

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.



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editorial



Julian Hibbert
 Editor

Are you 'hackerproof'?

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!¹

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.² 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.³

Fortunately for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), Miller and Valasek did not have malevolent intentions and were quick to notify the company of the critical weakness 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?⁴

Here is the simple answer, and it sends shivers down my spine: 'They accessed the Cherokee through a vulnerability in FCA's Uconnect infotainment system, which hooks up to the internet using a cellular data connection.'⁵

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.⁶ Having said that, perhaps there is a bigger cyber threat already facing us – one that we may have become blasé about.

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's about bits and bytes. For bits and bytes are the building blocks of all modern communication. They make printing, television, films, photography, phones, computers and the internet 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 internet. What about us? Are we, without realising it, having our minds 'hacked' into by beings infinitely more 'professional' in the use of bits and bytes than they were? And how would we know anyway, until it was too late?

Could it be that the 'ruler of the kingdom of the air'⁷ is actually a more apt and contemporary description of today's Satanic influence than we realise? It certainly makes sense when one thinks of the vast amount of effort he puts into infecting, degrading and 'encoding' cyberspace with his values and worldview. He is truly the ruler of the invisible 'airwaves'!

Cyber defences

There are some simple steps that minimise or prevent the chances that your mind will be hacked into:

- Regularly update your spiritual '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.
- 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.

Why not try these suggestions and stay 'hackerproof'!

*Professional hackers are supposed to be the 'good guys' of cyber warfare. They are usually commissioned by companies and organisations to test their security systems.

¹<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/industry/10755341/Toyota-recalls-6.4-million-cars-globally.html>
²www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-33650491 ³<http://www.autoguide.com/auto-news/2015/07/jeep-hack-leads-fca-to-offer-software-update.html> ⁴ibid. See also: <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/technology/hackers-remotely-carjack-jeep-cherokee-from-10-miles-away-and-drive-it-into-ditch-31396633.html> ⁵<http://www.autoguide.com/auto-news/2015/07/jeep-hack-leads-fca-to-offer-software-update.html> ⁶http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_of_Things

⁷Ephesians 2:2 (NIV-UK)



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc
 Health Ministries director, BUC

Going natural Part 6 – How healthy is your home?

Research published in the *Psychological Science* journal of April 2013 revealed 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.¹

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 the AIR in your house could be making you ill: From drying washing to using a gas cooker, 15 million homes are affected by Toxic Home Syndrome – which increases the risk of heart disease and cancer.'²

The article reports on a pan-European study by the National Institute for Health and Welfare. The researchers identified 'Toxic Home Syndrome' as a condition that occurs when a person's health deteriorates due to the air circulating in their home. They suggest that a change in the way homes in Europe are ventilated could reduce the overall burden of disease by around 38 per cent.

Professor Peter Howarth, who specialises in allergy and respiratory medicine at Southampton University, makes this comment: 'I have seen many patients with serious health conditions due to pollutants within the home. . . . The lack of adequate ventilation within the home can also be associated with the build-up of non-allergenic

noxious fumes which are detrimental to health.'

The article summarises 10 tips to eliminate toxins and create a healthier home: 1. Ventilate – Ensure effective ventilation throughout your home. 2. Use eco-friendly products. These have fewer toxins and pollutants, making the air fresher and cleaner. 3. Use roll-on deodorants and other beauty products instead of those delivered by aerosol sprays. 4. Choose wood flooring, as carpets harbour dust, dust mites, pet hair, fungus and other harmful particles. 5. Switch off your various items of technology when you've finished using them. 6. Remove shoes when indoors to prevent spread of pollen, dirt and soil. 7. Radon: ensure your home is radon-free by getting it tested. 8. Ensure paint has dried completely before using a newly painted room. 9. Dry your washing outside, if possible. If not, ensure you open the windows while it is drying indoors. 10. Ensure shower curtains are changed regularly, avoiding vinyl, as this material harbours water and creates mould.

For more information visit www.myhealthmyhome.com for an interactive health assessment of your home.

Good health!

¹<http://www.webmd.boots.com/mental-health/news/20130423/green-spaces-good-for-health> ²<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2920391/How-AIR-house-making-ill-drying-washing-using-gas-cooker-15-million-homes-affected-Toxic-Home-Syndrome-increases-risk-heart-disease-cancer.html>



'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 the 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, courtesy of 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



'Enabling every child to hear the story of the Bible at school in their primary years.'

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 acting 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.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/open-the-book/>

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Applications deadline for this post: **15 September 2015.**

Scottish Mission Session notice

Following a Day of Fellowship in Crieff on Sabbath 3 October, the Triennial Session of the Scottish Mission will commence at 7.30pm in Crieff Church, continuing on Sunday 4 October. Delegates will have been contacted by the Scottish Mission office with their registration information. The report booklet will be made available electronically for the wider membership as well as delegates. The session will set the strategic goals for the Mission, and elect the Mission Executive Committee and the departmental sponsors for the next three years.

PASTOR PAUL LOCKHAM,
 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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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.

