



Because we care

by Darell J. Philip, PR and communication assistant at Hackney Church

On a scorching bank holiday (7 May), community organisations, faith groups and local councillors joined in a walk around Hackney, reminding the public to care about the youth in the borough. Among the 62 lives which have already been claimed in the capital this year through gun and knife crime, around a quarter have been in Hackney, the latest of which involved a shooting and acid attack just the previous night.

The young make up the majority of the 62 to have lost their lives through acts of senseless violence. However, on this occasion, youth took centre stage, but for all the right reasons. A group of young drummers from the Hackney Pathfinders club led a loud and lively procession which drew all sections of the Hackney community out onto the streets. Hackney councillor, Ian Rathbone, who was responsible for putting the day together, had this message for the public: 'We are walking today to say enough is enough. We have seen the lives of our young people cut short, so today we are walking together in unity to seek solutions, strengthen those who are hurting and let the community know that we care.'

Joining Councillor Rathbone were recently elected Hackney mayor, Philip Glanville; deputy mayor, Antoinette Bramble; and representatives from various faith groups, including the United Reformed Church, Anglican Church, Stoke Newington Methodist Church, Stamford Hill

Mosque and Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church. Recently re-elected as Hackney's mayor, Philip Glanville said: 'It was a pleasure to be part of something which brought people together. Meetings like these – where people are visible with one mission in mind – are important. Today was about reclaiming the streets of Hackney, and it was encouraging that many young people took a lead in this.'

Representing Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church was Pastor Joojo Bonnie, who spoke passionately about the importance of life. He said: 'None of us has the right to take away the life of anyone. We have lost 62 lives in London this year. We have been denied a song that will never be sung, a picture that will never be painted and a dream that will never be fulfilled. Yes, we care.'

One of the things which made the day so successful was that youth took a lead in all the proceedings. Jade Brooks, a 20-year-old member of the Hackney Pathfinders club, felt that the day went well. 'What took place today was good because it brought the community together while also making people aware of what's going on in the area in terms of organisations and clubs which young people can tap into.'

Joining Jade was her sister, Riann (22), who said: 'This was just a first step in letting people know that we care. There is still a very long way to go. We need to find practical solutions to the

problems which damage our communities, and more events like these could make a difference.'

Hackney Pathfinder leader, Andrea Simpson, was proud of the young people who took a leading role on the day. She said: 'The youth are today's leaders. We have lost too many of them this year. We need our youth and care about them. Pathfinders are a club committed to youth involvement and engagement within the community in a positive way, and we will continue to march within our community because we care.'

South England Conference president, Pastor Emmanuel Osei, was clearly humbled with all that took place on the day, saying: 'Today was proof that a difference can be made when people of all faiths come together in solidarity to show that they care about their community. It is very encouraging when members of the public come up to you asking who our young Pathfinders are and how they can get their young people involved. We all had one purpose today – to tell the people of Hackney that we care, and that the life of every young person matters to us all.'

Hackney faith leaders and councillors concluded the walk with a peace vigil in the St John of Hackney church, holding a minute's silence for those who have lost their lives, before members of the United Reformed Church choir led everyone in a rousing rendition of the gospel song, 'Lean on me'.



Mental wellness – how well are you? Part 1a

The stress impact

This year, Mental Health Awareness Week ran from 14 to 20 May, and focused on stress and its impact on our lives.¹

‘Stress!’ To me, the word conjures up images of someone gritting their teeth with a pained look on their face – either clenching their fists, sweating or holding their head in their hands. You may have other images!

Well, what can we do about stress in our lives? Over the next few issues of *MESSENGER* we will examine some of the symptoms of chronic stress that can negatively impact our lives, and share tips on how to combat them.

First, a look at what stress is and what causes it. The Mental Health Foundation describes stress as ‘the degree to which you feel overwhelmed or unable to cope as a result of pressures that are unmanageable. . . . Stress is our body’s response to pressures from a situation or life event.’²

Numerous studies suggest that a series of significant life-changing events occurring over a short period of time can be harmful stress inducers. During some early research into the identification of significant life stressors conducted by two American psychologists, Holmes and Rahe, they developed a Social Readjustment Rating Scale of 43 stressful life events. Each of the life events was awarded a Life Change Unit, or score, depending on how traumatic it was felt to be by the sample of participants in the study.³

The research outcomes indicated that if you experienced two or more life-changing events within a 12-month period, your chances of suffering from a stress-related illness increased.

According to Holmes and Rahe’s scale, the top ten most stressful life events (with the first being the most stressful) are listed as follows:

- Death of a partner
- Divorce
- Separation from a partner
- Imprisonment
- Death of a close family member
- Personal illness or injury
- Marriage
- Dismissal from work
- Change of job
- Retirement

Number 5 on the list hit home for me, having recently experienced the loss of both my parents within seven months. This double bereavement and subsequent stress has made me re-evaluate my coping mechanisms.

Since Holmes & Rahe’s stress scale (1967), more modern assessments for assessing and managing everyday stress have been created. The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy has produced one such test, which can be accessed at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-24756311>.

In the next issue we will examine stress symptoms and solutions.

Good health!

¹<https://www.counsellingfoundation.org/2018/05/> ²<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/s/stress> ³<https://www.simplypsychology.org/SRRS.html>



Julian Hibbert, Editor

Tell the truth and shame the devil



According to *The Phrase Finder*¹, the 16th century preacher, Hugh Latimer, regarded the following as a ‘common saying’ back in 1555:

‘There is a common saying amongst vs, Say the truthe and shame the diuel.’

Shakespeare put similar words into the mouth of Hotspur in *Henry IV*, Part I, in 1597:

‘O, while you live, tell truth and shame the devil!’

This phrase was also used, not infrequently, by my parents – who were usually addressing it to me or one of my siblings. In fact, I used it a good few times while my own children were growing up, and you may have done the same with yours, or will do so in the future.

Someone who tells the truth is generally regarded as being honest, which has in turn given birth to another familiar adage: ‘Honesty is the best policy.’

Whistle-blowing

Honesty is generally a prized virtue, and those who practice it are usually held in high regard, with the strange exception of the whistle-blower! Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden are among the better-known whistle-blowers of recent times, but there have been many more, with some (like Chelsea) paying a heavy price for their disclosures;² all of which gives the lie to the idea that honesty is valued everywhere and by everyone. In fact, we could go so far as to say that honesty has become a feared quality in many political, institutional and corporate environments.

With that as background, I now want us to explore the critical role that honesty plays within the world of spirituality and faith.

A definition

Before doing this, however, we need to have a definition of what honesty really means. This is the best that I have found so far, but there are others: ‘Free of deceit; truthful and sincere.’³ The honest person then, by this definition, is someone who strives in all sincerity a) to live a life that is uncontaminated by deceit in any shape or form, and b) who values truth. A high expectation, indeed!

Having said that, I would like to suggest that honesty is really a way of thinking about life: that it grows out of our own quiet, personal search for what is **true about ourselves**, and **trustworthy in the world around us**. Perhaps Paul was hinting at this ongoing personal search when he was inspired to write 1 Corinthians 13:12 (*The Message*):

‘We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We’ll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!’

That reminds me . . .

Paul’s words triggered this scene for me. *It is a misty morning. Quiet . . . but for the distant blackbird’s call, and the slushy-munching of the hogs. The farm hand leans pensively on his wooden rake, before spreading another basket of kitchen waste at his feet. He is tempted to fend the hogs away and snatch a handful for himself . . . but his spiteful master might be watching through the mist. It was then Paul whispered again:*

‘We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We’ll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!’

