Share Him
by Pastor Adam Ramdin (NEC Youth director)

“How many of you have preached an evangelistic campaign before?” There was no response. “How many of you have preached more than five sermons?” Three hands went up. “How many of you have never preached a sermon?” Five hands went up. These were the responses of a group of 18 UK young people upon their arrival in Mexico. They were in an orientation meeting that was preparing them each to preach on Daniel chapter 2 that night. Each of them would be preaching every night for over two weeks, in the church they had each been assigned as part of an evangelistic outreach. These youth were on a Share Him outreach to Villahermosa, a rapidly growing city of around 500,000 people, with almost 20,000 Seventh-day Adventists and 240 churches. They hailed from Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, London and Dublin and were accompanied by NEC Youth Director Adam Ramdin, Pastor Ian Philpott from Southport, and Pastor Stephen Wilson from Dublin, who was there preaching his own evangelistic campaign.

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

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

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

The series ended on 4 July, with baptisms scheduled at most of the venues. Most of those who made decisions for baptism were undergoing studies and preparation long before the youth arrived. In fact, many of the churches had only finished their last campaign a month or two before the UK group touched down.

Nikki Holmes, from Sheffield Carter Knowle Church, said, “It has been a very eye-opening experience . . . life-changing. It’s made me face things that I have been afraid to do . . . and that’s been really good.”

Sofenna Lowe (18) from Newcastle made this comment: “It’s been challenging, but I have seen God working and it’s been triumphant!”

As messages are prepared each day and preached the same evening, the youth are forced to grapple with and understand what we believe until they can articulate it clearly to their listeners. Some who were on this trip will be involved in NEC Youth campaigns later this year, in some cases as preachers. It is clear that Share Him has given them wonderful preparation for the task.

More photos of the trip can be seen online at www.facebook.com/NECyouth.
Last year, according to Rebecca Clancy of The Telegraph, the world’s largest car manufacturer was forced to recall a staggering 6.4 million cars worldwide. This has done considerable damage to Toyota’s image as a producer of quality vehicles, but this wasn’t the brand’s only headache in 2014. It also faced criminal charges for having lied to both the industry regulators and the US public: as it tried to cover up accelerator defects, which caused vehicles to speed out of control and have their braking systems fail. There were several deaths involved and Toyota had to fork out a $1.2 billion settlement. The ‘recall’ saga is far from over. Just a few weeks ago it was the turn of Fiat Chrysler to call 1.4 million of their products back. This time the cause involved a case of hacking. Yes, you read right – a cyber attack! It happened this way. Charlie Miller and Chris Valasek, both professional hackers, remotely took control of a 2014 Jeep Cherokee’s ‘air conditioning, radio and windshield wipers, all from the comfort of their living room’! But worst of all, they were also able ‘to disable the brakes and shut off the vehicle’s engine’, which caused it to end up in a ditch. Fortunately for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), Miller and Valasek did not have malevolent intentions and were quick to notify the company of the critical weaknesses they had discovered. They have subsequently assisted the manufacturer to implement a ‘secure solution’ that will prevent this happening again. (Don’t hold your breath on this one though!)

How?
I suppose, like me, you are wondering how something like this is possible. I know that most modern cars are computerised, meaning that many of their critical settings and functions are programmed into onboard microprocessors that are also used for diagnostic purposes when we take our cars in for either a service or repairs. But how on earth were these hackers able to take over control of that Cherokee from the ‘comfort of their living room’ ten miles away? Here is the simple answer, and it sends shivers down my spine: ‘They accessed the Cherokee through a vulnerability in FCA’s inconvenient internet system, which hooks up to the internet using a cellular data connection.’

Implications
Just imagine the chaos and disaster that will result when those with evil agendas begin to use the ‘internet of everything’ to control our lives in such ways. Are we ready for this? The UK Government is trying to be and has budgeted £40 million for that purpose this year! Having said that, perhaps there is a bigger cyber threat already facing us – one that we may have become blissfully unaware of.

