Choose compassion, choose involvement, choose life
by Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. Matthew 14:14 (NKJV).

We live in an age that is dominated by the desire for success and the need to be “top dog”. We live in an age when if you are not considered to be the best, then you are not achieving all that you can be. We live in an age when selflessness has taken over selfishness. But we also live in an age of enormous plenty, when individuals value self-protection from a cruel world rather than involvement in it. Were Dickens alive today he may describe the twenty-first century as “the worst of times” because of its ruthless society, its “fake” news and “alternative truth” – largely the result of those who want to be on top and stay on top.

But while we, in Western society, struggle with the desire for world domination akin to those ruthless dictators we see in action movies, there are millions of people who are living in poverty. We watch the TV adverts that encourage us to give much-needed funds for those who are less fortunate than us and we simply pick up the remote and tune in to more pleasant viewing. We throw out the numerous mailshots asking us to give money for worthy causes, without even giving them a second look; similarly, we delete any emails or texts from charitable organisations because they’re considered spam. Poverty increases around us – devastating and destroying lives while we enjoy our cosy lives and do nothing.

At times, I too am guilty of indifference, or maybe I should call it apathy, or maybe it’s simply my attempt to avoid the reality of extreme poverty in the lives of people who live on the other side of the world. I recently watched a programme featured on Sky TV regarding the mining of cobalt, an essential component of batteries for smartphones and laptops. Most of the world’s cobalt comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the research team found children, as young as four, working in all the mines that they visited. The work in these mines is back-breaking, the conditions are “desperately dangerous” and the children earn around a $ a day. After what seemed an eternity, I must confess that I switched over to watch a more palatable news story – one that didn’t make me feel quite as bad or responsible for the suffering of these very young children.

For a while, even as a Christian, a Seventh-day Adventist, a member of the clergy, the President of the British Union Conference and the Chair of the ADRA-UK Board of Trustees, I lost my ability to be compassionate in a desperate attempt to disengage my sensibilities so that they stayed intact. I must, however, openly confess that my conscience keeps reminding me about Jesus Christ, the Man I seek to emulate. After the death of John, Jesus removed Himself from the crowds to a solitary place, possibly to grieve and pray. When He returned, He saw crowds of people and He was moved with compassion for the suffering that He witnessed. He didn’t ignore their plight. He wasn’t just pragmatic, simply accepting this as the status quo, neither was He willing to use it as an opportunity to exploit their sad predicament. He restored health to their sick bodies, changing their lives through His healing touch. And imagine the difference that His made to them, not just that day, but for weeks and months and years to come.

I want to be just like Jesus. I choose compassion. I choose to change my attitude to those less fortunate than me. I choose to help others to live meaningful lives. The prophet Micah, centuries before the ministry of Jesus Christ, spoke about compassion. First He asks a question about the Father’s requirements for His children and then He responds with this answer: “Do what is fair and just . . . be compassionate . . . in your love, And . . . take God seriously.” Micah 6:8 (MSG).

This year I invite you to join me in participating in ADRA-UK’s 2017 Annual Appeal. Be courageous and go door-to-door raising funds for those who live in extreme poverty, or take part in a sponsored activity or attend a fund-raising concert. This year, I invite you to help raise the much-needed funds to help suffering humanity. This year, I invite you to confess that I switched over to watch a more palatable news story – one that didn’t make me feel quite as bad or responsible for the suffering of these very young children.
Managing your well-being – part 2

Welcome back to ‘Managing your well-being’. In the last issue we listed some action points for you to implement in order to assess and monitor your health status and keep track of any health change. This segment highlights some media materials and potential technical resources.

Emerging research demonstrates that presenting health information in a visual format helps to get the message across, encouraging positive action and decision making around health choices. Dr Catherine Stone (School of Design, University of Leeds) uses ‘infographics’ in her work with Public Health England to make public health data have more impact. Infographics interpret statistical data and research by presenting them in a picture format that is easy for the general public to understand.

Health show

Our British Union Conference Health Ministries Department has produced a health show entitled Enhancing Health, which is currently being aired on Revelation TV. The six-part series covers diverse aspects of well-being, sharing the latest research and health tips for optimum health. Each episode comprises case studies featuring a specific health challenge where we answer letters from our mailbox in consultation with Dr Child, a Lifestyle Medicine expert.

Two practical segments of the show include food demonstrations and nutritional tips from nutrition consultant, Angelette Müller, and exercise sessions and fitness advice with fitness instructor, Joni Blackwood. The current show focuses on the following:

- Boosting Immunity
- Digestive Health
- Heart Health
- Mood and Menopause
- Stress and Anxiety
- Vibrant Living

You can access the show on demand via the following link:

http://hopex.org.uk/shows/episodes/mt/enhancing-health/

Mobile apps

The idea of using technology to assess your well-being is well on the way. A Telegraph article published on 18 February 2017 carried the following headline: ‘Smartphones to become pocket doctors after scientists discover camera flash and microphone can be used to diagnose illness.’

