

After the storm

ADRA appeals for our assistance in the wake of Hurricane Irma

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau



ADRA was one of the first humanitarian agencies to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma. Millions have been affected by the storm's destructive effects, having had no opportunity for evacuation and little initial support in getting things back to normal. This humanitarian crisis has caused ADRA to expand its emergency response to the ever-growing needs in the affected region. For this reason, the organisation is appealing for much-needed funds to assist those who have not only lost their homes, livelihoods and family members, but who no longer have access to food, safe drinking water and essential infrastructure.

ADRA needs you to help the people of the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Irma

Background

Hurricane Irma smashed into some of the most vulnerable islands in the Caribbean before charging on into Florida, wreaking havoc in the Dominican Republic and the northern territories of Haiti and Cuba on the way.

This category 5 storm first hit the tiny island of Antigua last Wednesday, appearing to do little damage there; however, on the neighbouring island of Barbuda the storm destroyed 95% of the housing and infrastructure.

The storm then continued its path of destruction through Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, St Martin/St Maarten, the US Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos, laying waste to businesses and livelihoods – all but wiping out their island infrastructures.

In the face of this crisis ADRA responded quickly and effectively by assessing the needs and creating workable action plans to meet the needs of those affected on these islands.

Barbuda

On this island, building material is needed for the reconstruction of homes, businesses, schools and hospitals. Suitable equipment is needed to remove the large amount of debris caused by the storm. Among the other

requirements are educational and medical supplies, dignity kits, seeds and agricultural implements. ADRA is planning the distribution of shelter kits/tarps, insecticide-treated nets and hygiene kits as its first response.

St Maarten, St Eustatius and Saba

These three islands are in urgent need of food and water and ADRA's plans include the distribution of hygiene kits, locally procured food hampers and tarpaulins.

Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands of Tortolla, Anegada and Virgin Gorda

The needs in these islands are similar to those in St Maarten, St Eustatius and Saba, with ADRA providing similar help, together with plywood, water, tarpaulins and sanitary packs.

Dominican Republic

Here food security is among the most pressing needs – as well as the need for drinking water and the rebuilding of infrastructure. ADRA is now providing food vouchers for 300 households (1,800 people) which are to be used at local stores in the Maria Trinidad Sanchez Province.

Haiti

For the second time in 11 months Haiti has suffered the effects of a hurricane. Last year Matthew made landfall on the southern tip of the country, wiping out farms and livestock. Although Irma didn't appear as cruel to one of the poorest countries in the world, the storm did flood northern villages, tear roofs off buildings, damage roads and cut off connections between rural communities and major cities. ADRA is currently assessing the damage and will be responding to the continuing humanitarian

crisis faced in the northeast of the country.

Bahamas, Turks and Caicos

The southern islands of the Bahamas and all of Turks and Caicos are currently inaccessible by air, but reports from the island suggest that there is urgent need for emergency relief supplies, medium-to-long-term shelter, as well as the rebuilding of the infrastructure. ADRA is preparing to visit these islands as soon as is practically possible.

So, how can you help?

Disaster risk experts estimate that Hurricane Irma has caused damage of £7.6 billion in the Caribbean alone. ADRA-UK needs you to help the people of the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Irma. The most effective way is to donate funds directly to ADRA-UK through their website at www.adra.org.uk; or you can telephone the ADRA Office and donate with your credit/debit card (+44 (03)30 30 40 10 17). You can also give a donation at your local church during special offerings that will be collected in the next few weeks; or you could organise an event like a 'coffee morning' or a small concert to raise funds.

ADRA-UK needs you to help the people of the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Irma.
Please help us to help them!

Here is what your gifts can provide . . .

£25 – a hygiene kit for a family to prevent disease

£65 – a family with food for a week

£125 – a pack with hygiene supplies, food, and mosquito netting

£2,500 – shelter tarps for 100 people



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Enhancing Health

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

Indoor air

Pause. Take a moment to think about the quality of air you are currently breathing in. Take a deep breath as you inhale, and then exhale slowly. Hopefully, you just breathed in good quality air.

According to a study published in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*, indoor air can be more problematic than outdoor air.¹

Study co-author, Prashant Kumar from the University of Surrey, states: 'When we think of the term "air pollution", we tend to think of car exhausts or factory fumes expelling grey smoke. However, there are actually various sources of pollution that have a negative effect on air quality, many of which are found inside our homes and offices. From cooking residue to paints, varnishes and fungal spores, the air we breathe indoors is often more polluted than that outside.'

One organisation, Guardian, operates an integrated approach to air and water hygiene, and here are three tips for good air maintenance taken from one of their online documents, entitled 'Tips for improving air quality'.²

- 'Outside air supply – an adequate supply is needed in order to dilute the pollutants released by equipment, building materials, furnishings, products and people.'
- 'Outdoor air quality – Outdoor air pollution is likely to affect the air inside nearby buildings. Properly installed and maintained filters can trap many of the particles in this outdoor supply air, such as pollen, dust and carbon monoxide.'
- 'Moisture and humidity control – Water can create a hospitable environment for the growth of micro-organisms such as moulds

or fungi, or harmful bacteria such as Legionella, which can cause serious health problems if it becomes airborne. Humidity levels that are too low may cause irritated mucous membranes, dry eyes and sinus discomfort.'

This is useful information on which to base a quick assessment of our homes, schools, work spaces and church environments.

However, nature itself can provide a solution for improving indoor air, as demonstrated in a *Science Daily* article, entitled *Houseplants Cut Indoor Ozone*, which was sourced from the American Society for Horticultural Science.³

Various plants were studied to determine their effectiveness in reducing ozone concentrations in a simulated indoor environment. Study data revealed that ozone depletion rates were higher in the chambers that contained plants than in the control chambers without plants.

The next time you go shopping, your list of purchases could include any of the top ten plants listed by NASA that improve indoor air quality: Aloe Vera, Peace Lily, Spider Plant, English Ivy, Boston Fern, Heart Leaf Philodendron, Eucalyptus, African Violet, Chinese Evergreen and Chrysanthemum.⁴

Good health!

¹<https://www.cnn.com/2016/04/22/indoor-air-can-be-deadlier-than-outdoor-air-research-shows.html> ²<http://www.gwttd.com/tips-improving-indoor-air-quality-iaq/> ³<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/09/090908103634.htm> ⁴<http://www.diyrcrafts.com/44571/home/top-10-nasa-approved-houseplants-improving-indoor-air-quality>

editorial

Powerful people who abuse the authority that is entrusted to them seldom show remorse when called to account for their crimes. They will generally try one or more of the following ruses: adopt a condescending 'you-have-no-authority-to-question-me' attitude; flatly deny any wrongdoing; try to justify their actions; attempt to incriminate others; or use the old excuse that 'desperate times call for desperate measures.' They will try everything but the truth.

For those who let power corrupt them, remorse is a bridge too far.

Nuremberg

The records of the International Military Tribunal which opened in Nuremberg on 20 November, 1945, bear testimony to a lack of remorse among the top Nazi leaders – those who were forced to stand trial for their unspeakable war crimes. Hans Fritzsche, a leading Nazi propagandist, was the exception. The final sentence of his trial statement reads: 'He who, after Auschwitz, still clings to racial politics has rendered himself guilty.'¹

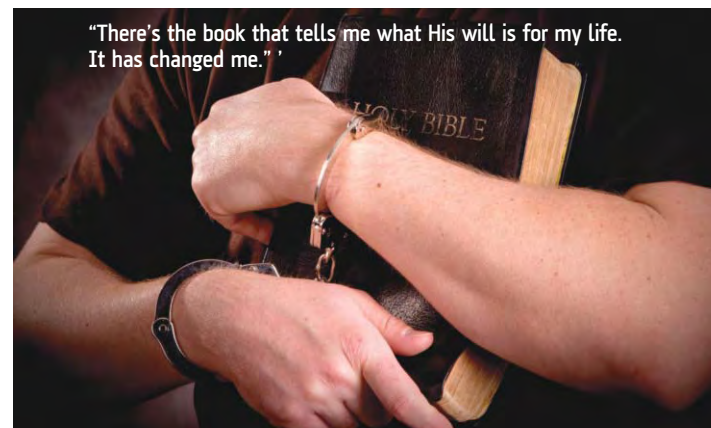
At last there was someone who was willing to admit his guilt – to express remorse.

Noriega

General Manuel Noriega, 'poster boy' among Central American military dictators, ruthlessly ruled Panama from 1983 until the US invasion of that country in 1989, but his influence began much earlier than that:

'From the 1950s until shortly before the US invasion, Noriega worked closely with the US CIA. Noriega was one of the CIA's most valued intelligence sources, as well as one of the primary conduits for illicit weapons, military equipment and cash destined for US-backed counter-insurgency forces throughout Central and South America. Noriega was also seen by the US as a collaborator in the war on drugs, despite Noriega himself having amassed a personal fortune through drug-trafficking operations.'²

Noriega controlled Panama's media, rigged its elections, persecuted his political opponents and trafficked narcotics with impunity until captured by the US (1989) and brought to trial on charges of 'drug trafficking, racketeering, and money laundering in April 1992.' Later



'I am not changed. I regret nothing.'



Julian Hibbert
Editor

that year he was sentenced to 40 years' imprisonment, subsequently reduced to 30.

Any remorse?

Had his capture, extended trial and heavy sentence made any difference to his attitude? Was Noriega now ready for remorse? You judge for yourself: 'In jail, he told a British journalist: "*I have not changed my ideals, my patriotism, my nationalism, my concept of the US. I am not changed. I regret nothing.*"'³ (Emphasis supplied.)

Up to this point at least, Manuel Noriega was reading from the script, showing all that classic bravado that we have come to expect from such once-powerful figures.

What happened next?

The precise timeline of what happened next is not absolutely clear, but there is no denying that the Holy Spirit was at work in the life of the infamous General Noriega. According to Tim Crosby in his book *Garments of Grace: From a Fig Leaf Fix to Robes of Righteousness*, it seems that:

'As he sat in prison early in January 1990, a copy of a Spanish New Testament came into his hands. He asked for a visit by a Christian minister. Following another visit in July 1990, Noriega enrolled in a 16-week Bible correspondence course. And another world began to open up to him.'⁴

'But how,' you ask, '*could Crosby know these things?*' Well, the answer is quite simple. His brother-in-law, Mike Lombardo, an Adventist minister, was also a chaplain at Talledega Federal Prison (Alabama) where Noriega was held for six months in 1992. Perhaps it's best to let him tell the story:

'Mike heard that Noriega was interested in Christianity, so one day he gave him a copy of *Steps to Christ* and prayed with him. A little later Noriega asked Mike if he had any more books by Ellen G. White. So, he gave him *The Desire of Ages* and then *Christ's Object Lessons*. Noriega loved the books, and wanted more. Then he was moved back to Florida.'⁵

There it was, on 24 October 1992, that General Noriega was baptised in a judge's chambers at the Federal Court House by a Rev. Brannon. What an amazing about-face for the man who had said, '*I am not changed. I regret nothing.*'

Luis Palau

Another person who influenced the developing Christianity of Noriega was Luis Palau, who visited him in prison and recorded this conversation:

Luis: 'If the day comes when you are released, General, what will you do with your life?'