Andrew Puckering

'How were the core distinguishing doctrines of Seventh-day Adventists established?'

The core distinguishing doctrines of Seventh-day Adventism were also called 'landmark doctrines' by Ellen White, who listed them as follows: 'the cleansing of the sanctuary transpiring in heaven . . . the first and second angels' messages and the third, unfurling the banner on which was inscribed, "The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." One of the landmarks under this message was the temple of God, seen by His truth-loving people in heaven, and the ark containing the law of God. The light of the Sabbath . . . flashed its strong rays. . . . The nonimmortality of the wicked is an old landmark. I can call to mind nothing more. . . .¹ They may thus be enumerated as: 'a) the second coming of Christ; b) the heavenly sanctuary (including Christ's high-priestly ministry therein); c) "soul sleep" (conditional immortality, the non-immortality of the wicked); d) the seventh-day Sabbath, and the immutability of the Ten Commandments; and e) the three angels' messages'.²

How were these doctrines arrived at? The *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* states that this took place in 1848 during 'a series of meetings of "friends of the Sabbath" held in various places in New England and New York', at which 'leading brethren – James White, Joseph Bates, Stephen Pierce, Hiram Edson, and others unnamed – took advantage of their opportunity to study the Bible together to settle questions on various points of doctrine'.³ Prior to these meetings, opinions differed somewhat: in fact, 'There were hardly two agreed. Each was strenuous for his views, declaring that they were according to the Bible'.⁴ Bible study was crucial to forming a consensus, and continued 'until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word'.⁵

'During this whole time,' however, Ellen White herself 'could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend the meaning of the scriptures we were studying. This was one of the greatest sorrows of my life'.⁶ However, that made it all the more remarkable when she then had supernatural visions from God, clearly explaining the points they'd been studying: 'The Spirit of the Lord would come upon me, I would be taken off in vision, and a clear explanation of the passages we had been studying would be given me.' Furthermore, 'The brethren knew that when not in vision, I could not understand these matters, and they accepted as light direct from heaven the revelations given'.⁷

Thus, according to Denis Fortin of Andrews University, 'The visions tended to confirm or corroborate, when they were on the right track; or to correct, when they were on the wrong track; or to suggest new initiatives, when they were at an impasse, unable to go further. The visions were not a substitute for hard work, study, prayer, individual initiative'.⁸ In other words, the core Adventist beliefs, though subsequently confirmed through Ellen White's visions, came through prayerful study of the Bible.

¹Ellen G. White, *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pp. 30, 31 ²www.andrews.edu/~fortind/EGWDoctrines.htm ³*Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, M-Z, vol. 11 of the Commentary Reference Series, second revised edition, p. 507 ⁴Ellen G. White, *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, pp. 97, 98 ⁵Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 206 ⁶*Ibid.*, p. 207 ⁷*Ibid.*, pp. 206, 207 ⁸www.andrews.edu/~fortind/EGWDoctrines.htm

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

Our 'darkest hour' . . .

MESSENGER Editor, Julian Hibbert, takes a topsy-turvy look at the idea that our 'darkest times' are always the worst ones.

During 2016 the Winston Churchill epic, *Darkest Hour*, is expected to go into production. It is billed to be a memorable film, likely to cover a narrow slice of British history, 363 days between the fall of France in June 1940 and Germany's fateful invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. During this period Britain stood largely alone, supported only by the dominions, the Free French, various brave resistance groups, the Greeks and our dependable ally, the English Channel.¹

Churchill is credited with coining the phrase, 'the darkest hour', of which the darkest moment seems to have been 10 May 1941, 'when over 1,500 civilians died in Luftwaffe bombing raids on London alone'.² That figure would swell to 17,500 before the war ended, with a further 22,500 dying as a result of bombing elsewhere in the British Isles, and tens of thousands injured – many of them very badly.³ Some died in their beds, others in their basements. There were also those who died on their way to air raid shelters or on various errands of mercy. Truly, this

onslaught against these islands was our 'darkest hour'.

Darkness spread

While the Luftwaffe droned threateningly across our skies, hardship was spreading below in the form of rationing. Petrol rationing was introduced in September 1939, but by 8 January 1940, bacon, butter and sugar were listed too. This was followed by 'successive ration schemes for meat, tea, jam, biscuits, breakfast cereals, cheese, eggs, lard, milk and canned and dried fruit'. Fresh fruit and vegetables were not rationed but imported fruit all but disappeared, with lemons and bananas being 'unobtainable for most of the war'.⁴

The 'national loaf'

One of the most controversial aspects of rationing involved our 'daily bread'. It wasn't rationed during the war, but the 'national loaf' soon replaced the white loaf to which Britons had become accustomed. This new wholemeal substitute wasn't to the liking of most housewives. Not only was it 'mushy' and 'grey', but they also considered

it to be the cause of certain digestive problems (flatulence)! On top of this, it couldn't be sold to any customers 'until the day after it was baked: the stated reasons were to reduce usage because (1) it is difficult to slice just-baked bread thinly; (2) the tastiness of just-baked bread is likely to encourage people to eat it immoderately'.⁵

Fish and chips

Although fish was not rationed, the war had a massive impact on the fishing industry and the use of fish slumped to just 30% of pre-conflict levels. This, coupled with the use of 'low-quality fat' for cooking chips, caused a marked decline in the consumption of one of Britain's favourite dishes.⁶

Shopping for clothes

One aspect of our 'darkest hour' that often goes unmentioned is the impact the war had on our ability to clothe ourselves. War has an insatiable appetite for raw materials, and the British war effort was no exception. It hungrily swept up whatever it needed to keep the armed forces equipped, clothed and fed – and

on 1 June 1941 clothing was rationed.