Sarah Knapton, science editor, writes: ‘Smartphones will soon become mobile laboratories which can monitor blood density, calculate red blood cell levels and even predict if an asthma attack is imminent.’

Explaining the technology being considered, she adds: ‘Scientists are repurposing the technology which already exists within phones, such as accelerometers, camera flashes and microphones, to use as medical tools.’

So how would this work?

In the same report Knapton highlights research that Professor Shwetak Patel from the University of Washington is currently undertaking. This involves designing an app to detect red blood cells by placing a finger over the camera and flash, allowing a bright beam of light to shine through the skin.

The decades passed...

Decades passed slowly for homeless Wang Qi. The authorities made little or no progress in helping him get back to his family in China. He did manage to speak to his mother over the telephone once, shortly after the conflict ceased, in 1962, without seeing her son again. In either 2013 or 2014, the Chinese eventually issued him with a passport, fifty-two years after his capture!

What happened next? Nothing! Well, nothing until 1 February this year, when an Air China aircraft arrived at Beijing airport with 77-year-old Wang Qi on board. At last he was free to reunite with his siblings. ‘What a homecoming...’
The Ringway Life Building (church) has once again found an attractive way to draw community attention to a portion of the Gospel message. Here is what the church members did.

The children at our church are ‘angels’, and to prove it we took some photos!

One innovative person at our church, Natasha Shaw, thought it would be a good idea to add a peepboard to our Christmas nativity display last year, and to invite the public to use it for photos of themselves and their children during the festive season.

Many stopped outside our Ringway Life Church and did just that. Now they have lovely family photos against a biblical background with our church’s name and email strategically positioned at the bottom of each one!

Quite a number of parents took the time to explain who the various characters in the nativity scene were, thereby telling their beaming children the Advent story!

The whole tableau vivant was beautifully illuminated at night and many passing motorists just stopped to stare or take a quick snap from the roadside. Six of them were so impressed that they joined us for some of our special Christmas programmes in the church.

We hope we brought a smile to some folks this Christmas and left them with indelible memories – after all, a picture is worth a thousand words, isn’t it?

**Janet’s project was a winner**

Christmas is associated with food and the giving and receiving of presents. With that in mind, Janet McConell, a regular visitor to Wolverhampton’s Great Brickkiln Street Church, decided to do something up in the church. Instead of buying Christmas cards, Janet decided to do a Christmas hamper and donate to someone in need, one of the elderly shut-ins. What made this particular project stand out was the unexpected help from her work colleagues at Birmingham City Council. In their December team meeting Janet told colleagues, ‘I don’t do cards, and then shared with them what she was doing. To her amazement some of them said they would like to contribute to her hamper. Some donated produce for the hamper and others gave her money to purchase a variety of food items. Janet ended up doing three hampers, which have been graciously received by other needy persons. Co-ordinating elder, Andrew Hazel, was impressed by her actions and made this observation: “Jesus used a little boy’s lunch to feed a multitude and point to Him as the Bread of Life; perhaps Janet’s hampers will spark a recipient’s interest in the same way?”

---

**Lay-witnessing does work!**

by Pastor Michael Walker

Izabela, who is now a member of our Great Yarmouth church, was introduced to the church by her fiancé a number of years ago when he was having Bible studies with the writer. She hails from Poland, and because of her staunch Roman Catholic background she told him at the time that she would never become a Seventh-day Adventist! She has, however, eventually yielded to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and changed her mind! Mike and Izabela were baptised together and married soon after. From that time they have both sought opportunities to share their faith in Christ.

Izabela met Tania at work around 2009. They both worked in a charitable organisation helping migrants in the UK. Izabela was assigned to support Polish clients while Tania was responsible for seeing Portuguese people. Before Izabela left home in the morning, she would pray for all her work colleagues and that God would somehow use her to bring them to the Lord. She tried to sow little seeds of truth when the opportunity arose.

Mike first met Justin when they went for a meal together after work, something they have been doing occasionally. In 2011, after completing her studies and qualifying as a social worker, Izabela left the charitable organisation but she and Mike remained in touch with Tania and Justin. After attending their wedding, Mike felt encouraged in 2012 when Tania and Justin asked if he would be their daughter Shuria’s godparent. That same year, Mike organised a birthday party in our church for his wife’s 30th birthday. Church members were invited as well as friends that Izabela knew from university and work – among them were Tania and Justin.

It was after that event that Tania and Justin participated in the marriage enrichment course that the church sponsored, and started attending our bi-monthly vegetarian cooking demonstrations. Justin, a chef, even accepted the invitation to demonstrate a few dishes. When Izabela and Tania became pregnant they used to visit each other, which happened more frequently when their babies were little. This led to Bible studies in December 2014 and Izabela subsequently invited Tania to attend services in January the following year. She also brought her mum along. During that time Tania developed an absolute hunger for the Word of God; she could not put it down until she had read it all in a short space of time. The more she read, the more she wanted to learn.