Noriega: 'The day I walk out of here a free man, I'll turn to my General and say, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then he pointed to his bible and said, "There's the book that tells me what His will is for my life. It has changed me."⁶

One more chapter

The final chapter of this story is mentioned briefly in the September issue (2017) of *Adventist World*, page 7. By now it is 2012 and we find the general back in Panama serving out his third prison term* at the El Renacer Penitentiary near Panama City. It was here that José Daniel Sánchez, an Adventist pastor, visited him dozens of times between then and early 2016. According to Sánchez they 'spoke about the true Sabbath, God's forgiving power, and His mercy,' and he remembers Noriega saying:

'*I am a different person since I have given my life to Christ. I talk to God every day, and I know Jesus is my Saviour who has forgiven my many sins; it is to Him I confess them to.*'

These were 83-year-old General Manuel Noriega's parting words to Sánchez: '*Pray so that when I get out, I can worship in your church.*'

A once remorseless four-star general becomes our brother in Christ – now isn't that just a wonderful story of grace to kick-start the week ahead!

*For his crimes, General Noriega was sentenced to periods of incarceration in the US, France and Panama (the latter two in absentia). He died on 29 May this year.

¹<https://www.usmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007823> ²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Noriega#Return.2C_illness.2C_and_death ³<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/30/manuel-noriega-obituary> ⁴From *Garments of Grace: From a Fig Leaf Fix to Robes of Righteousness*, by Tim Crosby, pages 65-66, Review and Herald Publishing Association (2010) ⁵*ibid.* ⁶<http://www.christianitytoday.com/moi/2001/002/march/noriegas-new-commander.html>

No matter what

Although the identity of the writer of this article remains anonymous for obvious reasons, we still acknowledge her courage in sharing her story with us.

I was inspired by the latest edition of *Focus* magazine, 'Emotional Health: Finding the Balance', to write this response. Depression is not often discussed within the Church. I suspect that most of us are guilty of showing up to church with smiles across our faces, while keeping the hurts of our hearts well out of sight. I was beginning to wonder whether 'real Christians' ever suffered with depression. In fact, I even started to believe that my depression meant I wasn't a good enough Christian – which, of course, is a lie of the Devil!

The great deceiver knows when we are vulnerable, and how to wear us down. We just need to read God's word to be reminded that His followers were not exempt from depression. Throughout the Bible there are stories about men and women of faith who suffered through dark times, but these characters were not alone in their struggles, and neither are we. I take great comfort from the Psalms because of David's honesty regarding his emotions, and for

those promises as in Psalms 34:18 (ESV): 'The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit!' No matter what we are going through on this earth, we are assured that 'in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' (Romans 8:28, NIV.)

Throughout my life I have experienced this promise becoming a reality. Even through the darkest times, I can now look back and see that God's light was shining as He used those experiences to make way for a bigger blessing. This was not usually evident *during* my struggles, and like most of us I would question where God was, and why I was in these circumstances. It is a natural response for us to question God when life gets tough, but we must remember that we do not need to know all the answers. What we do need, however, is God's presence in our lives. God is an expert at turning bad things into good things, making

crucifixions into resurrections. When Jesus was dying on the cross God didn't deliver Him *from* His trial, he delivered him *through* it – and look at the wonderful things that have resulted from the suffering of our Saviour. God delivers us *through* our suffering too, and enables us to grow in Christ, *through* our pain.

I want to briefly share how God worked in one of the darkest times of my life, in the hope that it may be encouraging to anyone who feels ready to throw in the towel, like I was.

I have been a Seventh-day Adventist Christian all my life, as both my parents are of the faith. Like most people, we have not been without our struggles, but our faith has been of great comfort to us during even the bleakest times.

In 2012 I was admitted to hospital to undergo testing, due to certain digestive problems which caused eating and drinking to be extremely painful for me.

Naturally this resulted in significant weight loss. Although this

was a difficult time for a glutton like me, it wasn't exactly 'faith-shaking'. If anything, it brought me closer to God. During this period I was attending college, and planning to further my studies at university. As a result, I had to leave my small home village and move to the city for my studies.

Originally, I had planned to stay with two female Adventist friends of mine; however, this unfortunately fell through. An opportunity arose for me to stay with two male Adventist friends. I did not see this as a bad thing. After all, I had previously stayed in mixed dorms for college (with boys and girls), and these boys were Christian, so what could go wrong? My family agreed that this was a good idea, but none of us had any clue that the flat with these two 'friends' was to be the setting of one of my biggest hurdles in life.

I soon found out that the boys and I shared differing views on what it meant to be a Christian. I was mocked for believing Sabbath meant more than just going to church, for my choice to abstain from sex until marriage, for wanting to spend time with Jesus, etc. Their behaviour confused me, as none of the non-Christian flat mates from the student accommodation had mocked me for any of this stuff the previous year. Although this made me feel isolated from them, it did not make me feel isolated from God. As time went on, life got harder, their comments were harder to ignore as they *joked* about taking my virginity, and told me I was weak (due to my weight loss). Instead of removing myself from the situation, I continued

living with them, pretending they were great flat mates, and that I was loving life.

One night when I was in bed, one of the boys crept into my room, and into my bed. The other boy stayed out of the room, but he knew what was happening. I still have nightmares from that night, and carry a fading scar that I cannot remove. As a result of this, I developed severe depression, anxiety, and PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). I still struggle, but I am learning to live with the scars. I covered it up for a long time – in some ways even from myself. I carried around a secret anger which I targeted at anything and anyone I could.

Nobody understood what was going on, not even me. I used alcohol and tried self-harming to 'cope'. I drifted away from God, believing he had left me. This was not the case! Jesus cried with me; I just didn't notice him through my own tears. The further I got from him, the harder life got. I struggled to trust Christians, and didn't want to go to church anymore. Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV) tells us to 'be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified . . . for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave, nor forsake you!' How could I be strong, though, when Jesus had clearly left me? The Devil filled my head with lies and made me feel hopeless. But God had not left me! He never leaves us! From this one event, I have suffered more than anyone will ever know; however, it has also brought about some of my life's biggest blessings! God took my messy circumstances and made

them into something wonderful!

No matter how tough life may be for you I urge you to hold onto Christ, who is with us 'always, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28:20, NIV). Share your burden with him, and let him help you through your struggles – you will be amazed at what he can do! Paul tells us that 'our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us' (Romans 8:18, NIV). Although it may not seem so when you are at your darkest moment, things will get better! This world is only temporary, just a pit stop on the way to somewhere much better! As long as we are residents of this sinful world we will go through troubles, but all these hardships are only momentary when compared to eternity. This is not our true home, for one day God 'will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow, crying, or pain.' (Revelation 21:40, NIV).

Despite my hurdle, I did not give up on life as I had been tempted to. I am still here, and am humbled at how God turned my situation around. By His grace I graduated with honours and am working in mental health. I am happily married, and truly believe my husband was God's gift to help me through. I have been touched by the many people who, without even knowing it, have been such a blessing to me through this journey. I am thankful for my church family who, unknowingly, restored my faith in Christians, and prevented me from giving up on my faith. Our God is a good God: he will never give up on us, never abandon us, no matter what!

Perhaps you *can* have it both ways

Can young Christians succeed academically and still maintain a strong spiritual focus? Cristavao Cacombe from Angola is currently living the best of both worlds. He helps mentor current youth leaders at the Newcastle church, but has also recently returned from Washington, DC, where he was part of a team of technology students who won a prize at a world-class competition against world-class competitors.

Cris came to the UK knowing only a few words of English. Someone must have had faith in him, though, for he travelled to Great Britain with an excellent scholarship deal to help him learn English and to pay for his electronics degree at Newcastle University. Learning English came quickly, especially with help from our young people who took him under their wings. Since then his English has so improved that he has already preached two excellent sermons.

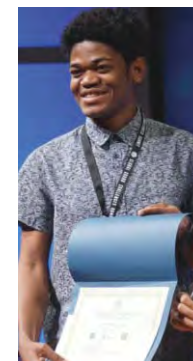
Cris described his motivation by saying that from early on in life he had made a point of choosing excellent people to guide him to achieve short term goals, but that he had then gone on to realise that he needed to become a mentor to young people himself. Along with friends in Angola he has helped run evangelistic Holiday Bible Schools. They have even funded the events themselves, including the purchase of video projectors, thereby becoming role models for other young people in Angola.

Recently a team of students from Newcastle University entered a Royal Engineering Society competition in London with Cris, one of his university's student ambassadors, as a leading member of the team. They were trying to solve third-world problems using simple first-world solutions. Although the team did not win the competition in London, they were selected to move on to another competition in Washington DC.

That competition led to Cris and his team from Newcastle winning a competition to design a poster to create social awareness of a high-tech development designed for the third world. The prize came with a good financial reward for each participant, but for Cris it was also an excellent opportunity to learn new skills, work with new teams and network effectively with other highly motivated people. The opportunity to meet technology experts from Google and similar companies has made Cris wonder how to remain a faithful Christian in such high-flying company. While his friends at the competition chose to celebrate their win with drinks, Cris spent the time with a like-minded young friend who also chose not to drink. His friends don't think of him as weird but as different. Cris realises that every weekend drinking spree that he misses out on gives him time that others don't have. He is the one who takes his exams once and avoids the re-sits.

Certain recent Facebook posts have bemoaned the fact that our Seventh-day Adventist college system does not appear to produce the technologists and entrepreneurs who should be the head and not the tail in global business. Cris and many other young students living and learning in Great Britain contradict that observation. In technology, fashion, business, science and medicine our young people are showing that it is possible to be excellent Christian role models as well as bright and dynamic leaders in their career fields.

NEWCASTLE CHURCH



'Nobody understood what was going on, not even me.'

BOOKSALES

October
15 Wrexham
22 Plumstead Community
28 Symphony Hall, Birmingham
29 Willesden

November
26 Sheffield Burngreave

10am-2pm
10am-2pm
After sunset
10am-2pm

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Stoke-on-Trent youth development

The Stoke-on-Trent congregation and visiting members from the other churches in the district were overjoyed at having two of Stoke's youth baptised on Sabbath, 13 May. Cousins, Taniqua Woods and Craig Ellison, were baptised by Pastor Ian Philpott. Pastor Alan Hush, North England Conference Executive Secretary, who had got to know both young people during his work as conference Youth Director, preached the day's sermon and couldn't hide his delight at their decision.

Pastor Hush encouraged the members in general, and the parents in particular, to keep on nurturing the church's youth so they would all make commitments like Taniqua and Craig had done.

The local members are grateful that Pastor Philpott and his predecessors (Pastors P. Herbert, O. Holder and L. Johnson) have all done their best to nurture the church's youth.

HASTINGS KANDAYA (CHURCH ELDER)

How to understand and effectively share the Bible



To read the Bible is not enough; it is just as important to understand it and share it with others!

If you seek to seriously engage the biblical text and successfully share it, you are invited to attend this seminar with Dr. Laurence Turner.