Then, as if cued, Luke steps in to retell the events of Luke 15:17-20 (NIV):

‘When he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.” So he got up and went to his father.’ And, upon arrival, he was brutally honest with Him about his failure! (Author’s emphasis.)

Look back at those verses now, and notice the role that honesty plays in the Prodigal’s **reacceptance, forgiveness and reinstatement** within the family. The highlighted phrases indicate that his attitude was ‘free of deceit; truthful and sincere.’ It is such honesty that opens the door of our hearts to let humility in, and where there is humility, divinity is always at home:

‘God is high and lifted up. He lives forever. His name is holy. He says, “I live in a high and holy place, but I also live with people who are humble and sorry for their sins. I will give new life to those who are humble in spirit. I will give new life to those who are sorry for their sins.”’

(*Isaiah 57:15, ERV*)

Accepting the inconvenient

If you think about it, honesty is the basis for all truth seeking – especially where truth may be challenging and inconvenient to face up to. Let us briefly consider another example from Luke 23. Here we see the interaction between the crucified thieves and Jesus. Notice the role honesty plays in the narrative:

‘One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

*‘But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? **We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.**”*

‘Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”’ (Verses 39-42, with author’s emphasis.)

In response to this penitent thief’s unexpected honesty, Jesus promises him eternal life, which emphasises that we are the nearest to God and His grace when we are honest.

As Paul says, **‘We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright!’**

¹<https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/409500.html>
²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_whistleblowers
³<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/honest>

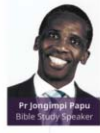
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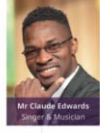
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EVANGELISM EVERYWHERE

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'The Emperor has no clothes.'

The confessions of a lapsed evolutionist

Ironically, the doctrine of Creation is one of the reasons why I am a Seventh-day Adventist: ironic because, while I was dating my Seventh-day Adventist girlfriend, there was one belief that she held that I found embarrassing – her belief in Creation. I remember telling her, 'Don't tell our friends that you are a Creationist.' The irony of that position is that today I am a Creationist, a pastor in a church which teaches Creationism; keeps the seventh-day Sabbath as a memorial of creation; and worships the Creator God. I have even organised a couple of seminars at which scientists have spoken about why they have been led to believe in 'Intelligent Design'.

So what made me change my world view?

Well, the first important element in altering your perspective is to recognise that there is another view. That was not apparent to me, having been educated within the British education system.

Michael Behe, the renowned molecular biologist and author of *Darwin's Black Box*, tells the story of how he was educated as a biologist in the United States, and rose up the academic ranks without ever having his evolutionary assumptions challenged. When he first discovered an alternative view, he says, 'I became angry because I had been led to believe in the Darwinian theory, not because the evidence was compelling, but because that's what I was expected to believe.'

Michael Behe is not alone. In a provocative film, entitled, *Expelled*, Jewish comedian Ben Stein explores the allegations that those holding sympathy with views connected with 'Intelligent Design' in the United States have lost their positions at leading universities.

The film suggests that 'Intelligent Design' is a theory which is deliberately being frozen out of the education system. Such is the opposition to Creationism and Intelligent Design that, in 2014, the British Government adopted a law to prevent it from being taught within science classes in free schools and academies.

Like Professor Michael Behe, I never encountered an alternative view in school. I assumed that evolution was a fact: so when I encountered the writings of scientists who had different views on the question of origins, on the bookshelves of the Seventh-day Adventist friends I was making, it was a revelation. I was deeply interested, and started reading books on both sides of the argument. In 1997, I read *Mere Creation*. It was such an important book that I bought some extra copies and mailed them around.

What I started to understand, even though I was not yet a Christian, was that the theory of evolution was not easily compatible with a Christian world view. It raised lots of fundamental questions:

- When did man become man?
- When did he acquire a soul?
- When did death emerge?
- Can we be put back together after death? If so, how?
- What is the point of salvation if there never was a fall?
- What was the cross for?

As a result of such questions, I began to have more respect for Seventh-day Adventists who were prepared to confront this compatibility problem openly. They could clearly see that merging 'evolutionary theory' with Christian teaching doesn't really work. Imagine if Genesis 1 read like this:

'And after millions of years of mutations, mass extinctions, devastation and violent death, God

saw all that He had evolved, and behold, it was very good.' – Dan Lietha

But didn't Christianity lose the battle over evolution years ago? Isn't this old news? Don't properly credentialled scientists all adhere to the idea of evolution?

Well, that is how it is often presented. Stephen Jay Gould claimed that Creationists are 'religious fundamentalists, not scientists', and that 'professionally trained scientists, virtually to a person, understand the factual basis of evolution and don't dispute it'.

But the reality is not quite so simple. Firstly, you can be a scientist and believe in God, even believe in a literal creation. John Ashton has edited a book entitled *In Six Days*, and subtitled, *Why fifty scientists choose to believe in creation*. It includes short chapters from 50 scientists with doctoral degrees from astronomy to zoology giving their scientific reasons for believing in a short time-scale creation.

Second, the very words we use in this discussion of 'evolution' are slippery. We need to define our terms. Most Creationists and proponents of Intelligent Design would recognise the existence of micro-evolution or adaptation, which is an observable fact. For instance, there is adaptation in the size of finch beaks over time, or in the number of darker-coloured moths within a given population when there is air pollution. But when you stretch this idea to become the idea of 'molecules-to-man' evolution, it becomes something very different – what Jonathan Sarfati has so memorably called the idea that 'goo became you via the zoo'. That is not an observable fact. That is a theory.

Darwinian evolutionists argue that 'living organisms have evolved

well-adapted structures and materials over geological time through natural selection'. First, there are random genetic mutations, most of which confer a disadvantage. Some, however, are supposed to provide an advantage, which leads to them being more likely to survive. This is basically the idea behind the concept of the survival of the fittest: but, in reality, genetic mutations cause the loss of genetic information. Cornell University geneticist, John Sanford, says it shouldn't be called 'evolution' at all, but 'devolution'. For example, no amount of genetic mutations to the fruit-fly have made it anything other than a deformed fruit-fly.

Drawing a parallel with the world of engineering may help. No amount of tiny successive changes to a bicycle will make it a motorbike. You need entirely new parts and components. It needs to be thoroughly re-designed. The same is true for biological structures. 'Molecules-to-man' evolution simply doesn't work in engineering terms.

So is the belief in molecules-to-man evolution a question of evidence or a question of pre-supposition?

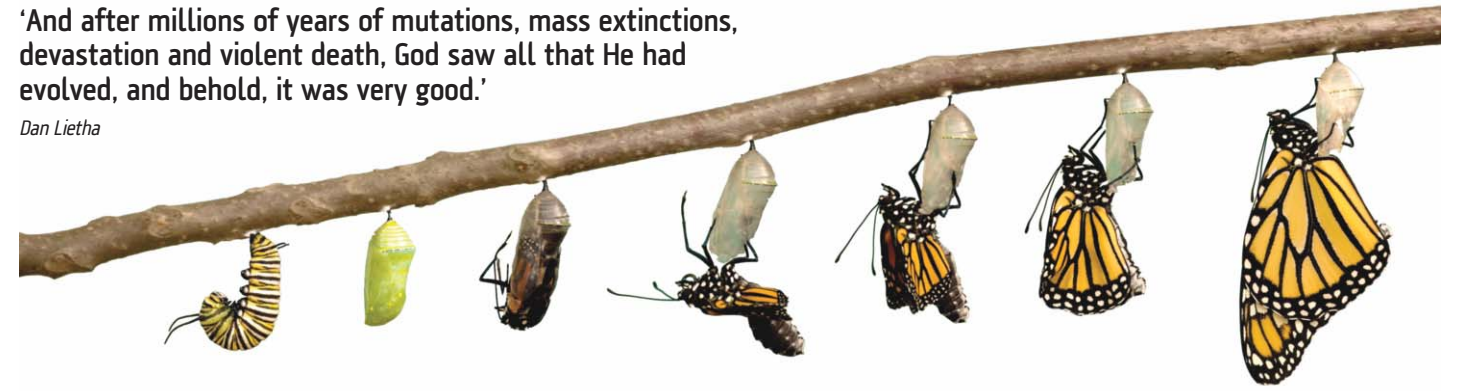
The problem may not be about evidence at all, but about how we define science. Science is currently defined by the philosophy of naturalism. Essentially, that means that you have to extrapolate what happened from natural processes which you can observe today.

