The Derry/Londonderry church launched a community project on Sunday, 5 February. Prehen Lifestyle Centre, based in the spacious church hall, and named after the area in the city where the church is located, will provide fitness and lifestyle-related services to the community.

Introducing the lifestyle centre’s ‘Get Active Programme’, Rick Roberts, a fitness coach, said, ‘Starting on Monday evening, we will be offering several guided group fitness sessions per week catering for a range of personal goals and interests.’ The open evening became a taster session for the various fitness programmes on offer. Visitors were enticed to try out these energetic and fun-filled exercise routines, and some built up quite a sweat!

In addition to a structured fitness programme, the Prehen Lifestyle Centre also features the city’s first ‘light room’, offering bright light therapy. Renata, church elder and lifestyle centre volunteer, waited at the door to coax visitors into the newly decorated and luxurious room. Two bright multi-spectrum lights were placed strategically in the room for various sessions to gain maximum exposure and benefit. Renata listed the many health benefits of this therapeutic facility. ‘The bright lights compensate for lack of natural daylight. Many people quickly notice improved energy and mood within a few weeks of regular use. Regular exposure to bright light combats seasonal affective disorder (SAD), fatigue, anxiety and certain sleep disorders. It also helps concentration and aids in adjusting to a night-time work schedule.’ Visitors were able to spend time around the lights and enjoyed conversation with members of the Lifestyle Centre team.

“We’ve been dreaming about a project like this for several years,” said Gosia Gaslak as she fiddled with one of the newly acquired gadgets of the centre. “Now it is finally real and I am ready to invite visitors to step onto our electronic scale. This is not an ordinary scale. It links to your phone by Bluetooth and it measures not only your weight, but also your hydration levels, visceral fat, bone density, resting metabolic rate, and even your health age! We offer confidential health screening to everybody who participates in one of our programmes. While we do not offer medical advice, we are able to give people an insight into their personal health and set them on a course of action to develop healthy habits.”

How did the project come about? “We...”
Editorial

This morning my wife asked me an unusual question. She blurted it out soon after I wished her a happy Mother’s Day, and just before she gave me a few hints on how she would like to spend her special day.

‘Do you still miss your mother?’ she asked.

‘Yes, I do!’ was my answer. That unexpected question, however, set my thoughts free to reflect on why I still miss my mother – 47 years after we laid her to rest. Here are some reasons that may resonate with your experience.

She was my best friend

I was 18 when she died, and busy developing some new, robust and lasting friendships of my own. But in the weeks that followed her funeral I became increasingly aware that I hadn’t just lost my mother; I had also lost my best friend!

Like so many of our nation’s mothers, she knew how to ‘befriend’ her children at each stage of their development. But our friendship ended far too soon. It ended so abruptly – the victim of twisted steel and shattered glass!

I had been robbed. We would never again chuckle and chat over the kitchen table. There would be no more letters, no long-distance phone calls. My heart ached for her friendship back then . . . and it ached again today.

Fortunately, time heals, allowing us to make new friends, from among whom we usually select a new best friend. That notwithstanding, I am sure that this statement sums up the way many of us will always feel about our mothers: ‘First my mother – forever my friend.’

Jesus was her best friend

It was my mother who led my family from nominal Christianity into Adventism, and I am sure that this is true for many of our Messenger readers. Although she had spent most of her schooling years in a convent, eventually becoming the head girl, Catholicism was not for her. She was looking for something different and she found it in the preaching of an Australian evangelist, Pastor Raymond Kent.

After the evangelistic meetings were over both she and her mother received Bible studies and were baptised, with other family members following at regular intervals as a result of her influence.

If you have had the privilege of a godly mother you have something to rejoice over – something to remember with deep gratitude as often as possible, but at least every Mother’s Day. Please make sure she knows that the flowers and gifts you give her are for everything she’s done for you, but most especially for the light of faith she has helped ignite in your heart.

The night before my mother’s death her Bible bookmark showed that she had been reading these words from the book of Joshua:

‘Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips, meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:7-9, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

Two days later, as we sat in church enveloped in our sorrow, those words were like a legacy given to us. One of the things that mothers are usually gifted with is hospitality. The wonderful ability to draw the family together . . .