What would you do?
Let me approach this by asking you a question. If you were in search of one thing that could assure you of global power and influence, what would it be? The most modern and numerically superior armed forces in the world? Vast resources of fossil fuel that will stretch deep into the second half of this century? Universal political or religious prominence and respect? If you asked me that question, I would take the lead of Jim Morrison and remind you, ‘Whoever controls the media, controls the mind.’ Put simply, today power is not really about bullets and marching boots. It is about everything that makes life possible. If you control the bits and bytes, you control both the mass and the social media.

The real threat
The real threat we face today is the cyber threat – a relentless attempt to control the ideas and images that infiltrate our thoughts and shape our minds. Miller and Valasek hacked into the ‘mind’ of that Jeep Cherokee and immobilised it, courtesy of the AIR in your house could be making you ill: From drying using a gas cooker – 15 million homes affected. Toxic Home Syndrome increases risk of heart disease and cancer.’

Going natural
Part 6 – How healthy is your home?
Research published in the Psychological Science journal of April 2013 showed different health outcomes in relation to living space. The study found that people living in urban areas with more green space reported greater well-being than other city dwellers who did not have access to parks, gardens or other such nearby green spaces. Indoor health was also highlighted in a recent Daily Mail article reporting on the impact of a toxic home environment. The Mail Online health feature of 22 January this year carried the startling headline: ‘How AIR in your house could be making you ill: From drying using a gas cooker – 15 million homes affected. Toxic Home Syndrome increases risk of heart disease and cancer.’

The article reports on a pan-European study by the National Institute for Health and Welfare. The researchers identified ‘Toxic Home Syndrome’ – which increases the risk of heart disease and cancer.

The article concludes with the simple answer: ‘Why not try these suggestions and stay “hackerproof”!’

- Regularly update your software, called Spiritware. It provides constant personal protection against any form of ungodly virus that may try to alter your convictions or reshape your values.
- Obtain God’s best antivirus software, called Spiritware. It provides constant personal protection against any form of ungodly virus that may try to alter your convictions or reshape your values.
- Install a ‘firewall’ in your mind. Let it work according to strict limits that you have set up – limits that will prevent the exposure of your thoughts to evil or inappropriate information.
- Cyber defences
There are some simple steps that minimise or prevent the chances that your mind will be hacked into:
- Regularly update your software ‘by accessing God’s Word and reflecting on it. Install a “firewall” in your mind. Let it work according to strict limits that you have set up – limits that will prevent the exposure of your thoughts to evil or inappropriate information.
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For more information visit www.myhealthyhome.com for an interactive health assessment of your home.

Good health!

Going natural Part 6 – How healthy is your home?
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Open the Book
by Pastor James Shepley

One of the most exciting ministries that I have stumbled across since becoming a Seventh-day Adventist pastor is also one of the most simple. It is called ‘Open the Book’.

Open the Book began in Bedford in 1999, when a group of Christians started presenting Bible stories in school assemblies. It was so popular that it grew and grew, becoming a national charity. In 2013 Open the Book became part of the Bible Society.

According to their website, ‘Open the Book is a three-year rolling programme of themed and dramatised storytelling at no charge to primary schools. Teams of volunteers throughout the country use drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves – to present Bible stories in lively and informative ways.’

Every Wednesday, in the Church of England school that our daughter attends in Cheltenham, a group of between three and five volunteers meet up to enact stories from the Bible during assembly time. My wife and I take part about once a month. The team is always joined by some school children, eager to dress up and act out the parts of the disciples, an angel, a Roman soldier, the friends of the paralysed man, or whoever the characters of the day’s story may be.

This past Wednesday was the last ‘Open the Book’ session of the year, as those in Year 6 were starting to prepare for the transition from primary to secondary school. It was especially moving to think that those young people have witnessed and participated in those Bible stories every week, since they joined the school four years ago. That’s a small group of committed Christians. This week, my friend Richard played the part of Peter, fishing once again, after Jesus’ resurrection. I was a disciple, and clambered with him into a boat that one of the local church members had ‘constructed’, and we cast the nets out over the side. But we caught no fish. Then a voice called to us, ‘Throw out the nets on the other side,’ Peter then leapt out and swam to the shore, where we sat around a fire as Jesus served out fish.

