‘Knowing God’s Heart’: SEC Camp Meeting 2015

by Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, SEC Communication director

The South England Conference relocated to Camber Sands, East Sussex, for its annual camp meeting this year (15-21 June). ‘Knowing God’s Heart’ was the theme under which 1,800 campers enjoyed a week of good weather, spiritual fellowship and programmes including a particular focus on health.

In the adult hall, Dr Chidi Iwuoha, a renowned lifestyle doctor and writer, endeared himself to campers with sound but challenging advice. “Look after your heart!” was his charge to the adults during his Thursday morning presentation showing that heart disease is still the number-one killer in the UK.

Yet, while extolling natural and preventative remedies, Dr Chidi encouraged his audience to see their GPs first before looking at any complementary health treatments.

He shared simple yet effective recommendations for better health, such as lowering salt intake, eating lots of greens, drinking plenty of water and enjoying one hour of walking each day. Coupled with these physical tips, Dr Chidi equally encouraged a positive mental attitude to life.

A second health speaker, Dr James Horsley, shared natural approaches to healing. Since 1993, he has been associated with Uchee Pines, a not-for-profit health education and wellness facility in Alabama, USA. He gave practical advice including what he called a ‘migraine cure’, using a simple form of hydrotherapy!

The main spiritual messages were delivered by Pastor Royston Philbert and they appeared to touch many. On Thursday, he talked about the resurrection and looked at sorrow and death. This touched many a heart as he encouraged members to let go of their pain and fear.

Scott Ritsema, Bible teacher, author and founder of Belt of Truth Ministries, shared some of his research and concepts about global mass media. In particular he shared how media and music can influence people’s lives.

Teens

The Teen meetings culminated in an exciting Friday Communion Service led by

Press Open Day – 13 September – Plan to be there with your family! There will be good music, top-class speakers including Pastor Mark Finley, and lots of great book and DVD specials – and a new range of foods too.
Going natural Part 5 – Clean house – healthy house?

How did you get on with the household exercises set in the last issue? Were you able to identify a number of natural items in each room? In subsequent issues we will look at exchanging some potentially toxic household items for more health-enhancing ones. But first, let’s commence with a look at cleaning habits.

In an online telegraph article published 13 February 2014, entitled ‘Eco living: Clean your house the natural way’ journalist Sarah Lonsdale looks at some of the hazards of modern-day cleaning methods through the eyes of healthy-home expert Alan Berman, who suggests that the modern home has become a reservoir of a toxic ‘chemical soup’ that can cause asthma, eczema, allergies and other autoimmune disorders. He lists cleaning products, flame retardants, paints and stain repellents containing hazardous chemicals, including polybrominated biphenyls (PCBs), formaldehyde, arsenic and perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) as the culprits.

He goes on to state: ‘While a single spray of a cleaner won’t cause harm, these chemicals build up in the home environment, particularly in carpet dust.’ Berman is the author of Green Design: a Healthy Home Handbook. He observes that we use chemical cleaners in our home when compounds like bicarbonate of soda and lemon juice could do an equally effective job. According to him, ‘it’s also much cheaper to use vinegar, which is about £1 a bottle or less, rather than brands which cost up to five times as much.’

The article lists the following ‘safe’ home-cleaning tips:

- Vacuum carpets at least three times a week.
- Leave shoes by the front door to prevent bringing in hazards such as lead, dog excrement, car exhaust pollutants and pesticides.
- Have house plants like ‘bamboo, spider plants, and cheese plants, which absorb pollutants’.
- Use olive oil instead of a spray-on wood polish.
- Replace PVC shower curtains with glass doors, and PVC tablecloths with washable ones.
- Use water-based or organic paints wherever possible.
- Use vinegar and lemon juice as everyday surface cleaners, and add sodium bicarbonate where extra cleaning strength is required.
- If you have installed energy-saving measures, make sure your home is still well ventilated.
- To kill house dust mites, place children’s cuddly toys in the freezer once every six weeks.

In another article, ‘Eco living: how to make natural spray cleaners’ Lonsdale suggests natural cleaning products as safe options. ‘Why not try some of these homemade mixtures and save yourself some money in the process?’