Like Izabela, Tania was brought up in the Church of Rome, which enabled Izabela to relate to the many ideas she had about God and the Bible. The more she studied, the greater became her realisation that these were unbiblical.

At one point, however, Tania began to have some doubts, but she kept attending our church together with her husband and their two children. Tania then asked if she could help in practical ways in the church and volunteered to go on the cleaning rota. The doubts persisted but she eventually heard a voice saying: ‘What are you waiting for?’ She then decided to prepare for baptism and Pastor Fito Espulgar was asked to give her extra studies, which led to her baptism on 17 December last year.

The Holy Spirit has worked through Izabela and Mike, but this is not the end of the story, because Tania is sharing her discovery with her family and friends. As a result, the pastor is now studying with her mum! Who knows just where this lay-witnessing will end?
The Enlightenment Festival on Sunday is a programme that will involve everyone. Stanborough Park will be open and there will be many stalls, displays, health checks, sporting and leisure activities for children and adults, a fantastic outdoor gospel concert, and tours of the BUC office. We are partnering with the Stanborough Park church and both the primary and secondary schools to host this weekend event. Every department represented at the British Union Conference will be present and the new team that you elected last summer are keen to work together, not only for the benefit of the membership but to reach out to those people who need to hear about Jesus Christ.

Every project needs to have outcomes that are sustainable and long-lasting. We are working together as a leadership team, along with the Stanborough Park church, to leave a lasting legacy in Garston.

Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation out of a sense of dissatisfaction regarding the then-established church. As Seventh-day Adventist ... that you may prove what is the good, and the acceptable, and the perfect will of God’ – Romans 12:2 (Douay-Rheims Bible).

We personally believe that we need to reform the view that our community has of our church. In order for us to accomplish this we need to reform our lives. Then, and only then, can we reform our habits, reform our lifestyles, reform our communities and Reform-a-Nation.

O n 31 October, 1517, Martin Luther published his ninety-five theses attacking a variety of papal abuses, including the sale of indulgences. Part of Luther’s rebellion revolved around his belief, like that of the apostle Paul, that “by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9, KJV). Historically, this revolutionary act is regarded as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation that changed the face of religion in Europe, the United Kingdom and the rest of the world.

Seventh-day Adventists are heirs of the Reformation. Ellen G. White, who devoted twelve chapters of her book, The Great Controversy, to the influence of the reformers in spreading the good news of the Gospel, states: ‘The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement to this. The important movements of the present have their parallel in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time’ – The Great Controversy, page 343.

October 31, this year, has been chosen to mark 500 years of the Protestant Reformation. The British Union Conference aims to lead the way in commemorating this event through a weekend programme, Reform-a-Nation, from 11 to 13 August this year. The aim of the programme is to acknowledge, highlight and share with our communities the positive aspects of the Protestant Reformation that are to be seen in the establishment and development of the Adventist Church. It is anticipated that during this celebration weekend there will be total member involvement in outreach activities, allowing our churches to become centres of influence in their local communities. It is hoped that our Union’s vision of a unified approach to evangelism will capture the hearts of our members and stimulate our communities to take a second look at our church.

We are passionate that all our members participate in the evangelistic activities. It’s high time that we leave the comfort of our cosy seats in church and go out to ‘seek and save the lost’. It really is time that we stop ministering to ourselves and assist those in our local communities. And it’s time that we see evangelism as the ‘core’ business of the church instead of just an ‘add-on’ to the many other programmes that we conduct.

The Reform-a-Nation weekend programme will begin on Friday evening with a service highlighting the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK. This will include both current and historical achievements. Our Sabbath morning programme will be a special service with a guest speaker. The Sabbath afternoon will feature a theological conference with some leading Adventist scholars, while in the evening there will be ‘Hymns of Faith’ – an outreach programme, featuring both ancient and modern hymns, for your friends and family who have a spiritual background.

The Reform-a-Nation weekend programme will finish on Sunday evening with a programme to celebrate 500 years of the Protestant Reformation. The programme will be led by Pastors Ian Sweeney and Eglan Brooks, and will feature a service to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The service will include a variety of activities, such as a presentation about the history of the Protestant Reformation, a worship service, and a time for reflection. The service will be followed by a reception, where attendees can meet and greet each other.

Vacancy: Part-time ICT Teacher

Stanborough School, an independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and a family atmosphere, seeks to employ a part-time ICT teacher to commence 1 April 2017 at a salary of £16,426.

General responsibilities
1. Teach Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 ICT.
2. Provide learning support to all learners.
3. Plan and produce form tutor resources.
4. Will have staff duties at break and lunch times.
5. Participate fully in all school committees.
6. Undertake additional duties as required by the Faculty Leader and Head Teacher.