Then, after Jesus was called up into the clouds, we, His disciples, were left to go out and spread the word. As we moved among the primary school children, saying ‘Have you heard the story of Jesus?’ Then let me tell you about Him,’ it was exciting to see their interest and find them eagerly gathering around to listen to the story.

For us, there was something deeply symbolic about taking out the part of the disciples and passing on the story, as Jesus had asked His followers to do. It also seemed to encapsulate Open the Book’s ambitious mission: ‘Enabling every child to hear the story of the Bible at school in their primary years.’

‘Open the Book’ now numbers 11,500 story-tellers in 2,098 groups up and down the country. These volunteers, who are made up largely of people in their retirement, are helping 525,000 children hear the stories of the Bible each week, many of them for the first time, in schools right across the UK. It doesn’t take a lot of time. We go into the school at 9am to set up and rehearse. We are out again by 10.30am.

If you would like to:
• Start an ‘Open the Book’ group in a school near you;
• Join an existing ‘Open the Book’ group as a volunteer; or
• Invite an ‘Open the Book’ team to start a group in a school where you are a teacher, then
... visit the Bible Society website, and watch the video at: http://www.biblejobsociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/open-the-book/
Rationing in the United Kingdom


*http://www.telegraph.co.uk/2015/02/13/ibid3*

**http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/feb/02**

Moaning and queuing are two things we do well, and during our ‘darkest hour’ there was ample opportunity for both. But despite our moaning about the rationing, something important and positive was taking place because of it. During those years of extreme hardship the nation’s health actually improved! Yes, believe it or not – despite the ‘blackouts’ caused by the bombing – infant mortality declined and general life expectancy improved. Some of the simpler diet that rationing imposed on the nation, the hard work of the field and factories, and the extra walking caused by the lack of private transport – gave the clouds of our ‘darkest hour’ a silver lining!

I don’t know... I don’t know where your life is at right now – but you’re human, you are probably not too far from good or difficult circumstances right now. And whatever you are experiencing, from something unpleasant, or facing an uncertain future, is something that might be... Unfortunately, ‘dark days’ are one of life’s realities. Fortunately, though, one of the most powerful resources during a ‘dark day’ is the reassurance that there is... a trap in this direction of ‘low-quality fat’ for cooking chips, caused a marked decline in the consumption of one of Britain’s favourite dishes.

What if the TED or BUC does not obey the GC authority? Here is one scenario that could follow. The BUC could also say, we will not abide by the TED policies. Then the NEC or Welsh... Oh, what an Adventist church that would be, and we would have lost our unity in fulfilling the mission given to us by God.

What is the ‘national loaf’? One of the most controversial aspects of rationing involved our ‘daily bread’. It wasn’t rationed during the war, but the brown loaf that we had back on the nation’s horizon, even after our humiliation in France? For him, there was no prospect of surrender or defeat – only relentless resistance until an Allied victory was achieved.

One of the most important parts of this reordering of priorities was Churchill’s ability to put hope back into our economy, even after our humiliation in France? For him, there was no prospect of surrender or defeat – only relentless resistance until an Allied victory was achieved.

**Messianic Editor, Julian Hibbett, takes a topsy-turvy look at the idea that our ‘darkest times’ are always the worst ones.**

Dear Editor, On pages 8 and 9 of the Messianic 31 July 2015, you featured two articles: namely, ‘GC Session 2015 – A personal perspective’ and ‘Remember the BUC’. Both touched on the vote on women’s ordination at the General Conference Session. The writers were obviously disappointed at the No vote, which means that women cannot be ordained to the Gospel ministry, but didn’t explain why we have to abide by the No vote.

It is obvious that the BUC is in support of women’s ordination. But why is it in the BUC that is in support of women’s ordination? What have I noticed is that this view is being drifted from administers down to members. This begs the question: Have the BUC local conferences consulted local members on this issue and fully discussed it? Since I moved to the UK 14 years ago, I have never heard nor seen such consultations taking place in my conference. I am surprised that the BUC is being dragged along without being consulted. Each church in the BUC and TED must discuss this issue, otherwise it will be seen as only the administrators’ problem and that they are the only ones in support of women’s ordination.

