

Bristol churches' winter night shelter

by Ian Sabadin, Communications Officer

'Brrrr. Bit of a cold one!' This was the understated response from one of the volunteers as they arrived at the Homeless Night Shelter provided at Bristol Central Church earlier this year.

During the coldest nights experienced in many years, due to the 'Beast from the East', the Bristol churches, supported by the Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee, provided warm meals and a safe place to sleep for up to 12 homeless people over a period of six weeks from 20 February to 28 March. With temperatures regularly well below zero, it was a much-welcomed place of safety, warmth and refuge.

The initiative was part of the Bristol churches Winter Night Shelter project, which is a partnership between Christian churches and homeless charities in Bristol, now in its second year. Local councillor, Dr Carole Johnson, asked Pastor Royston Smith whether the church would become involved in the project, and the challenge was eagerly taken up. The church agreed to host the 'guests' each Tuesday night into Wednesday morning for the entire period.

Local treasurer, Beverley Thompson-Taylor, volunteered to take the project on, and worked closely with the project organisers, arranging training sessions, volunteer rotas, and generally overseeing the church's involvement. Having experience as a social worker, Beverly was keen to get involved. She says, 'Missionary work is very important to me. I believe I have a duty to share my beliefs and the word of God with others and to express God's love in a practical way, wherever and whenever I can'.

The guests ranged in age from young to old and were made up of various nationalities. They had previously been vetted by St Mungo's, another homeless charity in Bristol, which meant that the churches did not have to be concerned about drug- or alcohol-related problems, which they were not experienced enough or equipped to deal with.

Each week, the guests arrived in the evening for a cooked and hot, tasty meal with the volunteers. Afterwards, they were free to socialise, chat, play games, watch DVD's, or just rest, which provided an opportunity to get to

know each other and share experiences. One of the things which brought both guests and volunteers together in shared interest was watching the BBC series Blue Planet I and II, which everyone found fascinating.

At night, two volunteers stayed with the guests, with one awake at all times. This meant that the guests could relax and feel safe. A co-ordinator was always on hand to handle any situations which might arise. In all, 25 volunteers from the Adventist churches took part. It was a very rewarding experience for all the volunteers, as it made them feel that they were doing something worthwhile to help the homeless, and making a difference, however small.

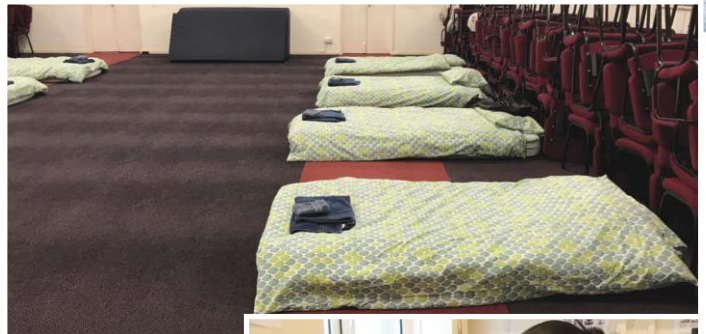
In addition, 17 volunteers from other Bristol churches came and helped, which provided a great opportunity to meet other like-minded Christians, get to know them, and find out about the work they were doing. In turn, they were finding out about Seventh-day Adventists. Several interesting conversations took place about Adventism and what we believe. The volunteers' ages ranged from 17 to 75 and they were mostly from Baptist, Trinity Tabernacle and Methodist churches. They also came from a variety of backgrounds, such as a medical student, a builder, a nurse, a retired college lecturer and some nurses.

At the end of the project, the guests were asked for their feedback, and some of the comments included that they enjoyed their stay due to the smiles of the people and their kindness. One guest also said he enjoyed the physical and psychological warmth and appreciated how helpful people were.

The project to provide a night shelter for the homeless is not an end in itself, and so the organisers were pleased to report that three of



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the guests found accommodation with the support of St Mungo's; two re-established a relationship with their family; one found employment; and one was able to keep his job 'because he had a safe place to sleep at night, was able to get a good night's sleep and wake up fresh the next morning'.

The church participants and project leaders were all delighted with how it went, and are keen to participate again next year – partnering with other churches and organisations to offer shelter for homeless people, and meeting the needs of the vulnerable in our community.



Mental wellness – how well are you? Part 1b

The stress impact

Stress can manifest itself negatively, affecting all aspects of our well-being. The Mental Health Foundation¹ posted the following statement on its website:

'While stress isn't a mental health problem in itself, it often leads to depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicide. It can also lead to physical health [issues] such as cardiovascular disease and joint and muscle problems.'

Listing the most common symptoms of stress, NHS Choices² have identified the following possible reactions:

How we could feel emotionally:

- Overwhelmed • Irritable • Anxious or fearful • Lacking self-esteem

How we could feel mentally:

- Racing thoughts • Constant worrying • Difficulty concentrating • Difficulty making decisions

How we could feel physically:

- Headaches • Muscle tension or pain • Dizziness • Sleep problems • Feeling tired all the time • Eating too much or too little

Behavioural signs:

- Increased drinking or smoking • Snapping at people • Avoidance of situations or people we have problems with

If you are experiencing any of the above on an ongoing basis, it's time to take a 'Stress Test'. If we know what stresses us, we can take action to minimise or reduce those stressors.

Taking the time to assess our response to stress is key to maintaining well-being and avoiding serious damage to our health.

Yale School of Medicine Stress Centre conducts what they describe as 'cutting edge interdisciplinary research' geared towards developing and testing various treatments to 'reverse the destructive effects of stress on integrated brain, body and behaviours'.³ This research clearly indicates the need to take prompt actions to manage ongoing stress and is summarised in these words: 'When stress becomes a way of life – rushing from pillar to post (reading emails as you fly past) the prefrontal cortex part of our brain begins to shut down and even reduces in size'.⁴

Recently, I took some time to assess my stress response to current stressors. Recognising a few stress 'red flags', I decided to make some changes to my life. If you feel the need to do the same, take the Stress Test provided by Mental Health Foundation at:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/your-mental-health/stress-test>

Good Health!

¹<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/stress-are-we-coping> ²<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/understanding-stress/> ³<https://medicine.yale.edu/psychiatry/stresscenter/> ⁴<https://mentalhealth.org.uk/blog/stress-are-we-coping>

An invitation to express interest

While we all dream of eternal life by grace, most of us will probably have to retire before then, or have already done so.

Our current *MESSENGER* editor, like those before him, is resigned to this reality. Julian began his ministry as a student journalist and literature evangelist forty-four years ago, and has since served as a pastor, editor and administrator, including the last eight with the British Union and The Stanborough Press. He has given notice that we need to engage in succession planning so that there can be a smooth handover of his responsibilities by 31 March, 2019.

Editors of The Stanborough Press are elected through the nominating framework of the British Union Conference. Their task is to address in print the pastoral concerns of the Church from a wide base of experience and Biblical appreciation; to produce outreach resources; and to edit the various manuscripts submitted for publication.