Qualifications:
Applicants should have:
1. An ICT degree
2. Teaching qualification
3. Relevant experience, and
4. Authorization to work in the UK

Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Interested applicants: please contact the PA to the Head Teacher for the application package at email: mmumbo@spsch.org; tel: 01923 673268.

The offer of employment in respect of this post will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as the CRB).

The advert will run until the position is filled.
In 2009 ADRA received approval for a food security project in northern Ghana. Climate change and extended periods of drought had adversely affected the food situation in that part of the country, causing farmers and their families to experience extended ‘hunger months’ from January to April. In the light of this challenge ADRA decided to try to make a change.

With a budget of €1.3m co-funded by the European Commission and ADRA-UK, the Northern Ghana Food Security Resilience Project (NGFSRP) commenced in January 2010 and was completed in August 2011. This project was supported by £100,000 raised through the 2010 and 2011 Annual Appeals. ‘ADRA changed our lives.’

You gave! We did! The primary aim of the 26-month project, which was led by ADRA Ghana, was to reduce food insecurity for 10,000 resource-poor, vulnerable, small-scale farm households, thereby supporting 70,000 people in the process. Another interim outcome was to increase the coping strategies of the direct beneficiaries of the project against soaring food prices through building the capacity of client farmers, agricultural input support and market links. The 10,000 direct beneficiaries from 190 communities included widows and those who were physically challenged. They were organised into 342 groups, including 44 male groups, 39 female groups and 220 mixed groups. About 40% of the project beneficiaries were women. The beneficiary farmers received improved seeds, ploughing services and fertilisers to cultivate one acre of either maize, groundnut or rice.

Left and right photos: Silos for storing maize (contain 1,000kg each).

They also received training in crop production and soil fertility improvement practices; understanding group dynamics; the drafting of business plans; and group constitution development, as well as HIV/AIDS education. To ensure the sustainability of the project, the beneficiaries were encouraged to pay back to their groups the support received. This was to be done in kind after each harvest and used as a revolving fund for the input procurement in subsequent years, and to encourage the farmers to learn financial prudence.

The post-project impact studies conducted in December 2012 indicated that all the beneficiaries were food-secured. ‘Thanks to ADRA, we now have a future.’

You gave! We did! Prompted by the trustees to assess the success of the project and its sustainability level, Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK, revisited the project site from 21 to 25 February this year, more than five years after its completion. ‘ADRA changed our lives.’

You gave! We did! The post-project impact studies conducted in December 2012 indicated that all the beneficiaries were food-secured. ‘Thanks to ADRA, we now have a future.’

Evidence suggests that those farmers that have continued to use the methods of farming – such as crop rotation, timely weeding and harvesting, etc. – that were taught by ADRA have almost eliminated hunger. Harvests have increased by an average of 300% and many farmers have stopped enough to increase their acreage. One story that particularly touched me was of a farmer, Sulaiman Issah, from Bilisikura in the Central Gonja district. Since the project began he has increased his land ownership from one acre to fifty acres. He was able to purchase a tractor with a loan secured on a 20% deposit, and now he provides ploughing services to other farmers. His achievements have been so phenomenal that he received the ‘best farmer’ award in his district in 2016. All the farmers that we visited showed us their stocks of maize, even though we visited in the dry season – previously known as the ‘hunger months’. Some households still have the previous season’s crop as well as their harvest from the new crop. Instead of 3 bags per acre, households now harvest up to 16 bags per acre of maize. With food needs at 3 bags per family per year the surplus crop is for selling, investing in the revolving fund, education and healthcare. ‘Thanks to ADRA, we no longer know what hunger is.’

You gave! We did! The challenge most farmers now face is how to store their surplus harvest! ‘ADRA: You gave us food! You gave us life!’

Thank you for helping to make lasting changes to so many lives.
Evangelism and music – part 1

by Kendol Bacchus*

The challenges of evangelism in the urban and cosmopolitan settings of today certainly test our conventional methods of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It appears at times that we confuse the idea of true success, as described and demonstrated by Christ’s method of reaching people, with baptisms. A rethink of what our statistics actually show and a clear distinction between church attendance and baptismal records, should send us back to the drawing board.

This brings us back to the question: have our past methods of evangelism simply solidified members into mundane church fellowship, or have they inspired them to adopt the mission-driven lifestyles of our early Adventist believers, who were on fire for God and felt a burden for the salvation of those outside our church walls?

My aim, as a third-generation Seventh-day Adventist, has always been to use the spiritual gift I was entrusted with as a church musician. I have, however, been forced over the last two decades to rethink what my role and practice in a true worship setting should be. In doing so I have come to see how compartmentalised the different functions surrounding worship have become. Not only do the players of different instruments seem to speak a slightly different “language” to each other, but so do singers and sound and audio engineers. The levels of understanding also vary widely between those whose backgrounds are professional and academically informed and those who might be ear-playing, or had learnt their music in less formal or systematic training programmes. Once you factor in the varying levels of talent and musical intuition, along with the dedication to facilitate congregational worship versus the desire for professional artistic fulfillment, you see the potential for divisiveness.