Many people, including administrators, have expressed their views as to ‘what next’, which range from ‘We will do as we please’ to ‘We will abide by the GC decision’. The response that gave me most comfort was from Pastor Lorance Johnson, who said, “I was very impressed with the way in which the delegates and observers conducted themselves. A positive example in how to engage as a body in dealing with difficult and sensitive issues. Following the outcome of today’s business I pray that we all will focus on uniting together in fulfilling the mission given to us by God.”

However, here is what is lacking in most responses that I have read, in particular the ones in the Messianic magazine, hence my writing this letter. I was so disappointed by the ‘No’ vote for women’s ordination to Gospel ministry at the General Conference Session 2015. Each church has a freedom of choice and is answerable to God on an individual basis. In Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, pages 260, 261, Ellen White explains this freedom further: ‘But when, in a General Conference conference, the brethren of the sibren assembled from all parts of the field is exercised, private independence and private judgement must not be stubbornly maintained, but surrendered. Never should a labourer regard as a virtue the persistent maintenance of his position of independence, contrary to the decision of the general body... God has ordained that the representatives of His church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference, shall have authority.’ Yes, we must abide by the ‘No’ vote. The GC Session 2015 has authority over this matter. We are not at liberty to do as we please and we cannot ordain women to Gospel ministry as we please.

Was the TED or BUC not obey the GC authority? Here is one scenario that could follow. The BUC could also say, we will not abide by the TED policies. Then the NEC or Welsh Mission could say, we will also not abide by the BUC policies. And the local churches will say, we will not abide by the local conference or mission’s authority, and, finally, members could say, we will not abide to the local church policies. Oh, what an Adventist church that would be, and we would have lost our unity in fulfilling the mission given to us by God.

Let us therefore abide by the GC Session ‘No vote’ for women’s ordination to the Gospel ministry.
River baptism for Lynne Vincent

The bright sunny morning of Sabbath, 18 July, was truly a wonderful and emotional moment for my daughter, Lynne Jayne Vincent, as she was baptised by Pastor Trevor in the River Usk. This was truly an answer to prayer. My parents, who adored Lynne, their only grandchild, prayed for years that she would accept the faith and become an Adventist: a prayer that I continued to pray after both had died.

Lynne attended Stanborough School, Sabbath School, Pathfinders and camps before the family moved to Wales in 1986. She still has many friends from her days at Stanborough School, with whom she has regular contact. She has always had faith and believed in Jesus, God and the second coming, but had not felt ready to take that final public step. One day back in January she decided to go to the Ystrad Mynach church – why, she didn’t know, but just knew it was right. She arranged to meet with Pastor Jeremy Tremer and weekly Bible studies followed. On attending Ystrad Mynach Church she was delighted to meet up with one of her old school teachers, Mr Bryan Walkins. Lynne is a highly qualified nurse and is currently a deputy manager in the Entry to Drug and Alcohol Services in Cardiff. She is a wife and mother to Alys (15) and Adam (12), and a wonderful caring daughter.

Lynne has a long heritage in the Adventist faith: five generations in all, spanning over a century. She is the granddaughter of Dr and Mrs Leslie Williams, and great-granddaughter of Dr A. H. Williams and his wife Mabel. Being convinced of the Adventist message, my grandmother Mabel and her mother were baptised in 1908 by Pastor Vowar in Ranpool. My grandfather was baptised two years later and they became missionar- ies in Burma and then India, where he became president of the North West India Union. After the untimely death of his wife, he returned to England and trained as a doctor, becoming a well- known and respected GP in the Garston area, and looked after the medical running of the Stanborough Hydro.

My mother’s family, the Gilsons, became Adventists after the end of the First World War, during which my grandfather was a conscientious objector and a member of the Church of England. While in prison he met young Adventists who were conscientious objectors and became convinced that the Advent message and keeping the Sabbath were correct. He was then sent from prison to work at Granose, where he became even more convinced that he and his young family should be baptised into the church. Praise God for His gracious leading over these five generations.