Believe it or not, Stanley Clifford Weyman, Weinberg’s most popular alias, once disguised himself as the Consul General of Romania, hired a suitably impressive launch and came alongside the moored flagship of the US fleet. He announced who he was and requested to come aboard for a tour. The admiral was only too happy to host such a dignitary and personally showed him around. Then, upon his departure, the pretendor received a tribute usually reserved for the brave and the noble - a twenty-one-gun salute!

‘I lived many lives. Yes, Weinberg’s story is fascinating, but his comment about life is also worth a second thought: ‘One man’s life is a boring thing, I lived many lives. I’m never bored!’

Whatever you wish to call him, he was a Pretender. ‘I can’t speak for women, but I think that most men will agree that there are times when we pretend – even if it’s just a tiny bit, and very briefly. How can I be so sure of this thing?’

The authentic life

So reader, back to our questions: ‘How many lives do you live? Do you practise only one authentic life, or are you also a Pretender?’ Christianity calls us to live one life – the new life in Christ. ‘Therefore, if you are in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!’ (2 Corinthians 5:17, NV-UK.)

Have you ever come across these names: S. Clifford Weinberg, Ethan Allen Weinberg, Rodney S. Wyman, Sterling C. Wyman, Stanley Clifford Weyman, Allen Stanley Weinberg and C. Sterling Weinberg? They are some of the aliases of one of history’s most colourful ‘serial pretenders’. 

Stephen Jacob Weinberg (1880-1986)

Today people would call Weinberg a scam artist, but others might describe him less harshly as ‘a man who made a successful career of being many people other than himself’. Whatever you wish to call him, he was not the typical scammer or impostor of today, for he was definitely not in it for the money. He was driven by the passion to be what others were, to enjoy the prize of living fleetingly in their worlds. He wanted adventure, and stated it like this: ‘One man’s life is a boring thing. I lived many lives. I’m never bored!’

Over a period of 50 years he pretended to be many different people, including: a lieutenant in the French Navy; several doctors of medicine; two prophets; a number of officers in the US Navy, ranging from lieutenant to admiral; five or six US Army officers; a couple of lawyers; the US State Department liaison officer; an aviator; a sanitation expert; many consuls general; and a US expert on Balkan and Asian affairs.

Weinberg paid dearly for this pretence. He spent more than a third of his life behind bars, serving at least 13 separate sentences!

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Yes, Weinberg’s story is fascinating, but his comment about life is also worth a second thought: ‘One man’s life is a boring thing, I lived many lives. I’m never bored!’

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M any of us will be familiar with Christ’s parable of the two builders. It is recorded in Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV-UK) as follows:

“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

This parable, which Jesus shared with His listeners at the conclusion of His Sermon on the Mount, has profound relevance for all families in today’s society. Many of us will be familiar with the story of the wise man building his house upon the rock, and the foolish man building his house upon sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the sand house, and it fell with a great crash.

But everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

This parable is one that reminds us of the importance of building our lives on a firm foundation. The rain may come, the streams may rise, and the winds may blow, but those who have built their lives on the rock of Christ’s teachings will stand firm and be victorious.

All men are builders. Both men were builders. They had this in common. They both built houses to live in. If you were to ask most married couples – especially those who are parents – what they would like their houses to be like, they would generally say that they would like their houses to be safe havens for their families. Places that will offer both occupants and visitors the love, acceptance, security and protection they need in order to enjoy life to the full.

Sadly, however, not all homes experience these vital things. Some people, intentionally or unintentionally, are building homes that cause great distress, to both their occupants and the neighbourhood. Good, safe, harmonious, joyful, loving and healthy homes are being built all around us and, whether we are conscious of it or not, we are all builders of either one or the other.

All builders have a choice of foundations.

Some homes are built on the foundation of selfishness, greed, materialism, social achievement, status or anything else that can raise the family’s profile. While other homes are standing on a totally different foundation, as highlighted by Paul in his ‘building instruction’ to the Corinthians:

“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Each of you look not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:1-5, NIV-UK)

We all have decisions to make about the foundations we will use. These are decisions that God will never take on our behalf.

All foundations will be tested! On this point I am reminded of the words of Matthew 5:45 (NIV-UK): “... For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

Do good, Christian homes experience difficulties? Do Christian marriages end in separation and divorce? Do good Christian children bring up good Christian homes turn their backs on the Lord and make false values? Do parents try to instil in them? Just because you may be part of the household of faith does not mean that you will be immune from the wind and rain of chaos and calamity that batter individuals, marriages and family units.