I believe that the team foster that fosters a good music and worship atmosphere does not begin with the worship service, but rather with good Christian relationships and fellowship where we seek the good of each other. Sound and audio engineers coming out of their booths, musicians away from their instruments and singers away from their microphones, must intentionally foster healthy relationships with each other. A nurtured atmosphere of trust and respect as the backdrop for the execution of music in the church often teaches some of the deepest lessons about appropriateness and humility. This attitude and atmosphere is even more crucial in congregations where integration is a reality to consider. Remember, the great commission was given in a cosmopolitan setting.

There is a tendency to replace healthy relationships between the members of our music teams with social media contact behind mobile and other interfaces. When Christ’s method is fully appreciated, however, and we see ministry rather than performance as the bigger agenda, we will take time out to spend together and respect the value of being in connection for each other’s good. Our congregations will become places where fellowship does not stop at the closing prayer. Neither will such relationship building supplant dependence on Christ and a focus on mission.

Music for the ambitious and artistically driven can become overly complex. This complexity does not necessarily yield the best results and humility is essential to an appreciation of that. God often uses the simplest means to accomplish the greatest results. It is His plan that every part of His work shall depend on every other part, as a wheel within a wheel, all acting in harmony. The humblest worker, moved by the Holy Spirit, will touch invisible chords, whose vibrations will ring to the ends of the earth, and make melody through eternal ages. Ellen White, The Desire of Ages, p. 135. What a beautiful thing to aspire to!

This does not negate the value of academia or the need to develop our various skills, but speaks to an essential ingredient for this collaborative teamwork.

Additionally, our music teams must engage in methods of evangelism that reflect the one modelled by Jesus Christ. Failure to do so has served to propagate a comfortable, mundane... Christ’s method is the only one that will yield true success.

*Kendol Bacchus, MS, Dip ABRSM, has served as an evangelism and music facilitator in the BGC and has over 12 years of mission experience in Korea.

NEC Campus Ministries

Often, when a parent drops their child off at university for the first time, they will show him or her where the local church is and then hope and pray that their child wakes up on Sabbath morning and makes their own way from the university halls to the church. Many young people do make that journey, but unfortunately many of them do not.

Campus ministry aims to make that journey shorter and easier and provide a campus presence for the church so that amid the new sights and activities they can feel something familiar.

Campus ministry involves a two-pronged approach. One aspect of it is to nurture and strengthen the spiritual lives of these Seventh-day Adventist students so that they are equipped to be gospel missionaries on campus, like the Waldensian students of centuries ago.

In the NEC the Seventh-day Adventist student societies are part of a network called Adventist Students on Campus (ASC), and it is the goal and mission of ASC to have a Seventh-day Adventist society on every campus in the NEC where there is an Adventist student. We started this four-year-old network, who were on fire for God, so that now that number is up to fifteen, with a sixteenth on the way. This has been possible through the great work and support of the NEC Student Advisory, which is composed of former students who assist the work on the various campuses. Each society is supported by the Student Advisory on a monthly basis and submits a monthly feedback form so that we are kept abreast of the activities on each campus and can provide support where it’s needed.

West Midlands Students’ Weekend (3-5 February)

The first West Midlands Students’ Weekend took place at Windsor St Church as students from around Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry and Stake-on-Trent gathered together for fellowship, inspiration and training. This was in line with one of the goals of the MTTG project that is taking place in Birmingham (2017-2018). The NEC Youth Department has activity been seeking to increase the Adventist presence on the public universities in Birmingham. In 2015 there were no church services, but this year, thanks to the diligent work of some students, there are now two official societies at the University of Birmingham and the University of Law, with another group meeting regularly at Aston University.

As there are multiple churches and universities in Birmingham, it was the plan to pull all the students together for training and network. ‘Catching the wave’ weekend was Sam Walters, a recent graduate of Keele University, who was involved in campus ministries as a student. He is currently an elder in his local church and works as a pharmacist. On Friday night just over 30 students gathered at the church and throughout the day and evening, the church was full to capacity with over 100 students present. The weekend aimed to equip students as they move through their tertiary studies. In the afternoon further ASC training took place, followed by each campus group meeting to envision the project for their respective universities. On Sunday further training took place, tailoring the cycle of evangelism to the members’ calendars.

NEC President, Pastor Richard Jackson, was able to attend on the Sabbath and encourage the students. He stressed the importance of campus ministries and said, ‘Don’t just pick the university that’s best for you academically, but find one that will strengthen you spiritually and where you can minister for God.’ He went on to affirm that ‘the development of campus ministry is very important to the strategic direction of the NEC in terms of nurturing. It’s important to create an environment so that when our youth get into university their spiritual, social and emotional needs are being met. We are hopeful that parents will choose these universities as their first choice because of the opportunity to minister, to be a part of such an environment.’