In order to match the unique requirements of this task with the abilities of aspirants, the management of The Stanborough Press would be pleased to entertain **expressions of interest** in this regard. These may be made in writing to the General Manager at either: The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL; or eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk.

VICTOR PILMOOR, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (ON BEHALF OF MANAGEMENT)

NEC Camp Meeting

Weekend bookings now available

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.

Please follow this link to book your ticket:

<https://uk.bookingbug.com/home/33185-North-England-Conference>

then click Camp Meeting 2018.



Man, or myth?

The figure of Moses is well-known: He's the subject of generations of Hollywood spectacle and a holy man revered by all three faiths of the Book. In his legend's wake are a bunch of commandments, rivers of blood, plagues of frogs and a sea that parts.

Yet, outside of biblical scripture, there is next to no evidence in the archaeological and historical record of Moses's existence.¹

Thus wrote Ishaan Tharoor in *The Washington Post* of 10 December, 2014. His sentiments are by no means unique. In fact, they are in general agreement with the position of many secular and religious scholars who regard Moses as a legendary figure, taking the position that the writings attributed to him cannot be taken literally.

Implications?

What are the implications of such a view? Well, according to the calculations of Jeffrey Kranz (using Logos Bible Software), Moses is responsible for 125,139 of the Bible's 611,000 words, which means he 'wrote a little more than 20% of the Bible'.² To give some perspective to that contribution, the next four among the more prolific of the Bible's contributors wrote a lot less: Ezra (around 7%), Luke (over 6%), Jeremiah (just under 6%) and Paul (just over 5%).³

Does this discredit a fifth of what millions upon millions of us regard as the inspired, accurate and trustworthy Word of God? In reality, a large part of what Moses wrote provides us with the foundation upon which we build so many of our beliefs; for example: the origin of life; the inauguration of marriage and the Sabbath; the ideal diet; the fall of man; the flood story; the rendezvous with God at Sinai and the gift of His immutable law.

If all these are now of dubious provenance, then what of the 40-odd references to the writings of Moses in certain New Testament books⁴ – are they, too, no longer trustworthy?

If you make of Moses a 'legendary' character – a mythical man – then you have effectively disembowelled your faith!

Shouldn't He have known better?

Seventeen of those references – seven from Exodus and ten from Deuteronomy⁵ – were made by none other than He who said of Himself, 'I am the way and **the truth** and the life.' (John 14:6, NIV – emphasis supplied.) Not only does Jesus quote a so-called mythical man but, as says Jeffrey Kranz, 'Jesus references the burning bush incident when explaining the resurrection (Ex 3:6; Mt 22:32; Mk 12:26; Lk 20:37)'.⁶ How could He have knowingly based such an important teaching on a mere 'fable'? Shouldn't He have known better?

Shouldn't they also have known better?

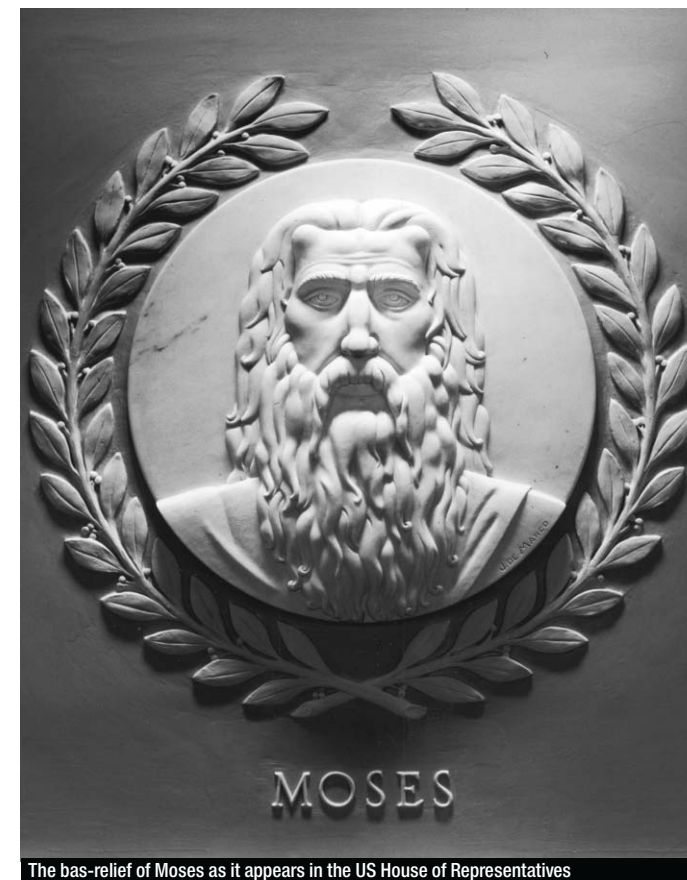
The interesting thing about Moses is that not everyone considers him to be a legendary figure, or how would this have come to pass: 'Moses is depicted in several U.S. government buildings because of his legacy as a lawgiver. . . . Moses is one of the 23 lawgivers depicted in marble bas-reliefs in the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives in the United States Capitol. The plaque's overview states: "**Moses (c. 1350–1250 B.C.) Hebrew prophet and lawgiver; transformed a wandering people into a nation; received the Ten Commandments.**"'⁷ (Emphasis supplied.) Clearly, according to those who commissioned Jean de Marco to produce this bas-relief of Moses in 1950 he was a very real historical figure.⁸ He was not just real, but honoured with pride of place in the chamber, directly opposite the Speaker's chair.⁹

Could they have made a more profound declaration of the primacy of this great historical figure than that the other twenty-two figures – all great historical law-makers themselves – face towards Moses? As the official *Architect of the Capitol* website puts it: 'The 11 profiles in the eastern half of the chamber face left and the 11 in the western half face right, **so that all look towards the full-face relief of Moses in the centre of the north wall.**'¹⁰ (Emphasis supplied.)

At this point it is appropriate to ask ourselves who the *they* were who decided to put Moses at the very heart of US law-making and governance. Here's the answer (emphasis supplied):

'The subjects of the reliefs were chosen by **scholars from the University of Pennsylvania and the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D.C., in consultation with authoritative staff members of the Library of Congress.** The selection was approved by a special committee of five Members of the House of Representatives and the Architect of the Capitol.'¹¹

Yes, *they* did know better – Just as all those biblical writers did when they chose to quote Moses in good faith.



The bas-relief of Moses as it appears in the US House of Representatives

It's all about good faith

As far as Christians are concerned, the absence of *extra-biblical historical, or empirical archaeological proof*, doesn't relegate Moses to the fantastical world of myths and legends. Remember how Paul phrased it:

'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and **assurance about what we do not see.** This is what the ancients were commended for.

'**By faith we understand** that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.' (Hebrews 11:1-3, NIV – emphasis supplied.)

Faith is based on an assurance about 'what we do not see', whether it be of *things to come* or *things long past*. It follows, then, that without such faith scepticism is likely to flourish, which it surely has!

Perhaps, then, the words of Jesus to the Jewish leaders of His day are as applicable now as they were then: '**For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?**' (John 5:46-47, ESV – emphasis supplied.)

