

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

Messenger

News to the churches • 5 August 2016 • Volume 121 • 15

NEC Camp Meeting 2016

by Pastor Jeff Nicholson (Acting NEC Communication Director)

Photos by:
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Pastor Lorance Johnson



Camp Meeting – a family affair

The headline for the North England Conference Camp Meeting in 2016 was, 'Our Identity, Our Mission'. The 'hidden agenda', revealed across children's, youth, health, prayer and Sabbath School ministries, as well as by the keynote speakers, was that our identity comes from Jesus and our mission is directed by Jesus.

Pastor Lorance Johnson, the North England Conference President, had a particular understanding of this. To paraphrase him there is a fear that people are losing track of our mission. We are losing sight of the relevance of the three angels' messages. When we truly know our identity we will truly know our mission.

The children met under the leadership of Pastor Patricia Douglas, who, with the largest team at Camp Meeting, set out to help the children know what it means to be fishers of men and how to become one. According to more than one of her helpers, 'Children's ministries is the best part of Camp Meeting.'

Dr Georgina Miller, a child of the NEC but trained across the Atlantic, shared her passion for God across the entire age range. For the tines she used short video clips to excite attention and then action and role play to help even the youngest to know who they could choose to best identify with.

It was obvious that this large team were as

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Pastor John Ferguson



Chad Kreuzer



6-12s – enlisted disciples, fishers of men . . .

the best you can be: body mind spirit

HEALTHfest
27 & 28 AUGUST 2016 LONDONwith TV's Dr Chidi
as seen on BBC, ITV & Sky

Ruach 27 August from 10.00am

THE BIBLE'S HEALTH MESSAGE
Why it Matters More Than Ever

- ★ *Back to Eden* drama
- ★ Hymns for Healing
- ★ Ask the Expert with Dr Chidi
- ★ Pastor Ian Sweeney - Why Health Matters

Ruach, Goumont State Theatre
197-199 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 7HY
www.healthfest.org.uk

Premier.

Leaders in Christian Communications

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Troxy 28 August from 1.00pm

HEALTH, HEALING & HOPE
Taking Health to the Community

- ★ Beat Diabetes with Dr Chidi
- ★ Free Health Checks & seminars
- ★ Healthy Weight Loss demo
- ★ Stressbusters for Londoners

Premiere of
Mervyn Weir's
musical drama
6.00-8.00pmTroxy, 490 Commercial Rd
London, E1 0HXSEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

ONE LIFE

The Best You Can Be: Body Mind Spirit

"I have come so that people may LIVE and
that they may enjoy LIFE to the full"

JOHN 10:10 - @ Worldwide English



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editorial

Ali had a point

Julian Hibbert
Editor

If someone is described as 'larger than life', it is because 'that person attracts a lot of attention' and is 'more exciting or interesting than most people'.¹ Muhammad Ali, who died earlier this year, was an example of this. He was larger than life in so many ways, becoming a legend both inside and outside the ring. In fact, it would be fair to say that Ali was as committed to the cause of equality and justice as he was to his boxing.

It seems that Ali, from early on in his career, had a definite code according to which he wished to live his life. This is what he said during a 1974 interview with Sir David Frost, when asked how he wanted people to remember him:

*"I'd like for them to say: He took a few cups of love. He took one tablespoon of patience, one teaspoon of generosity, one pint of kindness. He took one quart of laughter, one pinch of concern. And then, he mixed willingness with happiness. He added lots of faith, and he stirred it up well. Then he spread it over a span of a lifetime, and he served it to each and every deserving person he met."*²

Ali was no angel!

Now don't read me wrong. I am not suggesting that Ali was a paragon of virtue, by any means. On the other hand, let's give credit where it is due, for buried in the heart of his recipe for living is something that I can confirm: that those who add a 'pint of kindness' to the way they live life, will be fondly remembered.

I have searched my memory for those 'pint of kindness' people who have enriched my own life. There are many, but space constrains me to mention just a few.

A cheque

The funding of my theological studies was a collaborative effort. I worked as a literature evangelist during my holidays and at various college jobs during the academic term. Whatever I earned was credited to my college account and Dad graciously made up the difference, along with a provision for clothes and pocket money. To be honest, for most of my fellow students life was pretty much the same and there was little latitude for luxuries.

In those days we regarded the Wimpy as a 'real restaurant', to which you might occasionally take your date for a two-course meal of a 'toastie and shake'! With this in mind you will appreciate how I felt the day I received an unexpected letter from someone in my hometown. It contained a cheque in my name for a sizeable amount of money to be used towards my expenses!

Nothing like this had happened before. Nobody had ever sent me such a generous gift. I was humbled but grateful, not just for the unexpected funding but for the letter's kind sentiments. By his actions the donor had expressed confidence in my future, a kindness I will never forget.

A coat

During my third year of ministry I was entrusted with my first district, an extensive one. This necessitated the purchase of a second car for Elize to use, and because funds were tight I decided to bid for an abandoned or stolen one at the next Police Pound auction. That is how we became the owners of a little blue mini. It was a great car and it served us well. But like most minis of its age it suffered from one bothersome fault: its heater was an ornament!

That shortcoming aside, I preferred this little runabout for my visitation, both because of its economy and the unique driving experience that only a mini can deliver. During the winter months, however, it became an ice cube. (It may surprise you to know that the average low for Johannesburg during June and July is 4 degrees C, with regular and heavy frost.) It was during those winter months of 1976 that I experienced a kindness that the passage of time cannot dim.

It happened after a board meeting, as the members were heading off to their cars. The head elder, a gentle-mannered man, politely asked me to stay behind for a moment. Then he produced a package and asked me to open it. I did so and was left holding a winter overcoat of the finest cut and weave!

"Pastor, I hope you won't take offence at this gift. But we noticed that you hadn't yet bought one for yourself," said Andy Kaiser. *"I'm sure it will make your night visits a lot warmer."* It did! But more than that, it still brings a warm feeling to my heart to think that my members cared that much about their young (cash-strapped) pastor.

Hello . . .

Sometimes a 'pint of kindness' may arrive in an envelope or come wrapped in a package. Kindness, however, may come disguised in many other forms. Let me tell you briefly about one that began with a simple greeting: 'Hello,' he said, *'you must be Pastor Hibbert.'*

I was standing alone in the swirling crowd at one of those union-wide church 'convocations' – an event where everyone seems to know everyone else, except you! I felt disconnected, alone and uncomfortable, and he, noticing my predicament, stepped forward to formally make my acquaintance.

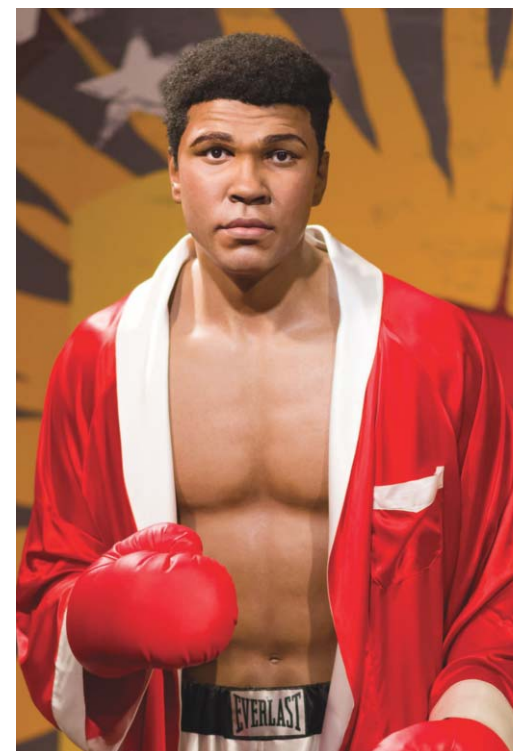
The man who said 'Hello' was the union treasurer, and that day he pushed a 'pint of kindness' my way! That kindness nurtured a respectful friendship for the next two decades or so . . . until, as his pastor, I was able to reciprocate that kindness during his sunset years.