This is a free seminar where you will learn how to better understand the Bible and develop new skills to efficiently share the Gospel to our generation.

Laurence Turner, PhD, is a noted Old Testament scholar, author, and international speaker. He has graduate degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of Sheffield, and has taught at both Avondale College in Australia and Newbold College in England, where he served as head of the Department of Theological Studies. His books include *Announcements of Plot in Genesis* (1990) and *Genesis Readings, A New Biblical Commentary* (2000). He co-edited "He Began with Moses..." Preaching the Old Testament Today (2010), which won Preaching Today's Book of the Year award in 2011.

VENUE:
Cardiff SDA Church, Rawden
Place, Cardiff, CF11 6LF

TIME:
10:00 - 15:00 (lunch provided)

DATES: 4 Sessions
15 & 29 October, 2017
12 & 26 November, 2017

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Youth baptism at Manchester Southern Asia

It was a joyous occasion for the members of Manchester Southern Asia Church and all attending friends and family to witness the baptism of five of our church youth (Divya Kandulna, Sneha Kandane, McAlpha Chavan, Joshwin Sundarraj and Allwin Johnson) by Pastor Ebenezer Daniel and our local church pastor, Victor Marshall, on 15 July. The children's choir gave a beautiful rendition of the hymn: 'Look Ye Saints, the sight is glorious'. We praise God for the young people of our church who made the decision to commit their lives to the Lord.

DIAMOND SATHE, CHURCH COMMUNICATION

Welsh Mission Fellowship Day

Seeking and serving to make God known

Date: 21 October 2017, 10am-5pm

Venue: Pavilion Mid Wales, Spa Road,
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In the programme: Graduation service, commissioning service, concert.

Please bring your lunch and share in this opportunity to fellowship with your brothers and sisters from across the Welsh Mission.

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MAIN SPEAKER



Pastor Les Ackie
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Director

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Mike & Vicky Beamish

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"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ."
(Galatians 6 vs 2)

E-mail: snap.sda@tesco.net or Tel 01242 821105 for booking details

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Brixkidz spend a week in Rome

Every year Brixkidz (Brixton Seventh-day Adventist children's department) runs a Vacation Bible School (VBS) summer programme for children within the church and its local community. This year, 95 children and 42 adults went back in time to ancient Rome to visit Paul and the 'underground' Church – an experience not to be missed. The lifelike tableaux and the general transformation of the church back to the days of the Roman empire really captured the children's imagination. And so, from Monday 24 July to Saturday 29 July, the lives of Paul and the early Christians were dramatised for the children to learn how they stood for Christ, even though they knew the punishment that could follow.

The 'marketplace' was where most of the action happened. Here the children were able to understand the lifestyle, culture and customs of Rome, as they saw everyday life taking place (metalworking, leathermaking, building, animal sacrifice, carpentry and shopping). They played games from Roman times, learned the craftsmen's trades, and made items from each shop which they were able to take home – along with 'Bible-Times Blogs' containing a summary of the day and a key text to share with their families.

Each day had a different focus, which reminded us of God's love and how the children of God are to live lives that encourage others to know about God's love for us. The children visited Paul in prison and, although bound by chains, he shared his life's story and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. He showed no fear of the soldiers who stood guard over him, and taught *them* about God's love, too.

The week ended with a celebration on the Sabbath, during which both children and staff – all dressed in their Rome T-shirts – presented a snapshot of what they had learnt through songs and Bible verses.

Conroy Swaby, an elder from Lewisham Church and the keynote

Senior citizens appreciation day

On Sabbath, 22 July, Wednesfield Church honoured their senior members. Each member present received a decorative rose in recognition for all the years of help, advice and support they had given the church.

This was followed by a sermon by Pastor Mapp entitled, 'Honour all people', based on 1 Peter 2:17, in which he admonished the congregation to have mutual honour and respect towards each other. He outlined the six applications of honour: acceptance, affirmation, appreciation, approval, admiration and acknowledgement.

Pastor Mapp concluded with a few lines worth quoting: 'Don't wait for special days to honour your elderly . . . pay your respects while the cheque can still be cashed in!'

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

speaker, encouraged the children to continue sharing God's love each day, and reminded the parents and the congregation that the greatest investment they can make is in their children.

Thanks to the dedicated Brixkidz team, the supportive members and the energetic youth of Brixton Church, who all worked enthusiastically to make the visit to Rome a success!

Visit our website at www.brixkidz for more information; follow us on social media; or download the Brixkidz app on Apple or Android platforms.

CRAIG YOUNG (CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADER)

BUC Women's Ministries Retreat 'Chosen – For Such A Time As This'



Sharon Platt-McDonald
BUC Director for
Health, Women's Ministries &
Adventist Community Services



Pastor Maslin Holness
SEC
Women's Ministries
Director



Raquel Arrais
General Conference (GC)
Associate
Women's Ministries
Director



Beulah Plunkett
NEC
Women's Ministries
Director

Date – Friday 13th – Sunday 15th October 2017
Venue – Park Inn by Radisson Northampton, Silver Street,
Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN1 2TA

Cost:
• Single Superior room: £260 per person
• Single Standard room: £220 per person
• Standard Twin room: £180 per person

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT: WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER
Booking Form and PayPal payment available on the BUC Events page. Alternatively,
PLEASE SEND THE BOOKING FORM WITH PAYMENT to the BUC Office.
Contact: Email Piltra Zapata at pzapata@adventist.uk or call the BUC on 01923 672251 for queries.



Register and pay online: <http://adventist.org.uk/events/2017/buc/buc-women-retreat-2017>.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Plaistow makes an impact

The second quarter of this year was the busiest for the Plaistow church Health department. Our health professionals served their community by opening the doors of Plaistow Church for free Health MOT's, which included various tests: blood and blood pressure, peak air flows, BMI and Health Age assessments, Medical Consultations, along with prayer and encouragement for those who felt the need for it.

More than 60 people benefitted from these Health MOTs. There were some who were diagnosed with high blood pressure for the first time and have since been started on medication, and one person was referred to A&E with dangerously high blood pressure. Another person had a dangerously high cholesterol level and has started making drastic lifestyle changes.

The health age assessment station generated a lot of excitement, laughter and discussion as people discovered that they were either 'older' or 'younger' when compared to their chronological age.

Feedback from the community was very positive. They want the programme to run every month and commended the team on their professionalism. One gentleman commented: 'This is different; nobody explains these things to us. But here you take time to explain and make us understand how we can make changes to improve our health'. Another gentleman saw the banner and came inside the church for his MOT, then later brought along his two friends who had health needs.

Plaistow Church is buzzing with the health message! Most importantly, it is the sharing with the community on a one-to-one basis that is becoming a personal ministry under the theme, Evangelism Everyone Everywhere.

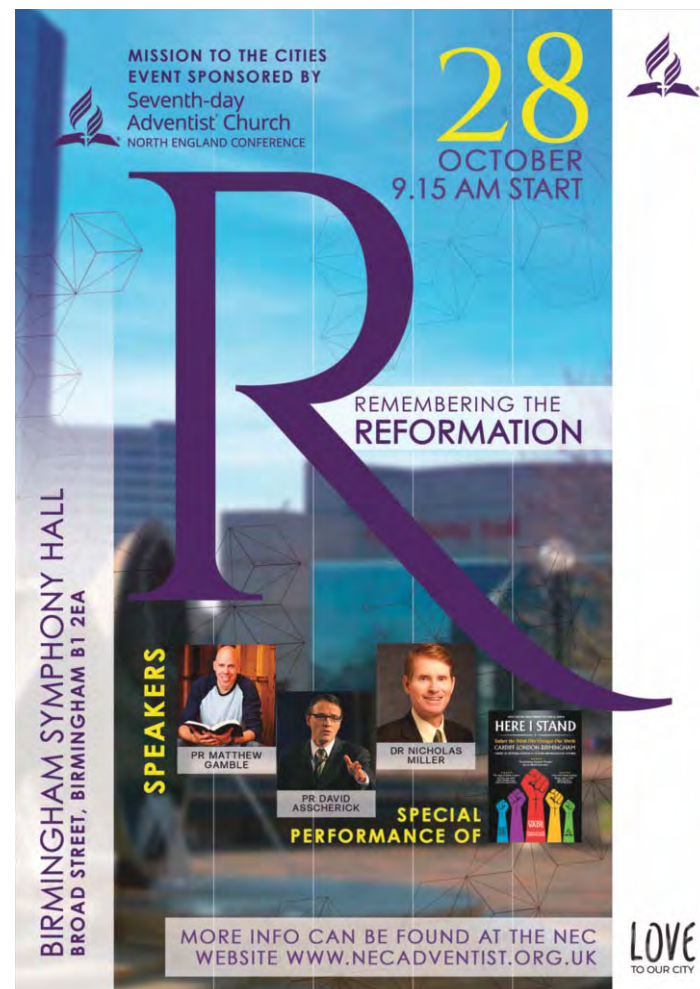
During the last quarter Plaistow Church also held some cookery sessions, focussing on meals that will help in the management of diabetes, blood pressure, detoxing and cleansing. The sessions were attended by members of the church as well as of the community. Participants were taught the science behind preparing well-balanced, healthy, nutritious and appetising meals. Participant involvement in the preparation of the meals made the sessions more lively and enjoyable. The importance of following a plant-based diet was discussed and promoted, basing the benefits on scientifically proven facts.

Feedback from the community was positive and they want to be informed whenever there's a cookery session.

FAITH MKANDAWIRE (PLAISTOW CHURCH HEALTH LEADER)



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



by Kathleen Hanson, British Union Conference Education Director

Educating for eternity

BUC education overview 2016-2017

Since taking up this new post, many people have asked: 'How are you getting on?' 'Do you miss the children and being in school?' and 'What does your role actually entail?' Well, I certainly have missed the 'hands-on' aspect of school life, having a team to work with, being instrumental in setting the tone/operational values for the organisation, and, not least, monitoring the effectiveness of new ideas through direct interaction with pupils and parents. On the other hand, as I have been reminded by many, this role brings with it the potential to have an impact beyond (and including) my previous setting – a prospect both humbling and challenging.

Listening

'Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.' (James 1:19, KJV.)

With some scope to craft and interpret the role, it was necessary to begin by listening and understanding the needs of those we (in the British Union) serve, primarily our counterparts in the Conferences and Missions. I began by connecting with Gina Abbequaye (SEC Education Director) and Emily Tebbs-Ogutu (NEC Education Sponsor), in order for us to develop a coherent education vision that would take into account the needs of those in the North, the South and the Missions.

Listening taught me early on that there were needs beyond our schools and educational institutions. So, while bearing in mind that these play a crucial role within Adventist education, it was necessary to develop a broader vision and strategy that would encompass our home-schoolers, our supplementary schools, our holiday Bible schools, our education secretaries in our churches and the educational needs of our membership at large.