Mom! I’m over here!

I have seen this hospitality practised successfully, over and over again, by wonderful women who have been gifted with it.

Managing our well-being – part 3

Managing pain

Recent research indicates that our choice of pain medication may do more harm than good. Researchers found a link between cardiac arrest and bisoprolol use. This was the same for another non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) called diclofenac.

The Danish study analysed 25,000 people who experienced a cardiac arrest in order to ascertain whether they had taken NSAIDs. It found the risk of cardiac arrest was increased by a third in those who had used this type of drug.

Managing emotions and embracing happiness

An article entitled ‘Positive Emotions and Your Health’ that appeared in News in Health highlighted the value of positive mental health and its impact on improved health, such as lower blood pressure, reduced heart disease risk, healthier weight, better blood sugar levels, and longer life.

According to its results this is where the happiest people live:

4 Norway 1 Denmark 2 Iceland 4 Switzerland 5 Finland 6 Netherlands 7 Canada 8 New Zealand 9 Australia 10 Sweden

Wherever you live, may 3 John 2:1 be your reality.

Good health!

Julian Hibbert
Editor

Do you still miss your mother?

You have read my brief answer to that question (bearing in mind that there is much I have left unsaid). Now it’s your turn. What can you say about your mother? Or, if she is still around for you to do so, what will you say to her?

Life doesn’t come with an expiry date. Its answers are open-ended and uncertain. We may have it today, in all its fullness, but lose it tomorrow without warning. My mother’s life ended without warning. For me there was no chance to say ‘Goodbye’.

I am longing, however, to shout, ‘Hello, Mom! I’m over here!’ one day soon – when ‘the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ “ (1 Corinthians 15:54, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)
By ‘mites’ and ‘acorns’

(A meditation based on Mark 12:41-44)

by Stuart Sly

The Lord’s tithe

Dear Editor,

As a teenager I once suggested to my church elder that maybe, to help the poor, I could give my title to ADRA. He said that shouldn’t be done, titles should go to the Conference in the normal way.

At the time I couldn’t understand what difference it made, but now I know. You see, withholding our title from the Conference is not a ‘detached charity’. By giving what belongs to the Conference (but other charitable causes, we are ‘robbing Peter to pay Paul’ – literally robbing the church, and even robbing God (see Malachi 3). At last year’s NCG Session I saw the pain on the pastors’ faces as they debated what department could be cut to make ends meet. Youth ministries? Badly neglected? Do we make some pastors redundant? I later asked a retired treasurer why money was in short supply, and he said I was partly because not everyone’s returning their titles.

We’re happy to receive pastoral visits, and worry if our pastor has too many churches to look after; our pastors conduct weddings and funerals on church premises free of charge for us – and we’re happy to receive all these benefits. But the pastors still need paying if they’re to do their work full-time, and evangelism needs funding too. True, God’s resources are not limited – but He gives us the privilege of meeting His church’s needs, and we are responsible if there’s a lack.

Do we have so little faith in God’s ability to provide for us that we’re afraid to return the title? Is this our thankfulness to God so limited? As Ellen White wrote, ‘But how small the estimate; how vain the endeavour to measure with mathematical rules, time, money, and against a love so immeasurable and a gift such inconceivable worth. Titles for Christ! Oh, meagre pittance, shameful recoupment for that which cost so much!’ (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 128.)

In the end, the delegates voted not to cut any departments; even tough we’re getting in less than we need, we trusted God to provide – and He’s depending on us!

And what an influence her ‘living’ has had upon the world: ‘The desire of ages’ (ibid.)

Those who are willing to change the world by mites and acorns!

[Stuart Sly]

At the end of the last chapter ‘The Acorn Planter’, by Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R. (in his book, The Sower’s Seeds), the following story is told: ‘In the 1930s a young traveller was exploring the French Alps when he came upon a vast stretch of barren land. It was the kind of place you hurry away from. Then, suddenly, the young traveller noticed that in the middle of this vast wasteland was a bent-over old man. On his back was a pickaxe, and he had his hand to his mouth. He was picking up stones. The young traveller was curious and paused to see what the old man was doing in this bleak, forbidding place. The man used the pipe to punch holes in the ground. Then he would take a stone and put it in the hole. As he moved closer and met the old man the traveller was informed: “I’ve planted over 100,000 acorns.”’