The storms of life will test all foundations, whether they are well laid or not.

Only one Foundation will stand

The Bible makes it clear that there is only one Foundation that will endure all the tests and challenges that life throws against it. Paul makes this point abundantly clear in 1 Corinthians 3:11 (NKJV): “For other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

The keys to the success of marriage and family life are to be found in the teachings of Jesus as revealed in the Bible. He taught us the One who lays that immovable Rock beneath our homes, that Solid Foundation beneath our feet, and it is ours for the asking!

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Footnote: Author has based the article on materials drawn from K. Bryant’s ‘The Outline Sermons on Families’.

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Job vacancy at ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK is looking for an experienced Accountant to join its team in Watford.

Key responsibilities include preparing all financial statements and reports, accounts payable and receivable, reconciliation of accounts, general ledger work and procurement. The accountant will also provide project budget analyses and reporting support to the Programmes Team. We would expect you to have ACCA accreditation (or equivalent).

Applications should have the right to work in the UK prior to submission of the employment application.

A full application pack, including a detailed description and application form, is available on the ADRA-UK website at adra.org.uk/contact/work-adra.

Applications deadline for this post: 15 September 2015.
What now?

This is the edited transcript of a video interview held with Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference president, by Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director.

Ian Sweeney: There was a lot of discussion, obviously. On personal reflection, I feel that it was much like what happened with the TGSC meetings – theology of ordination. We as a Committee – people already had their opinions and their views. And even though the whole day to the discussion of women’s ordination, I don’t think anybody’s view was changed by it. I would submit that maybe people felt better for just airing what they believed, but the truth is that nobody changed their opinion as such. I think that when people arrived in San Antonio their minds were already made up.

Ian Sweeney: And, as you know, it was an open vote. There was no directive from GC leadership to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’, and we know the results. It was an open vote. There was a ‘no’ vote, which means that divisions have not been given the authority to decide whether it is appropriate or not to ordain women in their areas. I guess that floats down in our division, in the Trans-European Division, to the unions and to where you sit as the union president. What do you see as the repercussions, if any, from the vote that was taken?

Ian Sweeney: For some people, they think that we are reversing – going back on something. I mean, Ian Sweeney: Following a Day of Fellowship in Crieff on Sabbath 3 October, the Triennial Scottish Mission Session notice for more from the SEC Camp

Victor Hulbert: [as Narrative] It was an outpouring of young people under the leadership of Mike Johnson, SEC Music director. It was a venue to showcase the talent of the SEC. This was followed by a commissioning service in which Pastor Victor Hulbert, British Union Conference president, by Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

Victor Hulbert: If your daughter chose to go and study theology at Newbold College, and train for ministry, what advice would you be giving her today?

Ian Sweeney: If we are looking for uniformity, then we are never going to achieve that. We hardly have… we don’t have uniformity in many things. Take your clothes and expressions. Potentially people can call out on such things as that, and yet we can both say – depending on where we are on the spectrum of worship – we are all worshiping God. I think we have to be realistic. In many parts of our life and experience we do not experience uniformity. We do not experience uniformity in our marriage relationship. I don’t agree with my spouse Jennifer on many, many things, and she does not agree with me on many, many things, but we are still in a loving, united and united marriage. And I think that people can exist within the church as well. It’s not that everything has to be the same. We can still think that within the church too. For example, 45% of churches, as I have said, have female elders. On the other hand there are churches – congregations – who honestly do not desire or wish to have female elders. And we have to respect the wishes of the congregation.

Ian Sweeney: First of all the leadership of the church that more than 100 years ago – I don’t know how many churches are comprised of the church ministry, is actually the recognition by the church of a male or female’s call to the Gospel ministry for a lifelong commission.

Victor Hulbert: The whole issue and all the study over the last five years has raised the profile of the debate and perhaps, in a sense, you are now the leader of a church that is more than divided in the couple of decades here. There are those who are very much in favour of the ordination of women pastors, and those who say that’s not something we should be doing. How do you lead a church that’s got those two diverse views, with, as you say, 45% of churches as well as considerable number of female pastors? Is there a way forward?