This limits the conclusions you can reach. The nub of the issue is revealed in a quote from Scott C. Todd in *Nature*, 30 September 1999. 'Even if all the data point to an Intelligent Designer, such a hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic.'

In other words, it may be true, but it is just not science: or, at least, not science as it is now being defined, because historically plenty of scientists, from Isaac Newton, Kepler and Pascal to

'And after millions of years of mutations, mass extinctions, devastation and violent death, God saw all that He had evolved, and behold, it was very good.'

Dan Lietha



Boyle, Maxwell and Kelvin, were all scientists who were inspired by their Christian faith.

Now, excluding God from the hypothesis might make sense for laboratory experiments: but on the question of origins it is an ideological and atheistic assumption.

So what about the evidence? Is there evidence for Intelligent Design?

Well, Stuart Burgess, Professor of Engineering Design at Bristol University, thinks so. Burgess is a scientist who has designed solar panels for spacecraft, so he knows what he is talking about when it comes to design. He is interested in bio-mimetics, which is about how we can imitate nature in our designs. As part of this, he has studied the human knee joint with a view to developing a replacement. As a biblical Creationist, he expects to find design in creation. He assumes that it has been thought out, and he finds that it has been, from the human knee joint to the peacock

feather. If you want to understand how man is different from the ape in design terms, and could not possibly have evolved, take a look at his book, *The Design and Origin of Man*.

Now, design can be seen all the way up to the physical forces governing how the universe works, the so-called 'fine-tuning of the universe', and all the way down to how the simplest cells work. The cell used to be thought of as something like a blob of jelly. Now it is thought to be as complex as a city. Michael Behe describes his reaction when he saw a flagellum bacterium for the first time: 'My goodness, that is an outboard motor' – an outboard motor one millionth of the size of a grain of sand, which rotates up to five times faster than a Formula One engine. No wonder he coined the term 'molecular machines'. Did such micro-engineering really just happen by chance?

One of the key arguments in favour of Intelligent Design is that information must have an

intelligent cause. Shakespeare's plays didn't write themselves: so what about biological systems which are still more complex?

Nowhere has the information inherent in the natural world been revealed as abundantly as in the science of genetics. Indeed, so intricate has the genetic code proved to be, that Francis Collins, the Director of the Human Genome Project, wrote a book entitled: *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*. Even renowned atheist Professor Richard Dawkins writes that 'the machine code of the genes is uncannily computer-like.' Bill Gates agrees: 'DNA is like a computer programme but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.'

Is this an accident? Or is it a demonstration of intelligence at the source of all life?

Well, evolutionary theory also recognises design: but it invokes 'random mutation' and 'natural selection' as the mechanisms that enable evolution to take place. But

random mutation destroys information; it doesn't create new information: while natural selection only selects from what is already there.

Thirty years ago, Michael Denton wrote a book entitled: *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*. In it he argued that 'it is the sheer universality of perfection, the fact that everywhere we look, to whatever depth we look, we find an elegance and ingenuity of an absolutely transcending quality, which so mitigates against the idea of chance that the Darwinian theory of evolution is no more or less than the great cosmogenic myth of the twentieth century.' Thirty years later, Denton has updated the book. Its critique of Darwinism is only more compelling today.

So I am grateful for some alternative thinkers in the scientific community who were willing to stick their heads above the parapet and shout out from among the crowd that 'the emperor has no clothes.'

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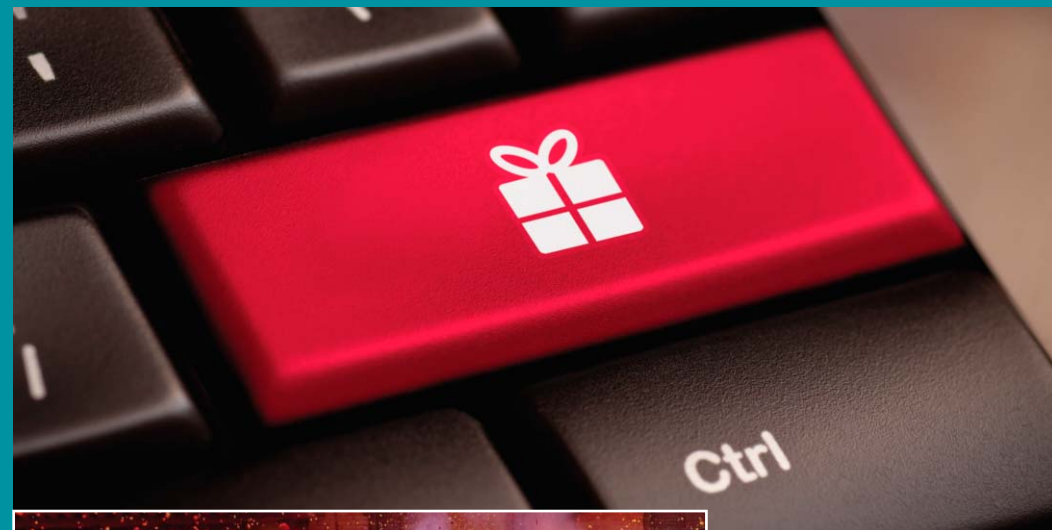
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Compassion outside the box

ADRA-UK pilots Virtual Gift Box Appeal for Swaziland



A DRA-UK will launch its pilot Virtual Gift Box Appeal on 11 June, at a time when interest in this method of delivering much-needed items to beneficiaries in developing countries is gaining momentum. From Monday 11 June until Tuesday 31 July, you will be able to participate in this online appeal for the children in Swaziland through the ADRA website at www.adra.org.uk.

Swaziland, which was recently renamed eSwatini by His Majesty King Mswati III, has the world's heaviest HIV burden, with one in four people living with the condition. There has been progress in the past five years, however, with

the country having halved the rate of reported new infections by providing increased access to virus-suppressing drugs. However, the devastation caused by the virus continues to play havoc with the country's declining economy.

The stigma surrounding HIV is enormous, and carriers are usually unable to work and are often excluded from society – left to be cared for by their families. The disease has been so virulent in the country that hundreds of thousands of people have died and the population has a disproportionate number of orphans.

Solomon is one such orphan, whose parents died when he was a baby. He is one of the fortunate ones who are cared for by the guardians at the Kaphunga Seventh-day Adventist School, which was started by the local church. Solomon is given room and board, as well as a good education to enable him to have a bright future.

Your involvement in helping us test ADRA's Virtual Gift Box Appeal will help children like Solomon to experience a more 'abundant life'. 'We are really excited that we have this unique opportunity to show compassion through the use of new technology,' said Pastor Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK; 'it is both a blessing and a privilege to be able to assist those in need in any part of the world, but there are particular challenges in Swaziland. Your participation will help children like Solomon.'