DIANA BALMER (NÉE WILLIAMS)

Church in Portsmouth grows

On 30 May the Portsmouth church added four new members. Katia Brown joined by profession of faith and the others through baptism. She was supported by family and friends. She was joined by Millie Neil from Bognor Regis and Andrew Hemming from the Isle of White.

MARY MWITA (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)
BUC’s first Centre of Hope, Health and Healing

On Sabbath 18 July Gloucester Church became a Centre of Hope, Health and Healing, the first to be officially launched in the British Union Conference.

Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC director for Health, Disability Awareness and Women’s Ministries, cut the ribbon, supported by the local health team, local pastor, Namushi Namuchana, head elder, Errol Westcar, and members and friends of the church. Sharon explained that the aim of such centres is ‘to instil hope by presenting the Gospel of love and grace; bring awareness of health issues to facilitate a wholesome lifestyle; and bring healing through a restorative and holistic approach to well-being’.

The whole day, from Sabbath School through to AY, focused on the health ministry of the church. During AYS Mrs Platt-McDonald spoke on the topic, ‘Centres of Hope, Health and Healing – a Commission for Mission’. She encouraged the health team to work with the local community leaders, the NHS and related organisations to identify the specific health needs of the community and help to solve them.

Members actively participated in the key activity of the day by going into the nearby park to distribute over 400 copies of the General Conference mission book Health and Wellness to those attending a local festival. At the same time flyers promoting the upcoming Lifestyle for Excellent Health seminar, led by Danny and Charmaine Vierra from Modern Manna, were also circulated. Other items of health information and literature were distributed outside the church, along with free bottles of water.

The Gloucester church has been developing its approach to feeding the homeless and needy, and developing health outreach programmes to engage the local community, for over 20 years. Over the last 10 years the church has run a weekly soup kitchen on Tuesdays and Thursdays, feeding between 30 and 70 people per session. Gloucester Church’s vision is to be ‘an accessible, friendly and vibrant church, meeting the needs of the community’. Their goal in establishing a Centre of Hope, Health and Healing is to share the Adventist holistic lifestyle approach to health and well-being. They want their local community to become better educated about healthier alternatives in diet, exercise and general lifestyle.

The church’s active and forward-thinking health team runs a variety of health outreach programmes such as the Shape Up programme, which ran from January through to March this year; and they are now facilitating the Shape Up maintenance group, which meets fortnightly to encourage continued weight management and exercise. It is their plan to provide simple screening and health advice on a continuous basis. Their primary evangelistic outreach for 2015 was an eight-day health seminar in August led by the Vierras of Modern Manna. This included information and education on the optimal diet from a biblical perspective, making healthy lifestyle choices and the benefits and use of natural therapies. They also demonstrated how to prepare vegan and raw meals.

In addition there are a number of established health activities which they are facilitating. The City Council awarded them funding to run ‘Healthy Plate’ cooking classes, which aim to teach people how to cook healthy, low-cost vegetarian/vegan meals, including children’s lunch boxes. Seasonal cooking demonstrations also take place in partnership with an organisation called Vision 21.

For the past four years the church has participated in the Gloucester Festival through the provision of a health expo, where they provide health screening to the public. This year they plan to incorporate exercise and vegan/raw food sampling.

The church’s community allotment assists with the teaching of children and adults on how to grow their own food. They plan to expand the allotment and hope to make links with various schools in the area to see if they can partner with them to allow children from the local community access to this resource.

Another initiative provided by the Centre for Hope, Health and Healing is the CREATION programme. They will also encourage children to make healthier lifestyle choices through the CREATION KIDS version of this programme.

Emotional and spiritual needs are catered for each Wednesday when the local pastor provides a ‘pastoral surgery’ from 10am to 4pm. This is open to the public as well as the members of the church. Members of the community call in to speak to him or just to have a quiet space to pray and contemplate. The church is also open on a Tuesday and Thursday for prayer and contemplation. They plan to expand this service by working with those members who are trained counsellors/therapists so as to provide interventions and support for people who may need it.