¹https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/12/10/was-moses-real/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.be3eca501270 ²<https://overviewbible.com/author-wrote-most-bible/> ³http://www.jesuswalk.com/moses/appendix_3_nt_references_to_moses.htm ⁴<http://blog.biblia.com/2014/04/which-old-testament-book-did-jesus-quote-most/> ⁵https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses#Criticism_of_Moses ⁶<https://www.aoc.gov/art/relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers/moses> ⁷https://www.aoc.gov/sites/default/files/chamber_map_relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers_aoc_0.png ⁸<https://www.aoc.gov/art/relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers/about-relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers> ⁹<https://www.aoc.gov/art/relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers/about-relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers> ¹⁰<https://www.aoc.gov/art/relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers/about-relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers> ¹¹<https://www.aoc.gov/art/relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers/about-relief-portrait-plaques-lawgivers>

'I used to be strong'

by Anita Marshall



Anita in her much-loved garden

Most hospital waiting rooms are alien places, full of concerned individuals. And quiet. Well, they are until I get there. I like talking to people in alien places: to lighten the atmosphere, and, almost inevitably, to pray for them later.

The oncology/chemotherapy waiting room at Lincoln General Hospital is different. Usually packed, and sometimes a bit bustling, there's a more intimate atmosphere, probably because everyone there is either being treated for, or recovering from cancer of one sort or another. Mutual suffering makes for a kind of companionship.

There are the ladies wearing wigs or brightly-coloured turbans; men, bald-headed either by nature or chemo; a bit grim-faced, worried, or simply supporting a loved wife as she faces her illness. There are unturbaned ladies trying to cheer up worried husbands.

Oddly enough, it's rare to see anyone crying in the clinic. It's usually a place of quiet courage and stoicism in the face of what can sometimes be brutal chemotherapy treatments.

But the lady waiting opposite us that morning had reached the end of her tether halfway through her chemo regime. 'I used to be so strong,' she said tearfully to the nurse kneeling by her side. 'I felt my own eyes filling up at her words. My journey through chemo hadn't been much fun either, and there had been times when I'd considered the cure worse than the illness! We all 'used to be so strong' when things were going well, but the slow,

grinding down of morale as painful side-effects build up in our bodies makes us all weak. We just want it to be over.

David and I had to wait a record two hours after our appointment time to see the oncologist, but that day almost reduced us to tears of a different kind when the man who had become more like a friend over the past twelve years announced that my recent blood test and CT scan showed 'everything is stable', and 'the disease is under control.* I'm still smiling as I write that.

Control, after months of a roller-coaster ride of chaotic and sometimes sickening days and nights, with definitely no element of the fun experienced on a roller-coaster. It was hard to believe at first. Hard, even, for Dr S to believe: 'And you've had no chemo for three months?' he asked, unable to check his notes which were in the next room. I shook my head. 'It had to be abandoned when the toxicity levels became too great,' I reminded him.

I could understand his puzzlement. Dear Dr S is a firm believer in chemo, but is unaware, it seems, of the God-factor. I wanted to tell him about all the faithful Christians who had been praying for us for the last six months or more, but despite the fact that his clinic was already running two hours late, he had given us his time unstintingly, as usual, until all our questions had been answered. So we simply thanked him, shook hands, and left, though I have been heaping blessings on his head ever since!

There is no cure for my kind of cancer, but it

can be minimised and controlled, so that I'm living *with* cancer rather than dying from it. But for a lot of the people in the oncology clinic the reality is very different, which is why I spend a lot of my waiting time there praying for God's healing of my fellow waitees.

But there's humour even there. I was talking to one curly-headed man about the effects of chemo once, and he laughed. 'Chemo did me more than one favour,' he said. 'I was told my hair might come back curly or red, or not at all. I got curly. Straight as a die it was before. I always wanted curly hair!'

To chemo or not to chemo
That is a very good question. I fought against it for years,

but when I was shown a scan of my liver with what looked like a hole in it – and growing – I agreed to try the least aggressive chemo treatment on offer. I didn't want that 'hole' getting any bigger!

I'm inclined to believe that the chemo worked, but then, what about those three months sans chemo? Does God let us use the knowledge and learning of science, and then step in to fill the gap? Doesn't sound right, somehow, but what I learned was that when you have a cancer that could kill you, you feel a great obligation to try anything on offer, for the sake of not only yourself, but also your nearest and dearest.

So whom do I thank most? Dr S or God? There's no contest actually. All my serious thanks go to God. He allowed me to go down the chemo route, but my decision was only taken after many weeks of earnest prayer. When I finally succumbed to the oncologist's treatment I felt at peace with that decision. God's peace has been with me ever since.

I deeply respect and am happy for those who hold out and shun chemo. They are exercising their God-given right to say what happens to their bodies. As I did.

**Treatment (non-chemo) continues, to keep the cancer at bay.*



Catherine Anthony Boldeau, ADRA-UK Development Education Officer

Street life Social justice to the urban areas



Alicia Keys bellows out that it's a 'concrete jungle'; Randy Crawford croons that it's a place where 'you better not get old'; and Ralph McTell's haunting lyrics speak of a place where the 'old girl' is 'carrying her home in two carrier bags'.

Three singers, from three different decades, telling tales of cities where there is little green space; which are fit for the young (but not the old); and where there is increased homelessness. These songs from the 70s, 80s and 90s still resonate with the reality of life in our twenty-first century cities. The amount of new housing that is being squeezed into our large towns and cities is at an all-time high. The hustle and bustle of the life there is more suited to those who are young, fit and healthy. At the same time there is more evidence of homelessness on the streets, some of which is attributed to the Universal Credit system that has changed the way that benefits are apportioned.

Urban areas are usually defined by how 'built up' they are, the services and amenities that they provide, and their population density. World-wide, urban growth is on the increase, with more than half the world's population now living in urban areas (53.5%) and the United Nations expecting that by 2050 this is likely to increase to around 66%. In Britain, 82% of people now live in urban areas, up from the 1990's when the figure was around 78%.

So, how do we do humanitarian mission to the cities? How do help to alleviate the plight of those who are squeezed into social housing, those who are physically unwell and those with mental health challenges? What can we do for those who are homeless? Then there are our young people who are being killed and maimed on our streets – what will our response be to this challenge?

'There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonising, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counselled. We are to weep with those that weep, and

rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.' *Ministry of Healing, p. 143, 144.*

The 2018 ADRA Appeal is over and we thank God for all of the funds that are still coming in. As of 31 May, the totals are up from 2016 and 2017 and we will give you the final figure in due course.

As promised, ADRA-UK will be giving 10% of the funds raised by each congregation from the 2018 ADRA Appeal towards humanitarian mission in the UK. With this in mind, we would encourage each church to get involved with its urban community through social action projects. It is our responsibility as Seventh-day Adventist Christians to 'do justly, love mercy and walk humbly' with God – not just to our family and friends but to all those who live in the urban areas.



Job vacancy at ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK is looking for an experienced Programmes Officer.