Ian Sweeney: We’ve been encouraged to study, if that is where she feels God is leading and calling her. As the British Union, across the Division and I believe across the world, we are encouraging women in this path and we want to keep doing so – when I say ‘we’ I mean the Church. We want to affirm those whom God has called, and clearly God has called many men as well as many women. And let’s not forget that to leave a life’s career, or to change careers, or to send your life in a direction of ministry, is not something that is taken lightly. It is not done for the money; it is not done for the prestige; and clearly, if God has placed upon somebody’s heart the impression that they want to enter into full-time ministry, we encourage such persons to do that, whether they be male or female.

Victor Hulbert: Two very short final questions: Firstly, what do you think of the fact that we are now seeing a sphere of influence who are absolutely opposed to women taking on a role of equal standing, and is it to make you say what message do you have for them?

Ian Sweeney: The message I have for them is that while I worked as a local pastor, many years ago – I won’t identify the church – I worked with an elder who was very much opposed to female elders. In fact, he left the congregation where he was, as a point of principle, as a point of conscientious objection, you might say. To worship in the congregation of which I was the pastor because it did not have female elders. And I have to say, he was one of the best elders I have ever worked with. He respected the decision of the congregation which he left. And he didn’t leave in the midst of a whole lot of argument and contention. He just said, ‘I’m in my 60s, I’m not going to be part of this’. And I think we need a greater understanding of and more tolerance of how people feel with us like this. Whether we are pro or anti the ordination of female pastors, we should listen to each other and treat one another with respect. And understand that we can be united, as I’ve said, in our diversity.

Victor Hulbert: Secondly and last of all: what words do you have for our female pastors, some of whom are feeling discouraged at the moment – and to female elders, who, again, may be feeling under some pressure because of this vote?

Ian Sweeney: I can’t find the quotation right now, but I’ve read Ellen White’s own testimony, that she believed she had been commanded of God. * What I would like to affirm to our female pastors is that what God has called you to do, what God has called you to do, is as important as it is to a male pastor. What do we as a church is recognise what God has called an individual pastor to be or to be. And I would hope that in time – and sometimes these things do take time – we may be able to do just that I believe that our female colleagues should ever remember that their call came from God, and to whomever God calls He will give strength and equip to do that. The ministry is never going to be easy, for our male colleagues, and I have to say, he was one of the best elders I have ever worked with. He respected the decision of the congregation which he left, and he didn’t leave in the midst of a whole lot of argument and contention. He just said, ‘I’m in my 60s, I’m not going to be part of this’. And I think we need a greater understanding of and more tolerance of how people feel with us like this. Whether we are pro or anti the ordination of female pastors, we should listen to each other and treat one another with respect.
John Baildam: My maternal great-grandfather became an Adventist in Plymouth, UK, as a result of finding some Adventist literature at the docks. So on that side I am a fourth-generation Adventist. My paternal grand-mother came into the Church in the early ’30s, and her husband joined the Church at a later date. My parents, Jean and Denys Baildam, both worked for the Church – my mother as a Bible worker and my father as a pastor until, at the age of 65, he was elected to serve for an additional eight years as BUC Ministerial Secretary.

Where are you from?

I was born just outside Glasgow of English parents, who served the Church in Scotland; then we moved to Cardiff in Wales, then to Birmingham and Leeds in England. After I had left home, my parents subsequently moved to Manchester, and then back up to Edinburgh and Glasow, before moving to live near Newbold College, where my mother still lives. Sadly, my father passed away some seven years ago.

Editor: John, you have spent 40 years of your life in the service of Adventist education, no fewer than 33 of them in the same institution. Why?

Editor: Well, Julian, when I was 11, I decided I wanted to teach. At the same age I attended my first graduation ceremony at Newbold College (in a marquee) and I was immeasurably impressed by what I experienced. When I was asked in 1975 to move from my teaching post in Hamburg, Germany, to work at Stanborough School, I was more than happy to do so. It is always a joy working with young people, and a move to Newbold 33 years ago cemented the excitement of working with students from so many different backgrounds, cultures and nationalities. Where else could I work with Christian colleagues and students from up to 60 countries, at one relatively small campus? Newbold is family, where I look forward to the ups and challenges that each day brings.

Editor: You mentioned external involvement – can you give me some examples?