The centre will provide a library and quiet area for reading. Available literature will include vegetarian, vegan and raw-food cookery books, health and lifestyle books and magazines.

In her concluding thoughts on the day Sharon reported that: ‘The Gloucester church is a glowing example of a church that is relevant, accessible and resourceful, catering to the holistic needs of the community that it serves. I am extremely proud of this milestone and excited about the future, especially those possibilities that lie beyond this launch as we move forward under the guidance of God.’

VARETA BRYAN (HEALTH MINISTRIES LEADER)
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Open Day 2015 marks the launch of a new food brand, Cedar Lake!

Remember FriChik? Remember Swiss Stake? Remember Big Franks?

Well, those taste-alikes are back. House of Natural Food (HNF) has negotiated with Cedar Lake to market their tasty food products in the UK and Europe. Cedar Lake Foods, owned and operated by members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, has been committed for 65 years to the production and distribution of wholesome, nutritious, and tasty vegetarian foods.

Their extensive variety of kosher canned products are manufactured in their SQF (Safety Quality Foods) certified plant, located on the campus of the Adventist Great Lakes Academy, in Cedar Lake, Michigan.

So plan to come to Open Day, so that you can stock up on all your old favourites!

An earnest appeal from the Messen - Age team

Dear readers,

The quality of photography we receive from some of our congregations has deteriorated. Important news items, particularly about baptisms, are often accompanied by the most appalling photographs. This is true for their quality and composition. Remember that we will always be tempted to place the well-illustrated news items in the best spots!

Pastor Turner has been very active in building relations with other churches and ministers and his selection as president for the coming year is a testament to his gifts of social interaction and bridge building. The previous president, Rev. Paul Robinson, had an important role in the service, singing a solo, reading the charge, and presenting Pastor Turner with a Bible and the Cyfin medalion, which he will need to wear at formal events. In his sermon Pastor Turner spoke of the need for unity in mission. “If there is one thing that can bring us together in Rhyl,” he said, “it is working together to proclaim the Gospel.”

Not shy of proclaiming his own faith, Pastor Turner made numerous references to the Sabbath and particularly the soon return of Jesus Christ. Perhaps surprisingly for some of the Adventist members present, this was affirmed by the vast majority of the visitors from other churches.

Although Seventh-day Adventists do not join ecumenical organisations as full members, it has always been our policy to play as active a role as possible, from the smallest local groups to the highest levels of the World Council of Churches. We wish Pastor Turner well as he works with the other churches in Rhyl to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the coming year.

PASTOR JOHN SUMMERS (PRESIDENT, MIDLAND REGION)

Adventist pastor leads Churches Together in Rhyl

At a special ecumenical service held in the Rhyl church on Sunday evening 5 July, Pastor Malcolm Turner was inaugurated as the new president of Cyfin, or Churches Together in Rhyl. The event attracted visitors and ministers from a number of different denominations, including the United Reformed Church, the Church in Wales, the Salvation Army and the Roman Catholic Church.

Pastor Turner has been very active in building relations with other churches and ministers and his selection as president for the coming year is a testament to his gifts of social interaction and bridge building. The previous president, Rev. Paul Robinson, had an important role in the service, singing a solo, reading the charge, and presenting Pastor Turner with a Bible and the Cyfin medalion, which he will need to wear at formal events. In his sermon Pastor Turner spoke of the need for unity in mission. “If there is one thing that can bring us together in Rhyl,” he said, “it is working together to proclaim the Gospel.”

Not shy of proclaiming his own faith, Pastor Turner made numerous references to the Sabbath and particularly the soon return of Jesus Christ. Perhaps surprisingly for some of the Adventist members present, this was affirmed by the vast majority of the visitors from other churches.

Although Seventh-day Adventists do not join ecumenical organisations as full members, it has always been our policy to play as active a role as possible, from the smallest local groups to the highest levels of the World Council of Churches. We wish Pastor Turner well as he works with the other churches in Rhyl to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the coming year.