Key responsibilities include:

- Managing a project grants portfolio;
- Supporting implementing partners to deliver against objectives throughout the project cycle;
- Supporting ADRA-UK's implementing partners to identify and develop high-value (£250k+) complex proposals (including M and E frameworks) and donor budgets;
- Investigating, sourcing and monitoring funds from government, public and private donors.

The desired applicant will:

- Hold a Master's degree in International Development/International

Relations or a related subject;

- Have experience in working with government donors on grant applications;
- Have at least two years of experience in relief and development work;
- Have in-depth understanding of current relief and development issues;
- Have strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills;
- Have a passion for serving people and communities in need;
- Be an enthusiastic motivator;
- Be committed to ADRA's principles of development and the Seventh-day Adventist Christian beliefs.

For more information download the application pack from our website: <http://adra.org.uk/contact/work-adra/>.

The deadline for applications is 14 July 2018.



Documentary on Creation impacts audiences

Seventh-day Adventist churches around the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland hosted public screenings of the investigative documentary, 'Is Genesis History?', in the month of April. It was the first time that this acclaimed movie, which presents a scientific case for the belief in a young earth creation, was screened outside the United States of America.

Several congregations were able to secure theatre space in which to show the movie. On Saturday night, 28 April, one of these venues, the Backstage Theatre in Longford, was filled with church members and several people from the local community. 'Three supporters of the Pro-Life Campaign for the upcoming referendum came along,' reports local organiser, pastor Tony O'Rourke. 'They stood up at the end of the meeting and stated that they were very blessed to see a group who still hold to Christian moral standards and who stand for the truth! It was their first encounter with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its beliefs.'

On the same afternoon a screening was held in the intimate environment of the Nerve Centre Cinema in Derry, Londonderry. Twenty-three of the forty-five seats in the theatre were filled. Ten of these were filled by people who were not from the local Adventist church. This event was supported by several local Christian churches and the local Presbyterian minister was present. An Ulster Unionist councillor from the nearby Causeway Coast and Glens Council also drove 40 miles to attend the event after seeing it advertised on social media.

The Irish Mission pastoral team had worked together for more than six months to plan this Mission-wide initiative. 'We heard about the positive reception that the documentary received in America,' says Pastor Adam Keough, 'and we wondered how difficult it would be to acquire permission to show the movie in Ireland. When we made

contact, the producers of the film were very excited to hear about us. They immediately granted us a license to publicly show the production around Ireland and the United Kingdom at any time in 2018. We realised that this was a great privilege and the whole pastoral team agreed to devote their resources and energy to maximise the impact of the movie.' In preparation for the public screening, pastors and several interested church members attended a day-long refresher course on issues in the creation-evolution debate. A website was set up for the event that managed bookings for all the venues, using advertising strategies suited for each area. These included advertising on social media, banners, leaflets and letters to churches and friends of the Church.

The screenings took place over a period of eight days between 21 April and 28 April. When the reports were collated from the ten venues, it emerged that more than 450 people had attended the screenings, with 98 of them having no prior connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At the screening in Tallaght, which was organised by the Romanian congregation, many of the church members had brought friends, but they did not expect much interest outside the Romanian community. Pastor Christian Salcianu reports, however, that four Dublin ladies who had seen advertisements on the ticketing website also attended. After the movie they were very enthusiastic about what they had seen. Pastor Salcianu reports: 'They asked for a brochure about the Seventh-day Adventist church. I was quite surprised by their interest! My experience with Dublin is that it is an exceptionally secular culture, but there seems to be an interest in the truth of Creation, even in a community like Tallaght.'

'We had more than 40 people attend, with five non-Adventists,'

reports Pastor Lorance Johnson from Cork. 'We later discovered that one was a Doctor of Science. After the showing, I facilitated a time for feedback on the documentary, during which people freely shared their thoughts and what impacted them.' One of the visitors he chatted with after the showing invited him to visit him at home for further discussion.

The movie features Del Tackett, a well-known personality in American evangelical circles, interviewing a dozen scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines about the evidence for a young earth creation. Together, the findings of these academics build a strong case for a viable alternative to evolutionary theory when it comes to understanding the origins of the universe and life on earth. While the material is scientific and technical, it is suitable for a general audience. Most viewers commented that they would like to watch the movie again to internalise the material more fully. Some of the venues anticipated this and printed a booklet, 'A Useful Little Guide to the Film', which contained short summaries of the movie's main arguments.

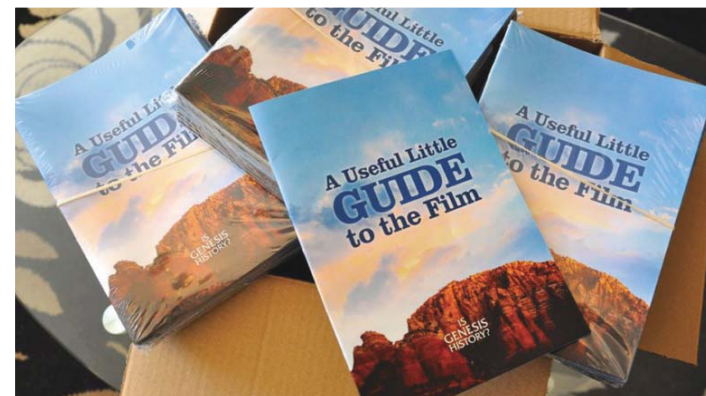
The venues in Cork, Dublin Ranelagh, Blanchardstown, Tallaght, Longford, Donard, Belfast, Banbridge, Larne, and Coleraine all reported that they had positive feedback on the event. People who attended at each venue were keen to sign up for follow-up events,

and in Ranelagh the church had a special GDPR-compliant signup form on hand for that. There was also significant interest in watching some of the follow-up videos that have been produced by the 'Is Genesis History' team. 'One of the visitors that attended added me as a friend on Facebook,' reported Pastor Curtis Samuel from Banbridge, where the movie was shown on the largest screen of the town's Iveagh Cinema. 'The quality of the footage in the movie definitely deserves a big screen treatment,' he mused.

Reflecting on the project, Pastor Dan Serb, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the region said, 'We are honoured to have been given the opportunity to share this resource with the Christian community in Ireland and Northern Ireland. We believe that we have made a meaningful contribution to advance the argument for a young earth creation. We are delighted that the churches have all reported promising opportunities for building relationships with those who have an interest in this topic.'

Each of the ten venues that hosted the movie have plans to follow up on this programme with a continued focus on the biblical view of Creation. The license for screening additional materials created by the 'Is Genesis History?' project extends for the whole year. The events will be informative and educational, and they also provide opportunities to strengthen relationships with everybody who has a similar interest in this relevant topic.

For more information about this project please contact Pastor Weiers Coetser at coetserw@gmail.com.



Messenger photography

The MESSENGER is your official Church magazine and a window into the goings-on in and around this Union. It brings you the news and views of fellow members. Therefore, it has to be good. And I'm not just talking about the articles. In my view, the pictures are almost more important. Let's face it, it's probably the pictures you see first, which may then encourage you to read the article. We've all done it... sat in the dentist's waiting room, flicking through a copy of Hello. It's not the articles we are looking at, just the pictures, which could lead you on to at least read the captions.