Think compassion! Think outside the box! Help us to help a child in Swaziland.

For more information on the ADRA pilot Virtual Gift Box Appeal, please go to our website – www.adra.org.uk – or register your interest to help us test this technology by emailing us at info@adra.org.uk.

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What a happy New Year it was

On 6 January this year Winchester Church started the new year with a bang. Mother and daughter, Shirilee and Maria Lewis, were baptised in the Bournemouth church in front of family and friends. Before being immersed in the water Shirilee read the words that she and Maria had composed together.* They had both known God existed, but wanted to know more about His love and grace.

About ten years ago Pastor Barry Alen and his wife, Margaret, took up badminton, and their sports coach was Shirilee Lewis! Their friendship grew, and week by week she began asking more and more 'hefty' questions, the answers to which set Shirilee and Maria on a path that would lead them closer to God, to the foot of the cross.

About two years ago Winchester Church decided to try a 'café church' where friends were invited to join us for a special Sabbath gathering. Mark (the husband and father) attended the event, and has been coming ever since. God is amazing!

Due to the fact that Maria has MS and uses an electric wheelchair, she was accepted into membership on profession of her faith, while Shirilee and Pastor Laszlo Liebhardt were both grateful that Bournemouth Church had laid on very warm baptism water! Pastor Laszlo cares for both Winchester and Bournemouth Churches.

After prayers, blessings, welcoming speeches and a lot of joy and laughter, we all made our way to the church hall for a wonderful afternoon



Shirilee (in pink) and her daughter Maria (in the wheelchair)

tea supplied by Bournemouth Church members.

It was a day of praise, celebration, and new beginnings – and Shirilee is still asking Pastor Barry 'hefty' questions! We thank God every day for our two new sisters, and ask Him to keep them close to Him and us on their journey. God is fab isn't He?

WENDY BRADLEY

*Editor's note: Their words form a beautiful poem, which is too long to quote here.



at the seams to watch Giovanni Addai, Barima Asamoah, Samuel Asamoah (Jnr), David Barnett, Elimelech Bile, Maureen Kazi Nyabenda, Esther Muwanguzi, Anna Obure, Stephen Obure and Gideon Osei give their lives to Jesus Christ.

Each of the new church members was introduced by a friend or loved one who expressed their pride and delight in the decision that they were taking. Members from the Savernake Old Town Church group joined members of the main church at Whitby Grove to celebrate the occasion. Twice during the day the men's choir nearly raised the roof with renditions of 'When Peace Like a River' and 'Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary!' Afterwards, the choir leader joked: 'I think we should examine the building for structural damage.'

In a short homily Pastor James Shepley recalled the reasons for baptism, its significance, and the commitments that the new members were making in being baptised and becoming members of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

What a joyful celebration!

PASTOR JAMES SHEPLEY

Swindon baptises ten

The 24th of March was an historic day for Swindon Church, for that Sabbath afternoon the church was packed for the baptism of 10 precious souls! A record number for Swindon!

The building, full of visitors and church members, was nearly bursting

Baptism at York

The 3ABN ministry continues to bear fruit in York. Last year we had the baptism of two sisters who were introduced to the church as a result of watching 3ABN. On 24 March this year, we celebrated as Cynthia Lee-Charlton became the third person to be baptised at York Church through the 3ABN ministry.

Following her into the pool were two young men who grew up in Adventist families. Both share the same birthday and have testimonies of miraculous interventions in their lives. Philip Malinga was born with serious health issues and not expected to live beyond his second birthday. It was a joy for his family, friends and the church community to see him baptised at age 23. Malindi Moonga survived a fall from an upstairs window when he was 6. His parents praise God that he only sustained broken bones, and they have seen him grow up to commit his life to Christ before starting university this year.

LINCOLN SARGEANT



Left to right: Richard Likupe (elder), Philip Malinga, Cynthia Lee-Charlton, Pastor John Francis, Malindi Moonga, Jackson Moonga (elder and father of Malindi).



Baptisms at Chelmsford

April was a blessed month at Chelmsford Church, during which baptisms were held on 7 and 21 April. In all, ten precious souls were baptised, five of whom were from their 'branch' church at Braintree. The new members are Adoniece Aowe, Steven George, Sanjana Tete, Nidhi Kujur, Benjamin Kamwi, Miyanda Kamwi, Kineite Santos, Abdolay Afonso, Brenda Camp and Mary Bramble.

DHEERAJ SWAMY



An Easter baptism

On Easter Sabbath, 31 March 2018, Stanborough Park Church celebrated not only the resurrection of Jesus, but also the 'new life' of three young people who had chosen to give themselves to Christ through baptism.

Trond Asbjornsen was baptised by Pastor Paddy Boyle, and said,

for Him. God helps me through my hard times and I help other people through their hard times. God will always be my Best Friend.'

Stanborough Park welcomes these young people into the church family.

LYNETTE ALLCOCK

'There is nothing greater than to have a personal relationship with the One who sacrificed all for each and every one of us. The Lord has guided me this far and I have no hesitation in placing my life in the hands of the Master.'

Christian Constantinou was baptised by Pastor Paul Cleo. He wanted to get baptised to be closer to God. 'Jesus has helped me a lot in my life, and still does,' said Christian. 'I want to share His word with others, so they can be with Jesus and have everlasting life too.'

Chiemi Ishida was baptised by Pastor Jacques Venter, and her church in Japan sent a video of the members wishing her congratulations and singing 'Amazing Grace' in Japanese and English. Chiemi explained why she wanted to be baptised: 'God is my Best Friend. He is there for me, and I am there



Leicester Central baptismal candidates



Nicole Williams and her Beauchamp College supporters

A baptism . . . and a witness

Leicester is known for its diversity, and Leicester Central is no different – and our baptisms are marked by variety. On Sabbath 21 April three candidates were joined by family and friends from near and far for just such a joyous event.

Nkosana 'Junior' Mthimkhulu (17) once viewed Adventism as his 'Mum and Dad's way of life', but now he is convinced that it is for him too: 'I love

the Lord and am determined to serve God faithfully.'

Anjela Emmaculate's story, movingly shared with the church by her university friend, Sally, told of her struggle, grief and loss, but also about God's wonderful intervention in her life, which has led to joy, hope, success and, finally, her happy baptism.

The third candidate was Nicole Williams. Her commitment shone out of her on the day – a lovely witness to at least twenty friends from her sixth-form college who were there to support her.

Those officiating were Pastor George Kumi with his elders: Max Williams, Vincent Halliday, David Bhebhe and Nkosana Mthimkhulu.

PAULINE MATTURI (COMMUNICATIONS TEAM)



Left to right: Edward Jr, Edleen's father Edward, Bruce Khumalo (elder), Edleen, Edleen's mother Myleene and Pastor David Rancic

'Unto us a child is born' and a daughter is given

On the weekend that much of the world was commemorating the birth of Christ, Hereford Church celebrated Edleen Alacantara being born again.

Insomuch as it takes 'a village to raise a child', so it took the combined resources of Worcester Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hereford Baptist Church and Hereford Seventh-day Adventist Church to make Edleen's baptism the unforgettable occasion it turned out to be on 23 December 2017.

Thanks to Jennifer Rowell's close work with Hereford Churches Together, Rev. Lynne Davis of Hereford Baptist Church generously allowed us to use their building and baptistry, thereby saving Edleen and Pastor David Rancic a wintry dip in the River Wye.

Pastor David Rancic's message centred on baptism being about repentance. He emphasised that it is a U-turn and a commitment to be led by God's word in all things; a one-time decision that will affect all subsequent decisions because we are baptised into a new life.