PASTOR JOHN SUMMERS (PRESIDENT, MIDLAND REGION)
Youth day in Paignton

A fantastic day was had by all who attended the recent Youth Day of Fellowship held in Paignton on Sabbath, 26 July. The event was supported by the members of the local church, Torquay, and organised by LIVE St Austell leader and frontier evangelist, Steven Hubert. As always, the worship was powerful and refreshing, with great songs such as ‘Our God Saves’, ‘Break Every Chain’ and ‘Come Thou Fount’.

Speaker for the day was Loren Latchman, often seen supporting the LIVE team at events by helping to lead out in worship. She has turned her hand quite naturally to public speaking too. She shared a passionate message about identity and compared being labelled a Christian to the label of Trekkie;* both originally seen as negative labels, but now often seen as positive.

A self-confessed Star Trek fan, she highlighted how the show was ahead of its time, subtly tackling sensitive issues such as race segregation and gender discrimination.

One of her key points was to encourage us to live as Christ wants us to. Don’t get bogged down by rules but concentrate on demonstrating the personality of Christ by being loving, caring and understanding to everyone we meet.

Here’s what one of the youth of Plymouth Church, Gemma Hall, had to say about the day: ‘Loren’s message was great, showing that labels can sometimes define you no matter who you are. You just need to use that label as a positive rather than a negative and always be proud of who you are. I’m a “Trekkie” Christian and proud.’ Gemma also said it was the fellowship of friends that she most enjoyed about Area 1 gatherings.

The afternoon was filled with praise and worship, interspersed with the sharing of favourite Bible verses and poems. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) was a particularly popular choice: “ “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the L ORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” ’

Remembering to trust in God can be difficult when we are trying to be independent, and we often forget that God is there, always watching us and willing us to seek Him for help.

The youth of Area 1 left Paignton with their spirits refreshed and revived by the uplifting message and warm fellowship.

JENNIE HALL

*A dedicated fan of the US science fiction programme, Star Trek.

Stoke Newington graduates

Two Stoke Newington members recently graduated, to the delight of their fellow members. Asher McKenzie is a past student of the former John Loughborough School, who graduated from Staffordshire University in Aeronautical Technology with Pilot Studies. He is one of the local youth preachers, and during his time at university he started a campus ministry called REAL (Real Experiences Anointing Lives). He aims to obtain his Commercial and Air Transportation Pilot Licence.

Mark Doyley recently graduated from Oakwood College with a BA degree in Theology and a BSc in Leadership. Mark is currently an elder and the Personal Ministries department leader. He will be attending Newbold College in September to do his Master’s in Theology.

Busy Bolton

Bolton Church has been very busy of late. Recently they invited Pastor Ray Patrick of London to address those who attend their regular soup kitchen on the subject of addictions and homelessness, based on his own experience. The presentation was well received.

They also held a street-witnessing day at their local market, which involved singing and other forms of witnessing. All of which was well received by the local community.

CHRISTINA

Gloucester’s witness

On Sabbath 27 June, Gloucester Church set up a stand in one of the town’s busiest shopping centres, with the aim of helping the people of Gloucester know who we are, what we do in the community and what we believe.

The stand was manned from 9am to 5pm, and all the departments of the church were represented. A prayer corner was available, as was a prayer box. The Gloucester church runs a very busy soup kitchen each Tuesday and Thursday, and this was highlighted, along with the health message and a health campaign in August, which was run by Danny and Charmaine Verra.

Interesting conversations were had with passers-by, and although the numbers stopping by were not overwhelming, a few people now know a little more about us.

A new church in Manchester

On Sabbath 17 April the city of Manchester gained a ‘new congregation’, when the Manchester Piccadilly company formally gained its church status. It now has a healthy membership of around 110 with a weekly attendance in excess of 80.

Representatives from the NEC, SEC and surrounding churches were present to show their love and support. The main auditorium was packed to the point that attendees had to be moved to various side rooms.