Now, I don't for one moment expect us to reach the photographic standard of Hello, but... there is massive room for improvement!

First and foremost

I must say that the MESSENGER team is extremely grateful for all the support that we receive from you, for all the articles and supporting photos that are sent in week on week, but – let me be blunt – a very large percentage of the photography is, dare I say it... RUBBISH!

So why is this?

Well, from what I see, there are many factors. But, by far the worst culprit has to be the mobile phone. Now don't get me wrong: I love technological advancements, and I know that cameras on smart-phones have improved dramatically.

But here is my problem. The mobile phone is for making and receiving phone calls and messages while on the move (the clue is in the name really). I do use my phone for taking pictures and, on the whole, it copes very well. It's great for recording the gas metre readings, or an occasional family snap and pictures of my dog in the garden, but not for the wedding of my nearest and dearest or a baby dedication. If I need to take proper pictures for a proper reason, then I always reach for my camera. I can never understand all those foreign tourists, who spend their hard-earned cash to travel half way round the world, to stand in front of Big Ben, and take photos on their iPads or phones.

Yes, there are a lot of phones out there now that can take very good pictures, but equally, there

are those that just don't. There is no getting away from the fact that the vast majority of really bad pictures we receive are taken on a mobile! What happened to simply using a good camera? But I know that many of you won't have a camera, and probably have no intention of rushing out to buy one just to appease me.

So what should you do?

If you are going to use your phone for pictures, then please try to do so outside, as many of them don't seem to handle low light very well. Get in close to your subject (don't use the digital zoom on the phone). And, of course, try to frame and compose your subject well. Take a good selection of pictures, but don't be afraid of dumping the really bad ones. We don't want them!

Resolution

If your phone allows you to set the picture resolution, be sure that you have it set to maximum. Low-res images are of no use to anyone! So when it comes to emailing your pictures to us, please send them as full resolution JPEG attachments, and not in a Word.doc, even if

you have to send them in batches.

Of course, all this applies to digital cameras also. It is at this point that I would normally be tempted to illustrate this article with some really bad, low-res pictures, but last time I did that, we received letters of complaint. So you'll just have to take my word for it.

Composition

I mentioned above about composing your photos well. This is important. We are often tight on space in the magazine, so to have a long line of people (firing-squad style) is a waste of space; try to bring your subjects together, in rows and at different levels. If it's a baptism you are covering, with multiple candidates, we would prefer a group picture of all the candidates together, instead of single pictures of each. Also, we don't need the whole family... aunts, uncles, second cousins twice removed, etc. It's the candidates that are important.

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We try to display all your adverts, and over the years these have got much better. We print these at 92mm x 132mm; but please try to produce your advert proportionally larger than this. We always prefer to reduce to fit. Try to keep a decent margin around your ad, so that the text isn't too close to the edges. Use a clear and legible font, that is not too light against a light background or too dark against a dark background. Don't put too much text in your ads... less is more!

I have noticed that many of you are using commercially obtainable images in your adverts. That is fine, but please make sure you have downloaded these images legitimately, and that you have the proper licence. The Stanborough Press cannot be held responsible for any illegally downloaded images supplied to us. And, as with photos, please make sure your ads come to us as hi-res files. They can be JPEG, TIFF or PDF.

Thanks for reading my 'rant'!





SEC Student Day of Fellowship

On Saturday 14 April, SEC Campus Ministries burst onto the South England Conference scene with its inaugural event: Student Day of Fellowship. More than 160 students attended the event to benefit from inspirational messages under the leadership of Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick, the Teens Ministries Director.

Sensing a dearth of guidance for students on secular campuses and at other places of study, Pastor Juan organised the event to facilitate the involvement of students in a ministry which was different from that of the already established Teens and Youth Departments.

The relevance of the event became obvious in the morning session as students split into groups to discuss the most common problems students face – including depression, alcohol abuse and loneliness – and how to deal with them.

According to Pastor Patrick: 'The goal is to give students a blueprint on how to run student days themselves. Beginning with the printed programme, students can reproduce the same structure for implementation within their campus'. They can then invite speakers, so that in their places of study others can also gain the opportunity to be 'nurtured spiritually, integrated socially, and challenged academically'.

Keen to combat the philosophical and scientific thoughts on individualism which can often lead to isolation and materialism, Dr Radiša Antić – Lecturer at Newbold College of Higher Education – then explored themes of comfort and relationship through the well-known Psalm 23,

which was a help to the students in the challenges they face.

Throughout the day there was enough that was of profound importance for each student and visitor to gain a blessing, whether it was found in the music, sermon, fellowship, or testimonies.

Simone, an Accounting student at the University of Kent, said that although she was nearing the end of her course, this was an event she would attend again – which probably summed up the attitude of the whole group.

For more information on SEC Campus Ministries, **like** and **engage** with their Facebook page @SECCampusMinistries.

ONYSHA D. COLLINS



Stories in stone

On 25 March, a small group from Wednesfield Church set out on a two-and-a-half hour journey to answer this question: *Is the history as told in the 66 books of the Bible in accordance with the archaeological finds of the ancient world?* To find out, we paid a visit to London's British Museum where, courtesy of our informative tour guide, Craig Gooden (Director of the PEACE Centre of Evangelism), we not only received answers but also enjoyed an educational, social, and altogether worthwhile experience.

Arriving just after 10am, we began our tour through time with the Assyrian Empire, which was renowned for its fearless rulers and brutal exercise of power.

Our experience in the Assyrian era was thrilling, not only because of the interesting archaeological discoveries and stories which were, literally, written in stone, but also because numerous artefacts tied in with the prophet Nahum's dramatic account of the destruction of the city of Nineveh.

The next stop was the Grecian (Hellenic) exhibition. Greece is mentioned not only in the Old Testament (Daniel 8:21), but also in the New Testament, when the apostles went out to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. It was amazing to gaze at the very artwork, statues and architecture that Paul and his companions would have seen as they went about their daily lives!

After an hour's lunch break we re-grouped at the Rosetta stone in the foyer of the museum. It was discovered in 1799, and became the key which unlocked the secrets of the Cuneiform text used widely

throughout the Ancient World.

Fighting back our weariness, we pressed onwards, moving back in time to the Babylonian period. This was a particularly interesting exhibition, not only because of its fascinating display of fabulous artwork (my favourite being a mosaic depicting a golden lion against a dark, royal blue background), but also because of the role Babylon played in the Biblical account of the ancient world. It is first mentioned in Genesis 12:1 when God instructs Abram to leave his home in Ur, a city which was once considered mythical until archaeological evidence proved otherwise!

The last leg of our 'trans-time' voyage was to the Roman era. Roman artefacts seem to suggest a culture which was an amalgamation of the nations that preceded it: the ruthlessness of the Assyrians; the elegance of the Greeks; the organisation of the Egyptians; and the civilisation of the Babylonians.

At around 3pm the tour officially ended with a group photo and many thanks to our tour guide. As I stepped out of the museum's main exit something other than food was playing on my mind, for it had just occurred to me that God's prophetic Word can be verified by history. Furthermore, that the same God who saw the demise of the Assyrians, the conquests of the Babylonians, the Hellenistic period and the fall of Rome, is still able to see and direct our lives in 2018!