The Greek words that Mark and Luke use to describe the poverty of this woman may be paraphrased as ‘one in extreme want’; ‘one who lives a hand-to-mouth existence and who must labour in order to have something to eat the next day’. The abject poverty of this widow stands out in bold contrast with the wealth of the other worshippers.

She looked at the gift in her hand. It was very small in comparison with the gifts of those around her, yet it was her all. . . .’

This makes sense of the following comment from The Desire of Ages: ‘The poor widow gave her living to do the little that she did. She deprived herself of food in order to give those two mites. What we preach, she lived!’

What and an influence her ‘living’ has had upon the world: ‘The influence of that little gift has been like a stream, small in its beginning, but widening and deepening as it flowed down through the ages. In a thousand ways it has contributed to the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel. Her example of self-sacrifice has acted and reacted upon thousands of hearts in every land and in every age. It has appealed to both the rich and the poor, and their offerings have swelled the value of her gift. God’s blessing upon the widow’s mite has made it the source of great results. So with every gift bestowed and every act performed with a sincere desire for God’s glory, it is linked with the purposes of Omniscience. Its results for good no man can measure.’ (Ibid., p. 616.)

We all want to make a difference in life, to know that with our passing we have somehow left the world a better place because of what we have here. Is it possible that we can also have something like the impact that widow has had on countless people by the way we live – by just being ‘us’ guided by the Holy Spirit? Can we make a difference in our little corner of the world?

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[Stuart Sly]
In February, ADRA-UK and a group of volunteers visited poverty-stricken areas in Ghana to distribute gift boxes and refurbish two school classrooms.

The gift box distribution project is an annual event, and for the ADRA-UK staff it is a privilege to see individuals who, prompted by the Spirit, participate in tasks outside of their comfort zone and entirely for the benefit of others. With new volunteers attending each year, there is always a fresh experience, a tangible air of excitement and a few nerves before departure! Nobody quite knows what awaits them overseas, how they will bond with the other team members or if they’ll be able to survive the humidity!

On arrival, with over 5,000 gift boxes already packed and shipped in anticipation, the volunteers met the wonderful team at ADRA Ghana and soon began their journey to the first few schools.

Although Ghana is a country with a rich business history, having enjoyed centuries of wealth and culture, the volunteers soon learnt that you need only travel past the familiar city sites into the rural districts, to see the harsh realities of life. Emmanuel, a Ghanaian journalist who accompanied the team, made this unbelivable comment: “You will see and speak to people with who have never seen electricity with their own eyes.” To which Ernest, the official photographer of ADRA Ghana, added, “I remember one of my first ADRA visits on which I met people who had lived only thirty minutes from Accra [the capital city], who shared the same - [drinking] water as their animals.

Yet, not one of our volunteers was prepared for the happiness these unexpected gift boxes would bring to so many in these impoverished communities. The children could hardly contain their jubilation as they pushed their way to the front of the queue, reaching with expectant hands to grasp what these foreigners had brought from so far away. In these moments, as the heart of the sun illuminated the outrunway school buildings, the red African earth burned beneath their shoes, and the abbeys of the children glistened in the noonday sun, there was perhaps more joy amongst the team as they witnessed the elation these small, lovingly packed boxes were bringing to children in Ghana.

For the next few days the group continued their journey to visit, school after school and forming orderly lines, visiting travelling long distances, visiting school after school and forming orderly lines (well, as much as possible!), to give hundreds of children their presents. That this was easy work! There was strategy employed by the group, with each team member finding their role as the days progressed. Whether someone counted the children, carried them to a school, or helped with safety, the group found their rhythm and were soon operating like a well-oiled machine.

By the end of the first three days, the volunteers had visited over 20 schools, distributing nearly 3,000 boxes – the largest amount ever to be given out during a trip!

For some of the volunteers, a unique connection was made with specific children. God revealed to them, during their time abroad, why He had placed a calling on their heart to visit the continent of Africa. Thus, a few volunteers left with promises made, intent on bettering the health and education of specific children in Ghana, once they had returned home.