The challenge of 'listening' was compounded by the absence of a suitable device that would allow us to hear the quietest of voices in the remotest parts. We now have a questionnaire on the BUC website (education section), which we encourage you to complete. It

provides an opportunity for you to tell us about yourself, your skills and interests (which is most useful in drawing together specialist teams to work on specific projects); but it also provides an opportunity for you to raise concerns and issues that you would like us to address. In addition to the questionnaire we can be emailed directly, via our respective websites at the BUC, SEC and NEC.

Teamwork

'For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.' (1 Corinthians 12:12, KJV.)

I am committed to teamworking, and have a strong belief that unity of vision brings with it greater efficiency of effort, better utilisation of resources and, not least, blessings of the Holy Spirit. It has been a pleasure to connect and work closely with Gina Abbequaye and Emily Tebbs-Ogutu this past academic year; also with Dr Daniel Duda (TED Education Director), who has met with us, answered many of our questions, offered good advice and support and been instrumental in facilitating our attendance at events that would contribute to our development as leaders. We were blessed by attending the LEAD conference (see separate article) and appreciated the excellent opportunity it presented for us to grapple, alongside fellow educators and Conference leaders, with many issues that we are all facing in the current climate. We appreciated the data shared by Pastor John Wesley Taylor in his presentation on 'Joining and Remaining', which illustrated the positive impact that Adventist education is having on our young people.

BUC education priorities

'And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.' (John 17:3, KJV.)

We had the opportunity to share this data at the camp meetings, along with our education priorities, which continue to evolve and currently are:

© Costa Vaggas





Trainees at Talk for Writing



Teachers training workshop

1. To remind ourselves, as educators, parents and church members, that 'the work of education and the work of redemption are one' (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 30); and to ensure that this concept is fully understood and that the principle continues to underpin Adventist education.
2. To explore and develop the role of Adventist education as an evangelistic tool.
3. To maximise the scope and reach of Adventist education by supporting and working with our home-schoolers, education secretaries, supplementary schools, holiday Bible schools/ VBS, parents with children in state schools, etc., as well as with our educational institutions.
4. To work with school leadership to ensure that our institutions are highly functioning, effective places of learning.
5. To ensure that Adventist education remains cutting edge, relevant and necessary, not just to our community of believers, but to the wider community we service.
6. To promote learning as a lifelong activity for all.
7. To build bridges, working collaboratively and coherently with relevant partners, across the BUC, in achieving these shared goals.

The challenges

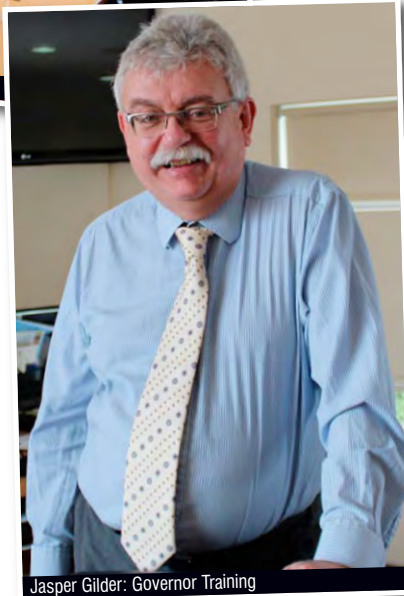
'And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope.' (Romans 5:3, 4, KJV.)

Communication – This was initially a challenge as we needed to hear from the membership and vice versa. We are now encouraging all our members to subscribe to the *BUC News* (electronic newsletter), as we will communicate with you in this way. (In turn, as already mentioned, do complete the online questionnaire or email us via our website.)

Our institutions – We are blessed to have the institutions that we do and recognise the great work that is being done in them. Despite this, however, they are not fully subscribed (although a number are operating with healthy enrolments). Our members cite fees as being a prohibitive factor; and yet our non-fee-paying school is not fully subscribed. Some mention the quality of Adventist education, yet one such excellent school has numbers so low that its viability is being threatened. (We should note here that, in the main, our schools produce great results which are above the state national average and also provide a holistic education and nurturing atmosphere in which our pupils and students thrive.) Some cite the facilities as being a mitigating factor; yet we



Jane Ralph (trainer), Talk for Writing



Jasper Gilder: Governor Training

Curriculum. I also had the opportunity to organise *Unconscious Bias Training* for our directors. The feedback on the training provided has been excellent.

Administration – The role is heavily administrative, which means that much of the work takes place during the week. For example, serving on approximately 25 committees (some of which I chair) requires much preparation and follow-up work, in order for the committees to function well and fulfil their remit in driving up standards. In addition to this, however, it has been a privilege to participate in the ATA Conference, speak in churches during their worship hour, deliver training and teaching at various venues.

By God's grace, this past academic year, the vision has been refined, important procedures have been established within the department, numerous issues have been addressed, training has been organised, and a good working relationship has been established with our schools, colleges and Conferences. In addition there has been the setting up of many new and innovative projects, all of which are simmering away, awaiting further development. The task seems infinite and we are finite beings, but when we 'lift our eyes to the hills' we do not see the precipice but rather 'from whom our help cometh'.

Adventist education transforms lives and wins souls for the Kingdom of God!

'And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.' (John 12:32, KJV.)

have a school with excellent facilities and space, which is also not fully subscribed. We encourage the membership to visit our schools and see the amazing work that is being done there.

Schools are costly ventures to operate and it is difficult to justify opening more schools, when our existing institutions are not fully subscribed. The provision is there; the leaders and staff have excellent programmes in place and work tirelessly

to provide good, all-round Adventist education for those in their care. Let us make the most of this wonderful opportunity while it is still available to us.

Managing expectations – Various ideas exist around the purpose and role of the BUC. The remit, as has been officially shared with all Union directors, is that the Union exists primarily to support the work of the Conferences and Missions: hence my work with my two counterparts and my vision to develop programmes that will benefit the children in all of our churches, including those in the Missions. Our schools and colleges are run by their respective governing bodies and leadership teams. The Education Director provides strategic leadership and support for the work in our institutions, not least by providing quality training for governors, senior leaders and teachers, to ensure that personnel are suitably equipped to carry out their responsibilities well. Training offered in 2016-17 ranged from *Talk for Writing* and *Managing Poor Performance* (governor training), to *Growth Mindset* and an *Introduction to the Pilgrim's Progress*

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An interview with Dr Derek Morris

by Kathleen Hanson



I first met Pastor Derek Morris in Montenegro in November 2016. In one of his presentations he mentioned that he had attended Newbold Primary School and spoke about the impact of this experience on his life. I was keen to have a follow-up conversation with Pastor Morris and was glad that the opportunity presented itself some months ago when he visited the BUC.



Left to right: Gina Abbequaye, Derek Morris and Kathleen Hanson in Montenegro

I should also mention the vivid recollections I have of attending Sabbath School during those years at Newbold Primary School. One of the teachers was Olive Crouch. I can remember taking the large penny coins of those days and rolling them down a big contraption for the offering. We certainly did not have much money, but in giving I developed the awareness that we were not here just for ourselves, but that we had a mission to tell others about Jesus.

KH: Did Adventist education feature again in your life?

KH: When did you attend Newbold Primary School?

DM: I first attended the new school in 1960, beginning in Year 1 and going through to Year 4.

KH: Who was the head teacher at the time?

DM: It was a lady by the name of Mrs Priestly.

KH: How did you come to attend an Adventist school?

DM: Mum and Dad were baptised when I was born, and when I was six and my brother was eight we moved from Bristol to Binfield, where my father studied at Newbold College to become a pastor. I have a vague recollection of attending pre-school in Bristol, but this was my first experience in an Adventist school.

KH: What are your memories of your time at school?

DM: My Year 1 teacher was Mrs Wastling and my Year 2 teacher was Christine Woods (then Emmerson). I have a clearer recollection of being in the Year 2 class. I would say that this was a life-changing experience for me because Christine embodied the love of God. I felt like she really loved us and I think that was my first vivid picture of what the love of God looked like.

I met Christine many years later and she said, 'I have prayed for you your whole life,' and that touched me deeply. We had a school play when I was in Year 2 and I was the narrator for the play. I was a very little fellow and she had me standing on a stool. She said, 'I knew when I saw you as the narrator that you would end up being a preacher' . . . and she had continued to pray for me all these years, which was amazing.

I had two more years at the primary school before my father graduated and we moved to Southampton. I attended a state school and that's where I began to hear all kinds of profanities. I remember coming home and saying some things that shocked my parents. I did not even realise they were profane words, because I had grown accustomed to a Christian environment.

KH: How did these early years impact your life?

DM: I would say that all of my years in a state school – eight in total – were not easy for me; but the seed that was planted during my Christian education was still there. My conversion came after I finished my A levels and I was working for a British bank in Brighton. I want to tell people: don't give up on praying for your children; those early influences are not wasted.

DM: I came back to Newbold College as an undergraduate. I then went on to study at Andrews University, before ending up on the faculty at the Adventist Southern University, where I taught for 14 years. I took my experience from Year 2 into my teaching: that attending an Adventist institution, whether primary, secondary or tertiary, should be a life-changing experience. Adventist education is about more than conveying information; it is about life transformation and should be life-transforming. This revelation not only shaped my thinking, but it resulted in many lives being changed in the classroom because if you expect a life-transforming experience you teach differently.

I remember one of my students saying to me, 'When I am in your presence I feel the presence of God' . . . and I went back to my office and wept. I said, 'God, that's my prayer; that when people see me they see You.' So, for me, that's the difference between secular and Adventist education.

KH: Any final thoughts about the teacher who had such an impact on you?

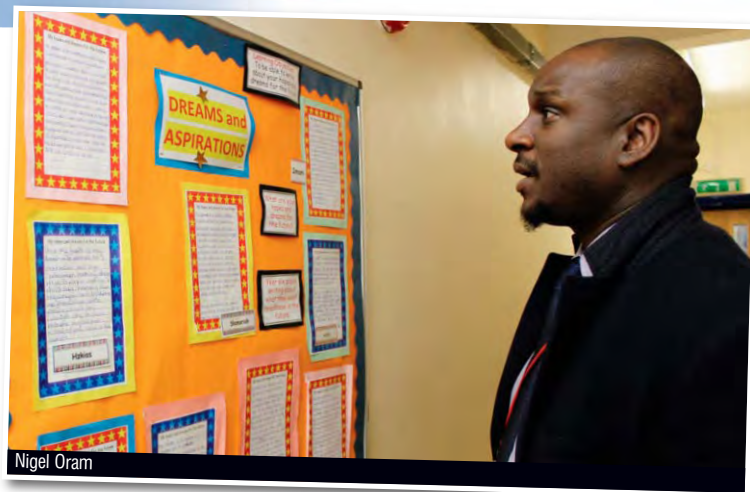
DM: I know Christine Woods has passed now. I called her when she was sick and told her how much I appreciated all that she had done for me. I would say that she had an eternal impact on me. I know it was multiplied many times as I am sure there were busloads of children who felt the same, but it's personal for me because of what it did for my life. I look forward to seeing Christine again, in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Pastor Derek Morris is the President of the Hope Channel and the host of Hope Sabbath School. We pray that God will continue to bless his ministry, as many around the world come to know and accept Jesus as their Saviour through this form of outreach.