The intention was that the points-system allowance introduced by the government would provide each person with 'approximately one new outfit per year'. But as the darkness of war deepened, the 'points were reduced until buying a coat used almost a year's clothing coupons'.⁷

The Oscar Wilde statement, 'Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months',⁸ was certainly not applicable during those wartime years. People had to patch, darn and alter what they had – or what they could buy at the growing number of second-hand shops.

Our 'darkest hour'

According to Sir Winston Churchill this was our 'darkest hour', and it certainly appears so. But it is also something else. It is what he also called Britain's 'finest hour' during a speech on 18 June 1940. Is there a contradiction here? How can a tragic event, a demoralising experience, or a set of dire circumstances be both our **darkest** and **finest** moments?

Perhaps the answer lies in a comment made by singer-songwriter, the late Phoebe Snow: 'Sometimes when you're overwhelmed by a situation – when you're in the darkest of darkness – that's when your priorities are reordered'.⁹

Could that be what happened to this nation in 1940? Did we reorder our priorities in the face of hardship, danger and death? Is this what helped our forebears to begin living less for themselves, and more for each other? Is that what set them on the road to ultimate victory?

Is there a possibility that the most important part of this reordering of priorities was Churchill's ability to put **hope** 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.

A silver lining

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 – discounting those deaths caused by the bombing – infant mortality declined and general life expectancy rose. Somehow, the simpler diet that rationing imposed on the nation; the hard work in both field and factory; and the extra walking caused by the restrictions to public transport – gave the clouds of our 'darkest hour' a silver lining!¹⁰

I don't know . . .

I don't know where your life is at the moment – but if you're human, you are probably not too far from a bit of gloom or darkness. You are either recovering from something unpleasant, or facing an experience like that in the future. Unfortunately, 'dark days' are one of life's realities. Fortunately for us, though, one of the most powerful resources during a 'dark day' experience is to **deepen our relationship with God**. After all, wasn't it His Son, Jesus, who described Himself in these words: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' (John 8:12, ESV.)

What if . . .

Common sense and realism, however, force us to consider this tough question: 'What if things don't work out for the better?'

What if the darkness persists? What if my illness doesn't go into remission? What if my spouse isn't willing to reconcile? What if I can't find work?

This is where we return to the wisdom of Phoebe Snow: 'Sometimes when you're overwhelmed by a situation – when you're in the darkest of darkness – that's when your priorities are reordered.'

It is a fact of life that **persistent darkness may require the progressive reordering of our priorities**.

Let me give you an example of what I mean. Some years ago I became friendly with an Adventist couple I will never forget, George and Jean. George was a Scot, a man of his word who had a sharp mind and a zest for life. Sadly, however, that zest caused him to take a bend too fast on his motorcycle, with life-changing consequences. Fortunately, although his paraplegia robbed him of the use of his legs, his arms and hands were fully functional.

Soon George was **reordering his priorities**. Walking was out but driving wasn't, and it wasn't long before he was back on the road in a suitably equipped car. There was no way that he could return to his career as an automobile mechanic, but there was nothing in the 'paraplegic manual' that prevented him servicing his own vehicle. Yes, believe it or not, George designed a clever contraption that allowed him to hoist himself up to a comfortable position over the engine bay, from where he changed the car's plugs, points and filters. He was then able to get underneath the car and drain the sump oil, and so on.

George found that there were still so many things that he could do for himself . . . and he did them.

Then the inevitable happened. George fell out of his wheelchair once too often and suffered a broken femur. The leg was duly amputated and George was **once again forced to reorder his priorities**. He wouldn't be able to service his car any more and long-distance driving was out, but he was looking forward to making those short trips to town again.

Something wasn't right, however. His stump was healing reasonably well but he was subject to an intermittent fever that the doctor couldn't control. Eventually they admitted him for an X-ray of his remaining leg, only to find that it was broken too!

George was now a double amputee and his general health began to deteriorate. He knew that it was a matter of time before medical science would have to give up on him. For one final time **George reordered his priorities**. He knew he was dying, but he was going to do so with dignity. No complaints. No regrets. No whimpering. This was from one perspective his 'darkest hour' – but from another, it was his 'finest' one ever!

So Winston got it right . . . your 'darkest hour' can also be your 'finest'!