Now the distribution portion of the trip was completed! Loading their minibuses once more, the volunteers took a four-hour drive to Cape Coast. Little did they know what awaited them during the classroom renovation! The school project soon became the highlight of the Ghana experience!

While traveling for hours each day across the country, the volunteers had shared their stories of life and love with each other, but it was at Naaawra School that the team made real and lasting connections with the local children and their families. The schoolchildren could hardly contain their excitement at seeing the volunteers each morning, and eager smiles, waves and clapping hands greeted their arrival. The shadow often became two, as little eyes and ears were intent on seeing and knowing the new strangers in their village.

The first experience in the community was one of extreme significance, as the volunteers met with the chief of the village. As the final seal of agreement, the volunteers are the answer to our prayer from eight years ago – our classrooms will be completed and we thank God.'

God is not slow in keeping His promises, and here the volunteers saw the fulfilment of this before their eyes! In the power of this answered prayer the community was united, and within four days to cement floors, create a porch, paint four classrooms and attach shutters – it was no easy task before them!

At least 15 to 20 local builders came to the project site each day to help. The volunteers worked many late nights along the way as well! One of the volunteers, a design and technology teacher in the UK, commented on the tenacity of the workers, their accuracy with basic tools and their ability to work hard, for long hours.

At the end of the project, ADRA-UK took part in a formal ceremony to hand over the classroom keys to the chief, the school and the community. Now it was time for the celebrations to begin! With music and dancing, hugs, and final photos, the ADRA-UK team bid farewell to people who would be far from them in distance, but not in their hearts.

Any story written to encapsulate the feel and experiences of an ADRA-UK trip will always be inadequate. Strangers on a minibus become family, day-to-day life is put into perspective, people are challenged to see their capabilities in a new light and God actively shows how He is working for His children all around the world.

This experience could be waiting for you too! ADRA-UK will be going to Nepal in September on their largest project yet! Join 30 volunteers in renovating a three-storey school building. Contact volunteering@adra.org.uk for more information or to sign up now!
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. Undertake Form Tutor responsibilities.
4. Will have staff duties at break and lunch times.
5. Participate in all school activities.
6. Undertake additional duties as required by the Faculty Leader and Head Teacher.

Qualifications:
Applicants should have:
1. An ICT degree
2. A teaching qualification
3. Relevant experience, and
4. Authority 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. The advert will run until the position is filled.

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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 2220281

Accommodation:
Booking ref: ___________ Holiday location: PRESTATYN SANDS
Arrival date: 19 June 2017 Departure date: 25 June 2017
No. of nights: _______ Total persons: _______ Total no. apartments/rooms: _______

Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday): Self Catering: X

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Discount 10% for 3+ persons, from 1st April

Party Details:

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* Please note – first named person must be over age 18. Special requests not guaranteed. Maximum persons in 2 bed/m. Apartment is 6.

Address of First-Named on Booking Form:
Name: __________________________ Business Tel: __________________________
Street: __________________________ Email Address: __________________________
Town: __________________________ Post Code: __________________________
County: __________________________

Special Needs/Requirements Section:
Wheelchair Accessible apartment
Ground Floor apartment

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

** OFFER CODE: SDA17 **

Nb. 10% admin charge applies to all card transactions.

Declaration:
I agree on behalf of all persons named above to abide by Pontins’ conditions. I accept the charges for accommodation and agree to pay the balance 56 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 any chosen holiday. (PLEASE sign here)

Local Minister’s Signature: __________________________
Print Ministers Name: __________________________
Church Name: __________________________
Signed: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Hackney and Hacksaw Ridge
Members from the Hackney church braved the cold weather to give out 100 copies of a special edition of Focus magazine to those attending the screening of Hacksaw Ridge on Thursday 16 February at the Vue cinema in central London. The film tells the story of Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist medic who saved the lives of 75 soldiers during World War II.