The very accomplished ensemble of musicians from Worcester Church then thrilled our hearts as they performed a string rendition of 'Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing' while Edleen made her way to the baptistry.

BRUCE KHUMALO

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NEC Camp Meeting

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We are now able to offer weekend bookings for those members who are not able to attend the camp meeting for the whole week. We will be offering chalets from Thursday to Sunday and from Friday to Sunday. You will need to make your booking via Pontins, who can be contacted on 08714 7427765 from Monday 11 June 2018. You can find the prices and more information by visiting <http://nec.adventist.org.uk/events/camp-meeting-2018>, which includes a link to book directly on the Pontins website.

Sabbath day tickets now available

You are now also able to book your Sabbath day tickets.

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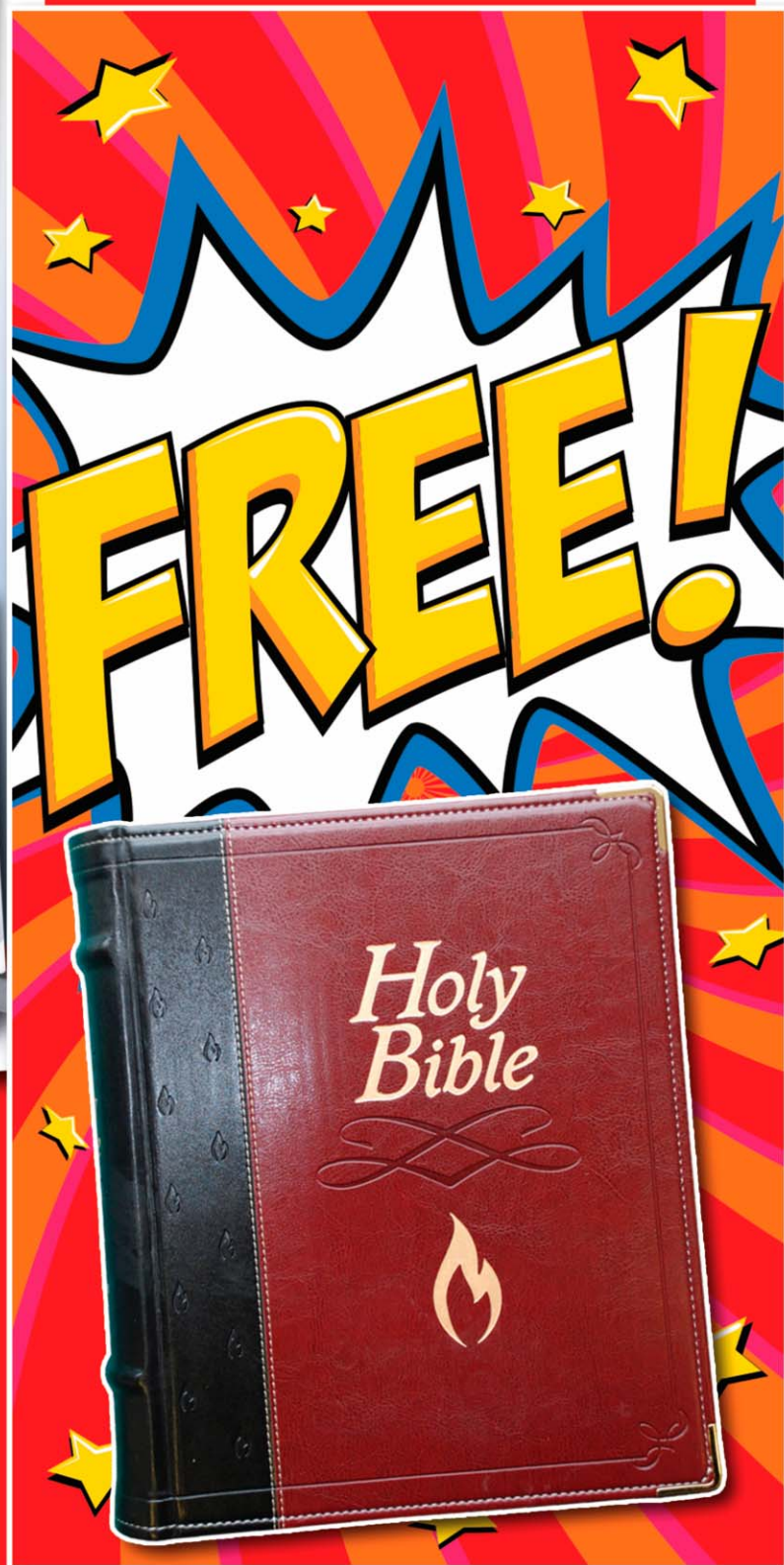
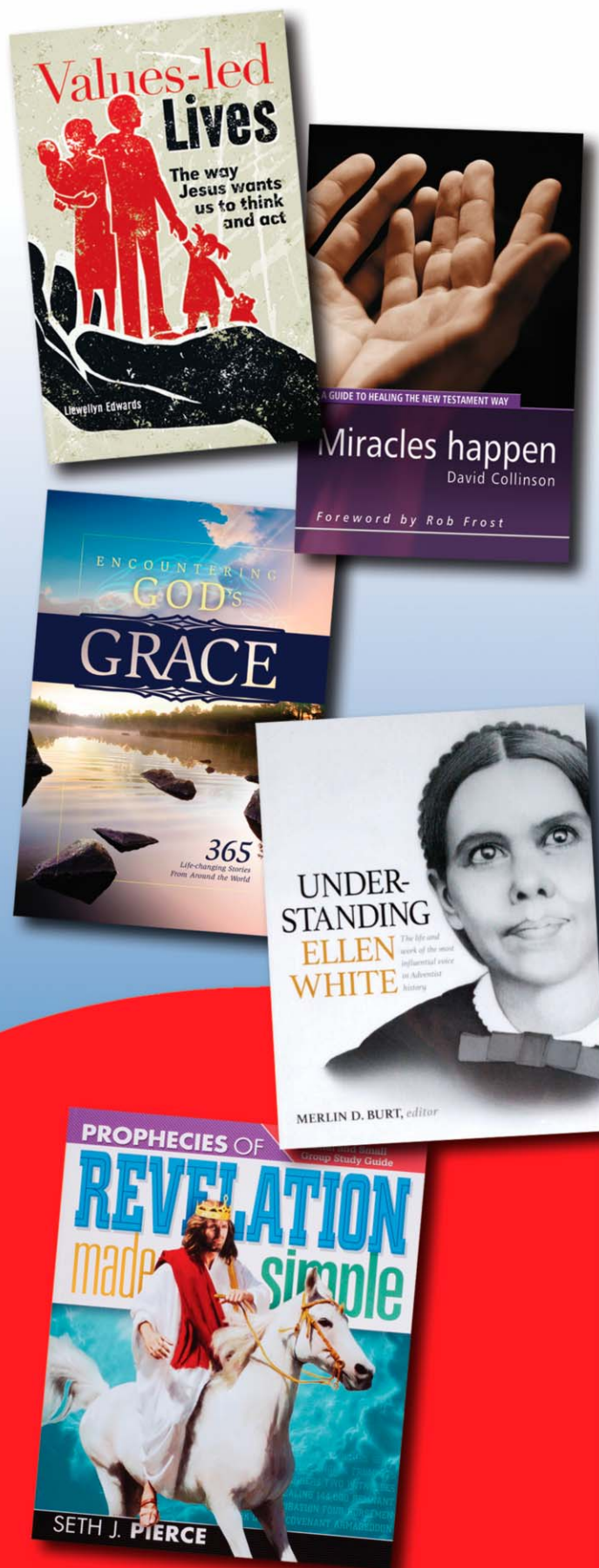
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Pathfinders' 25km walk

On the third Sunday in March the weather was glorious. The snow was gone, the wind had dropped and there was no sign of rain. True, there was a fair bit of mud about, but only those venturing into the deep outdoors were likely to encounter it – like the 30 youth taking part in the Pathfinder Voyager Award, who needed to complete a 25km walk in open countryside. Kevin James and Trevon Peters had gathered young people from Hull, Leeds Central, Leeds New Generation and Newcastle Pathfinder clubs for this day of adventure in the hills around Huddersfield.