Editor: Over the last several decades I have been involved at various times as a member of external accreditation and validation panels, as an external member of boards at other higher education providers; as Chair of Examiners for one of the UK’s major examination boards; and for the past 19 years as Chair of the Assessment of Opportunities for the local secondary school. These external involvements expanded the work I did for the college, and undoubtedly have helped me keep me fresh and working in the same place for so long.

Editor: What are your greatest daily challenges?

Editor: Having so little time when there is so much to accomplish. And of course making decisions which please some and distress others, though I like to think I’ve always been good at separating the personal from the professional when it comes to relationships with my colleagues.

Editor: John, you probably don’t get a lot of time for hobbies, so how do you relax?

Editor: Yes, you’re right! I don’t think I have taken enough time to relax over the last year or so, so I need to indulge my passion for opera more and get a few more rounds of golf under my belt … which is becoming rather too light! However, I manage to read a lot (mainly on trains and in airports) and I have recently read the whole Thomas Hardy canon. And I go to as many of Reading Football Club’s mid-week home games as possible.

Editor: What do you feel you have accomplished as you enter your second year as Principal?

Editor: John Baildam, principal of Newbold College of Higher Education, shares a little of his life and work with our Messenger readers.

Editor: John, please tell us a bit about your family background.

Editor: John, I went to the University of London, where I completed my first degree in German (French subsidiary) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education with a view to teaching in secondary education. After completing a Teacher’s Supplementary Certificate at Newbold College, I taught in Hamburg, Germany, before being appointed Preceptor and teacher at Stanborough Secondary School, Watford. During that period I completed an MA in German from the University of London, specialising in Enlightenment literature with special reference to ‘education’ – whether pedagogic, scientific or aesthetic. I moved to Newbold College in 1982, becoming Director of what was known as the School of Modern Languages. I became Director of Admissions & Records in 1990, subsequently completing my PhD from the University of London. My thesis explored Johann Gottfried Herder’s translations of the Song of Songs between 1772 and 1778 – essentially the degree is in eighteenth-century German poetry, but there is a clear Biblical Studies thrust and my work was published by the former Sheffield Academic Press in their Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplementary Series. In 1997 I moved to the position of Director of Academic Affairs at Newbold College, subsequently completing a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education Management through the University of Twente, Netherlands. My role was combined in 2011 with the far wider brief of Deputy Principal at the college, and in May 2014 the Newbold College Board of Governors invited me to become Principal.

Editor: I notice that on your business card you include the letters CIEA and FAUA. Why are those important?

Editor: J B: These signify peer-awarded professional as opposed to academic recognition for my work not only within Newbold College, but also externally in areas such as assessment, management, administration, quality assurance and quality enhancement. The first denotes Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors, and the most recent, awarded in 2014, recognises me as a Fellow of the Association of University Administrators.

Editor: What do you feel you have accomplished as you enter your second year as Principal?

Editor: John, thank you for joining us for our first ‘across the desk’ interview.

Editor: Julian, I went to the University of London, where I completed my first degree in German (French subsidiary) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education with a view to teaching in secondary education. After completing a Teacher’s Supplementary Certificate at Newbold College, I taught in Hamburg, Germany, before being appointed Preceptor and teacher at Stanborough Secondary School, Watford. During that period I completed an MA in German from the University of London, specialising in Enlightenment literature with special reference to ‘education’ – whether pedagogic, scientific or aesthetic. I moved to Newbold College in 1982, becoming Director of what was known as the School of Modern Languages. I became Director of Admissions & Records in 1990, subsequently completing my PhD from the University of London. My thesis explored Johann Gottfried Herder’s translations of the Song of Songs between 1772 and 1778 – essentially the degree is in eighteenth-century German
A sk anybody in Ballymoney, ‘What happens when David Dickie walks into a bar?’ and the inevitable answer is, ‘He’s lookin’ for ye’ money!’ So it came as no surprise when on 16 June the effort of this veteran fund-raiser was recognised at a supporters’ conference of the British Heart Foundation, Northern Ireland. David, who is also a member of the Coleraine church, received the ‘fund-raiser of the year’ award at a gala event held at the Dunsilly hotel in Antrim.