Mrs Jaki Crissey – is the current Head Teacher at Newbold Primary School, appointed in January 2013. Since being in the post she has worked hard to preserve the ethos and values of the school. She said, 'At Newbold School, we place God at the centre of all we do. We work together as a dynamic team, to ensure that the individual needs of the children are provided for to the highest possible standard.'

We pray that Newbold School will continue to impact the lives of its pupils and leaders of tomorrow.





Nigel Oram



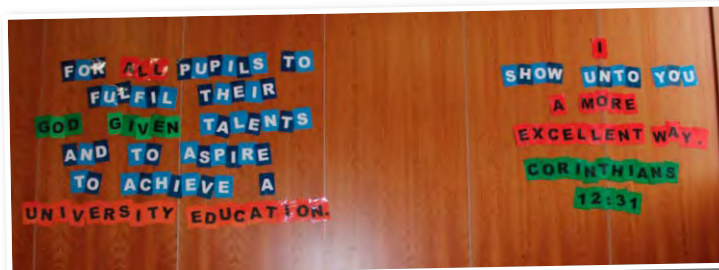
My visit to Harper Bell ...

by Kathleen Hanson

If you visit Harper Bell School and ask to see their visitor's book, you will see an entry dated 6 December 2016, which reads:

Thank you for showing me around your lovely school, Nigel. It was great to meet your confident, happy, polite and smartly dressed pupils and to experience the buzz of learning in the classroom. The theme of aspiration permeates the school and the opportunities provided for the children to dream big are apparent. I see the tone that is being set for the school and the foundations that are being built on. May God continue to bless you and your team in this great work.

These were my first impressions on visiting the school. The school offers a great sense of hope to its pupils, and the Head Teacher, Nigel Oram, and his staff are committed to ensuring that education provides the key to greater possibilities for the pupils. 'I show unto you a more excellent way' – 1 Corinthians 12:31, are the words boldly inscribed on the walls in the assembly hall (Jubilee Bible 2000), where they serve as a daily reminder to pupils and staff that God is willing, able and has made provision for our journey towards all things excellent.



Location, location, location

by Kathleen Hanson

Hyland House Primary School moved to its new premises (Holcombe Road, Tottenham N17 9AD), in September 2015, after 90 years in Walthamstow. The school had been extensively refurbished, to accommodate a change from secondary to primary use. Head teacher, Gina Abbequaye, spoke of the staff dedication and commitment in the summer leading up to the opening, as everyone worked tirelessly to ensure aesthetics that were both pleasing and age-appropriate for the pupils.

Hyland House School's spacious premises has dedicated facilities as can be found in any top school. It boasts an infant and junior science laboratory (equipped with Bunsen burners); dedicated infant and junior art and design and technology rooms; a French room, where French is taught as the additional language; and a home economics room with 10 workstations, where the children have cooking lessons once a week. The school also has a sensory room, which is used by all ages, a specialist music room, and a well-equipped gymnasium. In keeping with the twenty-first century, there are interactive whiteboards in every classroom and an ICT laboratory with 22 stations. Every classroom has an Apple TV, which complements the iPads that all the children have.

'The children have settled in and love the space,' said Mrs Abbequaye, 'especially those who transitioned with us from the previous premises. Parents feel the same way and find the location accessible for trains and buses. Many more are now travelling by public transport (as opposed to driving) and the school is currently well on its way to achieving its STARS status (Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe).'

Hyland House continues to positively impact the church and local community. 'We are pleased that the community has had so many good and wonderful things to say about the school,' said Mrs Abbequaye. 'We worked hard to ensure a good relationship with our neighbours.' Hyland House continues to host various events, due to its size and location.



Gina Abbequaye



My journey to God and headship

by Pastor Richard Daly

Angelika Horwood is a wonderful example of how God works in the lives of individuals by 'opening doors' that lead to a greater revelation of who He is. Angelika presently serves as the head teacher for Stanborough Primary School, but she would be the first to admit that this role, and more importantly her faith, was a 'million miles' away from her initial thoughts and ambitions in life.

The first time Angelika ever heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was when she started her nursing training at the Great Ormond Street Hospital. She was 19 years old. Her life was intersected by Heather, who she became friends with. Heather was the first Adventist she had come across, and despite their friendship Angelika thought Adventists were some kind of strange sect. Heather was grounded in her faith and had defined ideas, especially regarding the Sabbath. Angelika recalls, 'We had a lot of conversations which usually involved me thinking that this is all very well for you, but a bit "hocus-pocus" for me.'

After nursing training, Angelika lost touch with Heather. She settled into her new job in haematology and oncology, got married to John and had a daughter called Laura. When it came to considering schools, they were a bit hesitant as to which school and when, as in Germany (where Angelika was born) children started school later. During this time, Angelika and Heather's paths crossed again. Angelika explained her dilemma. Heather, whose father was the head teacher at Stanborough Secondary School, had no hesitation in recommending Stanborough Primary School for Laura.

The thought of sending their daughter to a private Christian school posed further challenges for Angelika and John. Nonetheless, they visited the school and to their surprise really liked what they saw (both in terms of ethos and educational attainment) and enrolled Laura. One of Laura's nursery friends was the son of Pastor Colin Stewart, who invited them to an Easter service at Watford Town Church. They later realised that Stanborough Park Church was closer and began attending there. The nursery leader at the school offered to take Laura into Cradle Roll, and, in Angelika's words, 'It all developed from there.'

Angelika began to have Bible studies with Pastor David Neal, about which she recalls, 'When I look back I can see God's hand in this all the way through. I was brought up in the German mode of the 'self-made man' but came to the realisation that all of that actually counts for



The Eden School

by Laura Osei

The Eden School, working towards becoming an accredited church institution, strives to provide its pupils with an education that is based upon the Adventist blueprint. This is its vision statement:

At The Eden School we believe that education awakens the dormant greatness lying within every child. Through innovative and outstanding teaching, the attainment of wisdom and knowledge, coupled with character development and the promotion of independent thinking, we are enabled to drive our vision to successfully educate our pupils for this life and for eternity.

We are convinced that all pupils should enjoy school life and that learning should be fun. The Eden School is a warm, friendly and vibrant learning community where our pupils' creativity is nurtured through music, drama, dance and the creative arts; where their life skills are cultivated and honed; and where academic excellence is facilitated and celebrated.

Great results, character building, lasting friendships, a healthier lifestyle, cultural awareness, self-esteem, respect and a bright future will give each child the Eden experience. We are committed to an holistic approach to education where we seek to harmoniously develop the whole child, building strengths and patiently fortifying weaknesses.

For more information about this school, including its daily and annual schedules, please visit its website (www.theedenschool.com) or email your enquiries to info@theedenschool.com.



Angelika with her parents at her graduation



Laura Horwood

nothing outside of God. So, really, that was the moment when I thought, "OK, if all I have studied and all I have learned is true then I can't save myself," and that was really hard because it required a complete shift of attitude.'

While Laura was in the Reception class, Angelika and John were baptised. This was in November 1998, during the Net '98

satellite evangelistic series that was held at Stanborough Park Church. When she started Bible studies, Angelika also started reading a bit of *Patriarchs and Prophets*. 'I liked its story format and drew great insights from it,' she said.

It was out of Angelika's love for reading and desire to help her own daughter succeed that she volunteered to assist at the school. She would help out a couple of days a week for a few hours. This gave her the opportunity to watch teachers in action. She was inspired by the way the teachers handled difficult situations calmly and sought to encourage the children to do well, and this left a deep impression on her.

While volunteering, Angelika felt a very strong sense of calling from God to enter teaching. After graduating from university with a teaching degree, Angelika began to apply for work. She said, 'I didn't get a job straight away so I did some supply work, but during that period I wrote to Anne Pilmoor, who was the head teacher at the time, and asked if there might be some vacancies. Some time after, I received a phone call from Anne and was asked if I would be prepared to teach Year 5.'

Angelika's new career as a full-time teacher had begun. She continued to teach Year 5 for the next seven years, before becoming a senior teacher and then deputy head. When Kathleen Hanson (the then-head teacher) was called to serve as BUC Educational Director in July 2016, after prayer, discussion with her family and encouragement, she applied for the vacancy.

Angelika would be the first to declare that God opens doors that we then have to step through in faith. Combining her faith and teaching role, Angelika sees her appointment as shaping children for service in this world, but also for life in the world to come. One of her greatest memories as a teacher was witnessing two of her students being baptised: one at Watford Town Church and the other at Willesden Church. During the baptism at Willesden, the pastor mentioned that whenever he introduced a new topic to Angelika's pupil, the response would be, 'I've already learnt that at school!' Angelika said she sat there, smiled and thought, 'This is why we do this: this is what we are here for.'



Laura Osei



What's not to love?

by Kathleen Hanson

Dudley House is a delightful school, located in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Head Teacher, Jenny Johnson, led the school through another successful Ofsted inspection in February 2016. The school was judged to be good in:

- the effectiveness of leadership and management;
- teaching, learning and assessment;
- personal development, behaviour and welfare.

Provision in the Early Years was deemed to be outstanding.

The school fits the original definition of a 'church school', in that it shares the same site as the Grantham Seventh-day Adventist church. The facilities are attractive (further enhanced by the displays) and well maintained, offering all that is needed to ensure a great start for young learners, including a pleasant outdoor area which the children access at playtime. Leadership ensures that the children benefit from a broad and balanced education, with opportunities to participate in sporting and musical activities beyond the school.

The school is making a difference to children's lives,' said Jenny, 'as we believe in nurturing the whole child, as well as offering academic excellence.' The philosophy is captured on a plaque in the school's reception area, which bears the E. G. White quotation that 'True education . . . is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers.' (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 13.) 'We feel blessed,' Jenny went on to say, 'when we see the impact that the school has in transforming the lives of the children.'

We encourage you to visit this lovely school and to invest in your children's future by giving them the best possible start in life. Dudley House School is located at 1 Dudley Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9AA. Website: dudleyhouseschool.co.uk; and email: headteacher@dudleyhouseschool.co.uk.



Jenny Johnson



Coming home – Rachel's story

by Rachel Gray, adapted by Kathleen Hanson

Rachel Gray, Head Teacher at Fletewood School in Plymouth, moved there with her family when she was about five years old. Her father taught at Fletewood and she claims that 'it was probably my father's energy and enthusiasm that drew me into teaching and I can't remember ever wanting to be anything else, apart from a brief period when I considered becoming an astronaut!

'I dedicated myself to becoming the best teacher I could possibly be and graduated in 1999, securing my first teaching post in a primary school in Boston, Lincolnshire. It was there that I met my husband Paul and started a family. I have been married for close to 15 years now and have two daughters, Megan (9) and Katie (12).

'Approximately six years ago, my husband and I decided the time was right to return to what I considered to be my home town, Plymouth. Looking back, I strongly believe that God had a guiding



Rachel Gray



hand in directing me towards Fletewood School. I joined the school officially in September 2013, and some time later applied for the post of head teacher, as my father (who was the head) was retiring. My father, John Martin, had been at the school for 30 years and I had some very big boots to fill!