The 25km walk is not just designed to walk young people around beautiful countryside, but is a step on the leadership ladder in which they have to exercise various technical skills as well as their ability to guide a group of young people. They get the chance to lead and guide the walk under supervision.

The Newcastle youth volunteered to lead the group for the first two hours of the walk through the Yorkshire countryside.

There were some moments of humour along the route, like when one



lad lost a shoe in the mud! After retrieving it he squelched on despondently until the Newcastle girls revived his spirits with some snacks. The same treatment worked wonders for another young fellow who began to feel poorly – nothing a good drink of water and a banana couldn't fix. The companionship probably had just as much an effect as the different clubs began to mingle and enjoy each other's company.

Darren Haman, from Newcastle, said at the completion of the event that he 'was very pleased with himself'. The Leeds girls kept up an excellent pace, and two of the Yorkshire club's young men found the strength to complete the last uphill section with a sprint.

All in all it was a really great event, for which Kevin and Trevon must take a good slice of the credit.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

Dr Doreen turns 95

Leamington Spa Mission's oldest member, Dr Doreen Bull, reached the grand age of 95 and was presented with flowers and a card on 1 April by one of the church elders, Carolyn Schulz.

The church is grateful to Dr Doreen for her tireless work over the years and the interest she continues to show in all our church members.

HAZEL LAYLAND (LEAMINGTON SPA MISSION)



Photo quality as supplied

Officiating was Pastor Robin Lewis, who had not only had a hand in bringing Rebecca's parents, Sarah and James, together, but had also married them. He spoke on how, of all the tasks we are entrusted with in life, none is of greater importance and consequence than parenting.

An exquisite lunch topped off a truly wonderful day.

BRUCE KHUMALO (ELDER)



Doreen St John Lewis cuddles Rebecca



Rebecca with her parents

A double celebration at Hereford

Baby dedications are always special, and this was true for that of Rebecca Crump on 24 March. Family and friends travelled from Nottingham, Portsmouth and the Isle of

Wight, and four generations of her family were present. What made the event even more special was that Doreen St John Lewis, Rebecca's great-grandmother and matriarch of both her family and the Hereford church, was celebrating her ninetieth birthday that same week.



NEC Emotional Intelligence seminar

The 'Emotional Intelligence: Reaching the Hearts of Our Children' training held recently at Leeds Central Church was a well-planned and executed event designed to do just that. It was another success for Pastor Patricia Douglas, NEC Children's Ministries Director, and her team. It attracted a good group of attendees and hosted speakers from the British Union Conference: Family Ministries and Children's Ministries Director, Pastor Leslie Ackie; and Adventist Discovery Centre Director, Pastor Maureen Rock. In his presentation Pastor Ackie defined emotional intelligence as the 'ability to recognise and identify our emotions, manage our feelings, be sensitive to other people's emotions, [and] manage relationships effectively'. The sessions explored the emotional relationship between parents/teachers and children by sharing a five-step process to help teach children how to recognise and address their feelings.

A late addition to the 'bill' was Mr Satish Paul, who covered the topic, 'Children with Special Needs'. Among other things he said that 'the Church has the opportunity to share the love of God and message of hope with all people of different abilities and ages, [among whom] are some children with various physical or learning difficulties/disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD). These children require special

teaching approaches, visual and concrete (real objects) simplified resources, and adjustment to the teaching environment in order to improve their understanding [and to feel that they belong] to a safe place called church and people who love and care for them.'

There were a variety of presentations, ranging from 'Special Educational Needs', 'Holiday Bible School Training', 'Understanding the GraceLink Curriculum' and 'My Bible Study Guide' to 'Smart Love Training', 'Arts and Crafts', 'Messy Church Training' and 'Keeping the Church Family Safe Policy Training'.

One of the comments that encapsulated the impact of the training was from Ifeoma Victor-Igwe, the Scottish Mission Children's Ministries Sponsor, who said, 'The quality of training was excellent. The training and presentation styles were educative. Having recently assumed the role of Children's Ministries Sponsor, I have learnt quite a lot to take home and develop my proposal to the Scottish Mission.'

Please keep this important work in your prayers, and look out for future training events in your area.

LUNGANI SIBANDA (NEC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DIRECTOR)



Worthing candles burn brightly

On 31 March the members of Worthing Church – just 20 minutes from Brighton on the south coast – made a special effort to share the story of God's love and the plan of salvation with their neighbours and friends.

In some ways this event was the culmination of three years of community contact, door-to-door, by the members.

From the accompanying photographs readers will see that the Caring

Candles, Worthing's talented youth group, were prominently involved in the day's programme.

Why not pay us a visit sometime?

TREV VINCENT



Homecoming day and baby dedication

On Sabbath 16 December last year, Sydenham Church experienced the double blessing of a successful homecoming day and the dedication of their own pastor, Otis Lewis's, twin baby girls by Pastor Brighton Kavaloh.

The homecoming day was a great success, well supported by a rousing sermon by Jermaine Hardy (elder). In attendance were many visitors and past members who enjoyed the service, the lunch that followed and the inspiring afternoon programme entitled 'The Passion of Christ Through Music'.



JANET BUCHANAN (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)

Bournville investiture service

Success and achievement filled the air at the West Heath Community Hall on 16 December last year as fifteen Adventurers and five Pathfinders were rewarded for their hard work and dedication.

The drum corps and flag bearers led the procession into the hall, followed by the Adventurers and Pathfinders. The theme for the day was 'Shining for Jesus'. There was inspiring special music from the club choir, followed by sermonettes from two Pathfinders and an Adventurer, who reminded us that we are God's servants and should not be afraid to let our lights shine brightly for Jesus.

The afternoon programme started with the same enthusiasm as did the morning one. Present were local minister, Pastor Obi Iheoma; Councillor Randal Brew for the West Heath Community; and our Area 5 co-ordinators, Joseph Empawi, Joseph Spencer and John Bishop. Also in attendance were Adventurers and Pathfinders from our sister churches, Northfield and Halesowen. Councillor Brew expressed how happy he was to be a part of this special service and encouraged the children to become great leaders within their communities.

During the programme the Adventurers and Pathfinders eagerly shared some of the things they had learnt throughout the year, such as basic first aid and knot tying. The Pathfinder Bible Experience team also showed their knowledge of the books of Esther and Daniel during their quiz against the adults.

Happiness was apparent on each face as the club members collected their honours and awards. The club staff were also awarded with certificates of appreciation. The club director, Elizabeth Iheoma, encouraged the children to continue working hard and thanked the team for their continued support.

SHARLENE GRIFFITHS



Youth wash cars for ADRA

A midweek splash and super soak for 10 lucky customers in St Austell car park on 11 April was a project run by the church's youth.

They enthusiastically gathered at 11am to begin their preparations, which included practising on a plastic toddlers' car just to get the order of the washing operation just right! They thought they might have some gaps in the timing between cars but everything fell smoothly into place. The youth took it in turns to soak, wash and rinse the cars, using both



the pressure washer and lots of 'people power' to make sure it was washed all over and dried to perfection.