Ali had a point . . .

Ali had a point about that 'pint of kindness', but then so did the apostle Paul. This was his simple recipe for a life to be remembered:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12, NIV-UK (emphasis supplied).

Why not try making 'kindness' memories for others? Ones you'll remember too!

¹ <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/larger-than-life>² http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/how-muhammad-ali-wanted-to-be-remembered_us_5752e6a2e4b0ed593f148e2b

Enhancing Health

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

Are you in pain? Part 2 – Chronic pain causes

Pain is the body's signal that something could be wrong. So when we feel pain, what is really going on? This issue addresses that question and provides some new research on the causes of chronic pain.

In part 1 we highlighted research on the extent to which people in the UK suffer chronic pain. 'Chronic pain affects between one-third and one-half of the population of the UK, corresponding to just under 28 million adults, based on data from the best available published studies. This figure is likely to increase further in line with an ageing population.'¹

So what makes us sense pain? In acute pain (for example, when we suffer an injury), pain signals are sent (like an electric current) from nerve cells at the site of the injury to the spinal cord, which passes the signals on for distribution throughout the brain. In people with chronic pain, however, their nerve cells continue to transmit pain signals to the brain even when there is no injury.

A new study published in *The Journal of Neuroscience* suggests that the brain chemical dopamine may play a role in maintaining chronic pain; however, more research is needed before conclusions can be drawn.²

One suggested cause for chronic pain comes from new research on vitamin D deficiency. The UK's University of Manchester analysed

data on over 2,300 men in the European Male Ageing Study. The results indicated that the men with vitamin D deficiency at the start of the study were twice as likely to experience chronic widespread pain as those with adequate levels of the vitamin.³

Studies have also looked at factors such as stress, inflammation, diet and exercise and how they impact chronic pain.

One recent study, cited in the *Independent* of 21 June 2016, highlighted the link between inflammation and pain. It suggested that pain associated with menstrual cramps may be caused by acute inflammation. This was measured by the presence of a blood inflammatory marker called C-reactive protein (CRP). CRP is a protein produced by the liver, the levels of which rise when inflammation is present in the body.⁴

In the next issue we further examine the causes of pain, followed in part 4 with some suggested treatments.

Good health!

¹ <http://www.nhs.uk/news/2016/06/June/Pages/Almost-half-of-all-UK-adults-may-be-living-with-chronic-pain.aspx>² <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/293713.php>³ <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/275615.php>⁴ <http://www.nhs.uk/news/2016/06/June/Pages/Study-suggests-that-inflammation-is-behind-period-pain.aspx>



Above and below: baptismal candidates.



'Take me to the water . . .'

On 21 May 10 candidates from various Manchester district churches were baptised at the Manchester South church. Among them was Simren Loveline Sathe from Manchester Southern Asia Church, who gave her life to Jesus on the last day of her twelfth year. Although she had previously expressed a desire to be baptised at the age of 16, during an evangelistic campaign in Manchester Simren decided to be baptised after an altar call made by Pastor Glen Samuels. Bible studies by Rose Gomez followed in preparation for the event.

At her baptism she sang, 'Take me to the water to be baptised' just before entering the water herself. It was a joyous occasion for the Sathe family as her father, Sanjay Sathe, had the rare privilege of accompanying Pastor Fred Mapp into the baptismal pool. Her 7-year-old sister Sanjana Lavinia read her favourite Bible text, Philippians 4:13, and the Manchester Southern Asia Children's Choir sang, 'I've a home beyond the river'.

DIAMOND SATHE (COMMUNICATION SECRETARY, MANCHESTER SOUTHERN ASIA CHURCH)



Evangelist, Carlton Knott, with newly baptised members of Polish and Estonian background.



Something amazing!

Something amazing and extraordinary happened in Slough Central Church on Sabbath 2 July. Two weeks of meetings conducted by Carlton Knott, an evangelist from Florida, USA, culminated in a most abundant harvest: one that was beyond our dreams, but not the Holy Spirit's reach. This church, with a membership of only 120, witnessed the baptism of 28 souls for Christ that Sabbath, and they came from a wide range of ages, cultures and backgrounds.

Pastor Knott preached tirelessly every evening for the entire fortnight with exceptional energy and engaging messages. He was supported by the Personal Ministries team leader, Shingai Huwa; elders, Armstrong Mvura and Obert Musa; postgraduate student, Sasa Gutu; and the rest of the pastoral team (elders, deacons and media specialists). The church members gave their support by making sure that hardly a seat was left unoccupied for the duration of this marvellous experience. To God be the glory!

PASTOR SINISA HORVAT



Tyla's testimony

The 18th of June was a very special Sabbath for the Hemel Hempstead congregation. The church was packed full of young people who were there to support Tyla Hamilton in his decision to get baptised. We had visitors from all over England there to enjoy the day with us, which concluded with an afternoon/evening social for about 50 teenagers. Our church is blessed to have Tyla as a member. He is always cheerful, helpful and willing to get involved. What follows is his testimony:

'My name is Tyla Hamilton. When I was a kid I never really thought about Jesus or church and worshipping God. When I was nine, my friend Jordan Lucas invited me to his church. I was nervous about going as I had never been before and I didn't know what to expect, but since that day I have kept attending. Every week I tried my hardest to get to church, and the more I went, the more I learned. My pastors at the time were the amazing Jacques Venter and his intern, Daniel Thompson. Without these pastors I don't think I would still be here today. I know that God sent them to guide me on my path.'

'After they left, I felt like I was moving far away from God and I didn't always feel positive but then the news came that we were getting a new pastor. We were blessed with Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, who has been amazing with our teens group. On her first



visit to the church I showed her around and explained everything that needed to be done. When she found out I wasn't baptised she was surprised and made it her mission to get me lessons and have me baptised. Because of the role he played in my life, I asked the person

who kept me in church, Daniel Thompson, to baptise me. I'm looking forward to continuing my experience with God as I take part this December in a mission trip to South Africa with the Hemel Hempstead youth group.

KAREN PLAATJES

The South England Conference welcomes expressions of interest for the post of Conference Treasurer

Reporting to the President and Board of Trustees, the Treasurer will be required to serve in this elected role until September 2019.

We are currently seeking an experienced treasurer to lead out in the continuing transformation of the South England Conference's treasury functions. The treasurer will ensure the efficiency of the treasury team, and be responsible for implementation of the financial strategic direction of the Conference; along with the management and execution of all treasury transactions, reporting, cash flow, projections, accounting, the maintaining and reviewing of treasury policies and procedures and the management of security.

To be successful, you should:

- Be a fully qualified chartered accountant
- Have at least 5 years' relevant and proven management experience

We are looking for someone:

- With the ability to develop good working relationships, along with the skills to communicate and manage our treasury team
- With the experience of working within the charitable sector
- With the ability to develop good working relationships with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders
- Willing to adhere to the values and ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

If you have the right skills and level of commitment to be successful in this role, we would like to hear from you. Please send your CV and supporting statement to: Mrs Jacqui Crawford, Human Resources Manager of the South England Conference, jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk (telephone: 01923 232 728). If you require a job description it may be obtained from the same source.

All appointments are subject to satisfactory references, a medical, and a successful Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Applicants are required to have the right to work within the United Kingdom.

The decision to elect will rest with the Executive Committee of the South England Conference.

The closing date for applications will be 31 August 2016.

WELSH MISSION TRIENNIAL SESSION
Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 16 October in the Swansea Seventh-day Adventist church. Registration will take place in the church from 8.30 to 9.30am, and delegates must register before participating in the proceedings of the Session.

E. Bran (President) and P. Lockham
(Interim Mission Secretary)

PHOTO BY VICTOR HULBERT



Ten ordained to Gospel ministry

by Pastor Sam Davies, SEC Communication Director

On Sabbath afternoon, 2 July, at Newbold auditorium, the Church ordained ten ministers before a packed audience. One of them, Jonathan Burnett, responded on their behalf by acknowledging both their unworthiness to the calling and their commitment to preach 'the message of the cross', which is 'foolishness to those who are perishing' but the 'power of God' to those who are being saved! (1 Corinthians 1:18, NIV-UK.)