Further information

For more information on the Adventist Student Campuses on Campus in the NEC please visit www.necyouth.org.uk or email the Youth Director, Pastor Adam Ranford, on aranford@necadventist.org.uk. Later this year there will be an ASC training retreat at Ardincote (6-10 September) where students will be trained and equipped in campus ministries. For those who wish to read Ellen White’s counsel on this subject see Selected Messages, volume 4, p. 253 entitled “Attending Colleges and Universities of the Land.”
SEC CAMP MEETING
19 – 25 JUNE 2017

PREPARATION FOR THE HARVEST
PONTINS PRESTATYN SANDS, CENTRAL BEACH, BARKBY AVE, PRESTATYN LL19 7LA

BIBLE STUDY SPEAKER: DR DANIEL DUDA
HEALTH SPEAKER: DR CHIDI NGWABA
YOUTH SPEAKER: PASTOR ANTHONY FULLER
YOUTH SPEAKER: PASTOR PAUL GRAHAM
JUNIORS SPEAKER: PASTOR KARYLE BARNES JR
TEENS AND PRAYER & PRAISE SPEAKER: PASTOR CARLOS PATRICK
DAILY WORSHIP SERVICES • PRAYER & PRAISE SERVICES • DEVOTIONALS
HEALTH PLENARIES • BIBLE STUDIES • WORKSHOPS • YOUTH, TEENS AND JUNIOR PROGRAMMES • CHILDREN AND CRADLE ROLL PROGRAMMES

2017 SEC BOOKING FORM
Please complete this Booking Form and send it directly to:
Pontin’s Ainsdale House, Shore Road, Ainsdale, Southport. PR8 2FZ
TEL: 0871 2220291

Accommodation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of nights</th>
<th>Total persons</th>
<th>Total no. apartments/rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of apartments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Club:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) 1 bed/room 2 bed/room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classic:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(K) 1 bed/room 2 bed/room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Booking ref</th>
<th>Holiday location</th>
<th>Number of apartments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PRESTATYN SANDS</td>
<td>Club:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(C) 1 bed/room 2 bed/room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Classic:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(K) 1 bed/room 2 bed/room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self Catering:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1 Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discount 20% from 1/3/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£425.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party Details:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address of First-Named on Booking Form:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Needs/Requirements Section:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Accessible apartment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note all requests will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

** OFFER CODE: SDA17 **

Nb. 1½% admin charge applies to all card transactions.

Declaration:
I agree on behalf of all persons named above to abide by Pontin’s conditions. I accept the charges for accommodation and agree to pay the balance 58 days before the holiday date. By entering into a contract with you I understand that the details I provide will be used in booking and providing my chosen holiday. (PLEASE sign here)

Local Minister’s Signature: ____________________________
Signed: ____________________________ Date: ____________
Print Ministers Name: ____________________________ Church Name: ____________________________
Catering at NEC Camp Meeting

Here is some great news. You can relieve the stress of cooking at Camp Meeting by popping into the canteen – breakfast, lunch and supper – for a nutritious and delicious meal. Meal packages for the week are also available. You might not know who he is, but I am sure you have tasted his culinary skills at some point. Michael Graham is a well-known chef in the North England Conference and has catered for many weddings, banquets, baby blessings and countless other events, including camp meetings (NEC and SEC), ARME Bible Camp, Pathfinder camporees and Aberdaron East teen Camp. Please contact the NEC office on 0115 9606312 for more information.

North England Conference vacancy

PEACE Outreach Co-ordinator

Closing date for applications – 12pm Friday 31 March 2017

An experienced, friendly and energetic person is needed for the full-time position of PEACE Outreach Co-ordinator.

Applicants must be gifted in and have experience of the following:

• Evangelism • Bible work • Teaching outreach

They must have extensive experience in community outreach and soul-winning, be flexible, and have good organisational skills, as well as the ability to work within a small team. The role may involve working flexible hours and applicants will need to be adaptable, meet deadlines, and be prepared to assist the Director with logistics and planning. Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request.

The NEC office is committed to good working relationships, Christian service and the values of the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

If interested, request an application form by contacting:
Pastor Alan Hush (Executive Secretary)
North England Conference
22 Zulla Road, Nottingham, NG3 5DB
Email: ahush@necadventist.org.uk
Telephone: 0115 960 6312
Worship Leaders’ Conference

For the first time, the South England Conference Music Department brought together pastoral and music ministries for the purpose of creating a closer working relationship and equipping both groups with concepts and skills that will enhance our worship experience. The Ministers’ Convention and the Worship Leaders’ Conference took place at Newbold College from 19 to 22 January.