All the hard work was followed by a meal and cake. What more could anyone want! A good time was had by all and £58.60 will be winging its way into the ADRA coffers. Praise the Lord for young people!

FRIDA PEAKE

Permission relating to photography

Those who submit photographs of minors (persons under the age of 18) for publication must ensure that they have permission to do so from their parents, guardians or carers. We would like these submissions to be accompanied by the following statement: 'I have the permission of the parents, guardian or carer of the minors who appear in this/these photograph/s to submit them for publication in the MESSENGER.'

Transport to NEC Camp Meeting 2018

Those wanting transport to the Pontins (Southport) venue from Camp Hill and Wolverhampton should contact Hubert Smiley at: hubert.smiley18@gmail.com or phone 01384213803/07868288310/07926553722 without delay.



Wednesbury team – First Place



Manchester Southern Asia team – First Place



Sutton Coldfield team – First Place



NECPBE co-ordinators, Levon Johns and Mark Sinclair, with PF Director Pastor I. Mwasumbi



Bolton team – First Place



Bradford team

The NEC Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE)

They had to study Esther and Daniel (22 chapters) and two introductory articles about those books from the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, with between a week and three months to prepare, depending on which team they were in. There were 17 teams to start with at the Area levels, then 10 left at the Conference level, and six at Union level, with five going through to the finals. Of those, four received a first place and the fifth a second place.

As a parent or Pathfinder Club staff member, you may be wondering how they mastered all that data? Would your child or club be able to do it? Below you will find some of the methods used by the five teams from the North England Conference during this year's PBE with the hope that they can be of help to you or your team in preparing for PBE 2019 – on the book of Luke (NKJV).

First of all, let me quote *Education* by Ellen White (p. 24): 'No other study can impart such mental power as does the effort to grasp the stupendous truths of revelation.'

This link between Bible study and mental prowess is evident and being fulfilled before our eyes. According to Pastor K. Johns of the South England Conference, parents and teachers are seeing amazing results – academically, behaviourally and spiritually – in the lives of the Pathfinders who took part in PBE!

Well, how did they do it? Here are those methods I promised you:

- **Prayer and trust** – First and foremost it is crucial to put God first, last and best throughout the process. After all, it is His word!
- **Parental support and commitment is key** – Each team member was supported by their parents all the way. Parents booked their holidays so as to be able to support their kids in Florida; they offered their homes for teams to meet, rehearse, study and socialise in – and provided meals; while in Florida, I learnt of parents who would come in to iron uniforms for the participants to allow them to prepare.
- **Mix your teams, with younger and older kids together** – Younger children who are faster in memorising but may have difficulty in comprehension are assigned passages for them to memorise, while

older ones focus more on comprehension. Then, when a question is announced, the younger ones would recite the verse/s and the older ones formulate the required answer. Pathfinders are committing large portions of Scripture to memory.

- **Mastering of the subject matter** – Although each team member is expected to be aware of the entire range of material, each Pathfinder is given specific portions to study thoroughly and master. Following this, an assigned counsellor will test them for accuracy.
- **Fun and laughter** – Periods of preparation must be punctuated with times to socialise and get together. I know of a church that, in order to reduce stress levels among participants, arranged a special dinner for them to enjoy.
- **Supervision in team selection** – As far as possible it is important to ensure that team formation is supervised so as to mix different talents, gifts, age groups, etc.
- **Extras** – A team can have a maximum of six members, but an extra is allowed in case one falls ill. First, pair up the extra child with one of the team members; then, to keep the extra one motivated and involved, do a switch at half time, to allow the extra on the bench to take part too!
- **PBE Quiz Generator tools** – The following links were very helpful in preparation: <http://www.readyanswers.org>, <https://quizlet.com/en-gb>.
- **Meet at least three times a week** – Wednesday, Friday and Sabbath, or Wednesday, Sabbath and Sunday.
- **Electronics and smartphone curfews** – During rehearsals or study times, phones and other electronic gadgets are not allowed.

I hope this list will be of help to you in your preparation. See you at PBE 2019!

[These ideas were compiled from the Bolton, Bradford, Manchester Southern Asia, Sutton Coldfield and Wednesbury teams.]

PASTOR IKWISA MWASUMBI, NEC PATHFINDER DIRECTOR

TMI at Chelmsford

Chelmsford Church has had a busy beginning to 2018, with a strong emphasis on Total Member Involvement. Their youth and Pathfinder groups have been particularly active. The former were out in the cold and wet February weather, knocking on doors to share the love of Jesus in their city.

Then on Global Youth Day they were once again out in the community, visiting hospitals and care homes, talking to the homeless, helping older people with their shopping, etc.

The Pathfinders held a successful camp during the spring bank holiday weekend, with many hours completed and lots of great activities.

DHEERAJ SWAMY



Hanwell's GYD

As part of Global Youth Day 2018, the youth of Hanwell Church in West London decided to ask for donations as part of their outreach work, so as to buy all kinds of essentials to give to the residents of the local YMCA. The collections included toiletries, clothing and Christian literature. The response to the donation appeal was fantastic and the support from the young people was just as impressive. They worked hard to pack the things into bags and confidently distributed them later that evening, led by John Harkup, the youth leader.

ANNMARIE ADAMS (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



Junior FC raises £300-plus for ADRA

On Sunday, 8 April, Newbold Church Junior Football Club (ages 10 to 15) played a charity five-a-side match in aid of ADRA. Over £300 was pledged by the church members, and, since most donors are gift-aiding it, the amount will be much larger.

This football club started in September 2017 and is open to boys and girls, under the guidance of John Becejac and Richard Szoke. If your church is not too far from us and you would like to play and fellowship with us, email us at:

John_becejac@yahoo.co.uk

JOHNNY BECEJAC



Newbold Church Junior Football Club



Glasgow and Irvine GYD

Despite the cold, rain and periods of snow, youth from the Glasgow and Irvine church gathered on Global Youth Day 2018, eager to reach out to the people of Glasgow. Equipped with fresh fruit, water and gifts for the homeless, they went to Sauchiehall Street, one of the busiest in Glasgow, determined to 'be the sermon'. While some were promoting a healthier way of living by giving out fresh fruit and water, others were attracting large crowds with their songs. It was not long before the questions began to flow. 'What church do you attend? Where can I find the song you are singing? Can I join your youth group?'

This was the perfect opportunity for the youth to be the sermon! Walking past with a hand full of shopping, one person stopped and said, 'It's great to see young people being brave and strong and doing good for the community'. An example has been set that all should strive to follow. One song can reach many.

The other part of the GYD team was taking food, raincoats, warm socks and gloves to the city's homeless. This ministry was initiated by Paul, a recently baptised member. Even before his baptism Paul had been going out on the streets at least once a week to meet the homeless, talk to them and give them some food and warm clothes. He knows each of them by name and has become their friend. His commitment and enthusiasm inspired the youth to include his ministry in their outreach project on Global Youth Day. Indeed, it was an enriching experience. They were not only meeting the basic needs of people in the city, but, most importantly, they were meeting the people themselves and getting to know them as friends. 'I had an amazing experience,' said a young man from the team; 'I was talking to a homeless person about the Bible, and it appears to me that he knows more than I do. It was a very inspiring discussion!'