During the affirming ceremony, the ordinands were accompanied by their wives and introduced in turn by their chosen mentors, who shared their particular giftedness for the Gospel ministry and then commended them for their ordination.

Nine of the ordinands are employees of the South England Conference, while Alistair Agbaje, though a son of the SEC, is the chaplain at Newbold College. The others are Vili Costescu (SEC Media Director and assistant pastor of Newbold Church); Rio Espulgar (Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft Church); Vaughn Thorpe (Leytonstone and Ilford Lane); Anthony Fuller (SEC Youth Director); Andrei Balan (London Russian

and Watford Town); Andrew Layland (Southampton and Guildford); Matthew Herel (Horley Gatwick and Redhill); Andrew Davis (Newbold Church); and Jonathan Burnett (Oxford, Aylesbury and Filipino Group).

The introductions were as light-hearted as they were inspiring, generating laughter, awakening curiosity and providing some history about the journey to ministry each one has taken. For example, as the former SEC president, Pastor Sam Davies, shared his delight over the ordination of his son, Andrew, he narrated in a light-hearted manner his frustration over a secret desire he had for his son to become a pastor. He revealed the twists and turns Andrew's career path had taken, including his resolve to become a fashion designer! This caused him to give up any hope of him becoming a pastor. However, he was full of joy at Andrew's eventual decision to study for the Gospel ministry.

The ordination speaker, Lt. Aman Joseph Grant of the US Navy, challenged the ordinands to go back to the Bible for their doctrine and their practice of ministry. He also urged them to balance their commitment to

ministry and that which their wives were due.

In her address to the spouses, Mrs Laura Osei reminded them that they were also called to the ministry. She said, 'God looked at the qualities and attributes of your spouse and God saw that he was lonely, just like Adam. There was a gap that needed to be filled, and He provided a beautiful "filler". Someone that he could hold when he has just returned home after having had a battering by the church board. God wanted a "filler" that had lips to kiss away his stress after a business meeting.'

Mrs Osei said that spouses must remember who they are and not try to be a clone of someone else. She concluded by inviting the Ministerial Wives' Association to present gifts to all the spouses.

The service was conducted by church officers from the TED, the BUC and the SEC.

In an interview with the ordinands after the service, the overwhelming response to the question of what the day meant to them was, 'The joy of being recognised by the church with regard to their calling to the Gospel ministry, for which they are grateful.'

stop press

Fresh faces at the NEC

A brief introduction

Here is a brief introduction of the three new North England Conference administrators who were voted into office on 24 July at the session in Bolton.

President

Pastor Richard Jackson, outgoing NEC Ministerial Association Secretary, and his wife Angela, have served the church in several different roles both in the UK and the Caribbean.

In his response to the appointment he told delegates that his focus will be on evangelism and that he will work with the churches of the NEC to realise this outcome. He went on to say, 'Our goal on earth is heaven. Whatever we do has to be done in the context of heaven . . . we will not wrestle with any situation unless God be in the midst.'

Pastor Jackson also reminded the church to continue to pray for his family and the pastors of the NEC.

Executive Secretary

The new NEC Executive Secretary, Pastor Alan Hush, hails from the far north of England. Alan is a theology graduate of Newbold College of Higher Education and has served in the conference as a pastor since 1999. His most recent conference responsibility was that of Pathfinder Director. Although recently appointed as the British Union Conference Pathfinder Director, Pastor Hush will now remain in the NEC to take up this new administrative responsibility.

Treasurer

The new NEC Treasurer, Charles Bramble, is currently the Chief Financial Officer of the Stanborough Press and has previously worked as both Head of Finance and CEO of granoVita UK Ltd in Wellingborough. Charles and his wife Jackie are both well known to the constituency of the NEC.

The approved Nominating Committee Report*

The following officers and directors were voted in on Sunday 24 July at the NEC Session:

Administration

President: Pastor Richard Jackson
Executive Secretary: Pastor Alan Hush
Treasurer: Charles Bramble

Departments

Ministerial Secretary: Pastor George Kumi
Personal Ministries Director: Pastor Michael Simpson
Youth Director: Pastor Adam Ramdin
Pathfinder Director: Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi
Children's Ministries Director: Pastor Patricia Douglas
Sabbath School Director: Beulah Plunkett

Executive Committee

Pastor Richard Jackson (chair)
Pastor Alan Hush (secretary)
Charles Bramble
Fortune Mahlangu
Dr Andrew West
Clive Palmer
Sureen Rayavarapu
Michael Mudzamiri
Inez Brown
Herline Simon
Horace Radcliff
Verona Roberts
Sheryl Lawrence
Pastor Dan Majaducon
Pastor Samuel Appiah



Left to right: Treasurer, Charles Bramble; President, Pastor Richard Jackson; and Executive Secretary, Pastor Alan Hush

*As supplied to the MESSENGER editorial department. The directors for the communication, stewardship and family life departments were not appointed during the Session; these and one or two other ministries (such as prayer ministries) will be handled by the incoming executive committee in due course.

NEC Camp Meeting

Continued from p. 1



Pastor Patricia Douglas



Melody Mason



Children's Ministries showcase



Vicky Griffin

one. Although made up of pastors, their wives, teachers from Harper Bell School and parental helpers, it was obvious that they all had the same vision: to draw little ones to Christ. With 195 children registered in the 0-5s – with 16 of them from the Butlins camp site – the programme had to be well directed, and Selo Karbah and Marlene Simpson made sure of that.

More of the identity of Jesus was revealed in each successive age group. As the 6-8s' song revealed, 'We're fishers of men because we're hooked on Jesus.' The 9-12s revealed that life can be tough for that age group, but their prayer cross comments showed that they are well able to express their faith. 'Dear Jesus, please help my friends to understand that You are living and that You are the one and only almighty God. Amen'; 'Dear God, please help to reach people who don't know You or are not interested in You.' This group obviously knows that even the little things we say or do, like 'Jesus loves you', can have a worldwide impact.

The teens are well able to speak for themselves, as Lydia Liburd reported: 'This week at NEC Camp Meeting the teens section has been a very vibrant one. Every morning we were blessed with melodious sounds from

our praise team. This was followed by an excellently executed message from our visiting speaker, Jonathan Burnett, who really touched the hearts of those who heard him. He really connected with the minds of the teens, speaking to them on their level in order for them to fully understand the Word of God.

'The teens really grew both spiritually and physically. Their physical abilities were tested through the activities provided, from go-karting (which had our hearts racing) to bowling (where focus was key). Overall the week in teens has been an amazing experience and I, like many, can't wait till next year.'

Observers noted that these teens were well able to understand issues behind the Great Controversy theme and had an excellent historical grasp of our church history.

Outreach at Camp

The practical outreach side of Camp Meeting did not just include casual conversations and invitations to campers and friends to join our worship in the marquee. There were events like the usual health expo, led by Grace Walsh, NEC Health Ministry Director, which always requires a large team to staff the different sections. While not as conveniently sited as

we might have wanted, we were allocated a bandstand in a central Skegness park, where numbers of people wanted their health checked. One elderly gentleman found a safe refuge with us until his wife found him, while another lady with complex needs was lovingly and tactfully cared for as she undertook the various tests.

A health expo relies on the activities of the various people who draw participants to the central attraction. Asenath Murray, from West Bromwich, was overheard saying, 'Young man, come here!' as she began a conversation with a small group of teenagers. While they didn't take part in the health tests the young people ended up having a good talk with Asenath. A few grey hairs, a little of God's confidence and a wide smile go a very long way towards disarming people.

