 333 5333

Family Ministries (Pat Liburd), Child Ministries (Patricia Dougal)

Plumstead Church, London (Andrew Rivett)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (C.D. Paterson)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (Andrew Rivett)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (Brian Allan)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (Thomas_Forbes)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (John Forbes)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (David Stott)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (Linda Forbes)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (Joan Forbes)

Kirkcaldy, Fife (David Stott)

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