'When I first graduated, almost 18 years ago, I never imagined that my life would come full circle and I would be where I am today. It has most definitely been an interesting journey and I thank God every day for bringing me home.

'There is no denying that Fletewood School is unique . . . a description often used by parents and past pupils. In the words of one of our newest teachers, Mrs Jackie Cooper, "I felt like I had come home," a sentiment that many have felt over the years. When showing prospective parents around, the thing most notice is the "family feel" of the school. It is mainly through word of mouth that our pupils come to us: in my opinion, the best way to fill our school.

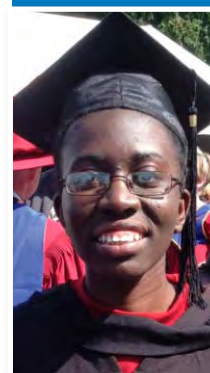
'Fletewood's small size makes it the perfect setting for children to grow in God's family without hindrance. It is also this factor that enables us to show the children first-hand how God's love can touch people we don't even know. Only a few months ago, the school raised money to help a local homeless charity. Within the space of only a fortnight, the children managed to raise a staggering £1,700! Not bad for a school with only 65 children!

'It was never more evident to me how much impact a school and its staff could have on a community than during the planning of my parents' retirement. (My mother had also been teaching at the school.) Unbeknown to them, the school arranged a party, inviting as many past and present pupils as we could get into contact with. It was overwhelming and humbling to see the number of people who remembered our school and, in particular, John and Anne. I don't think my parents realised how much they had touched people's lives and how many fond memories people had of Fletewood School: so much so that I now teach some of the children of the pupils I once went to Fletewood with, myself! I can only hope that, as head teacher, I can one day have as much impact as my parents have had.

'Our most recent Ofsted inspection, although stressful at the time, has proved that Fletewood School continues to be a strong school for the local community with outstanding qualities in the personal development, behaviour and welfare of its children. This is something I intend to build on (I have a great team), and with God's help I hope to take the school from strength to strength.'

Our pupils go on to achieve all over the world . . .

Chantelle Wilson-Cole was recently awarded a Master of Laws (Common Law) degree from the prestigious University of British Columbia. Chantelle has started her training contract to practise human rights law in north America. Special thanks go to committed, Christian educators at Hyland House and Stanborough Schools, including Thelma Thorpe, Gina Abbequaye, Keith Allen and Virginia Gautran.



Advent-religio legal perspective

You may keep up to date with government legislation and its implications for Adventist education by visiting Dr Brighton G. Kavaloh's website www.adventrlp.com, where you will find updates, analyses and other helpful information. You may also forward your questions and comments to: bkavaloh@hotmail.co.uk.

Home-schooling

For all your home-schooling questions and enquiries, please contact Eileen McKenzie at: childrenministries@adventist.wales. Eileen is the Children's Ministries Sponsor in the Welsh Mission and has kindly agreed to support the work of the BUC Education Department by assisting with home-schooling matters. The BUC continues to appreciate the contributions made by Neil Lawrence.

BUC Education Department communication

Contact us at: adventist.org.uk/departments/education. Hear about events via the *BUC Newsletter* (sign up to receive it at adventist.org.uk/news.)

"I HAVE NEVER FELT GOD SO DEEPLY AND STRONGLY AS I HAVE AT NEWBOLD"

I had wanted to experience Newbold for some time, and so far it is everything I thought it would be, and more. So much more. The classes, the teachers, the people, the church, and England itself.

Coming to Newbold made me realise how much more I could be involving God in my personal life. I have never felt God so deeply and strongly as I have at Newbold. So far my Newbold experience has been life-changing for me, in a positive and healthy way.

Karen Holman - Theology





Eva Papaioannou



Nathanael Lawrence



Calin Petrof

Eva Papaioannou

- **Faith** – Studying can be tough – I appreciated having God there to take worry off my shoulders. Being able to talk with God and knowing He has my ‘tomorrow’ in His hands helped greatly. Being part of a strong community of believers has contributed to the development of my faith. I also get involved by helping out with messy church, soup runs and things like playing the piano.
- **Family** – A good support. They accept me for who I am and cheer me on.
- **Food** – Mum encourages a healthy lifestyle. Around exams, she recommends and prepares pulses and nuts as they are good for the brain.
- **Friends** – It is important to attract the right kind of friends as we spend a lot of time with them and they can influence us without us noticing it.
- **Fitness** – Swimming is my favourite sport. It is good physical exercise but also helps to take my mind off the work, especially during very busy periods.
- **Fun** – When I am not studying, strange as this may sound, I like to read.
- **Focus** – I have set routines. I like to be very organised. At the beginning of the week I write down what I have to do and prioritise it. At home I like to sit in a certain spot to study. Sometimes I take an afternoon off or have a chat with my parents as a break, before getting back to work.
- **Finally** . . . as I grow up, I realise that I don’t need to take everything on my shoulders, and that it is important to step back and relax in order not to feel overloaded.

Eva Papaioannou attended Stanborough Primary and Secondary Schools. She achieved an outstanding set of results in her GCSEs and has just completed her A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. She hopes to study Medicine at university.

Nathanael Lawrence

- **Faith** – Faith in God has been essential in helping me get through my GCSEs. School can be very stressful; knowing that you have God with you when you need Him the most can be reassuring. When you wake up in the morning, you can say to God, ‘Thank You for putting me here. I know today will be stressful, but with You I know I can get through all things.’
- **Family** – They are very supportive of what I do, in and outside of school. They support me 100% and always give me encouragement. I am very grateful for this. My parents always listen and they pray for me. They always say, ‘Be a leader, not a follower, and put God first in everything.’ This is something I would like to pass on to my children.
- **Food** – Being from the Caribbean, I like my rice and peas. I also try to drink a lot of water to stay hydrated and to get enough sleep.
- **Friends** – They can have a dramatic impact, positive or negative. However, if you are a well-rooted person and know what you believe

How to come up trumps . . .

Three pupils share their success secrets

in, no one can make you waver. My friends and I encouraged each other during exams. We had a group chat (online) and kept tabs on each other that way.

- **Fitness** – I do athletics twice a week and go to the gym at least once a week. It helps me to keep fit but I also enjoy competing. I run the 100m and 200m. It can be hard because of what you put your body through, but I quite like that side of it too.
- **Fun** – I like to read, go out with my friends and just relax and kick back. I have also worked on the PA system in church, and now that it’s the holidays I am doing some voluntary work in a charity shop.
- **Focus** – I made a study timetable for my GCSEs. It helped me a lot, as I knew which hours I was dedicating to study, but I also knew when I could relax and clear my head. As they say, ‘all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.’
- **Finally** . . . it’s important to keep going, even when things are tough. Keep going and trust God to work it out for you.

Nathanael Lawrence attended Stanborough Primary School and went on to eventually serve as head boy at Stanborough Secondary School (2016-2017), where he has just completed his GCSEs. He hopes to go on to sixth form to study Biology, Chemistry and Sociology.

Calin Petrof

- **Faith** – Faith in God greatly helped me achieve success in my studies and exams. Personal study along with prayer was the perfect combination for me as it meant that the information I learnt was cemented in my mind and came easily when I needed it. I play an active role in my church, helping whenever I can. Sometimes I volunteer at Messy Church, to give back to the community and church, which is an important part of my life. Faith in God helps me to know my potential and my abilities. *Nosce te ipsum!*
- **Family** – My family are always there for me when I need them. They constantly guide me and ensure I make the best decisions. My mother helped me through my studies by testing me on everything I needed to know.
- **Food** – I usually eat fresh, good-quality food. I try to stay away from food that slows my body down. I eat a lot of wholegrain cereal, fish, fruits, vegetables. I enjoyed the Stanborough School meals as they were nutritious.
- **Friends** – My friends influenced me to do well and to achieve success. Whether revising or just hanging out together, having good friends around you is important, as they help you to grow.
- **Fitness** – *Mens sana in corpore sano!* I make sure that I stay fit and try hard to have a healthy body. I go to the gym weekly and I also play tennis and football whenever I have the time. I believe that exercising gives your brain a break, so that when it is time to study you are prepared.
- **Fun** – I love playing tennis and football. It is very important to have time to relax, because if not you become too stressed and are unable to focus well. Regular breaks are important.
- **Focus** – *Per aspera ad astra!* Being disciplined is very important. It helps when it comes to meeting deadlines. It is not always easy to get enough sleep with all the work there is to do, but I tried not to miss too much so that I could function well.
- **Finally** . . . the advice I would give to anyone who wants to succeed is to have a good relationship with God and also know yourself very well.

Calin Petrof attended Stanborough Primary and Secondary Schools. He received the highest GCSE results in his graduating class of 2016. He has just completed his first year of A Levels in English Literature, Economics and Government and Politics.



2017 regional summits on Adventist education

Report on Second Regional LEAD Conference (EUD, ESD, MENA, NAD, TED)* – 30 May-3 June, 2017

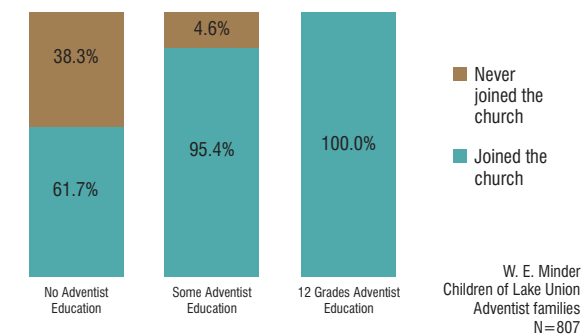
by Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, Director of Education, General Conference

The theme of the Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) Conference sponsored by the General Conference Education Department and held at the General Conference during Annual Council, 5-7 October, 2016 was ‘Educating for Eternity’. The Annual Council then authorised the Education Department, in collaboration with the various world Divisions, to develop a guiding philosophy and a worldwide, regionally responsive plan for Seventh-day Adventist education, to be approved at the 2017 Annual Council. The ten actions voted were:

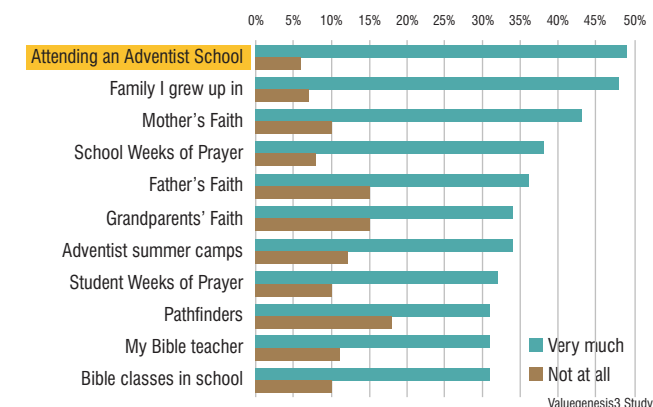
1. Establishment of measurable goals to increase, over the next five years, the number of pre-elementary, elementary, and secondary schools; and/or to increase the proportion of Adventist children and youth participating in Seventh-day Adventist education;
2. Establishment of indicators and curriculum initiatives that position schools to nurture in the hearts of students a personal relationship with Christ, a clear understanding of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and a culture of active participation in service and witness;
3. Establishment of measurable outcomes that increase the retention of Adventist young people in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and their involvement in its mission;
4. Establishment of measurable outcomes that continue to enhance the standards of academic excellence;
5. Identification of an array of potential innovations which may serve to enhance the affordability and sustainability of Seventh-day Adventist schools;
6. Incorporation of the resources of the Biblical Research Institute and the Geosciences Research Institute in the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges and Universities (AAA) process that clearly requires all accredited schools to advocate for and teach as truth the Fundamental Beliefs as voted by the General Conference Session;
7. Development of policy and criteria that define High Impact Schools (HIS) as outstanding examples of excellence in Seventh-day Adventist education;
8. Development of educational resources, support, and/or standards for other models of education (e.g., home schools, residence hall non-degree-awarding ‘college’, innovative educational centres of influence in both urban and rural settings, pastoral-led classes, Massive Open Online Courses, etc.) in a way that enables such students to be a part of Seventh-day Adventist education;
9. Definition of the core of Adventist education at all levels and ensure alignment with AAA and HIS criteria, with latitude beyond threshold requirements; and
10. Development of a statement describing the biblical basis for Seventh-day Adventist education.