Our health speaker, Vicky Griffin, is no stranger to this country. A major theme of her talks was that good health comes from a healthy mind. That said, the thought was expressed very clearly, that in order for a



Media team



Gylchus Sprauve

person to have a healthy body a healthy mind needs to be created. An early expression was, 'The first thing we need to change is in how our mind works.' Vicky is well known for her 'sound bites' such as, 'What is worse than being paralysed from the neck down?' The answer was, 'Being paralysed from the neck up.' Continuing the idea of the need for good mind health she said, 'We may feel wrong but should always be found doing right.'

Pastor Steve Conway spoke to the older youth and challenged them with this question: 'God is still talking, but are we listening?' The actively listening congregation at the Lakeside venue heard that God does talk, but we aren't necessarily prepared to listen in the way He wants us to. We often want miracles, but God offers a still small voice instead – the Bible. Pastor Steve also stressed that we are not to exclusively trust our emotions. We are to trust His Word. He also offered a practical lesson in answering the question so many ask: 'What is God's call for me?' The answer he gave was very simple: 'That we are to do our tasks to God's glory . . . really well and really cheerfully.'

And then there was Sabbath School, certainly a highlight of Camp Meeting for many. Beulah Plunkett aimed to present a model Sabbath School for her listeners to take back to their home churches and press for better and higher standards of teaching in local congregations. By coincidence, if there ever were such a thing, the week's lesson covered the same themes as the Camp Meeting – the identity of Jesus and the mission of the saints. We had already learned that while the nature of Jesus was misunderstood, His mission was misunderstood too. In this lesson we learned from the Bible that we need to take upon ourselves the identity of Jesus so that we undertake the mission before us: the mission to take the three angels' messages not just to Great Britain, but to the whole world.

Which takes us to the main speaker in the marquee. At times that venue was described as a swamp, but never as the 'slough of despond'. Rain had steadily fallen, and the floods rose, but the foundations stood firm.

pumped out 1,600 litres of water on their own initiative and lowered the floodwaters – but it was God who took control of events.

God appears to have had His intentions on who would be the speaker for the hour, and it was not the man who had been booked. Chad Kreuzer, a sincere speaker, was our teacher. He shared his story with us – that of a young man looking for God – and we were blessed to hear that God can also convert ordinary people who don't have a miraculous tale of 'from junkie to Christian' or 'from rockstar to evangelist'. We heard that and it gave us all hope.

The youth programme by Pastor Adam Ramdin

The youth in the NEC were well ministered to at this year's camp meeting, with our main speakers being Chad and Fadia Kruezer from Anchor Point Films and Pastor Steve Conway from Detroit, MI. The theme of 'Our Identity, Our Mission' was carried on in the youth programme throughout the presentations. Pastor Steve Conway spoke powerfully on our uniqueness as Seventh-day Adventists, not just in terms of our beliefs but also our understanding of Scripture, how we interpret the prophecies and our view of inspiration.

Chad and Fadia, affectionately named 'Chadia' by the youth, spoke on the importance of the mind and how this is key to understanding our identity. We were also blessed by excellent presentations from Vicki Griffith, who gave us two power-packed workshops. One was called 'Mindset Matters', and looked at the difference between a 'fixed' mindset and a 'growth' mindset, challenging the youth to fulfil the role that God has for each of them and not to be content with small attainments. In addition to our guest speakers we also had Pastor Steve Palmer deliver a presentation on 'Postmodernism and Youth Ministry' and Pastor Paul Liburd share a presentation entitled, 'Rich, Poor or Foolish'.

Throughout the week the youth had afternoon activities such as football, basketball and outreach in the town as well as the evening social activities. On Wednesday evening we also took advantage of our guest speakers to have a 'Guys' Night, Girls' Night', during which we split the guys and girls up and had a 'real talk' session, where stories were shared, questions were asked and real answers were given on issues that pertain to each group. Friday night's communion service was a blessing, which was then followed by a testimony service where stories of God's goodness in people's personal lives were shared candidly and openly to praise God and encourage others as well.

Sermons and workshops from the Youth Department at Camp Meeting can be found online at: www.youtube.com/necyouth.

We learned, once again, that our identity in Christ is from Christ. We learned that our lives would be changed. Vacillating disciples among us grew strong and were transformed by this teaching that offered a challenge and a mission. Then came the large challenge to share our faith, which is one of the hardest of all challenges! No complicated methods were shared, but simple ideas on what we can do to let people know that God is at the heart of our lives. We had discovered our identity and how we could engage in mission, and an example of this stood before us. Chad Kreuzer had not only been obedient to the call to speak but had very clearly followed the spiritual guidance offered by the Conference leadership – and our brothers and sisters had been truly blessed.



Youth basketball



The Stanborough Press Open Day

Sunday 4 September



Guest speakers

Dr and Mrs Jan Paulsen. Dr Paulsen, who is the keynote speaker for the event, is a former president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (March 1999 to June 2010). His messages are always deeply stimulating and not to be missed.



Dr Chidi Ngwaba. Dr Chidi is one of the world's premier 'Lifestyle Doctors', and holds degrees in both science and medicine from Cambridge and University College London (UK), and Johns Hopkins (USA). Many have already benefited from his life-changing medical ministry. He will conduct a set of interactive seminars on how to prevent and reverse chronic illnesses like diabetes.

Live music

Vadè will be at Open Day to provide top-class Gospel music that you won't want to miss.

Fun for the kids

Fun activities will be available for your children.

Exhibition marquee

There will be space in an exhibition/vendors marquee for those who respond early and meet our terms and conditions. Official permits may be obtained from Elizabeth Parkinson (01476 591700 or eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk) by not later than 30 August, and are subject to availability. They will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis. No displays or vending will be permitted on The Stanborough Press property without an official permit obtained in the above manner.

Catering

Provision has been made for an authorised caterer to supply a variety of tasty meal options at reasonable prices. No other food or refreshment vending will be permitted.

See you there . . . with your family and friends!



PHOTO BY ASUN OLIVAN

Newbold's annual awards ceremony

by Judith Makaniakhondo

Over 300 guests gathered to witness the academic success of 40 students at Newbold's awards ceremony on Sunday 10 July. Graduands included 16 from the United Kingdom, 20 from across Europe, and one each from Russia, Kenya, Guam and Brazil.

This awards ceremony included the first cohort of students to complete their qualifications under the college's new partnership with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. The 20 graduands involved are from the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that Newbold now offers in partnership with this university.

Guests at the ceremony included Councillor Tony Vigo, the newly elected Mayor of Bracknell Forest; Pastor Ian Sweeney (President of the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Vice-Chair of Newbold's Board of Governors); Dr Daniel Duda (Director of Education for the Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church); college alumni; friends and family of the graduands; and others from the wider Newbold community.

The Awards Ceremony, highlight of the academic year, commenced with a message from Dr John Baildam, the College Principal, who was unable to attend for health reasons. It was read on his behalf by Manfred Lemke, Newbold's Academic Registrar, and expressed his pride at the success of each graduand.

Newbold alumnus and guest speaker for the event, Pastor Ian Sweeney, had this to say about their achievement: 'Your families are proud of you because they had a share in the trials and tribulations of every assignment you wrote and in your preparation for every examination. . . . This is a day that you can remember and boast about!'

Pastor Sweeney then went on to suggest, however, that the real cause for their boasting should be: 'May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.' (Gal. 6:14, NIV.) He urged the graduands to follow in Paul's footsteps, and to only boast about the cross of Jesus, saying, 'For it was indeed Paul's purpose to make the cross supreme in his life and ministry.'

Pastor Sweeney also encouraged the graduands to live in such a way that their impact would also be felt beyond the academic sphere. He cited the example of Isaac Watts, who turned down an opportunity to study at Oxford University for religious reasons, but who then went on, virtually single-handedly, to introduce, develop and invent the hymn as we know it today, and who, at the time of his death, had written in excess of 600 hymns.

As the event was coming to a close, Dr Daniel Duda charged the graduands 'to live the life of the kingdom of God in this present world, to love God and your neighbour as the Lord commanded, to respond to the needs of others with all the skills, dedication and commitment that your alma mater represents.'