This tour to the British Museum was hosted by the PEACE Centre of Evangelism for Wednesfield Church as part of the 'PEACE Intentional' programme. If you or your church are interested in the programmes that PEACE has to offer, please visit our website at www.peacecentre.eu, or email us at info@peacecentre.eu. British Museum tours can be arranged upon request.

JAMES SUDWORTH (16), WEDNESFIELD CHURCH



Left to right (those ordained are in **boldface**): Back row: **Frank Mensah** (deacon), Ebenezer Saah (elder), **Christiana Asamoah** (deaconess), **Samuel Tabiri** (elder), **Richard Kwame** and **Nana Eshun** (deacons), Isaac Kodom (head elder). Front row: **Daniel Tabiri** (deacon), **Paul Arthur** (elder), Rainford McIntosh (church pastor), **Alfred Agyemang** (deacon), Gloria Sarpong (head deaconess), Mark Addo and Daniel Larbi (elders), Kofi Antwi (head deacon).

Ordination at Birmingham Bearwood Church

Sabbath, 14 April, was a special day for the members of the Birmingham Bearwood church as two elders and six deacons were ordained during a solemn ceremony conducted by local pastor, Rainford McIntosh. He shared words of admonition and offered a prayer of dedication, after which certificates were presented to each candidate to mark the occasion.

BIRMINGHAM BEARWOOD COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Isaiah Williams turns 100

Reaching the age of 100 is an achievement in itself and a direct blessing from God, something that Isaiah Williams of the Brixton church achieved on 29 March.

Isaiah Williams came to England from the parish of St Ann, Jamaica, to work as a builder when he was 40. He was one of the *Windrush* generation. He became a member of the Brixton church, where he served faithfully as both a deacon and the head deacon for many years.

He celebrated his birthday with his family and friends, who gathered at Balham Church on Sunday, 1 April, to pay respect to this Christian gentleman. This was followed by an official celebration of his centenary by the Conference President, Pastor Osei, on Sabbath 8 April.

Isaiah lives with his wife and family and is described as calm, kind and never disagreeable: all of which has surely contributed to his long life. He received the customary message from the Queen to commemorate this very special birthday.

VALERIE MOODIE (COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT)



BOOKSALES

June
17-24 SEC Camp Meeting, Pontins, Prestatyn

June/July
25-1 NEC Camp Meeting, Pontins, Southport

July
8 Newbold Graduation 10am-2pm

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It was a long 25 kms!

On 6 May the Pathfinders of the Newcastle and Middlesbrough churches took on a 25 km stretch of Hadrian's Wall to earn their Hiking honour.

At 7.30am, after a short devotional by Pastor Peter Jaynes, the walk started off with lots of half-awake but enthusiastic children and adults heading along the banks of the Tyne. Gradually, the sun came out and by 10am the heat was a burden, with sun cream being applied to everyone. The walk then turned uphill following the wall, with Pastor Peter passionately sharing some amazing historical facts about its history as they went along.

The Pathfinders took turns to lead the group, which arrived at the halfway stop tired and hungry. It was definitely a huge relief when Gerald Narciso (Newcastle's head elder) pulled up at around 13.30pm with lunch and refreshing cold water.

After lunch it was back to the trail, with most hikers now feeling as if they had already done the entire 25 km! Believe it or not, but it was during this last section of the walk that they found the first toilets on the trail – a very welcome sight, indeed. By this point, many of the hikers were literally hobbling their way towards the finishing line, but all were determined to endure to the end.

After they had all crossed the finishing line, one of the hikers noticed that, according to the tracker on her phone, they had actually done 30km!



When everyone had finished the walk they got straight into their cars and went their separate ways, rushing to get home and rest their legs. All in all, it was a good experience – and taught everyone the importance of endurance.

LISELI LAEL SAMWINGA (14)



Food, glorious food

On Sunday 13 May, Pendeford Church held a food tasting event to kickstart the National Vegetarian Week (14-20 May). It was funded by the Vegetarian Society after a successful funding application, and its objective was to help:

- meat eaters to become vegetarian
- vegetarians to become vegans
- vegans to 'go unprocessed'

A total of 43 people attended the event: a mix of people from the church and the community. All the food presented was vegetarian/vegan and delicious, with attendees' comments clearly indicating that it was more of a banquet than a mere 'tasting'!

Both the food and the atmosphere were tremendous, and some tasters lingered well beyond the allotted closing time. God had truly blessed the funding received, for the food was delicious and ample and the cooks excelled themselves.

Due to other commitments, our pastor, Dr Patrick Herbert, got there just in time to see the 'fragments gathered' and made this comment: 'This was indeed a worthy venture, bringing members and community members together within our church'.

All attendees were invited to the next health outreach session, the Pendeford Health and Fitness Expo.

BETHULME SMITH



Religious Liberty weekend

A successful Religious Liberty residential weekend was held from 11 to 13 May at Wyboston Lakes. This inspirational event was born out of a passion and zeal to educate the delegates about some of the challenges our members face within the religious liberties sphere. It was organised by the PARL (Public Affairs and Religious Liberty) and Prayer Ministries Departments of Battersea Church, under the able leadership of Juliette Williams.

Proceedings began with an insightful keynote address from the BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, followed by excellent presentations from Brighton Kavaloh (retired pastor and founder of AdventrIp), Gina Abbequaye (SEC Director of Education and Head Teacher of Hyland House School), Roberta Mahoney (Specialist in HR Law), and Simon McCrossan (Barrister and Head of Public Policy at the Evangelical Alliance UK). Each speaker approached their topic from a biblical perspective and the messages were well presented. It was made clear that Christians are facing significant challenges to their liberty of conscience, including those arising from homosexuality and transgenderism. Although there is increasing tension between the law and our religious freedom, we must continue to show love and compassion to those who may oppose us, while never compromising the truth.

What made this weekend so unique was the practical element to it. Not only were there compelling personal testimonies from delegates with vast experience in working with transgender people, but there was a lot of interaction between attendees and the simulation of situations that members may not know how to navigate.

The weekend was then closed off by a certificate award ceremony for all the participants, followed by an inspiring charge by Dr Emmanuel Osei (President of the SEC) to the delegates, which was based on Luke 22:31-32.

SONIA MUNROE



Romania's Minister of Health, Sorina Pintea (centre) visits health conference

News from Romania

During the recent 2nd European Health Conference held in Romania, the country's Minister of Health, Sorina Pintea, paid the event a visit and had this to say afterwards: 'Seeing the large number of Adventist health professionals, I am impressed and more excited than I expected. I am pleased with what I have learned about Seventh-day Adventists and your lifestyle. I also like the topic of the conference, as we cannot be healthy unless we first adopt a healthy lifestyle.' She also expressed her appreciation to the 'Seventh-day Adventist Church for caring for people both physically and spiritually', and hoped that the conference would be a success.