¹<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/feb/06/churchill-drama-darkest-hour-the-theory-of-everything-anthony-mccarten> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Darkest_Hour ²<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/10454718/Records-of-WW2-civilian-war-dead-published-online.html> ³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rationing_in_the_United_Kingdom ⁴<http://www.marieclaire.co.uk/blogs/542820/the-40-best-style-quotes-of-all-time.html#44XK607QHdLmz0w.99> ⁵http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/p/phoebe_snow.html ⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rationing_in_the_United_Kingdom

Re: GC Session articles

Dear Editor,
On pages 8 and 9 of the *MESSENGER* of 31 July 2015, you featured two articles: namely, 'GC Session 2015 – A personal perspective' and 'Remember the Alamo!' 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 who is it in the BUC that is in support of women's ordination?

What I have noticed is that this view is being drilled from administrators down to members. This begs the question: Have the BUC or local conferences consulted local members on this issue and fully discussed it? Since I moved to the UK 14 years ago, I have neither seen nor heard such consultations taking place in my conference or neighbouring conferences. It seems that the membership 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 that of 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.' (Source: adventist.org.uk/news.)

However, here is what is lacking in most responses that I have read, in particular the ones in the *MESSENGER* magazine, hence my writing: Why does the BUC have to abide by the 'No' vote for women's ordination to Gospel ministry at the General Conference Session 2015?

Each person 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, the judgement of the brethren 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.

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 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 adhere 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.

CHIM NUKA

**MESSENGER* opened a congenially conducted dialogue on the matter of women's ordination in the 2 May issue of last year, and provided our members with the website details for all the submissions to the GC-appointed Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC). During that dialogue, between 2 May and 4 July 2014, we published six lengthy submissions from both sides of the debate. On 15 August 2014 we also offered to send our readers any of the submissions we received after the close of the dialogue period. Editor



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 Tremeer 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 Tremeer 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 Watkins. 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 Votaw in Rangoon. My grandfather was baptised two years later and they became missionaries 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 Gillsons, 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)

Leamington baptisms

Sabbath 4 July was a special day for Leamington Church. The church was full as everyone celebrated the baptism of three young men. As well as the congregation there were also family members and friends present to support the baptismal candidates, some of whom were in a Seventh-day Adventist church for the first time.

They were baptised by Pastors Paul Haworth and Milan Gugleta, and the first candidates to enter the baptismal waters were two teenage brothers, Ben and Jon Turrell. The Turrell family started coming to Leamington Mission about a year ago. Before their baptism, Stacey, their mum, gave a brief testimony of how the boys came to their decision.

Apparently, in their home they have a saying, 'Nothing before its time'. Two years earlier Ben and Jon had begun Bible studies, but had recently resumed them and made their individual decisions – now was the right time and place to walk with God! Pastor Paul Haworth had known them when they were young and attended the Erdington church. He had dedicated Jon as a tiny baby, and returned 15 years later to baptise him.

The third candidate was Phil Clifford. Phil plans to get married later this year to his Adventist fiancée, Tallulah Lombard. Although Tallulah has provided much motivation and encouragement for Phil's decision, the minister reported that during his Bible studies Phil had shown a good understanding of the Church's beliefs and shown a deep personal desire for baptism. It was truly a wonderful event to have three young men accepting Christ as their Saviour in this way.

LORRAINE GLINTON



Pastors Milan Gugleta and Paul Haworth baptise Jon Turrell



Pastors Milan Gugleta and Paul Haworth baptise Phil Clifford



Left to right: Jeruel MacLean, Joy Hudson, Pastor Michael Anim.

Baptism, rededication . . . more promised!

At Milton Keynes Central Church two people recently sealed their decisions for Christ through baptism. One was 12-year-old Jeruel MacLean, who asked to be baptised when about 10 years of age, but patiently allowed himself to be instructed first. No doubt he will be fighting a more important battle under the banner of Christ than any of his Highland forbears did under the banner of the MacLeans of Duart.

For Joy Hudson, baptised 27 years earlier, it was a time when she felt she had to publicly rededicate her life to God. She has already given sterling service in the running of the Wolverton Branch Sabbath School.

Both candidates were baptised by Pastor Michael Anim, whose subsequent appeal resulted in eight raised hands, one of which was that of a young girl hardly old enough for school. She went so far as to scramble onto the platform to be noticed! In God's good time we shall see them marking their public profession of faith through baptism too.

BARRY GOWLAND



Joy in Cheltenham

On Sabbath, 30 May, Cheltenham church members had a joyful afternoon at Cambray Baptist Church (kindly lent to us for the day) to witness the baptism of four young ladies. Naomi (17) and Rebecca Haley (16) were both baptised by their grandfather, Pastor Paul Lockham, BUC executive secretary, who had a huge smile on his face all afternoon. Then, Abigail Hatala (13) was baptised by our former pastor, Mick Smart. Finally, Sarah Shepley (14) was baptised by her father, our local pastor, James Shepley. Around 150 friends and family had come from all parts of the UK to witness the event, including people from Holland, Belgium and Portugal. Many of the visitors had never witnessed a baptism by immersion. There was praise and worship, along with a homily from Pastor Smart about the value and worth added to our lives when we get into a relationship with Christ. He reiterated to the candidates that no matter what circumstances may arise in their lives (good or bad), God will always be with them if they invite Him to be.