Choni Miguel, a Licence in Theology graduate, responded to the charge on behalf of the graduating students. 'I hereby acknowledge the responsibilities laid upon us as alumni of Newbold College of Higher Education,' he said. 'We recognise with gratitude the skills which the college has enabled us to develop within the spiritual, academic and social spheres. In whatever walk of life we find ourselves, we hereby undertake to remain supportive of the ethos of the college and to remain true to the wonderful teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

The hula hooping really helped!

In response to the Mission to the Cities health initiative in Birmingham, Northfield Church strategically located their health expo stand close to a children's play area, thereby providing opportunities for the Victoria Common Park users to check their health while their children enjoyed the slides and frames.

A surprise attraction was provided by a senior member, Yvonne Whittingham, who used her long-held skill of hula hooping to attract both young and old to consider a healthier life. Many were astonished by her ability to twirl the hoop with such ease that it motivated them to go through each health station just to discover their health age relative to their biological age.

Having experienced the warm and friendly hospitality of Northfield Church members, some attendees asked, 'When will you next have an expo here?' Others rushed home to bring their parents and friends, and some accepted to be visited at home. Pastor Obi Iheoma, noted for his bread-baking evangelism, said, 'This is an excellent start: I need to get busy baking some bread for these scheduled visits in the community!'

Northfield's Health Ministries leader, Claire Antoine, said, 'I have a very supportive team. I think we are ready for Mission to the Cities.'

PASTOR OBINNAYA IHEOMA



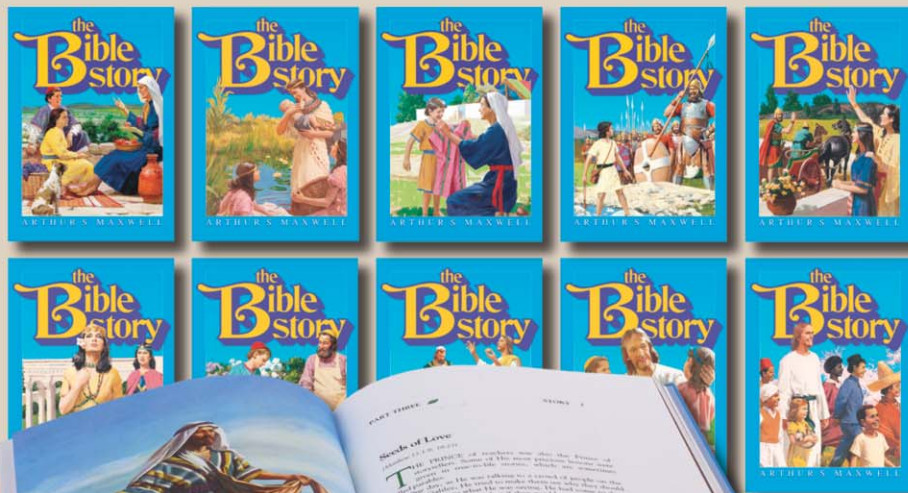


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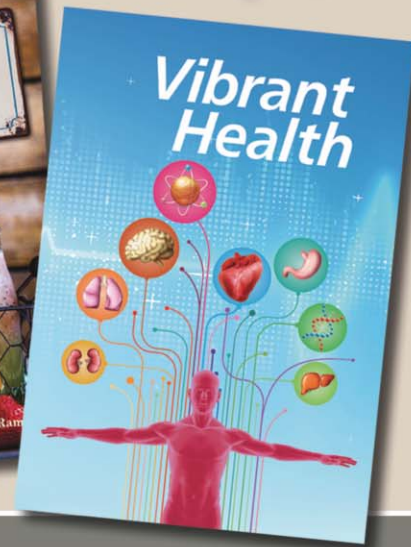
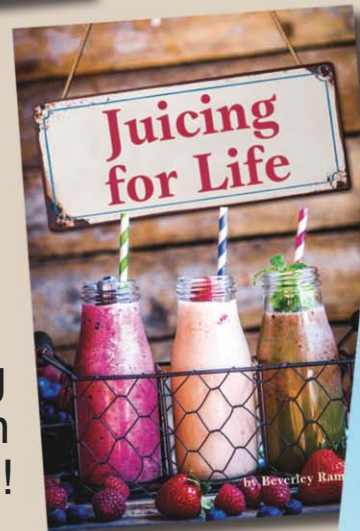
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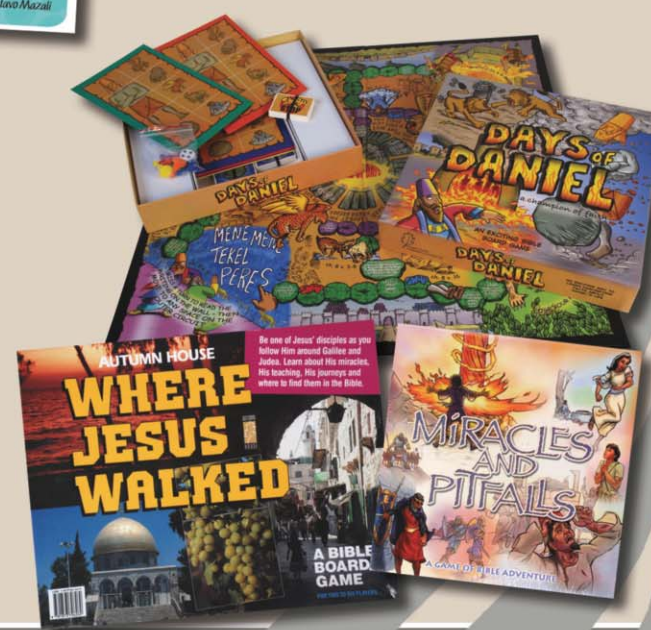
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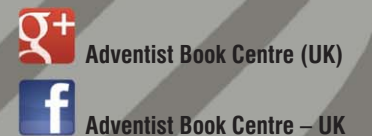
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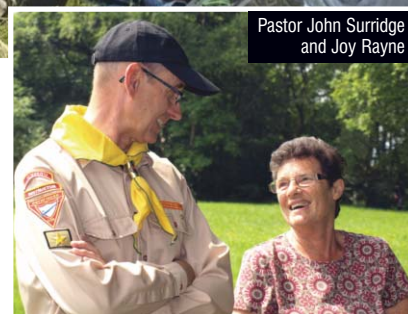




Cooking bread on sticks over an open fire



Some of the Pathfinders and their leaders



Pastor John SurrIDGE and Joy Rayne

Ammanford Pathfinders go camping

From Friday 3 to Sunday 5 June 2016, the newly formed Ammanford Pathfinder Club spent the end of the half-term break camping at the area Scout Club facility in Cadoxton, near Neath in South Wales. Ammanford is the latest Pathfinder club to start in the Welsh Mission and owes its existence to the hard work and perseverance of a few key individuals, notably Club Director Mike McClymont. Counting all of the Pathfinders, Adventurers and counsellors present at the camp, a total of forty-five people took part in the event – which for many was their first experience of Pathfinder camping.

The theme for the weekend was, 'Equipping Today's Youth', which Club Chaplain Michael Jonas used to emphasise the importance of God's Word as a guide to young people in every aspect of their lives. Further equipping took place as the young people were taught camping skills, such as trail safety and procedures, identifying plants and trees during a Sabbath nature walk, and campfire cooking. It was during the cooking session that the Welsh Mission President, Pastor John SurrIDGE, paid a surprise visit. He was impressed with the amount of organisation and logistical work which had gone into preparing for the weekend, and also with the spiritual atmosphere which pervaded the camp. 'Although I was only there for the outdoor cooking session,' he said, 'I could tell that these young people had been grounded in scriptural principles. Leaders and young people alike could be heard making Bible references as they went about their work. It was all fun and good-humoured of course, but showed that they saw a connection between God's Word and everyday activities.'