Among the many who attended was our own Adventist Special Needs Ministries representative, Sophia Nicholls, who had this to say after meeting the Health Minister in the exhibition area: 'It was an honour to speak about the Special Needs Ministry when I met the Romanian Minister of Health during the 2nd European Health Conference held in Bucharest. The Minister was sensitive to the work of the Church with respect to health, hope and healing. Sharing my personal life story of having a child with a disability and how this experience led me to be a part of the ministry was a privilege. The opportunity to inform her about the work of the Special Needs Ministry in relation to education, awareness, inclusion, and belonging was received with much enthusiasm and gratitude.'

EUD NEWS



Stanborough School's PBE success

Stanborough Secondary School celebrated the success of ten of their pupils, who participated in the PBE finals in Florida, USA, in April. The pupils represented the clubs of the Stanborough Park, Filipino and Slough churches.

The Pathfinder Bible Experience's growing popularity means that more pupils are joining Pathfinder clubs and studying the selected books for each competition. This works well for Stanborough School, as the curriculum promotes a solid spiritual foundation based on Biblical principles. If pupils can learn to understand and love God's word, this can only help them to do better! The verse that comes to mind here is, 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' (Matt 6:33, KJV)

One pupil stated, 'It is exciting to learn about the Bible and get to travel and have new experiences.' Another said that the hardest part was to stay focussed and answer quickly on the actual day of the competition. Some pupils said that it was a blessing to have their families accompanying them to Florida. Studying portions of the Bible has certainly improved their knowledge and strengthened their spirituality. Congratulations and well done!

EILEEN HUSSEY (ASSISTANT HEAD TEACHER)

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NEC Prayer Warriors report

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Prayer Warriors, a youth event started in 1998 by then NEC Youth Director, Pastor Steve Palmer. Back then Pastor Palmer noted a need for a residential event that was intentionally focused on prayer and Bible study, and so the journey began. Over the years there have been many powerful speakers, life-changing Bible studies and transforming prayer sessions, and 2018 was no different. This year we had Pastor Pavel Goia as our main speaker. He is currently the Editor of the *Ministry* magazine and is a renowned speaker on the subject of prayer.

More than 100 young people came for the weekend, with additional visitors on the Sabbath. The theme of the weekend was 'Deeper' and the programme followed a familiar format of presentations from our guest speaker, presentations from local young people, times of prayer throughout the day and scheduled Bible studies, during which the attendees were split into groups of five to seven to delve into God's Word.

Pastor Goia shared many stories from his own life, both from his experience of growing up in Communist Romania and, more recently, from his time as a minister. These encouraged the youth to see prayer as something powerful and tangible that shows how God cares about our lives. At the same time, though, he was very careful to stress that prayer is not a secret tool that the Christian uses to get what they want from God; seeing it rather as a means by which we build our relationship with God. He encouraged the youth to be patient in prayer, pointing out that rarely, in the Bible, did the answers come quickly or when the person wanted them to.

Prayer Warriors was started by Pastor Palmer and continued by Pastor Alan Hush while he was Youth Director. Both were in attendance all weekend and also made presentations during the agapè feast and the final charge. Pastor Hush said of this year's event: 'We could not have wanted for any more. The weather was hot and sunny, the speakers were top notch, the fellowship was rich and the food was great, especially the full English breakfast every day.'

Attending on Sabbath were some of the youth who were around during the very early years of Prayer Warriors. One of those was Craig Gooden, PEACE Director, who commented on the impact that Prayer Warriors has had on his life, saying: 'Prayer Warriors has played an extremely important role in my life. Since 2001 I found myself at the yearly event which encouraged me to make prayer and study a daily habit. The fellowship on that weekend made sure the bank holiday was not wasted time, and friends were made for life. The food, social time, venue and, most importantly, spiritual experience, is something to remember – a mountaintop experience.'



Jehanne Importante, youth leader from Worcester church who was attending for the first time said, 'Pastor Goia's messages were so relevant and powerful and my youth and I were definitely blessed. One of the highlights of my weekend at Prayer Warriors was the Bible study sessions. We looked at people such as Moses and Abraham and their relationship with God. Those sessions reminded me that it is important to spend quality time with God in order to build a deeper connection. Another highlight would be the team-building session, as it gave us an opportunity to socialise and get to know each other.'

Prayer Warriors provides a yearly opportunity for friendships to be made, relationships to deepen, God's Word to be studied and lives to be changed. We are blessed that we are able to hold this event in such beautiful surroundings. Alton Castle is stunningly beautiful and adds to the experience. Look out for next year's Prayer Warriors event from 3-6 May.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN

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No man left behind! North England Conference Men's Ministries launch

Sabbath 3 February 2018 will live on in the memories of more than 300 men from the North England Conference (and supporting Missions) who attended the first-ever NEC Men's Ministry day.

This launch event commenced at 8am with an AMEN (Adventist Men in Prayer) breakfast led by Mark Palmer who called on the men 'to petition God to guide us and use us for his glory – wherever, whenever and however', which truly set the scene for the rest of the day.

What followed remains difficult to describe on paper, for during the next three hours the men were blessed by a 'back-to-back' series of four dynamic, Spirit-filled sermons by Adrian Roberts, Michael Dantzie, Pastor Ray Patrick and Clarence Jackson, which provided them with a unique 'mountain-top experience'.

Throughout the morning the men were blessed by the expressive music ministry of Godfrun Moore, Benjamin Beloni, Ian Palmer and our special guest from the SEC, Paul Lee. Their ministry lifted the launch in a way that only the gift of singing can, reminding the attendees that God truly inhabits our worship.

But the essence of the morning session was really captured by the second prayer session where the whole room of 300-plus men engaged in earnest prayer with each other, and it was very evident that the Spirit was at work among them. This was followed by a stirring rendition of *Marching to Zion*, jointly led by Philip Jackson (our praise leader for the day) and Mark Palmer. This seemed to envelop the group in a unifying and transformational power.

After a most enjoyable lunch provided by Cheryl Banton (Pomelo Catering), the afternoon session consisted of workshops delivered by Adrian Roberts, Michael Dantzie, Andre Crawford and Pastor Rashford-Hewitt. In keeping with spirit of the morning session, each presentation continued to challenge the men regarding their identity as God-fearing men; on how men have already been created with the capability and intellect to fulfil their purpose in God; and how knowing and trusting God enables us all to break from our past to seize a glorious future.

So what next?

Following on from our successful launch, we have spent the last few months reviewing the hundreds of forms completed by men who have registered their interest in being actively involved in ministry. MOVE (Men Of Valour Empowered) is developing and will soon be launching a whole range of initiatives, including a brand new and innovative mobile app for men to use personally and share with family, friends and contacts; a focus on health and wellness; programmes aimed at men's spiritual development and leadership; events combining the use of music ministry and the spoken word; and the hosting of challenging, topical discussions on issues of concern to men and the wider church.

June 2018 will also see the launching of 'MOVE Roadshows', bringing speakers, presenters, testimonies, singers and workshops to districts and areas across the NEC. We are inviting churches to contact the writer of this report if they wish a MOVE Roadshow to come to their area, or if they



would like support in establishing an effective local men's ministry programme.