JILL SWAINSON (COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)



Telford Ghana: three baptised

On Saturday 4 July, Miss Anna Amo, Mrs Margaret Dadzie and Mr Philip Addo took a bold step in their walk with Jesus Christ by way of baptism. The service was held in the Shrewsbury church as the Telford Ghana fellowship does not yet have its own building. The event was well attended by members of the Telford Ghana fellowship, with Shrewsbury members also giving their support. The baptism was conducted by Sampson Osei-Sibey Aboagye, who is currently leading the Telford Ghana fellowship, supported by Pastor Nenad Didara, the new district pastor for Shrewsbury and Telford. Please pray for God's continuing guidance for these individuals as they grow in His grace.

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE (PRESIDENT, WELSH MISSION)



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 at the hands of Pastor Tim Zestic. It was an emotional day for Palagia from Zimbabwe, who was well supported by family and friends. She was joined by Millie Niel from Bognor Regis and Andrew Hemming from the Isle of White.

MARY MWITA (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)

Othniel dedicated

Langley Church celebrated the dedication of Othniel, child of Alex and Kavita, on 13 June. It was also his first birthday and Stephen Joseph composed a special dedication song, which was sung by the congregation. Pastor S. M. Gill officiated in the dedication.

ROHEET SUBRAI





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 Westcarr, 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 50 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)

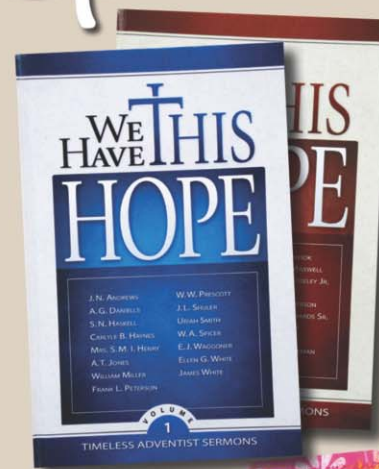


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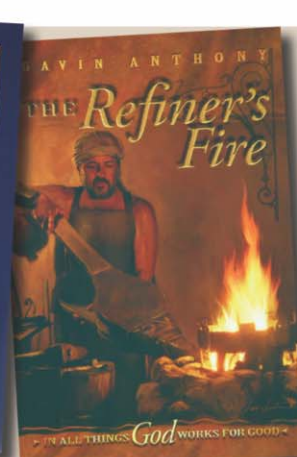
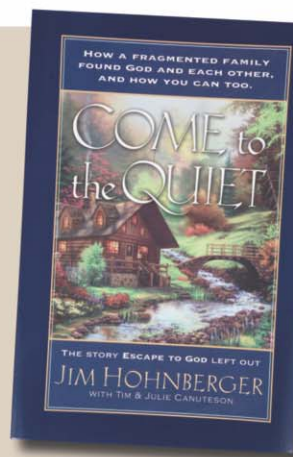
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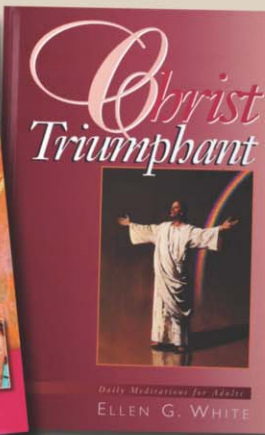


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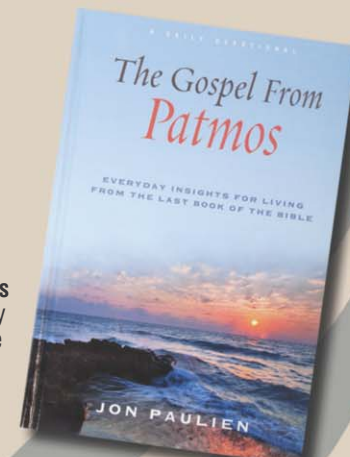
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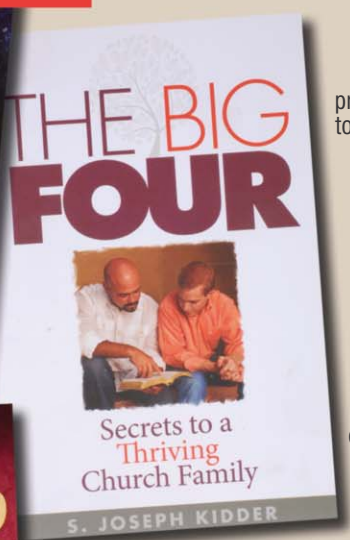
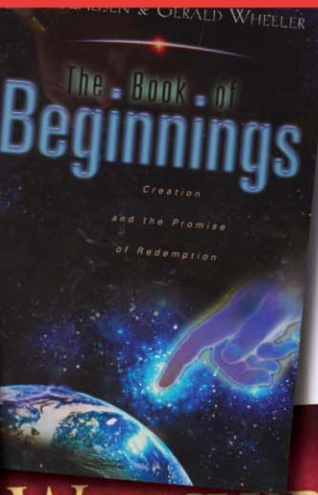
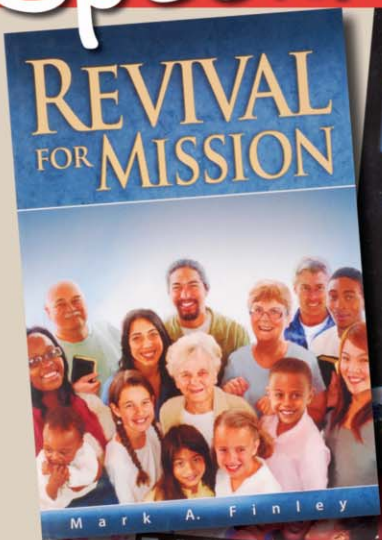