More than seventy pastors and laity attended the event and the key message to the pastors was that they are the ultimate worship leaders and the musicians are there to assist. The key message to the worship leaders was that worship is more than music. Throughout the weekend pastors and laity alike took part in Spirit-led worship services that served as object lessons of what can be reproduced in their local churches.

‘Change will not happen in the local church unless the pastors and the elders are on board,’ said SEC Music Director, Mike Johnson. He went on to say that ‘our partnership model is based on 2 Kings 3:15 (NIV) where, “while the harpist was playing, the hand of the L ORD came on Elisha” ’ suggesting that when musicians prepare worshippers’ hearts for the word, the message will be well received. Throughout the weekend, worship leaders were encouraged to be worshippers first, to prepare themselves for the Spirit’s directions.

‘It’s one thing to be able to play with skill, but for the best results skill needs to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit,’ said Johnson. ‘The challenge is to encourage our musicians to know Christ and the Scriptures for themselves so they won’t be taken by surprise by anything.’

With this essential spiritual preparedness, musicians will only play or sing music that is in agreement with our Adventist beliefs. One key point the director wanted attendees to take back to their local churches is ‘Worship must be a week-long experience and everyone should bring their worship experience with them to church on Sabbaths.’

‘Sometimes worship can become a sort of performance. And we become critics and judges. Because everyone has different preferences, likes and dislikes, we can never unify,’ said theology student, Adriel Mingo.

Attendees were led through the seven forms of worship, which include: offering a sacrifice, physical movement, silence and meditation, testimony, prayer, a holy life and music.

For Paulette Martin, member of the Music and Worship Academy team, it was about ‘why we worship’ and ‘in what way to worship’. ‘We worship when we come through the doors; we worship in our pews; we worship when we sit in the pews; we worship in silence and we worship in praise. Each one of us has the choice to exercise that innate part of us which wants to praise and worship. The question is, “Do we want to?”’

Mike Johnson summed it up as follows: ‘Since worship can be expressed in a variety of ways, worshippers should be patient with how others express what God has done for them. The worship leaders are there to encourage all worshippers to express themselves.’

NATASHA MIRILOV
Highly Fabulous 2017

Womens Conference

This unmissable women’s conference will be held in the heart of London’s theatre land, Covent Garden, at the beautiful Strand Palace Hotel on Sunday, 28 May, at 12.30pm.


The seventh in a family of twelve. She ‘never gave any trouble and was always helpful’, recalled her mother fondly. In 1985 Laverne left Trinidad on a scholarship to England, to complete her ACCA qualification in accounting. Laverne then worked at the Allied Irish Bank and then the BBC in London. On returning to joining Stubborough Secondary School in September 2010, as Accountant and Bookkeeper. Here Laverne combined the qualities of the school, where her passion and talents were appreciated by staff, pupils and parents alike.

Laverne had a love for music, and nothing delighted her more than to praise God, whether in the praise team, which she led on the PTA Days of Fellowship, or participating in special items during assemblies or services in her life. In Chrissuch Church, as far back as the eighties, Laverne introduced many wonderful choruses to the congregation: choruses that are still sung today.

Laverne ran health weeks for staff and students, inspiring them to make positive lifestyle changes. Having also trained as a fitness instructor, she taught classes at the school, which several primary school staff also attended. With such displays of energy and enthusiasm, it was as it was easy for us to forget the daily pain and difficulty she was living with. Despite her health challenges of 20 years, Laverne had a deep-seated joy in the Lord and knew how to make each day count by living a life of dedicated service, never missing an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others, both spiritually and physically.

Laverne led in assemblies and was always willing to step in and cover as the need arose. The children were greatly motivated and encouraged by her. She assisted boarders (especially Year 10 and Year 11) by teaching them in Maths and Business Studies. She also ran CAYA (come as you are), encouraging boarders to come together to sing and worship.

Laverne was a prayer warrior and part of a group that would meet weekly to pray for both the primary and secondary school and the leadership. Her social leader role, which emerged naturally from the love and care she had for staff, saw her arranging everything from pampers evenings to matrimony face-to-face gifts – all well received and appreciated.

Laverne was full of life and laughter, and the image imprinted on the hearts of those who knew her is that of her smiling face accompanied by the sound of laughter. Her influence was far-reaching, and she played an important role in the establishment of the Adventist Mission Relations (AMR) ministry.

She worked alongside Conference leaders, such as Oscar Osando, to generate interest in this new ministry, and in the early years of its existence she was arguably the most dependably energised and energetic of all the AMR. She formed many friendships with women of the Muslim community, who, as a result, attended various Adventist-sponsored events.

With great impact comes a sense of great loss, and sometimes the question, ‘why?’ At such times it is important to ask why we were so privileged to have known an individual such as Laverne and why we were blessed to have had her touch our lives in so many ways.

Some eucarists in honour of those who have passed, but we can better preserve the memory of a loved one by adopting and sharing the positive qualities so well articulated in a life committed to God.