More than 100 years ago, Ellen White described the want of good men as 'the greatest want of the world...'. We see the truth of this all around us today, and with this in mind we are looking to awaken ordinary men across the NEC who will submit themselves to be transformed and empowered by God into courageous, extraordinary, modern-day Men of Valour.

CLIVE PALMER, NEC MEN'S MINISTRIES SPONSOR

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NEC Youth Spring Ski Trip

Geneva, Collonges, Paris, Tignes, Val d'Isère – during this year's NEC Spring Ski Trip 21 youth travelled to these places during an action-packed and fun-filled week. Leaving on 20 April, we were blessed with lovely summer weather on the drive down to Collonges Seventh-day Adventist College in France, just outside Geneva. We then spent a lovely Sabbath at the Adventist Fellowship Geneva, an English-speaking church in the heart of the city, and enjoyed a potluck with the church members on the banks of Lake Geneva. Each year over the past four years we have spent a Sabbath with this church and it's always good to see some of the old friendly faces again.

We arrived in the ski resort on Saturday evening and settled into our chalets in the beautiful village of Tignes Lavachet. Skiing or snowboarding at the end of April means sunshine – and lots of it – this week being no exception. For six days we had wall-to-wall sunshine, and for many people sunblock was a vital necessity each day! The group's skills varied from beginners to advanced skiers, but by the end of the week everyone had progressed significantly.

Each evening during worship, the group explored an aspect of the theme of 'growth'. On one of the evenings the worship talk focussed on having a fixed mindset versus a 'growth' mindset, and all were encouraged to approach life in general in this way, including the experience of skiing.

Experiencing God in nature amidst the peace and serenity of the snow-capped mountains is a beautiful experience. Learning a new hobby and getting the opportunity to visit sites important to the Reformation,



Annual cycle ride for ADRA

For more than 15 years people from the churches of Liskeard, St. Austell and Plymouth have taken part in an annual cycle ride. Participants have come and gone, but the ride has gone on. Some have cycled in driving rain, hot bright sunshine, strong winds and gentle breezes, or under stormy clouds. Whatever the weather, April is the signal that puts the Camel trail and Wadebridge to Padstow into the spotlight.

Since its inception John and Tina Bunker have organised a date for the Area 1 members. This year, on 22 April, there were seven of us. The trip was not as plain sailing as it has sometimes been – the toilets being closed at the start of the journey! However, our spirits would not be dampened, and as the sun and heat weren't a problem, we progressed well, enjoying the sights of birds and boats on the river. Needless to say, the time passed quickly and we soon found ourselves in Padstow, where the boats in the harbour and the vintage car exhibition held our attention for a while, followed by sandwiches, chips and pasties and, for a few, some mouth-watering ice-creams.

As the weather was cooling, we didn't stay too long and, glad to find the wind now in our backs, we 'sailed' home with relative ease – glad to have had good company, good scenery, good food and a good wind to carry us back. What more could anyone ask for? Have I whetted your appetite? Why not join us next year in Cornwall – or maybe sponsor us instead? We'll be there. How about you?

FRIDA PEAKE



such as the Reformation Wall in Geneva, and making new friends, made this a great week away for all. Look out for the 'Spring Ski Trip 2019' as well as photos and a recap video at www.facebook.com/necyouth.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN

Men's Ministries Day

Men's Ministries Day was celebrated on Sabbath 28 April in Willesden Church on the theme of 'Every Man's Battle – God's War'. The day's speaker was Lieutenant Pastor Dennis Mingo. It was a 'day of reckoning' for the MIA – both the *Men in Absentia* and the *Men in Attendance* – during which we were reminded that *every man's battle is God's war*. The event was well supported by the men from the local churches, and a wonderful spirit prevailed under the leadership of Charles Wiggan and his team.

E. WIGGAN

Our mistake!

In the *MESSENGER* of 25 May this year we published an article on page 14 under the heading 'Smart Love at Leeds Central'. Unfortunately, this heading should rather have read 'Smart Love in the Leeds district', because it dealt with two different Smart Love seminars that were conducted in that area: one for Leeds Central and the other for the Beeston and Leeds New Generation churches. What made it worse is that we left out the photograph of the Leeds Central graduation/banquet group. Our sincere apologies for this. In an effort to make amends the photo is printed to the right of this text.

THE EDITOR



What do you know about HACS?

Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell, who played with the Hampstead Adventist Choral Society (HACS) recently sent in this item about the group. Her information was gleaned during a conversation with the director.

According to Fiona: 'The HACS Millennium Chamber Orchestra has been running for nearly 19 years, and its members consist of Seventh-day Adventist musicians and music students from the Royal College of Music (RCM) and the Royal Academy of Music (RAM), along with other freelance professional musicians.'

'The purpose of the orchestra is music ministry, both to those who attend our events and to the non-member musicians who play with us. Our repertoire is made up of mainly Classical, Contemporary Classical and Negro Spiritual music. The London All Sax Ensemble has been running for the last six or seven years and its repertoire is mainly Negro Spirituals.'

Fiona also mentioned that HACS performs at church concerts, day of fellowship events, charity concerts and various other non-church events. Members of the community often find it easier to accept invitations to such events than to church services and evangelistic meetings. These events are normally free of charge. Adventist musicians also benefit from playing alongside the professionals; something they may not otherwise get to do, and good friendships have been formed this way. More importantly, Fiona adds that 'we get the opportunity to share our faith with them, as many are not familiar with it. However, it is evident they virtually all enjoy playing at our churches and listening to our services.'

You might like to put this in your diary, says Fiona: 'In 2019 the HACS Group will be celebrating their 20th anniversary, and a performance of the Messiah is scheduled for December that year, God willing. As

HACS doesn't charge at events, they rely on funds to help keep the orchestra going and are currently looking for sponsors to help them.'

If there are musicians who would like to play with HACS in the future, remember that all orchestral instrumentalists and saxophone players will be considered. Please contact Fiona Pacquette at dwanell@gmail.com.

JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL AND FIONA PACQUETTE



New arrival at Willesden

Willesden Church welcomed their pastor, Dr Mario Philip, his wife, Dr Krystal Phillip, and their two children, Kairos and Kardia, on Sabbath 7 April. The congregation had been waiting excitedly for them since the end of 2017.

A week later Pastor Phillip led the church in an all-night prayer meeting, a truly wonderful experience, with testimonies, admonitions and anointing. The Phillips hail from Grenada, where he served as Director of Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, Community Services, Communication, ADRA and Special Needs. He also served as a professor of New Testament Greek and Pauline Theology (1 and 2 Thessalonians) at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad, as well as at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies. He brings a wealth of experience and cross-cultural exposure to this new assignment. He is convinced that success in ministry hinges upon a powerful prayer life and a deep conviction of His divine calling. His goal is to discover and follow God's will for His Church.

E. WIGGAN

Messenger

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	Lon	Card	Nolt	Edin	Belf
Jun 22	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
29	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.02	10.03
July 6	9.19	9.31	9.31	9.58	10.00
13	9.14	9.26	9.25	9.51	9.53

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