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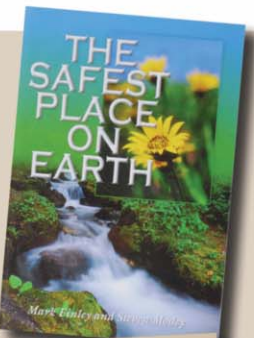
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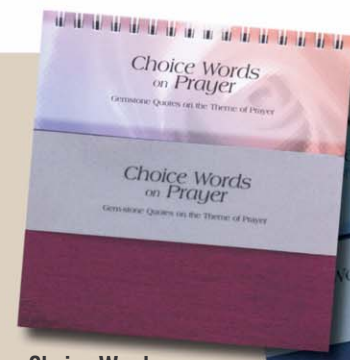
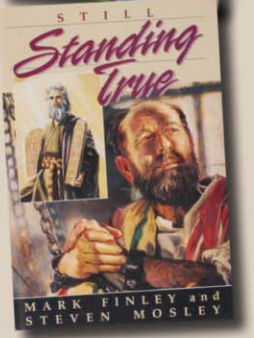
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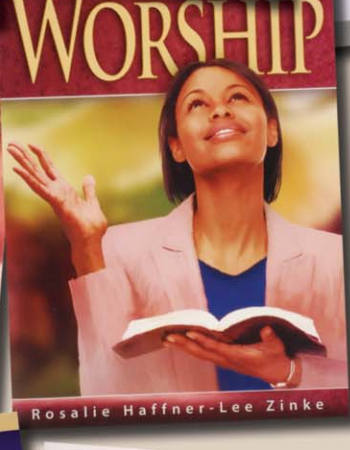
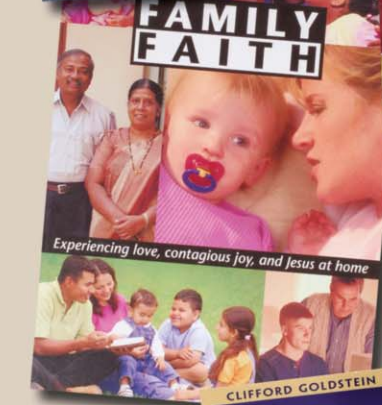
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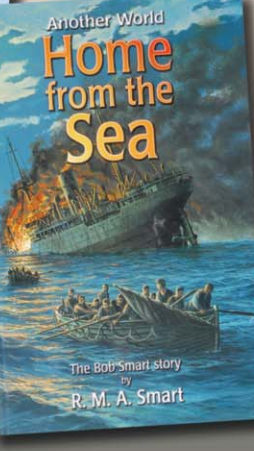
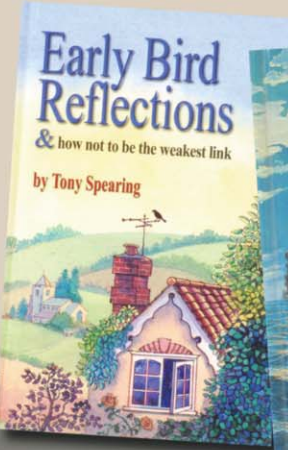
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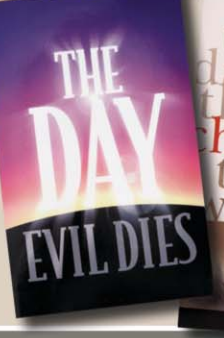
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Open Day 2015 marks the launch of a new food brand, Cedar Lake!

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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!



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Open Day transport: Brother Hubert Smiley is arranging the usual coach transport to the Stanborough Press Open Day, 13 September, from both London (Croydon, Brixton, Battersea and Fulham) and the West Midlands (Pendeford, Wolverhampton, Great Brickkiln, Walsall, Handsworth and Camp Hill). For details, including fares, please phone 07868288310 or 01384213803, or email hubert.smiley18@gmail.com. Failing those methods, dial 07831958114 or 07736509625.

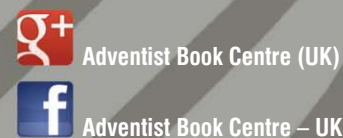
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Adventist pastor leads Churches Together in Rhyl

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 Cytûn, 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 Cytûn medallion, 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 SURRIDGE (PRESIDENT, WELSH MISSION)

An earnest appeal from the MESSENGER 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! Please help us to give you a quality magazine at all times.