The NEC president, Pastor Lorance Johnson, the speaker and special guest of the day, took the opportunity to urge the congregation to recognise that we are all soldiers on a mission, and therefore we should aim to eliminate self-satisfaction and focus on the task at hand with all of our strength.

This ‘new congregation’ meets at the Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JD, and visitors are welcome.

GABRIEL KWAYIE
Dr Ruth Lennox, née Welch (1934-2015) d. 20 July.

Ruth was born Delma Ruth Welch, on 11 April 1934 to Stanley and Frances Welch of Luton, Bedfordshire, UK.

Ruth was a beloved and generous wife, mother, sister, and grandmother. After 16 years of teaching maths to young people, she began to look at teaching as a career change and to train as an accountant. By God’s leading I had the opportunity to gain some experience by volunteering in ADRA-UK’s office, where I am working with people who are passionate about other people’s suffering and want to use their knowledge and expertise to make their lives better. This is so inspirational that when I got the opportunity to apply for a job as a finance assistant I took it in a heartbeat, even though it be behind a desk, where we are making such a positive difference in the lives of those who desperately need it. It has made me humble and appreciative of what I have.

When the Vanuatu disaster struck earlier this year, it was so wonderful to see how generous the people in the UK are, considering that we are in a world where many people have a ‘what-can-I-get-out-of-it’ attitude. It is so rewarding to see that there are still people around who care about their neighbours, even if they live thousands of miles away. I want my children to grow up knowing these special traits and aim proud to work for an organisation that inspires this!

1957, as one of only a handful of women in her class. On 14 July 1958 she married John Albert Lennox, and together they served for nearly a decade in Ghana, Nigeria, and Ethiopia, and later in India and Nepal.

Although she never considered herself a pastor, Ruth’s life was marked by a number of significant firsts. John and Ruth were the first Pacific Islanders to attend the International Life Centre Church in Chetwynd, British Columbia, Canada, and developed the first hospital there. Ruth was also the first female doctor in Aboriginal British Columbia, where she delivered hundreds of babies – in at least one instance, three generations of the same family – in her primary care practice. Her husband was a contributing member to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When we go to university we are prepared for everything except for the defending of our faith. The church (members) must admit that they struggle. We live in silence. We know the Bible but not the God of the Bible. We have fragmented identities. Jesus says to His disciples, ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Identity is important to Jesus.

Paul is the pastor of Kennington and London Live, where there is a thriving young community. He believes that it is important to know the distinguishing beliefs of the Adventist faith, being secure in them and in Christ our Saviour too.

The day concluded with For Auld Lang Syne, a Final Call Production written by Jermaine Wong, an elder at Kennington. The play explored some of the real challenges young people encounter in relationships, and how some of the choices we make can either hinder or enhance our spirituality.
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.

Father’s Day in Hackney
During the weekend of 20 June Father’s Day was celebrated at the Hackney Seventh-day Adventist church.

Maria Vinas, shared a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted a father’s role: ‘He is the head, spiritual father and priest of the home; he is the provider and is hands-on with his children. Fatherhood is the science of being a dad. Children have someone to look up to. Dads teach their children skills.’

Members of the Sabbath School department then put on a play that reminded the church of God’s role as our Father. Maria says, ‘We must be built on the Rock, Christ Jesus. Fathers are called to be like the wise man who built his house on a firm foundation. Jesus is our divine Construction Builder, who hammers and chisels away at our defects, making our characters fit for Heaven. May we be built on the Rock of Ages, Christ Jesus, because He is the sure foundation in whom we cannot be shaken.’

Fathers were then given a card of appreciation from the church for all the hard work they do, both at church and in their homes.

Focus on natural treatments
Longsight Women’s Ministries organised a wonderful health programme for the church’s women and their families, friends and neighbours on the afternoon of Sabbath, 11 April. The guest speaker – Chanel Green from Handsworth Church (a graduate from PEACE and Sanare Life training) – presented a range of natural treatments, using readily available ingredients.

The interactive session involved both children and adults, and everyone left inspired to try these treatments from ‘God’s Pharmacy’ for life’s common ailments, and to share them with others.

ACTOR HANSON (WFM LEADER)