Admittedly helped by superb weather, the camping weekend had a profound effect on all those who attended. There is no doubt that it will lead to further camps and an expansion of the Pathfinder programme, both in Ammanford and across the Welsh Mission.

AARON WILSON



Children 'Rise and Shine' in Newport

It was raining outside but there was an atmosphere of excitement and expectation inside the Newport church on Sabbath 21 May as the children prepared to take charge of the service.

They were dressed in their best suits and ties, or dresses, and after the song service every child took part in one way or another. All listened attentively as Gareth Courtney, one of the youth, told a story entitled, 'The Little Apple'. The younger children then collected the offering before some of the older ones gave an excellent interactive sermon.

All had been well briefed and had obviously rehearsed their roles so that they could stand confidently at the front to read their lines or, in some cases, recite them by heart.

The theme of the sermon, based on the book of Isaiah, was, 'Rise and Shine', and the children did just that. There was no doubt that they could shine in church: but what about elsewhere? The sermon finished on the subject of witnessing and, quoting Isaiah 45:22, asked the question, 'Are you shining for Jesus?'

Isaiah 55:1, 'Come, all you who are thirsty,' was the text used to lead in to lunch, and in the afternoon things got messy – in a good way – as the children took part in a wide range of art and craft activities, also based on the 'Rise and Shine' theme. Parents, grandparents and older siblings all helped out as the children decorated pictures with stickers and played games.

After all the fun it was time to have a quiet sit-down and thank everyone for their help. The children themselves led the prayers and everyone went home happy, praising the Lord for a good and successful day.

KEVIN COURTNEY

The Great Seventh-day Adventist Bake Off

On 23 October, Urban Island Kitchen will be hosting their second Great Seventh-day Adventist Bake Off at the Advent Centre. Last year the event raised £300 for ADRA-UK and resulted in lots of stunning entries.

It's all about Alice in Wonderland this year. All the entries will be inspired by the novel of that title written by Lewis Carroll and will scream, 'EAT ME'. There will be two categories this year: 'Anything Goes' and 'Free From'. As their names suggest, 'Anything Goes' are cakes made from the usual cake ingredients without any dietary restrictions, while 'Free From' are cakes with at least one dietary restriction. So your cake could be fully vegan or just gluten-free or even just egg-free. It's totally up to you.

So if you are serious about your baking and, even more importantly, serious about raising funds for ADRA-UK, then enter at: thegreatsdabakeoff.splashthat.com.

The goal for this year is to raise a minimum of £1,000: so don't hesitate to enter, or to attend with empty stomachs and full wallets.



Mayor's speech

Queen's birthday party in Great Yarmouth

On the Bank Holiday Monday, 30 May, even though it was cloudy, cold and extremely windy, Great Yarmouth Church's street party turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable event.

The threefold purpose of the event was to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, to reach out to our community, and to showcase our Church and its mission by an exhibition within the sanctuary. We had hosted a street party in 2012 for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. That was a great success in helping us to get to know some of those living around our church. This time we extended the perimeter of our advertising to attract a wider community.

We had arranged for a bouncy castle and a large craftwork gazebo to be erected for the children in the church car park; but due to the strong winds these plans had to be aborted. Instead we hosted their activities in the church's upstairs function room. Mike and Izabela Clarry, who co-ordinated these activities, did the church proud, and the children's enjoyment far surpassed their disappointment at not having the bouncy castle to play on! They enjoyed every minute of the party, except when it was time to leave! What is more, their parents also got the chance to enter the church to see what they were doing and to see the exhibition.

Fortunately, outside in the wind our well-secured decorations 'weathered the storm'! (Gaffer tape came in very handy!) Zoe Keshishyan took on the role of organising the catering and food was in plenty. Hot dogs, sandwiches, nuts and fruit, Danish pastries, cakes, and even ice cream – yes, we used up much of the ice cream even though it was a cold day! One of the St John Ambulance team in attendance commended us for putting on such a choice of vegetarian options – especially being a vegetarian himself. The food was served buffet-style and, as the people mingled, John Sampson (accordion) and Errol Victorio (saxophone) entertained them with nostalgic tunes appropriate for the occasion.

We appreciated the visit of the Stanborough Press, who set up a bookstall just outside the main entrance to the church. Literature had been carefully selected for the public to choose from, along with CDs and DVDs, children's activity books and some health foods. We also had a special gift for everyone – all they had to do was go to the bookstand and ask for it – a little book entitled *The Only Hope*, by Alejandro Bullón. We were also privileged to have Pastor Sam Davies, the Communications Director from the South England Conference, in attendance with his media team.

We were especially honoured by the visit of our newly elected Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth, Councillor Malcolm Bird, together with his wife, Donna, the Mayoress. He came in full regalia. They were received by our pastor, Rio Espulgar, who showed them around our church and walked them through the exhibition, explaining the various segments of our work around the world, with photographs of our churches, hospitals, schools and colleges, publishing houses, ADRA



At the hot dog stall



Food stall

projects, and Pathfinders. They were extremely impressed by the Adventist programme, as well as what we are doing in Great Yarmouth with our health screening ministry and vegetarian cooking demonstrations.

During their visit to the children's activities in the upstairs room, one little two-year-old, on beholding the Mayor in his robes and hat, exclaimed: 'Oh look Daddy, there's a pirate!' Much to the amusement of the Mayor!

The mayoral couple then enjoyed the food and mingled for a while with the local residents. The Mayoress expressed her delight with the quality of the wholesome food, which she had thoroughly enjoyed.

The official ceremony began with a special welcome by Pastor Rio Espulgar. That was followed by a beautiful solo by one of our members, Helen Wilkinson. Then Pastor Michael Walker paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, reminding everyone that she is the most famous woman in the world; the longest-reigning monarch in British history; and, although she is now a 90-year-old senior citizen, she still works over 40 hours a week in direct fulfilment of her vow to serve her people as a committed Christian and a servant of God for the rest of her life. During his response the Mayor commended the Seventh-day Adventist church in Great Yarmouth for the very good contributions we are making in our community. After the national anthem was sung, our pastor presented the Mayor with a recent publication of the Stanborough Press entitled, *Vibrant Health*. Young RYANNE Espulgar then presented the Lady Mayoress with a gorgeous bouquet.

One couple told the writer that they had never been in our church before, but having viewed the exhibition they were surprised at the amount of work we are doing in the world, and in our local community. They also look forward to receiving and reading *The Link*, our monthly newsletter. A handwritten 'thank you' card from the Mayor and Mayoress included these words: 'The occasion was greatly enjoyed, and your kindness appreciated. We very much enjoyed learning about your church and community, and have already started to read the *Vibrant Health* book. The flowers were beautiful. Thank you!' We also received extensive coverage in the *Great Yarmouth Mercury* during the week following the event. We thank God for the positive witness we were able to give, not only to the local community but also to our civic dignitaries. Our prayer is that the bridges we are building will eventually connect them to Christ and His plan for their lives. God certainly overruled, despite the weather conditions that day, and turned the whole event into a success!

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



Left to right: James Harman, Pastor Ian Lorek and Ashleigh Leighton-Plom. Photo by Florin Orasanu

Exeter 'Prayerthon'

James Harman, an Exeter University student, who has become a Christian while studying in the city, made contact with a number of churches in Exeter and asked if they would like to take part in a 'Prayerthon' on 28 May. He came to an open day at the Exeter Adventist church last autumn and discussed his dream of visiting different churches in one day to pray for countries where Christianity is threatened or evangelism is challenging.

It was agreed to support this young man's dream. He was hoping other students would come with him, but on the appointed day only two people supported him as he walked from church to church. He was pleased to have a warm welcome at our church with a number of people present at the prayer meeting, which formed the beginning of Sabbath School.

James had prepared prayer notes with suggested topics for each country to be prayed for. We prayed specifically for Sri Lanka. The twenty-five churches were asked if they would also like to donate to a charity which supports the spread of the Gospel in countries where Christianity is not the main religion and over £400 was raised. James was accompanied by Ashleigh Leighton-Plom, the representative for Churches Together, who had also visited our church on a previous Sabbath.