By the end of the movie, viewers had clearly been touched by this story of a man who, despite the severest of battlefield conditions, did not back down from his personal convictions and religious beliefs. One of the patrons, Paul, aged 57, said: ‘Hacksaw Ridge is an amazing film. What I’m taking away from it is that there are many who serve but only a few men that are extraordinary.’ The film also resonated well with the younger generation. ‘Hacksaw Ridge was well shot with emotional performances and a respectful portrayal of Desmond Doss,’ said 19-year-old Edward Whitlock. Also watching the film was Hackney member, Suzanne George, who said: ‘The gory war scenes were at times too hard to stomach but what a brave hero Desmond Doss was – makes me proud to be an Adventist.’

Nothing stops Edmonton’s ‘officers’
When denied permission to hand out Focus magazines about the movie Hacksaw Ridge in a cinema foyer, a band of street evangelists from Edmonton Church decided to do it in the street instead.

That, however, was not their only challenge. It took them less than 15 minutes to travel to the cinema from Edmonton Church, where the weather was close to perfect. But by the time they began parking at the Cineworld Enfield, dark clouds had mysteriously gathered overhead. As they unpacked the Focus magazines and books from their car it began to rain – a rain that soon developed into heavy rain, with hailstones. As they huddled in two groups outside the cinema, they realised it was time to pray and demonstrate the faith of Desmond Doss.

Within five minutes the rain began to subside and the sky cleared above them! That is what prayer can do.

That evening the team of young people handed out over 300 Focus magazines and 100 hero of Hacksaw Ridge books to cinema-goers!

Some of the group donned US Army uniforms, kindly lent to them by Sarah Baker of St Mary’s Little Parndon Church in Harlow. This resulted in some members of the public calling them ’US officers’ – to which they received a book or magazine in return.

A number of officers then handed out Focus magazines to those attending the screening of Hacksaw Ridge.

Deaconess was ordained
On 14 January three members of Manchester Southern Asia Church, Shushma Morapudi, Diamond Sathe and Selvi Balakrishnan, were ordained as deaconesses – something they have accepted as a wonderful privilege.
Activity Bible Series (Activity Bibles for Younger and Older Children, Explorer Bible, Bible Read & Play) £5.95 each—buy 3, get one free! Bright, colourful and crammed with activities, colouring, puzzles and stories. Guaranteed to keep your children entertained for many hours.

Hurry as offer ends: 1 May 2017

They Knew Him
New title £3.95
Anita Marshall has been seriously in love with Jesus for over 55 years. She shares her favourite stories of men and women who have walked with Him throughout history from biblical times to the present day.

Compassion of the Christ
Was £6.95, now £4.00
Author Keith Burton seeks to answer difficult questions such as: Are Christians still called upon to evangelise those who have not accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour? Do Christians have a right to condemn those trapped in sinful habits? How can we practise the mission of Christ in the twenty-first century?

Thoughtful Hour Vol. 1
Was £6.95, now £4.99
Makes it easier than ever to set aside a thoughtful hour to read and study the gospel accounts of Jesus’ life.

Words from Jesus and Who is Jesus?
Get both for £1.99
A pair of little books filled to the brim with inspirational and biblical quotes. The perfect gift for a friend or colleague.

Order on our Sales Hotline
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Adventist Book Centre (UK)
High day in Zion
It was a great Sabbath, full of worship, singing, learning and fellowship for those who attended the Zimbabwe UK Seventh-day Adventist Day of Fellowship at Luton on 7 January. Judy Adams, the chair of Fellowship for the South England Conference, welcomed the gathering of 2,500 people to the day of open worship.

In the morning, Pastor Jeff Jordan, from the USA, who is deaf himself, preached the worship hour sermon. God has led and is still leading in his life as a deaf person who is now ministering to the deaf. He encouraged and motivated the members to continue learning BSL to ‘address the shortage of church interpreters and to develop relationships with their deaf members’.

His wife voiced his sermon into English, and then the BSL interpreters, in turn, signed into BSL for the deaf. A total of 15 deaf Adventists and non-Adventists from various Seventh-day Adventist churches attended the event. Garfield, a deaf theology student from Newbold College who wants to minister to the deaf, was also present.

The evening concluded with a ‘throwback concert’, trying to get the youth of today to remember where they came from. Fuller said the aim was for millennials to see that they can step on the older generations’ shoulders to move forward.