The 2016 LEAD Conference was to be followed by a series of four regional LEAD Conferences tasked with further discussing the above ten actions and formulating from them a set of educational plans that

Does Adventist Education make a difference?



Factors that develop Religious Faith



incorporate local, national and regional priorities and objectives. Divisions were brought together as groups on the basis of shared opportunities and challenges, but when the thoughts expressed as meeting local needs are tabulated they will be brought to Annual Council in October 2017 as a single set of proposals. Their purpose will be to show how Adventist education around the world can achieve higher visibility and how all our church’s educators can co-ordinate their actions through a united, empowered network.

The second of these regional conferences involved the TED and began in Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia on 30 May.

Three sessions were devoted to identifying strategies which relate to seven of the ten Annual Council objectives (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8) by means of inter-Division small group discussions. Group work focused on strategies for preschool/kindergarten to grade 8, secondary, and tertiary education. Participants then met according to their Divisions to identify which strategies could be incorporated into the Division plans already outlined in the Division reports. A content analysis of these small-group reports was then performed, which identified certain major themes. These included strategic planning, funding, communication, role of the local church and its education secretary, service learning, role of teachers, and professional development for leadership, governors/boards, and teachers.

The strong correlation between becoming and remaining a Seventh-day Adventist and attending an Adventist school was emphasised in a presentation by Dr John Wesley Taylor, GC associate director of education. Many participants agreed that these data need to be made widely available among parents, pastors, and church leaders at various levels. (See accompanying graphs.)

The Dean of the SDA Theological Seminary, Dr Jiří Moskala, reported on changes to the Master of Divinity degree requirements, namely: that all students must take a course on the role of Adventist education in the life and mission of the church, and that they must do an internship in an Adventist school, if they have had no earlier Adventist education themselves.

Editor’s note: This is an abridged version of Dr Lisa Beardsley Hardy’s report.
* These are five of the territorial clusters into which the global Adventist Church is structured: Inter-European Division (EUD), Euro-Asia Division (ESD), Middle East and North Africa Field (MENA), North American Division (NAD) and Trans-European Division (TED).



SEC Youth Ministries in Israel: bringing the Bible to life, transforming lives

The most recent group of 45 people to walk in Jesus' footsteps were drawn from the BUC and the USA and led by Pastor Anthony Fuller, SEC Youth Director, and Pastor O. Chackochen.

Those stories we have read time and time again were put into context and almost made tangible as the group walked the streets of Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. A holiday this was not, as the 6am wake-up call and early 7.30am start meant that many sites could be visited each day.

Just like Jesus, we too 'crossed over to the other side' as we sailed the Lake of Galilee. We stood on top of Mount Carmel and pictured what it must've been like when fire came from heaven. We reflected at Jericho where the walls crumbled at a shout. We waded in the water in Hezekiah's tunnel and ended at the pool of Siloam, where a blind man was made to see. We visited Calvary, floated on the Dead Sea, walked in the Garden of Gethsemane, and saw many other things that we could previously only have imagined.

As informative as everything was, this was also a chance to reflect and connect with God. Pastor Paul Graham shared a daily devotion and evening worship service. Words of hope and encouragement were spoken and new insights given into well-known Scriptures that can never be looked at in the same way again. This wasn't just a trip, it was a life-changing experience, perfectly illustrated when eleven of the group were baptised in the River Jordan. There was nothing 'magical' about the water, but the presence of God could be felt during the service.

Sabbath was certainly a delight as we exchanged the greeting, 'Shabbat Shalom', and Jews walked the quiet streets on their way to worship. While we took communion at the Garden Tomb we heard singing in Portuguese from a neighbouring group. We didn't understand the words, but recognised the tune: 'We have this hope'. Pastor Paul Graham stopped his sermon and ran over in excitement as they, too, were Adventists. Pastor Magdiel Pérez Schulz, Assistant to General Conference President Ted Wilson, explained that they were a group of presidents from the South American Division who were visiting 26 missionaries that their Division has paid to minister in the Middle East. We joined together and sang that well-known hymn in Spanish, Portuguese and English, then hugged and prayed as many of us imagined that this was a little taste of what Heaven will be like.

Romans 15:4 (NIV) states that 'everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have



How did they like it . . .

- 'This trip to Israel was life-changing! Our tour guide was so knowledgeable of the Bible which made a huge difference. This was a pilgrimage and not the traditional recreational vacation.' *Windy*
- 'I never thought a trip to Israel would change my life in the way that it did.' *Gabriel*
- 'One of the best trips I've ever been on. Informative, interesting, mind-blowing and a chance to experience the Bible in 3D. It has certainly encouraged me to read my Bible more.' *Javinia*
- 'I am starting to save my money to go again, because I found it very inspiring and uplifting.' *Yvonne*
- 'Sobering, eye-opening, inspiring, moving. The first Advent became more real to me. I understood why there is so much talk of God being our Rock, Shelter, Living Water.' *Alycia*
- 'We walked where Jesus walked and life hasn't been the same since. What I experienced has left me diving into my Bible and longing to meet the humble Galilean Himself, face to face in heaven.' *Enes*

For the next trip to Israel (11-18 February 2018) contact Pastor Chackochen at 07748417460.

hope.' This was certainly evident on this trip to the Holy Land. The journey was a chance to make new friends, restore faith in God, strengthen us in the Christian walk, and learn more about the Man who loved us so much He died to save us. 'Israel 2017' has reignited a passion for reading the Bible and will never be forgotten.

PASTOR ANTHONY FULLER (SEC YOUTH DIRECTOR)



Holcombe Road homecoming

On Sabbath 22 July, with people filling every corner in the worship hall, the members of the Holcombe Road Adventist Church welcomed back old faces, former members and friends to their homecoming service.

The atmosphere was joyful and harmonious as members, old and new, came together for worship

in seasons of prayer, praise and fellowship, recognising and celebrating the joy that comes with an earthly homecoming, as well as the focus it brings to the fast-approaching heavenly homecoming.

The congregation was blessed with a message by Pastor Richard Daly, who homed in on the homecoming message with a new look

Cherish the Love Marriage Enrichment Weekend:

13-15 October

Cherish the Love is designed to re-sparkle the love in marriages. Hosts: Corby Church Family, Men and Women's Ministries and NEC Family Life. This weekend will be a great blessing!

Speakers: Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt and Andrea Rashford-Hewitt; Pastor Paul and Jeanetta Liburd.

Accommodation: Four-star gold-standard caravans at Broadland Sands Holiday Park, Suffolk. Self-catering.

Cost: £136 per couple per caravan.

To Book, Step 1: Call Wendy or Zac on 03431787070. Quote the reference, 'Cherish the Love Weekend'. This enables you to book with a discount, for £111.

Step 2: Make a payment of £25 to 'Corby SDA Cherish the Love'. Sort code: 60 06 11. Account no: 29154235. This covers materials etc.

For more information, call Thandie Moyo: 07727 272127; or email Pastor Rashford-Hewitt at a.r-h@hotmail.co.uk.

Stay until Monday at no extra cost. Couples only.



Newbold College Diversity Lectures Autumn 2017

10 October (The 2017 Beach Lecture)

Faith and Politics – A Reformation Anniversary Review
Lecturer: Professor Alec Ryrie, Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Durham
Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, Bracknell RG42 4AN

7 November

A Christian Approach to Capitalism – Why Women and Shopping Matter!
Lecturer: Dr Eve Poole, Deputy Director of the Public Leadership Centre at Ashridge Business School
<http://evepoole.com/about/>
Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, Bracknell RG42 4AN

*Everyone is welcome.
Refreshments will be available!*



at the story of the prodigal son – at the importance of forgiveness, repentance and coming home.

To mark the day, a surprise service was held in the presence of Deputy Mayor of Haringey, Liz McShane, to honour four mothers in our church family. They were recognised for their contribution to the running and functioning of the church and their part in making the church what it is today. The Deputy Mayor was also thanked for her service in the community.

In Psalm 100 David says that we should come into God's presence with singing, and during the homecoming celebration there was plenty of it by the past Gospel Sisters and the Holcombe Road Praise Team Ensemble, Shayne Ferguson and Jacinth Todd, along with Paulette Prendegast, Tottenham Gospel Choir, Yemi and Leon Barclay.

After a fellowship lunch the congregation took a walk down memory lane, which had us laughing with joy: a perfect ending to a blessed homecoming day.

ADAIA BWOGA

BUC IT and Web Developer vacancy

The British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists seeks to employ a Web Developer and IT Person.

Job description:

- Administer and maintain the following: the webserver; the BUC network, server and email service; all back-up procedures for the server, and train staff to back up their own computers; the BUC telephone system.
- Supervise, maintain and develop the BUC websites and databases.
- Use business intelligence (BI) to appraise and improve the websites.
- Perform Windows server administration.
- Understand and apply Data Protection measures with respect to the requirements of the law, with attention to GDPR.
- Advise treasury on purchases of computer hardware and software.
- Assist staff with IT problems.
- Provide or arrange training in IT/software issues for staff as appropriate.
- Liaise with outside IT providers on contracts and provision of services.
- Advise the administration on IT issues.
- Carry out or supervise regular maintenance on office computers.
- Repair office laptops and desktops.
- Maintain a database of software licences and computer hardware.
- Be flexible and willing to learn new technologies.
- Perform other tasks as assigned by the line manager.

Skills and experience:

- Strong understanding of UI, cross-browser compatibility, general web functions and standards.
- Hands-on experience with web applications and programming languages such as HTML(5), CSS, JSON, XML, JavaScript, PHP, JQuery and APIs.
- Familiarity with Squiz Matrix and TYPO3
- Understanding of UX principles
- Experience with Photoshop
- Familiarity with development and debugging tools for cross-browser issues
- Familiarity with social media and third-party APIs
- Familiarity with security regarding web servers, web applications and Windows infrastructure

Interested applicants should send their CVs to Pastor John Surridge, Executive Secretary of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, at jsurridge@adventist.uk.