In an email of thanks to all the churches involved, James wrote, 'Although virtually all my student friends did not materialise on the day, this was compensated for by the great many kind, compassionate Christians I met at the churches, particularly through the church meetings I was able to take part in at the Seventh-day Adventist and Sacred Heart churches.' He said that he felt the presence of God as he spent about nineteen hours praying in or outside churches that day. We pray that James will be blessed as he moves to a different area and wish him God's guidance as he continues his Christian journey.

STELLA JEFFERY



Parliament's Pathfinders

Britain is a country everyone wants to visit. They find our history fascinating, especially that which concerns our monarchs and our parliament. The Hackney Pathfinder Club are no exception and on Tuesday, 16 June, despite the rain and the cold, they all trooped off for a tour of the Houses of Parliament. There they were able to follow in the steps of such English greats as King Henry VIII, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and our present reigning Queen, Elizabeth II. The visit included a tour of the robing room where the Queen dresses in her robes and crown before her appearances there. They also went through the House of Commons, where the Prime Minister debates on issues with the opposition parties. The trip was certainly an eye-opener for many of the young people who attended.

'It was fun and interesting because I didn't know that much about its history and what they do there. It makes me want to go back there again,' said Yushanna Kayle, aged 11.

Terval John, aged 9, said: 'It was fun and educational. We learned so much about Parliament and the history of England.'

Joel Lendor (14) was 'surprised to see a table dented by the fist of Winston Churchill during a time he was at his most animated'.

For Hackney's Pathfinders, the trip to Parliament is one they will remember for a very long time!

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

Stratford Church's big expo

On a lovely sunny Sabbath morning, 30 April, the Stratford Community Ministries Department organised a community health expo day in Stratford Broadway in conjunction with Newham Council and the Stratford Health Department.

On the day there were a variety of stalls: dental; chiropody; blood pressure; height and weight measurement; diabetes; juicing; and nutritional advice.

The children were not left out and face painting and storytime opportunities were provided for them.

There were balloons and over 500 goody bags filled with health leaflets, GP and health centre information and healthy snacks. On the day over 1,000 people were seen, many of whom were advised by the health professional to make follow-up appointments with their GPs. Many contacts were made and many asked questions about who we are. The youth were also engaging the public by doing online surveys and feedback on the event.

This was our first big expo and the day was a huge success: such a success that Newham Council have asked us to put on more events including a big health day in Stratford Park.

PAULETTE HANSON (COMMUNICATIONS LEADER)



Montserratians' DOF

The sixteenth annual Montserratians and Friends' day of fellowship was held on 4 June at St Mary's Stoke Newington Church in London and focused on the theme, 'Invest! Eternal Joy Guaranteed'.

Heather Lee, the Sabbath School Superintendent, made the point that we can experience real joy by investing in a relationship with Christ.

The London Male Voice Choir were there to transport our minds to heavenly places during both Sabbath School and the worship service.

Jude Francis, pastor of East New York Seventh-day Adventist Church, was the day's guest speaker. He had led the church in Montserrat from 1994 to 1997 and was accompanied by his wife, Carolyn, who ministered to the children. His sermon, 'The Power to Be', had John 15:1-6 as its scriptural focus. We were reminded that we are branches, and that as branches our purpose is to produce fruit, not to prune each other. After all, you will never see a branch pruning another branch. The responsibility for pruning and trimming is that of the Gardener, God Himself.

The afternoon programme was hosted by Gershom Allen and included a health spot by Melvina Kirwan, who shared her strategies for optimising our physical health and well-being. In another presentation, Elizabeth Romeo highlighted

aspects of her missionary work in Kenya through her Donald Romeo Academy. Two instrumental pieces played by saxophonist Nashan Martin were among the afternoon's highlights, and James Willock also blessed the congregation in song. A poem presented by Sharmaine King challenged us to think about our insecurities, but gave us the hope that our worth is determined through Jesus Christ and that His grace is all-sufficient.

Although referred to as a 'day of fellowship', technology now enables this event to be shared globally. The process has begun with the uploading of sermons from previous days of fellowship onto the Montserrat Day of Fellowship YouTube Channel. We are thankful that God is enabling us to make this a worldwide ministry.

Finally, plans are afoot to hold next year's day of fellowship in Wolverhampton.

MARCELLE RILEY



Women of virtue

The Women of Virtue programme, founded and directed by the British Union Conference's Sharon Platt-McDonald, was launched at the first South England Conference Women's Ministries retreat on 27 May in South Croydon.

Over 150 women attended the weekend-long retreat, designed to inspire, encourage and educate through workshops and seminars focused on improving their physical, mental, spiritual, financial and emotional well-being. SEC Women's Ministries director, Pastor Maslin Holness, hopes the Women of Virtue programme will get those who attended involved in mission and evangelism.

These women of virtue did more than attend lectures. They also had time to invest in themselves by relaxing at the hotel's swimming pool, going for walks and making new friends.

Norma Zidkikhaya of Oxford Church found it 'relaxing and a blessing at the same time'.

Denzel McDonald, husband of Sharon Platt-McDonald, and one of the few men helping at the retreat, felt that: 'Coming together at a women's retreat like this has helped a lot of women unpack their concerns and confirm their worth . . . [after all] they are women of value, as well as women of virtue.'

Dr Olive Hemming, guest speaker from Washington Adventist University, enforced the idea that being a virtuous woman doesn't mean that you have to keep quiet about your opinions or allow yourself to be oppressed. Rather, being virtuous means to realise one's full potential. She made it clear that virtue is about 'courage and hope and love and knowledge, all those things; that's what we're talking about.'

By the end of the weekend, the women of the SEC left the retreat ready to continue God's work wherever they went, whether at home, at work or within their churches.

NATASHA MIRILOV

Welsh Mission Camp Meeting 2016

Friday 30 September to Sunday 2 October

Cefn Lea Conference Centre, near Newtown, SY16 4AJ

Main speaker: Dr Allan Handysides, Associate Director for Health Ministries at the General Conference and a familiar Hope Channel presenter. Supported by Mrs Sharon Platt-McDonald, Health and Women's Ministries director at the BUC. In addition there will be a full programme of workshops, seminars and activities for all ages, including a youth programme led by our own Youth Ministries team.

Prices range from just £10 for a basic adult day ticket on the Sabbath with no meals, to £128 for accommodation in an en-suite chalet including 6 meals. Children's discounts available. Info at:

<http://wm.adventist.org.uk/events> Phone: 029 2084 4106.



Book Now!

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



An unSTOPpable cycle ride

After months of planning, gruelling training and meticulous preparation, we were just one week away from the fourth STOP International sponsored London-to-Paris cycle ride when the fuel crisis and protests hit Paris. According to the media the situation was growing worse by the day, almost all the fuel stations in France were dry and British travellers were finding it increasingly difficult to get home. All of this put the fund-raiser in jeopardy, but, because the group felt the conviction that God would work things out for us, we decided to stick to our plan to depart on Sunday, 29 May.

Did He look after us? Yes, most certainly! Our group of energetic cyclists – Ravi, Teddy, Jean-Paul, Simeon, Laxmi and I – covered the 262 miles from Tower Bridge to the Eiffel Tower safely and according to plan. We were not affected by any protests, fuel shortages or the floods that swept through Paris hard on our heels. We had prayed for three things and God came through for us on all three: 1) to reach our destination safely; 2) by 3pm on day four; and 3) in good weather!

The aim of this sponsored ride was to raise funding to send 50 orphans from the Way of Life Children's Home (India) to school for one year.