THE EDITOR



Centre for Religious and Cultural Diversity Presents

THE SEPTEMBER DIVERSITY LECTURE



Pastor Raafat Kamal
 President, Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists

A Diverse Future for a Diverse Church

Tuesday 22 September 2015
 Please note revised date

7.30pm
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Centre for Christian Leadership

Newbold's Centre for Christian Leadership aims to provide an opportunity for church members and those in leadership positions to enhance their skills and knowledge in spiritual, educational and social ministry through the practical and theoretical short and intensive courses it offers.

Children of Ishmael and Adventist Relations

Friday 4 September 2015 - FREE!
 Facilitated by Dr Petras Bahadur (Director of the Global Centre for Adventist-Muslim Relations, General Conference) and Dr Lester Merklin (former director of the Global Centre for Adventist-Muslim Relations, General Conference).

Flowers for Worship

Sunday 13 September 2015 - from £31
 This is a half-day workshop on flower arranging for ministry, taught by Audrey Balderstone, recent winner of a gold medal at the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show. Flowers are a reminder of God's creative power and should be as much a part of the worship experience as hymns and prayers. They can set the mood or tell a story, and enhance the place of worship. This workshop is designed to help flower arrangers make the most of their limited budgets while producing arrangements which are powerful witnesses to the beauty of creation.

Sabbath School Teacher Training Certificate

Sunday 6 September, 27 September, and 1 November 2015 - from £98 for all three parts
 This workshop will be offered over three Sundays in 2015. It is designed to help participants to plan and teach Adult Sabbath School lessons that are interesting, interactive, and spiritually uplifting. The certificate is offered in three parts, with participants able to complete Part 1, Parts 1 and 2, or Parts 1, 2 and 3. All three parts must be completed to be awarded the certificate.

Spiritual Development in Theory and Praxis

Sunday 4 October 2015 - from £24
 Explore patterns in literature and match them with persons in the Bible and your own spiritual experience. This workshop, with Pastor Manfred Lemke, will be an opportunity to explore personal spirituality in comparison with the experience of others, be they fellow participants or examples in literature or the Bible.

For more information, or to register, please visit the Centre for Christian Leadership website at www.newbold.ac.uk/centre-christian-leadership. Sign up to our email newsletter to keep up to date with courses and workshops.



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 Hulbert. 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



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



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 LORD, "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.

FLO SUTHERLAND



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 Vierra.

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

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



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 1JQ, and visitors are welcome.

GABRIEL KWAYIE



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PARENTING EMPHASIS

WEEKEND (Area 6)

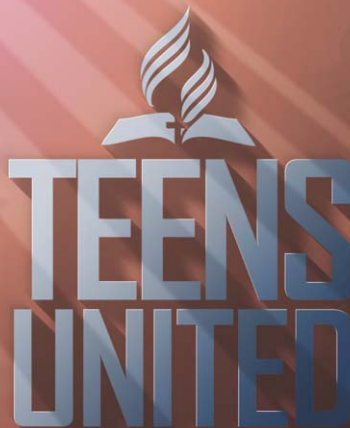
WHEN: Saturday, 19th Sept. 2015
9:30am - 6:15pm
Sunday, 20th Sept. 2015
10am - 3pm

WHERE: Wolverhampton Central Seventh-day Adventist Church
Warwick Street, Horsley Fields
Wolverhampton WV1 3SD

GUEST SPEAKERS:
Clair Sanches (TED Children's & Family Ministries Director) & Dr. John Sanches

Contact NEC Children's Ministries Dept. on 0115 9606 312 or visit www.necadventist.org.uk.

TRAIN ...up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6



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Behind the scenes . . .

by Lara Venter



I have been working for the church for about half of my working life and have taught in three separate Seventh-day Adventist secondary schools: two in South Africa and one in the UK. Teaching mathematics to young people has been fulfilling and exciting and I will always look back at those I have taught with fond memories. After 16 years of teaching I decided on a career change and started 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! It is lovely to be in a position, 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-I-can-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 am proud to work for an organisation that inspires this!



Bright and beautiful campers!

On Sabbath, 20 June, the Swindon Adventurers held their first-ever overnight camp at the church hall.

The well-supported programme ran under the theme, 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'. Kids' praise songs and action songs really got the children involved, followed by a very gripping Bible quiz, a sumptuous supper and vespers.

Fifteen energised children with seven helpers finished the night with games and reluctantly retired into their sleeping bags, persuaded by the promise of awards the following day at Lydiard Park.

Three awards were earned and the day ended on a high with a church picnic on Father's Day.

See the activities on the Swindon SDA YouTube channel.

ROXANNE WATSON

Amazing weekend for couples

The Rekindle the Spark couples' retreat organised by Linda Mukwada at Wokefield Park, Reading, over the last weekend of May, was an amazing, fun-filled, inspiring and spiritual event. The retreat was opened by Pastor Sam Davis and his wife, Rowena. It has become an unmissable annual event that draws couples from across the UK,

obituary

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

Dr Ruth Lennox passed away on Monday, 20 July, 2015 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. During her long struggle with Parkinson's disease, Ruth determinedly made the best of her circumstances and lived each day with kindness, love, and faith.