'The weather conditions may not have been on our side, but each person was willing and enthusiastic about serving the community of Glasgow,' said the youth leader. Perhaps the best experience of the day came when a young girl briefly joined the project and offered to be involved with the church in future community programmes. *Be an example; be the sermon.*

BENJAMIN BAKINA, STANLEY BUFFONGE AND LISA MIHAILOVA

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2018 Easter Bikers' Run

For the past 28 years, an ever-increasing number of motorcyclists, organised by the Nottingham Triumph Owners' Motor Cycle Club, have made their way to Grantham, bringing with them Easter eggs and other seasonal delights, all donated by themselves, to be distributed among the care homes and local charities in Grantham.

After the local Salvation Army ceased to be involved five years ago, the Grantham Seventh-day Adventist church took over the task under the guidance of Elisabeth Carnell.

Volunteers with transport have been responsible for the distribution of over 1,000 goodies, all with an Easter flavour, to the local community, with a note indicating that they were delivered by the local Adventist church.

Once again we have been able to involve ourselves in the local



community, which can only have a positive 'ripple effect'. It all happens again at Christmas time, when even more bikers are expected to arrive with gifts of toys.

MIKE COWEN

An evening of music and poetry at Easter

Our Easter celebrations started early at St Austell Church this year with a concert held for the public on 23 March in the church hall.

It was good, once again, to involve the people who live in the area, as we did with our Christmas concert. Pam Symons took the lead in choosing the music and poems.

We were blessed with items by both our church members and our community friends. These included ones by the youth of the church, Live St Austell; a beautiful piano piece by Alison Blackburn; and a lovely solo, 'A Gaelic Blessing', sung by Isabelle Hilburn. It was a great blessing involving so many of our church family, as well as



friends from the community. It's always a privilege to share our faith with others.

FRIDA PEAKE



Crieff's 'Decadians' Dinner

On 8 January the Crieff church held a celebratory dinner for three of its members, all of whom had worked for the Church but were each celebrating a different decade of their lives; hence the title, 'Decadians' Dinner'. Mrs Christine Bauwens was 60 on 7 January – she had been the writer's secretary for two years when he was the North British Conference Youth Director. Sheila Sinclair was 70 on the same day – having worked for the Church all her life as a secretary at the South England Conference, the British Union Conference and the Trans-European Division, and at the Roundelwood retirement home. The writer himself was 80 later in the month – having served as a minister in the North British Conference before becoming the Youth Director for nine years; after which he moved to Scotland and became the pastor of the Crieff church and the Scottish Mission President. All three are still actively involved in serving the Crieff church.

PASTOR BOB RODD (RETIRED)

Sydenham's special transfer

On Sabbath 10 March Sydenham Church's pastor, Otis Lewis, and his elders were rejoicing as they welcomed Theo Barrett into membership. Theo was transferring from Montego Bay Church in Jamaica.

JANET BUCHANAN (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



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Ruth Ellen Marshall (1945-2017) d. 5 June.

Ruth was born on 5 June 1945 to Ida and William Philips in Stoke-on-Trent. As a result of her upbringing she became a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. During her childhood the family moved to Connah's Quay near Chester.

Ruth attended Newbold and studied the Bible Instructor's course. She then worked at the Crieff nursing home in Scotland and later trained to be a registered nurse in Watford. She also decided to change her name from Ruth to Ellen.

Ellen's parents moved to Aberdare in Wales to support the work of Pastor Row in Mountain Ash. Ellen returned there as a nurse and worked in an old people's home. It was at Aberdare Church that she met her husband John, who visited the church regularly as a lay preacher. They were married in August 1978.

Ellen became the mother of two sons, Stephen and David. After they were born she gave up nursing to become a full-time mother. She took an active interest in the church, serving among other things as a children's Sabbath school teacher, a deaconess and a teacher in the Pathfinders. She also loved to go out ingathering every year.

After her sons had grown up she took on the challenging responsibility of looking after her husband, who had developed Parkinson's disease.

In 2011, when Ellen had a triple heart bypass, she was supported by her two sons and made a good recovery. Eventually John really became too much for her to manage, and he was placed in a nursing home where she visited him regularly.

After John died in 2015 Ellen continued to struggle with the stresses of the world, as she had all her life, assisted by her sons. Despite her struggles, those who knew her well could see she was a lovely woman at heart.

After spending the previous six months in and out of hospital Ellen died of a heart attack on 5 June last year.

She is dearly missed by sons Stephen and David, daughter-in-law Elizabeth and granddaughter Ruth. We wait in the hope that we will meet again on the resurrection morning.

STEPHEN AND DAVID MARSHALL

Alvin Belford Bacchus (1929-2017) d. 15 December.

On 16 January 2018, family and friends from across the world gathered at Windsor Street Church to celebrate the extraordinary life of Alvin Belford Bacchus. Such was his popularity that there was not a single seat vacant in the auditorium and people were packed into the corridors and the grounds as well. The Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines sent his special emissary to represent their government at the funeral.

Alvin Belford Bacchus was born in St Vincent on 9 January 1929 and arrived in England in 1957 for what was to be a purely temporary arrangement, but soon Birmingham became his home. Alvin spent 28 years of his life in St Vincent and the remaining 60 in England. A year after coming to England he married Rosaline King. They had seven children, two of



whom passed away very early in their lives.

Alvin worked as a farmer, draftsman and teacher before coming to England. Once here he first worked for British Rail in Kings Norton, where he washed trains. Later he worked in the finance department at British Leyland, and retired at Land Rover as an accountant and finance analyst.

Sometimes, just getting to Camp Hill Church was a challenge, especially when football matches were on. The family had grown, and they had to take two buses to get to church. On many occasions there wasn't enough money for the whole family to travel, so Alvin would walk and let his wife and the children go by bus. Fortunately, a small Bible study group that Alvin was involved with soon had enough members to set up Ward End Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is Windsor Street Church today. Alvin was involved in starting five churches in the West Midlands: Windsor Street, Castle Vale, Chelmsley Wood, Oxhill Road and Sutton Coldfield. Although he



Sixtieth wedding anniversary

Eric and Denise Winch celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on Sabbath, 31 March, and the Crieff church members congratulated them in a brief ceremony at the beginning of the worship service. Pastor Rodd, who had actually been the best man at their wedding, gave a brief summary of their lives, saying that they had met during an evangelistic series in Birmingham run by Pastor Lacey, one of our leading evangelists. Denise was attending this series and Eric was one of the ministerial team. She developed an interest not only in the meetings, but also in Eric, which led to their marriage on 30 March 1958 in the old Camp Hill church, Birmingham. Together they served several North England Conference churches before being called to Scotland. Eric later changed course and trained as a teacher, later becoming the headmaster of the church school in Grantham, where he served for 18 years, ably supported by Denise, who was his secretary. On retiring in 2000, they swapped the plains of Lincolnshire for the highlands of Scotland and joined the Crieff church. Eric and Denise continued serving the church there until poor health finally caused Eric to retire from church work. The church gave them a lovely floral gift to celebrate their anniversary. Four of their five children and their five grandchildren were able to be present.

PASTOR BOB RODD

lived in England, his influence was enough to help start a church in his home town in St Vincent too. Alvin spent the last 22 years of his life at Oxhill Road Church.

In 2013 Alvin suffered a setback that seriously affected his mobility, and he had to give up driving. In November 2017 he was admitted to hospital with a chest infection, which cost him his life on 15 December that year.

Alvin leaves behind his wife, five children, sixteen grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two brothers. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother, and a friend to all.

ANMOL SHARON (CHURCH CLERK)

Messenger

Volume 123 • 11 - 8 June 2018

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

COPY FOR No. 13 - 14 June 2018

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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

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jun 8	9.15	9.27	9.27	9.55	9.56
15	9.20	9.32	9.32	10.01	10.02
22	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
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