Closing date: 30 September 2017.



Heroes in training

The Northfield Adventurer Club held their first-ever investiture programme on Sabbath, 29 July. Officiating at the service were resident minister, Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma, NEC Teens sponsor, Pastor Isaac Liburd as guest speaker, and Northfield area coordinator, Len Stewart. Officers in attendance were NEC senior area coordinator, Lorretta Griffin; NEC First Aid coordinator, Pamela Stewart; and NEC area coordinator, Joseph Empawi. Bournville Adventurer and Pathfinder Club came to support us, along with their drum corps. We were also supported by the Worcester Pathfinder Club, who provided a beautiful instrumental rendition of 'Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing' performed by their string group, Worcester Harmonies.

Our six Adventurers brought glory to God as they received their certificates, awards and pins for successfully completing the curriculum year. In addition, club director Carlatta Holmes was

invested as a Master Guide by area coordinator, Len Stewart.

Reflecting on the day and the development of the club, Pastor Obi said, 'What a great example set by the club director, Carlatta Holmes, who took on the challenge not only to lead the club, but went on to be invested as Master Guide on the day'.

The Adventurers recited a poem entitled 'Heroes in training for Christ', thereby pledging themselves to Him.

Let us pray that they will keep that pledge, whatever lies ahead.

DINNIA GEORGE



A new dawn

Sabbath, 3 June, saw the first ever Deaf Christian fellowship and worship day convened in Vauxhall. It was a wonderful day, bathed in brilliant sunshine, during which representatives from Willesden, Cornerstone, Stoke Newington, Watford and Lewisham Health Ministry teams, as well as the Lewisham BSL choir, participated in the first of what is expected to be a monthly event. There were three BSL interpreters on hand to ensure that the service was inclusive. Eliza Popo Jameson from Ilford Church was the preacher and her message was thought-provoking. This was followed by a delicious lunch.

SANJO JEFFREY

NATIONAL LAY BIBLE WORKERS CONVENTION

The Change Makers Passion



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24-26 NOV

Celebrating 10 years of National Lay Bible Workers Convention

£105 If booked by 30th Sept 2017
Or **£160** thereafter.
£20 Single room supplement applies


Pr. Nicardo DELAHAYE


Pr. Louis TORRES


Pr. Ian SWEENEY

For more information please contact Kerrine Guthrie on
01923 672 251 | KerrineGuthrie@adventist.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Bristol health seminar

Ian Sabadin (Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee)

On the afternoon of Sabbath 29 July, the Bristol churches celebrated a common goal in holding a Life Colours health seminar on lifestyle diseases at the Bristol City Hall, a prestigious venue in the heart of Bristol. In attendance were over 200 people, with approximately 50 of those from the community.

The event was organised by the Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee, and featured two presentations on lifestyle diseases by Dr Chidi Ngwaba, SEC Health Ministries Director. The committee was working in partnership with the City Council and a number of other health and wellbeing organisations. It followed on from a health event at the Bristol Race for Life at the beginning of the month.

Dr Chidi's first presentation focused on diabetes, obesity and diet, and highlighted the links between the typical Western diet and a number of lifestyle diseases, particularly Type 2 diabetes, which can then lead to a number of other illnesses and disorders.

The second session which covered cancer and stress informed of how the more animal fat and protein in your diet, especially from milk, the greater the risk of cancer. Dr Chidi then went on to identify the positive changes which can be made to help prevent cancer, such as the benefits of a change in diet, regular exercise, Vitamin D3, and managing stress and emotional health.

The latter was a particularly interesting factor, as he explained that even if you were on the best diet, but you still harboured bitterness and anger, you could still be vulnerable. Dr Chidi explained how stress can negatively affect our health, and by following Christian principles, such as love for God and love for others, we can improve our health and avoid a number of lifestyle diseases. Dr Chidi used the example of forgiveness. According to him, 'one of the most difficult tasks you may do in your life, is to learn to forgive people who have hurt you, and even help people who have hurt you'; but if you don't, that bitterness and anger can seriously harm you.

The programme also included a talk by Naomi Watson, a cancer survivor who shared her story of how she declined the use of conventional chemo and radiation therapies after a mastectomy. Instead, she trained in health and nutrition and has been cancer free for ten years. She now promotes healthy living through a holistic approach in which small lifestyle changes are made in order to improve wellbeing and fight lifestyle-induced diseases.

The sessions were complemented by two practical food demonstrations by Angelette Muller, who showed how to prepare wholegrains and plant milk (from various nuts and seeds), for a nutritious and healthy breakfast. These were very well received by the attendees.

Also in attendance were more than 15 other organisations who operated stalls associated with health and wellbeing, allowing visitors to access a wide range of services and advice. After the seminar, many of these participants complimented the church and its efforts; asked to be included in future events; and invited the church to attend events they were running.

In addition to the stalls by the partner organisations, stations were also set up for health checks, vegetarian food tasters, juicing demonstrations and samples. Vegetarian and vegan food tasters were also given out at lunchtime, and were particularly popular, along with fresh fruit, homemade houmous and vegetable samples.

Outside the venue, as a way to attract people to come in, Evan Green from Newport set up his smoothie bike, and a number of passersby, after trying the smoothies, were invited in and stayed and enjoyed the presentations. One young student who passed by was very interested in what the church believed, and was given a goody bag with *The Great Controversy*, *Ministry of Healing* and other material, and an invitation to attend a church service.

In line with the South England Conference strategy for this year, to build connections and partnerships with the community, BJEC had developed an excellent relationship with Dr Carole Johnson, a city councillor, who has been keen to encourage the work of the church. In appreciation, she was given a bouquet of flowers, and she said in her speech: 'It's very important for us to work together with the community. It was a real breakthrough to have you come along and share. I am really looking forward to working with you in the future.'

Among the main organisers from BJEC, were Mary Philip and Albert Gardiner, who both devoted a huge amount of time and effort to put the programme together.

A selection of photographs, taken by Nelson Khonje, are available at:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/h7r84g1edwe8l70/AADFtmty-ma8M1971w_PkUa?dl=0



(Pastor Palmer for some) were the chaplains helping the children learn some new things about God's kingdom. The singing at morning and evening worships was enthusiastic and led by the children themselves, while at sunset they listened to stories which helped them get to know God better.

One of the highlights of the camp was Campball. The game is a 'mash-up' of football, netball and basketball using the rules of all three to create an exciting team game for boys and girls. The ball is thrown between players who try to throw the ball past several goalkeepers. The

Aberdaron Junior Camp

Junior Camp, held in beautiful Aberdaron, is the focus for sensible 8-12 year olds when summer arrives. Fifty-seven children from the North England Conference gathered to enjoy crafts, sports, water activities, social development and worship in the last week of July. Led by counsellors, house parents, chaplains and activity staff – and fed by brilliant chefs under the guidance of Cheryl Banton – young children learned how to live with each other in a spiritual environment under (mostly) blue skies.

Uncle Alan (Pastor Hush to those in the know) and Uncle Steve

fact that at one stage the girls were winning 3-0 explains the passion that later developed as the boys sought to catch up. In the end, a last-minute goal from Henry Stoner-Redfern snatched a draw from the jaws of defeat.

How could such a fast-paced game be played in safety? Referee Steve Burgher from the Midlands kept the excitement down to manageable levels with sensible time-outs, during which he coached the teams in how best to play the game. All this was backed up by a sensible risk assessment before allowing the game to start. Yes! Campball is definitely here to stay. Make sure that you don't miss next year's Junior Camp at Aberdaron.

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Smart Love graduation and banquet

On 16 July Northfield, Bournville and Halesowen District Youth and Pathfinders Departments had a graduation and banquet for youths who had successfully completed five sessions on Smart Love. They were presented with a certificate and a copy of *Smart Love* on the day. Parents and other church members were also able to attend to celebrate the occasion. Smart Love is geared for young people, ages 12-18, to create awareness of what they will encounter in their teenage years around the subject 'Love'; and how to deal with this in a SMART way, and most importantly, God's way.

The seminars were attended by ten youths and presented by Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma and his wife, Elizabeth. They were held on Monday and Friday evenings, over two weeks, at the Northfield and Halesowen churches. The session presentations were very interactive and the young people were able to freely ask questions. Parents were not allowed to attend the sessions, but were made aware of the topics that were going to be covered, some of which were:



MRS JOHNARE FURBER (NORTHFIELD CHURCH)

'One Life' outreach

Members of the Hackney community recently flocked to our church to learn some practical lessons on how to live healthier lives and maintain positive family relationships. The evangelistic series, entitled *One Life*, took place between 3-17 June, with the practical presentations on the benefits of good health presented by overseas health evangelists, James Luke and Natalie Nash; and seminars on how to promote positive family relationships by Hackney's very own evangelist and pastor, Joojo Bonnie.

Those with a keen interest in health enrolled in the daily Medical Missionary training sessions, led by the two health

evangelists who present a leading Caribbean radio show, *Natural Healing through the Laws of Health*. Every night, the church was filled to capacity by members of the community from different cultures and beliefs, united in their desire to receive some practical information which would positively impact on their health and family relationships.

Attendees included SEC Personal Ministries Director, Pastor Kirk Thomas. A range of health topics were covered, including high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and fibroids. However, the two most popular topics covered were those on cancer and the importance of Vitamin D.

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

- Making friends with yourself and the dating game;
- Breaking up is hard to do and the young adults' number one dilemma;
- How to tell if you are really in love;
- 'Touchy' situations and Close Encounters of a dangerous kind;
- Benefits of sexual abstinence before marriage;
- For those who have already 'gone too far';
- A fresh beginning; and
- Tough topics and a choice to be proud of.

We feel it is our duty as a church to act proactively in safeguarding our young people by providing the necessary information in workshops like these, so that they can experience 'smart love'!

Messenger

Volume 122 • 19 – 29 September 2017

Editor: Julian Hibbert
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 21 – 5 October 2017

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.org.uk

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

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	London	Card	Nottingham	Edin	Belf
Sep 29	6.43	6.55	6.46	6.53	7.04
Oct 6	6.27	6.39	6.30	6.35	6.47
13	6.11	6.24	6.13	6.17	6.30
20	5.43	5.55	5.43	5.43	5.58

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NEC Extending God's Kingdom



Train Up A Child...

NEC Parenting Seminar, September 23, 2017. Sponsored by NEC Children's Ministries, Health Ministries, Disability Ministries, Community Departments.

Guest Speakers:



Nigel and Sophia Nicholls, co-founders of 'Adventist Special Needs Association' (ASNA)
Sophia is the SEC Director of Special Needs and Diversity

Help with parenting when it matters most. Professional advice on meeting special needs. There will be drama, arts, crafts and so much more. It's a service for the entire family to enjoy.
Saturday 23rd September: 9.30-6.15.
Lunch will not be provided.

Location: Winson Green Seventh-day Adventist Church, Handsworth New Rd, Winson Green B18 4PT

Contact departments for further information.
Secretary: Kathleen Williams. Tel: 0115 9606312 www.necadventist.org.uk

Nurturing Each Other And Winning Another

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