Youth leaders said that the concept ‘It’s Time’ could be used at any level as they encouraged young people to fill in the hashtag (#itsime), and create their own definition of what they saw was necessary in the church or in their personal lives. Just by scrolling through social media, it was evident that attendees actively did so.

This was the first step to rebranding the concept of the Day of Fellowship, since the department’s research showed that young people, especially millennials, didn’t respond well to the terms ‘youth day’ or ‘day of fellowship’; and it encouraged those in charge to move away from how things were done, to how things should be done in the future.

With powerful speakers and inspirational music, the audience was uplifted. South England Conference (SEC) Acting President, Pastor Osei, was pleased that the day tackled really sensitive issues that young people face today, and described the day in one word: ‘Awesome.’

‘We were able to have an introspective look at ourselves,’ said Pastor Osei. ‘It’s one thing to wear the pastoral robe and church clothes, but today we were forced to look within ourselves – to see just what we really are.’

Many attendees admitted that they were ready to do something new for the church. One of them, Albert Gardner, Area 2 Youth Co-ordinator, put it this way: ‘Within the room we are an army and I think it’s time for us to re-energise and actually take the South England Conference by storm and win souls for God’s Kingdom.’

Youth leaders admitted that they had not expected such a good attendance – 2,500-plus in a venue that can hold 2,000 people. Sadly, some could not be seated and had to leave. According to SEC Youth Director, Anthony Fuller, ‘It’s a good problem, and one that we are looking to tackle.’

The evening concluded with a ‘throwback concert’, trying to get the youth of today to remember where they came from. Fuller said the aim was for millennials to see that they can step on the older generations’ shoulders to move forward.

For friends Simone (Reading Central) and Blake (Enfield), it was a nostalgic experience seeing the groups sing songs from both older and younger generations. It was also a chance to reuniite with old friends and make new ones. When given the hashtag #itsime, Simone finished the sentence by saying: ‘It’s time to get back out to our purpose, to get back on the journey, to get back to God.’

While Blake simply said, with a smile on her face, ‘It’s time to do it again.’

Andrew Minnion

Disability Awareness Day
The Stoke Newington Adventist Church in London held a Disability Awareness Day on 3 December last year. It was organised by Sanjo Jeffrey, the church’s Disability Ministry Co-ordinator.

The church service was set up to be inclusive and showed that all can use their talents in the worship service. For example, a deaf man, who is a lay leader in his church, signed songs in BSL, a hearing lady, whose four-year-old daughter has cerebral palsy, told a children’s story using creative visual aids; and a newly baptised deaf lady welcomed the congregation in sign language.

In the afternoon a deaf lady from the community, who is President of the BDA (British Deaf Association), gave a lecture on the UK’s lack of resources for the deaf due to budget cuts by the Government – for example, not enough interpreters.

Pastor Jeff Jordan, from the USA, who is deaf himself, preached the worship hour sermon. God has led and is still leading in his life as a deaf person who is now ministering to the deaf. He encouraged and motivated the members to continue learning BSL to ‘address the shortage of church interpreters and to develop relationships with their deaf members’.

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(Based on a Report by Pastor Jeff Jordan)

Luton Central baptism
It’s every girl’s dream to grow up, graduate, fall in love, get married and have kids. Nashauna plans to do it all, in that order! Her first step, and one that she considers the most important, was to publicly demonstrate her commitment to Christ through baptism with six others on Sabbath 7 January.

Her cousin Lauren, the youngest of the six candidates, was the first to enter the pool. ‘It’s hard to believe that just a few years ago her life hung in the balance as she battled leukaemia’, remarked one onlooker as Lauren’s mother spoke about her daughter’s difficult journey. But there were smiles, as well as tears of joy, as the girls celebrated with proud families and friends.

Marjorie Hanson, affectionately known as ‘Grandma’, let some secrets out of the bag, concerning a run-away and a call to the police station. Another spoke of being astonished when Abigail voiced her decision to be baptised: ‘I thought she was already baptised: the way she conducts herself, her enthusiasm and maturity. I’m so glad she is taking this step today.’

As these six special girls begin a new and challenging phase of their journey with Christ they are encouraged by one of their chosen texts: ‘My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever’ (Psalm 73:26, ESV).