There were several people listed on the programme to receive recognition for various contributions to the work of the British Heart Foundation. At least three were in the category of fund-raising,’ says David. ‘As the presentations were made, my eye fell on a promotional poster with a photo of a bloke who looked very much like myself. I had not seen it before, and I thought that something must be coming up. A few minutes later I was called to the stage.

The printed booklet that was handed out at the event tells David’s story. ‘David has been a dedicated volunteer with BHF Northern Ireland for three years. He was struck by a heart attack five years ago and since his remarkable recovery he has dedicated his time to giving something back. He has singlehandedly raised an incredible £6,000, and his passion and relentless determination are a great asset as well as a great inspiration to the volunteer team in Northern Ireland.’

In March this year, one of David’s fund-raising campaigns caught the imagination of people in Ballymoney and further afield. Together with a team of friends he pushed a balloon-filled bath, mounted on wheels, around the town. That effort raised more than £1,000.

In April, David, supported by his wife, Irene, staged a variety music concert in the Ballymoney town hall, featuring a line-up of performers including a Mid-Ulster favourite, country performer Allistair Coyles, and Elvis tribute singer Andy Rodgers. On the evening of the concert, David was pacing up and down in the venue, wondering if people would come for the concert. Securing the hall and the performance had required a significant financial commitment. The people of Ballymoney did not disappoint. On the evening there was not an empty seat in the facility and the evening of maudlin tunes and Northern Irish humour by compère, Gary Wilson, was a huge success.

Commenting on Facebook, Stacey Dickie, daughter of David and Irene, said, ‘So proud of my dad today . . . I think it’s well deserved,’ cause he has worked his wee socks off over the past few years to raise a massive amount of money. . . . Well done Dad.’

The Dickies are no strangers to fund-raising for good causes. David takes several days’ leave each year in March/April to raise money for ADRA. Stacey has followed in her parent’s footsteps. In April she participated in a nine-day Big Cycle around Ireland with a team that raised £11,000 for Cancer Focus NI, and on 14 June she abseiled down the Europa Hotel to raise money for Lighthouse, a suicide prevention charity in Belfast.

‘It’s all about making a difference,’ says David, for whom faith is much more about practical living than simply focusing on doctrine. ‘We have been blessed with so much. We are always grateful, and it is a privilege to share the joy.’ Such an approach to life is certainly worthy of recognition . . . and perhaps a wee donation when you see David again.

Fund-raising in Ballymoney
by Pastor Weiers Coetser

A father-and-daughter duo who persistently go the second mile to raise both funds and awareness for good causes.

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Adventist Book Centre – UK
Holloway baptises 11

Does the Bible contain a curse against the dark-skinned children of Ham? Where does Islam fit into Bible prophecy? And what difference does the Sabbath really make? Anyone who watched online on 23 May and 6 June would have received answers and an assurance that God holds the present and the future in His hands.

The speaker for our Prophecy Unleashed series was Dr Keith Augustus Burton, a well-known author who currently serves as director of the Centre for Adventist-Muslim Relations at Andrews University. With his warm laugh, charisma and wealth of knowledge, he opened our eyes to relevant world events and highlighted the soon coming of Christ.

Between 100 and 150 people filled the church each night, including many guests. There were also many online viewers. The sermons made an impact in the Holloway community, which includes the Penarth church. Many in the community; while others donated flowers to help make the church more presentable; or welcomed guests each night.

The concerted efforts of the church members and Dr Burton’s sermons met the needs of our community, resulting in one of Holloway’s largest baptisms in recent years, with 11 people dedicating their lives to Christ and three requesting further Bible studies.

HOLLOWAY COMMUNICATIONS

Brixton ‘harvest’

During May the Brixton church hosted an evangelistic series presided over by the senior pastor, Ebenezer Jones-Lartey. The programmes were well-attended and the topics covered by his sermons were attention-gripping and inspiring: so much so that five new members were ‘harvested’ for Christ’s kingdom at the close of the series. They are pictured above with Pastor Jones-Lartey and some of his team.

PASTOR EBENEZER JONES-LARTEY

(UNFORTUNATELY THE CANDIDATE’S NAMES WERE NOT SUPPLIED, BUT WE WISH THEM WELL IN THEIR NEW WALK WITH JESUS. EDITOR)

Les wins workmate

A few years ago a member of the South Cumbria church, Les Shaw, an electrician at the Sellafield atomic energy plant, was given a new workmate. Les, a hardy but diminutive character with a dry sense of humour, was suddenly overshadowed by a young 6’ 7” rugby player, Nick Murray.