BASED ON A REPORT BY KISH PODDAR

Thank you for supporting the 2016 STOP International London-to-Paris cycle ride this year with your sponsorship as well as your prayers. If you would still like to make a contribution to help us reach our target of £5,000 please follow the link below.
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/donate/makeDonationForCharityDisplay.action?charityId=1004073>

KISH PODDAR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, STOP INTERNATIONAL

The 'Coming of Age' experience

June 4 was the designated Sabbath for the NEC Children's Ministries Coming of Age service. Churches across the NEC held this service to celebrate a special milestone in the lives of our 11-to-12-year-old children: a milestone marking a period of accelerated growth that is faster than at any other stage of life, except infancy, and coincides with increasingly advanced cognitive skills and emotional maturity; a time of transitioning from primary school to secondary school.

'Among the Jews the twelfth year was the dividing line between childhood and youth. On completing this year a Hebrew boy was called a son of the law, and also a son of God.' Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 75.

The Chesterfield Seventh-day Adventist church held this service for Clifton and James, during which their parents and a grandmother were able to thank God for the blessing they have been. A smile spread across the faces of the young men as they were affirmed. Then it was their turn to thank God for His love, their own family, and the wider church family.

Then, after the boys had read aloud from Luke 2:41-52 regarding Jesus' experience in Jerusalem, Stephen Ham, leader of the local church, presented Clifton and James with their 'Coming of Age' packs. This was followed with a charge for them 'to study the Word'. Pastor Patricia Douglas and Steve then offered the prayer of consecration.

This is what the young men had to say about their special day . . .

Clifton: 'At first I didn't really know what to expect except that we would need to do a speech and that we would receive some kind of pack. On the day I was one of two at our church involved in the service. After my parents had gone up to give thanks for me, it was time for my speech, which I had rehearsed a little at home the night before. I got into the swing of it quite quickly, which was a good feeling, having done something for God . . . then I went onto my Scripture reading, which was Revelation 22:14. After that we received our books, which were about different aspects of Jesus and His work. . . . After the service I felt happy with myself and I look forward to the future.'

James: 'The Chesterfield Church family celebrated a milestone in our lives on 4 June . . . during a special service called the "Coming of Age" service. I had to pick my favourite Scripture reading. I picked Romans 8:35-39, where Paul says we are more than conquerors and nothing can separate us from the love of God. I had to pick a song I liked . . . but because I didn't feel like doing a solo we went with Clifton's choice, "I have decided to follow Jesus" . . . I praised God for my life. After the service we continued the celebration with some cake (Black Forest gateau), which was really nice. The day went well and I recommend this service to every church that isn't already doing it for their youth!'

PASTOR PATRICIA DOUGLAS



obituaries



Irene May (Mair) Thomas (née Phillips)
(1922-2016)
d. 22 May. Irene (affectionately known as Renee)

was born in Blackwood, Caerphilly, South Wales, on 6 February to Lily and Richard Phillips. She had two brothers (both deceased) and a sister, Elizabeth Thomas. On 1 June 1940 she married Emlyn Thomas and lived and worked on a farm till 1956. She was baptised in October 1957.

Emlyn and Renee had two daughters, Mary (deceased 2011) and Gwyneth, and subsequently adopted Susan, Tony, Kim and Tracey. She was also foster mother to 36 other children: truly a mother in Salem. Besides the fostering of all these children she contributed generously to a number of children's charities.

Sadly, Emlyn passed away in 1983 and Renee never remarried. She continued to be hard-working in the home, at church (serving in several ministries) and in the community. She was a volunteer

member of the St John Ambulance service for over 20 years.

In 2005 she had a hip replacement, which slowed her down but did not stop her. Her great disappointment was when she had to give up both driving and her car. Renee loved being with people; and, having a large family, there were always birthdays and anniversaries and other social occasions to enjoy. She loved her family, and her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren will miss her dearly. She loved singing, and her passion was listening to Welsh male voice choirs.

Pastor Clyde Moore conducted her funeral service on 8 June in Cardiff, entitling his message, 'The Empty Experience', and emphasising that the void left by Renee's passing will be filled at the return of Jesus Christ. Her son, Tony, gave a moving eulogy and her grandson, Connor, gave a passionate, personal tribute. The service was held at Cardiff Seventh-day Adventist Community Church and Thornhill Crematorium. Pastor Clyde Moore was assisted by

Pastor Jeremy Tremear. Together with the immediate and extended family we all look forward to seeing her again at the resurrection.

ELIZABETH THOMAS AND CLYDE MOORE



John McNamara
(1937-2016)
d. 26 May. John McNamara was a founder member of the Galway church and much loved by the congregation there.

He grew up on the family farm in Craughwell, County Galway, and, except for a few years working in New Zealand, spent his life in the same farming area. John was very mathematical and inventive. He made his living from building beautiful homes all around Galway.

He was also a keen horseman, both for training and breeding them. He married Monica, who was a wonderful support to John through the years, especially as his health deteriorated in recent times. John and Monica reared five children: Ann, Morris, Luke, Philip and Gina.

John's sister, Eithne Amos (now deceased), emigrated to America and brought back the Adventist faith to John in the 1980s. Living in a close-knit Catholic rural community, John's conversion to a different religion caused quite a commotion back in the 1980s. He took a brave stand for Jesus and his only support was Monica. Sabbath-keeping was unheard of at that time and it baffled his neighbours when John's farming work and building trade ceased each Saturday.

ADRA collections were John's favourite church-linked activity, but he also held a number of church officer positions through the years and was a very diligent church elder. John's greatest gift was his beautiful singing voice. At his baptism he made a promise to the Lord that he would only sing hymns from then on. Many will recall John singing his favourite hymn, 'Calvary', at the opening of the BUC Session in Portsmouth, England, a number of years ago, and at the funeral service of Pastor Mike Logan.

John's last self-sacrificing act was to donate his body to medical science. His funeral service was held in the garden of his grey Galway stone home at the request of his family.

It was attended by all his neighbours, friends and the church family. Choirs from the Galway, Longford and Newmarket churches sang all of John's favourite hymns, and Pastor Tony O'Rourke, whom John introduced to the Adventist

faith, gave a moving eulogy. Irish Mission President David Neal offered condolences to John's family.

As the funeral procession departed down the narrow country road, a lone bonfire was lit, both to celebrate John's life and his departure, in an old West-of-Ireland tradition.

'Is le brón deirimid slán a fhagail. Bfuil le háthas é táimid ag tnúth le búaladh leis arís.' (It is with sadness we say goodbye. It is with joy we look forward to seeing him again.)

BETTY O'ROURKE



Open Day transport

Brother Hubert Smiley is arranging the usual coach transport to the Stanborough Press Open Day this year, 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.

Messenger

Volume 121 • 15 – 5 August 2016

Editor: Julian Hibbert
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 Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 17 – 8 August 2016

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700

Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

www.stanboroughpress.com

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Aug 5	8.41	8.53	8.51	9.11	9.16
12	8.28	8.40	8.37	8.55	9.01
19	8.14	8.26	8.22	8.39	8.46
26	7.59	8.12	8.06	8.22	8.29

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Children come and praise God for He is worthy to be praised! Praise God with your voices, gifts and abilities. Praise Him with a musical instrument, sing songs of praise, read His Word. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Speaker: Dr. Georgina Miller

There will be arts & crafts, drama, presentations from Judith Asare and others... On Sunday morning, there will be 'Messy Church' and a bouncy castle & games in the afternoon!

Lunch will not be provided, but there are facilities where you may enjoy your packed lunch.

NEC Area 4
Children's Emphasis
Weekend

Young Voices Praise Him!

Sat. 27th August
10am-5pm

Sun. 28th August
10am-4pm



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Contact NEC Children's Mins. Dept. on 0115 9606 312

...they saw his miracles and heard the children shouting praises to the Son of David. The men said to Jesus, "Don't you hear what those children are saying?" "Yes, I do!" Jesus answered. "Don't you know that the Scriptures say, 'Children and infants will sing praises'?" Matthew 21.15,16 (CEV)

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TEACHING THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON: LEVEL 1

- teaching adults and youth -

SUNDAY

14TH

OF

AUGUST

REGISTRATION: FREE

9:30am to
3:30pm

Newbold College of Higher
Education, St Marks Road,
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LEVEL TWO

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