Youth Day of Fellowship
It’s time. It’s time for change. It’s time for open conversations.

‘It’s Time’ was the theme of the first Conference-wide Youth Day of Fellowship for the South England Conference this term, which was held at the Dominion Centre, London, 29 January.

Youth leaders said that the concept ‘It’s Time’ could be used at any level as they encouraged young people to fill in the hashtag (#itsime), and create their own definition of what they saw was necessary in the church or in their personal lives. Just by scrolling through social media, it was evident that attendees actively did so.

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Andrew Minnion

SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT PRESENT

The Irish Centre, SO-52 Camden Square, London, N1 8XB

For more info contact. Lincoln House | hubofadeventist.org.uk | 01223 232728

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Doreen Clement (nee Wren) (1914-2016) d. 2 October. Doreen was born and schooled in Watford, then trained as a stenographer and bookkeeper at college. In 1931, aged 17, she joined the staff at the Stansburough Press until the start of World War II. During the war Doreen worked as a ‘land girl’ and loved to remember chasing driving tractors and ploughing a field.

In 1947 she married John Allen Clement, who became the Secretary-Treasurer of the Press, a post he held for many years, before moving to the NFC for two years and retiring in 1969. During this time Doreen worked in the Conference office as a secretary.

Following retirement, Doreen and John moved to Ponwick, and became active and invaluable members of Tonguay Church, until Allen’s death in 1995. Doreen was a key figure in the Octagon publishing Christian House, and became the first resident to move into one of the flats in 1997. She loved gardening, and was a great walker.

At age 90, she walked the 6 miles along the coastal path from Ponwick to Kenilworth, with a friend as a birthday treat, then along the breakwater (sandal miles), before returning home on the bus. Doreen loved going on trips, and meandering down country lanes. Aged 94 she enjoyed a stay in the caravan at Chapel Perth, but on one retiree’s trip to Cyprus she fell on the first day, fractured her shoulder, spent the rest of the holiday in hospital and returned home with her own personal medical escort.

Over the last few years Doreen’s health has gradually failed, resulting in a couple of falls in August from which she never fully recovered. She died peacefully in her sleep on 2 October 2016, knowing that she will see Jesus, her beloved Saviour, face to face on that final, glorious morning.

Constance Olga Beetsison (1925-2016) d. 21 December.

Constance was born in Birmingham on 27 April 1925. Her father was a tailor, and her mother was a seamstress. She was educated at a local school, and later attended the Birmingham College of Commerce.

In 1947 she married John Alan Beetsison, who became the Sales Manager of the Birmingham Sun. They had two children, Ian and Andrea, and later added on a son, John David. Constance was a very hardworking woman, and is remembered for her dedication to her family and her work.

She was a member of the Birmingham Seventh-day Adventist Church, and was involved in many activities within the church. She was known for her organisational skills and her love for helping others.

She retired from her job as a sales manager in 1988, and spent her retirement years volunteering at the local church. She was a very active member of the church, and was involved in many community activities.

She is survived by her husband, John, and her two children, Ian and Andrea. She is also survived by her grandchildren, and her extended family.

She passed away on 21 December 2016, peacefully at her home. She is greatly missed by her family and friends, and will be remembered for her kind and generous nature.

Linda Annas

Doreen Clement was born in Manchester on 21 February 1937, and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1960. By 2002 she was Assistant Director at GCAS and by 2011 had become Senior Regional Manager.

Married to Joyce, his wife of 52 years, he rejoiced in his family, his work, and his faith. With all that he still finds time to learn new languages, and enjoy walking in the great outdoors. His is the first name on the team sheet for any quiz or game of trivial pursuit!

He was born in Manchester on 7 February 1937, and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1960. By 2002 he was Assistant Director at GCAS and by 2011 had become Senior Regional Manager.

At 80 Alan Redfern is still in full-time employment as a Health and Safety Executive for the local council. He is also a very active elder in his church.

Alan, who has worked for GCAS since 1950, was born in Manchester on 7 February 1937, and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1960. By 2002 he was Assistant Director at GCAS and by 2011 had become Senior Regional Manager.

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