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

She was a beloved and generous wife, mother, sister, and grandmother. In addition to this, Ruth was an extraordinary physician, innovative nursing and midwife instructor, and committed church leader. She graduated from Durham University Medical School in

including an increasing number of non-members, who say that they don't need invitations to this event any more as they have taken the initiative to invite their own friends every year!

Some Adventist couples have been introduced to this retreat by non-Adventists. A couple from Birmingham said they expressed shock that their Adventist friends had not heard of this retreat and made sure that they also attended. This year a record 230 people attended; the youngest had been married for just 18 months, while some had been together over 40 years.

Renowned USA preacher and presenter Dr Charles Wesley Knight and his wife Stephanie enthralled the couples with highly spiritual messages that were delivered in a professional and highly engaging manner. The president of Oakwood University, Dr Leslie Pollard, and his wife, Dr Prudence Pollard, were also present to promote their university. The guests of honour for the fun-filled Sabbath evening banquet, punctuated with humour and deeply reflective moments, were the head teacher of Stanborough School, Lorraine Dickinson, and her husband Karl.

Heather, who was staying at the hotel to attend a different conference due to start later that weekend, made the 'mistake' of wandering into the auditorium for one of the initial presentations and ended up attending many of the sessions. According to her the messages were frank, open, insightful and spiritual. She even requested a three-and-a-half-hour Bible study after she discovered some new biblical truths, stating that she was going to stop the imminent launch of a book that she had authored in order to include some of these new 'Bible' discoveries.

Attendees gave the following feedback about the retreat:

Calvin Mazengwe was approached by a visiting couple who found the issue of the Sabbath intriguing and subsequently requested Bible studies to further investigate it.

Vivian and Doreen Maravanyika from Colnbrook, who were invited by their Adventist uncle, found the event an eye-opener. Doreen stated, 'I didn't know myself as much as I do now and that can only help my relationship.' They both conceded that they now have an arsenal with which to fight conflicts and threats to their relationship and that they have rediscovered why they got married.

A non-Adventist pastor from the International Life Centre Church in Leicester, Pastor Charles Goredema, and his wife Rutendo, stated that they found this event very practical and they felt equipped to grow their own love and marriage and that of others in their own congregation. Another couple confessed that this retreat had saved their marriage as they had increasingly grown apart and were at breaking point as love for each other had completely vanished.

ANDREW CHENGE

What is your true identity?

Are people surprised or confused when they learn that you are a Christian? Young people were confronted with this question during Education Day at the Hackney church last month. The theme, entitled 'True Identity', addressed some of the challenges young people face when leaving home to attend university.

The guest speaker, Pastor Paul King Brown, said, 'Everyone wants to be associated with something of the highest value and be the best.

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 pioneer, Ruth's life was marked by a number of significant firsts. John and Ruth were the first physicians in Chetwynd, British Columbia, Canada, and developed the first hospital there. Ruth was also the first female doctor in Abbotsford, 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 extensive contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church

included volunteering as the first Women's Ministries co-ordinator for the British Columbia Conference, where she established, and then helped to fund, this ministry. She also served for many years as head elder of the Abbotsford congregation.

Ruth is survived by her husband, John; daughter, Annette Hubbard; sons, Philip Lennox and David Lennox; brother, Anthony Welch; and granddaughters, Kelsey Lennox, Sarah Lennox, Carissa Hubbard, and Hannah Lennox.

Services were held on Saturday, 25 July, 2015 at Henderson's Funeral Home in Abbotsford, British Columbia, with interment at Hazelwood Cemetery.

DAVID LENNOX



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 Productions play 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.

DARELL PHILIP





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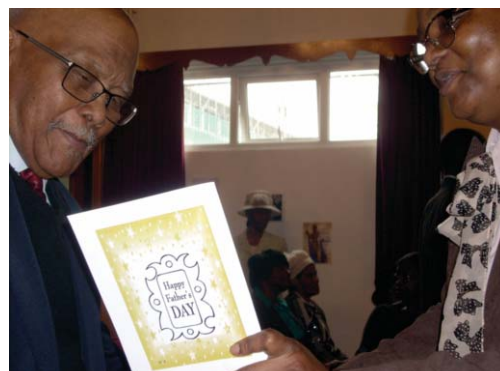
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Father's Day in Hackney

During the weekend of 20 June Father's Day was celebrated at the Hackney Seventh-day Adventist church. Sabbath School superintendent, Maria Vinas, shared a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted a father's roles: '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.

DARELL PHILIP

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.

ALYCIA HANSON (WMM LEADER)

Messenger

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Aug 28	7.57	8.09	8.04	8.18	8.26
Sept 4	7.41	7.53	7.47	8.00	8.09
11	7.25	7.37	7.31	7.42	7.51
18	7.09	7.21	7.14	7.24	7.34

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