Les, unperturbed by some scoffing workmates, used to read his Bible during break times. This intrigued Nick, who had spent many years as a missionary’s son in some rather remote places, and had later attended a Baptist seminary for four years. They started to talk ‘Jesus’, ignoring many of our doctrines – they would come later.

Then one day Nick was moved to a different part of this huge atomic plant and, needless to say, Les was rather disappointed.

Some years later Nick rang and said that he would like to see him. He had been watching Doug Batchelor on the internet. They talked, and this time they talked ‘doctrine’. Nick was an ex-Baptist; he couldn’t get enough, the Holy Spirit had gripped him. The pastor visited and presented him with our set of doctrines. He read them through, agreed with each and every one of them, and asked to be baptised.

This worried his parents, who told him that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was a cult religion. He studied their points of concern and saw that we stand for truth.

He was baptised by Pastor Roman Smejkal, assisted by the writer, on 23 May.

STELLA JEFFERY

Student baptised in Exeter

Kerigma David, from Angola, came to Exeter University as a student of mining engineering after having been ‘strongly influenced’ by her Adventist mother back home. Soon after arriving in Exeter she requested Bible studies, and Pastor Ian Lorek and his wife, Romola, were happy to oblige.

On 20 June she was baptised by Pastor Lorek in the presence of the church members and a number of her university friends. After this Kerigma (whose name means ‘preaching’ in Greek) was formally welcomed into the Exeter fellowship by Stella Jeffery and the pastor.

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Stella Jeffery
A dream comes true

It was in 2014 that Brother V. Maxwell of Tottenham Church felt inspired to organise a week-long health programme for the Haringey community. This was achieved with the help of a small team. The Awele family designed the logo, flyers and volunteer T-shirts. Over 10,000 flyers were distributed and the programme was well advertised through local radio, posters in local libraries and supermarkets, and even via a dedicated Facebook page. On 16 May our Pathfinders marched through Tottenham along with other church members to further advertise the programme, which ran from 24 to 31 May with the support of the members and the SEC (Pastors Sam Davis and Kirk Thomas in particular).

The programme was opened by Councillor Griffith, SEC president Pastor Sam Davis, and Roger Charles (elder), accompanied by Tottenham’s Pathfinders. Councillor Griffith was so impressed... freely volunteered their time to cover topics such as diabetes, stress, Alzheimer’s, sexual health and high blood pressure.

Stallholders from the community were given the opportunity to sell their goods. During the week the cookery school proved to be a hit with the community as well as our members. The cooking classes were filled to capacity as chef Alvin Mcqueen chairmatically showed the participants how to cook tasty vegan meals, which they were then able to take home. Alvin was also our speaker for the evening evangelistic programme.

During the programme we gave out hundreds of books and leaflets, made contact with members of the public who otherwise would never have visited our local church, and were able to pray with a number of our visitors. We have received an invitation to put on a programme in our local library and to work with various local organisations. Our visitors received a thank-you card for attending the health programme and further follow-up has since begun. A dream has certainly come true!

SONIA MUNROE (ELDER AT TOTTENHAM CHURCH)
Welcome home

On 4 July Leamington Mission members were delighted to welcome James Watson back from Nepal, where he has been assisting with humanitarian work in the wake of that country’s devastating earthquake (and aftershocks). James, who had set off to travel around India, immediately put his travels on hold and devoted the next few weeks to helping with relief work.

Part of that work involved the raising of a substantial sum of money, £5,154, that was channelled directly to where it was needed: over 7 tons of rice, along with other food supplies; tools and building materials; transportation and fuel costs; tarpaulins; and, later, educational supplies.

During his report he spoke movingly of the great loss many people had suffered. Particularly painful was the loss of loved ones, but many had also lost their homes and all their possessions too.

Editor’s comment: I wish to commend the efforts of James and his informal ‘team’ for the work they did in Nepal. It will not be listed among the efforts of the great relief organisations but it serves as a real inspiration to each of us.