Younger brother Henry said of Laverne that he would always remember her for her Christ-like qualities and the fruit of the Spirit that she so beautifully exemplified, not least her complete and overwhelming sense of peace.

Younger sister Diana spoke of Laverne’s efficiency, her joy and her desire to always be involved in a variety of church activities. The family have been touched by the outpouring of love for Laverne. They are very appreciative of the support and prayers that they have received and are thankful for the kindness shown to them at this time.

Whether family, friend, colleague or acquaintance, we can all take comfort in knowing that, one day soon, ‘God will wipe away every tear … and there will be no more death, neither crying nor pain, for the old order of things [will have] passed away’ (Revelation 21:4, 5, NIV).

MESSENGER

Vol.122 No.18 14 March 2017

Editor: Julian Hibbert
Designer: David Bell
Printed by: Pinner Printing
COPYRIGHT: No. 6 – 29 March 2017

Eyes should be on the Bible. ‘Discussion and prayer, and a lot of prayer, is what I’ve always been taught. Over the last three years, I’ve seen these people who really want to see my mission succeed. People are praying for this ministry and supporting it.’

Felicia Phillips of the Berean SDA Church in Atlanta (Georgia) – she has written of ‘my life, not just in terms of my backstory but in how God has taken me forward as a social entrepreneur in developing services and being an activist to speak truth to power.’ Diane Robertson Martin, CBE.

‘I look forward to encouraging and inspire by what God has done in my life, not just in terms of my backstory but in how God has taken me forward as a social entrepreneur in developing services and being an activist to speak truth to power.’ Diane Robertson Martin, CBE.

‘I will talk about the journey up the corporate ladder and the challenges I had to overcome. I could write a book just on that. I want to help other women who are trying to make it in the corporate world and show them how to be leaders in that environment.’ Susanne Kirlew.

‘Make sure you are very courageous. Be strong. Be extremely kind and most of all be humble.’ Dorothelia Barnett.

‘If you are trying to live right, you will have an opponent, and any time you have an opponent, you must have a coach. Some things can’t be preached. They have to be taught. Jesus was a Teacher, and as His disciple, it is my honour to teach women how to find the purpose in their pain, in, as he has shown me.’ Tera Caniss-Hedges.

‘If you are trying to live right, you will have an opponent, and any time you have an opponent, you must have a coach. Some things can’t be preached. They have to be taught. Jesus was a Teacher, and as His disciple, it is my honour to teach women how to find the purpose in their pain, in, as he has shown me.’ Tera Caniss-Hedges.

‘I will talk about the journey up the corporate ladder and the challenges I had to overcome. I could write a book just on that. I want to help other women who are trying to make it in the corporate world and show them how to be leaders in that environment.’ Susanne Kirlew.

‘I will talk about the journey up the corporate ladder and the challenges I had to overcome. I could write a book just on that. I want to help other women who are trying to make it in the corporate world and show them how to be leaders in that environment.’ Susanne Kirlew.

‘I will talk about the journey up the corporate ladder and the challenges I had to overcome. I could write a book just on that. I want to help other women who are trying to make it in the corporate world and show them how to be leaders in that environment.’ Susanne Kirlew.
BIBLE LAND EXPERIENCE 2017
23-30 JULY
ISRAEL

PAY DEPOSIT BY MARCH 31ST.
PAYMENT CAN BE MADE IN INSTALMENTS.
PRICE INCLUDES RETURNS FLIGHTS, ACCOMMODATION, MEALS, ALL TRAVEL AND ENTRANCE CHARGES TO SITES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
SDABIBLETLOWSGMAIL.COM
07768437460/07510911992

FAMILY CAMP
ABERDARON, NORTH WALES
21 July-30 July 2017

Come to beautiful North Wales and enjoy 10 days of worship and friendship. All meals are included and are vegetarian.

Camp Costs:
- Adults: £110
- Children (12-17 yrs): £90
- Children (5-11 yrs): £60
- Children (0-4 yrs): Free

Accommodation Costs:
- Camping Pods: £250
- 8 person Tents: £150
- Own Caravan: £80
- Own Tent: £60

Children’s activity groups are organised daily. Family activities are organised throughout the camp including water sports, jet ski, cycling trips, rock climbing, football, quizzes, film night, go-karting and horse riding.

You can apply online at www.aberdaroncamp.com. Bookings will go live on Wednesday 1 March.

Carmel Greystone & Ariaqe Theatre Company presents
ASYLUM
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARK GREY

"Theatre's great secret is out.
Mark Grey is one of London's best kept secrets."
—Kenilworth Times

28-30 April 2017
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1

Tickets £13.50
Box Office: 020 7730 4000
www.ticketsonline.co.uk

Couples Retreat
28-30 April 2017
Revive, Recharge, Reconnect

For more information please contact
Linda Mokodu 0792 805 9037, Natalia Cumber 0796 536 5354 or Kuna Bumain 0740 886 0935