Nealsen sings heart out for God

The Halesowen church plant was organised in February of 2012 with around 40 in attendance, including children. Since then they have been renting a building for their worship and fellowship activities. They know that their influence in the community and their success in outreach would improve if they had a ‘home’ of their own. To achieve this they recently held a ‘Proclaim the glory of the Lord’ concert to raise urgently needed funds. The Advent Melodies were joined by 10-year-old Nealsen Clifford to present an inspiring programme that was well-attended by many.

The church plant has made a recording of the concert and these DVDs are available from https://nealsenclifford.wordpress.com/ nealsencliffordlive-in-concert-2015-halesowen/ Please support this special group where you can.

Grantham investiture

Grantham Church has not held an Adventurers/Pathfinders investiture day for many years, which made the event on 27 June so memorable. Supported by the Nottingham Central Pathfinders and three of their very capable drummers, the combined clubs marched proudly into church to conduct a worship service of their very own.

Robert Hughes (Pathfinder director) and Chim Nuka (Adventurer director) were ably assisted by Levon Johns (Area 4 co-ordinator) and Pastor Alan Hush (NEC Pathfinder director) in their report. He spoke movingly of the great loss many people had suffered. Particularly painful was the loss of loved ones, but many had also lost their homes and all their possessions too.

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100 years of Adventism in Montserrat – UK celebration

On 15 November 1915, the Adventist church was started on the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat, in the home of Narna Jane Gravess of Flemings, Salem, under the ministry of Pastor J. J. Smith. On Sabbath 23 May this year over 600 Montserratians and their friends gathered at the Mount Zion Conference Centre in Birmingham for the 15th Annual Montserrat Day of Fellowship and the centennial of this wonderful beginning. This worship experience was also witnessed by 624 online viewers.

Fr. W. G. Jenkins, DPhil, LittD, Rector of St. John’s College, Oxford, began the proceedings with an address on the early history of Adventism. The Lord has allowed the church in Montserrat to endure and grow for the past 100 years as a result of its willingness to carry out His great commission, in spite of the challenges placed on it by various factors, including mother nature.

I wish to commend the efforts of James and his informal ‘team’ for the work they did in Nepal. It will not be listed among the efforts of the great relief organisations but it serves as a real inspiration to each of us.

Robert Hughes (Pathfinder director) and Chim Nuka (Adventurer director) were ably assisted by Levon Johns (Area 4 co-ordinator) and Pastor Alan Hush (NEC Pathfinder director) … after which the awards were handed out. Thank God for our precious children and those who look after them each Sabbath.

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Why not travel to a different country with ADRA-UK?

Ever thought about going abroad to help make a difference in the lives of others? If you answered ‘yes’, then look no further! Next year, ADRA-UK will be travelling to Jamaica (Feb), Peru (July) and Rwanda.

Interested in getting your hands dirty, actively working with developing communities around the world to create small changes that will last a lifetime?

Contact volunteering@adra.org.uk TODAY to join us for the trip of a lifetime!

To find out more about our ADRA Connections trips visit us online at: adra.org.uk/get-involved.

‘They’re fantastic!’

These were the words of a visitor to the Cotgrave Annual Festival on Sabbath, 20 June as she watched the drum and drill display put on by Nottingham Central Pathfinder. Another person commented on how good it was to see young people engaged in such activities. The crowd were invited to take part in the drill, and four members of the community successfully completed the ‘automatic drill’ routine, cheered on by the crowd. Retired colonel, John Ludlam (OBE) of the British Legion took part and reported that he found the Pathfinders an inspiration and a credit to our community. He was so moved that he invited the Pathfinders to take part in the Remembrance Sunday service later this year. Leaflets about Pathfindering were distributed, answering those frequent questions of ‘Who are they?’ ‘Where do they come from?’ and ‘What do they stand for?’

The Pathfinders were joined by the Health and Temperance team of Nottingham Central Church, who registered thirty people with the NEWSTART health expo. Six participants requested Bible studies and many commented on how wonderful it was to have all this information in one place. They took part in all the activities, from finding out how much water they should drink, to having a back massage to aid relaxation.

This was a wonderful opportunity for all involved to draw the community’s attention to Pathfinders and our wonderful health message, and to share the Spirit of God’s love with them.

IRIS JOHNS, AREA CO-ORDINATOR (NEC AREA 4)