



‘Our doors are always open . . .’ by Phyllis Arhin

... was the message from the South-East London Community Seventh-day Adventist Church as they followed Christ's example* of working in the community.

On 15 July they organised a prayer walk within the community, with their members out on the streets talking to people, sharing the Word and praying with them.

The following week, on 22 July, the church, led by the youth and Pathfinders with their drum corps, marched from the church premises in Herne Hill through the community down to Brixton. Along the way, they distributed leaflets and health books to cheering crowds as drivers honked their horns in support of their 'no knives' slogans. They gathered at Brixton Square where passers-by were treated to an afternoon of wonderful praise and worship music, and a Pathfinder parade. Michael Agyei (a member of the Personal Ministries team) preached a sermonette that embraced this simple message: they were there to tell people that the only way to stop the wave of stabbings in the capital is to bring back love into the community – simply loving God and loving people. He

ended with the invitation, 'Our doors are always open.'

The next day, the church opened its doors to the community for the usual range of health checks provided by suitably qualified health professionals, including blood pressure screening, blood sugar and cholesterol testing, and healthful living information and advice to motivate community members to make lifestyle changes. There were also seminars on dental health, diabetes and prostate cancer. The day ended with sports activities and food to keep the attendees energised.

To God be the glory!

*Christ's example shows us five steps for effective ministry:

1. Mingle with those whom we want to help.
2. Get acquainted with their needs and show a genuine interest in them.
3. Look for means and ways to help them.
4. Win and keep their friendship and trust.
5. Invite them to get acquainted with the Word of God.





Mental wellness – Part 2c

Mental decline in older adults

'A commonly held misconception is that ageing results in an inevitable loss of all cognitive abilities and that nothing can be done to halt this decline. Research, however, does not support these claims.'¹ This statement, issued by Emory University's Alzheimer's Disease Research Centre (USA), seeks to challenge some of the prevailing views about mental decline in older adults. Their work demonstrates that, although some areas of cognition do show a normal decline with age, other areas remain stable. They also believe that specific interventions can actually slow some of the changes that occur.

This view is mirrored by UK research. 'While a significant number of people do develop dementia or depression in old age, they aren't an inevitable part of getting older.'²

Here are some of the observations from Emory University regarding aspects of cognition that could be impacted with age:

- **Intelligence** – Knowledge or experience accumulated over time, known as 'crystallised' intelligence, remains stable with age. However, 'fluid' intelligence, or abilities not based on experience or education, tends to decline with age.
- **Memory** – Recall of past events, or remote memory, stored over many years, is generally preserved with age. Conversely, the formation of new memories is susceptible to ageing.
- **Attention** – 'Simple' attention that is focused on one thing – for example, the ability to hold interest in a television programme – is generally preserved in older age. However, if attention is divided – for example, trying to hold a telephone conversation while watching

the television – this can become more challenging.

- **Language** – As we age, verbal abilities, including vocabulary, are preserved. Obvious changes with age involve word retrieval. It may take longer to get words out or find the required words when engaged in conversation. This includes trying to recall names of people or objects.
- **Reasoning and problem solving** – The traditional ways older persons approach problem solving remain the same. However, problems that may not have been encountered in earlier years may take more time to work out.
- **Speed of processing** – The speed of cognitive and motor processes is impacted by ageing. While activities can still be performed, they will take longer.

The Mental Health Foundation states: 'The UK population is ageing rapidly, with the number of people aged 65 and over growing by nearly half in the past 30 years. People living longer is a cause for celebration, but older people are more vulnerable to mental health problems.'³

In the next issue we will explore additional factors impacting mental health in older adults.

Good health!

¹ http://alzheimers.emory.edu/healthy_aging/cognitive-skills-normal-aging.html
² www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/m/mental-health-later-life
³ www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics/mental-health-statistics-older-people



Reflections on a 'confession' . . .

While reading the passages upon which a recent Sabbath School lesson was based (Acts 24-26) something impressed me deeply. The catalyst was this section of Paul's testimony before King Agrippa in Acts 26. For want of a better identifier I'm going to call it his 'confession':

'I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.' (Verses 9-11.)

Here he bares his soul before the world. He tells the naked truth about his role in the persecution of Christ's followers. Suddenly it becomes clear that Stephen's wasn't the only death he'd endorsed: there were 'many of the Lord's people' who were cruelly killed at his instigation. Time and again, their cries for mercy fell on his 'deaf' ears.

These killing sprees were, by his own admission, frequent and systematic. 'Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished,' were the words he used to describe his actions. Then in the same context he says this: 'I tried to force them to blaspheme.' What does this mean? Did he oversee torture of any kind? Is he suggesting that he acted as an inquisitor – forcing those suspected of belief in Jesus to confess Him before being killed? Or was he 'bullying them into cursing Jesus' as Eugene H. Peterson suggests in his idiomatic translation, *The Message*?

'You want me to stop, don't you?'

Perhaps you think I am reading too much into this 'confession', but I'm only being led by the words Luke attributed to him those many years ago, nothing more – words that paint a woeful self-portrait of Saul the Pharisee. There is one assurance, however, as the title 'Pharisee' suggests he never had to wash blood off his hands, carry off the corpses for burial or do anything that would have left him ceremonially unclean – for others did the 'dirty work'!

Let me repeat the statement with which Paul closes this part of his confession (my emphasis): 'I was **so obsessed with persecuting them** that **I even hunted them down** in foreign cities.' *Could he have sunk any lower in the sight of God than this?*

A dichotomy

This brings us to the great dichotomy that lies at the heart of the Gospel, that 'contrast between two things that are . . . opposed or entirely different' to each other: **utter sinfulness** and **undeserved righteousness**.

It is in his letter to Timothy that we see this stark contrast clearly demonstrated – the dichotomous and yet dynamic relationship between these polar opposites. This is how Paul put it [my emphasis]:

'Even though **I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man** [utter sinfulness], **I was shown mercy** [undeserved righteousness] . . . (1 Timothy 1:13).

And it is the **outworking of this utter sinfulness** on the one hand, opposed to the **effects of undeserved righteousness** on the other, that make Paul's life what he humbly declares it to be in 1 Timothy 1:15-16 (my emphasis):

'Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy **so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life!**

In Paul we have the transforming power of the Gospel personified. Through Paul's experience we have God's patience, mercy and saving grace on full display. After we have listened to Paul's confession, there can be no valid excuse for sinners to spurn the forgiveness of God. Simply put, if God can forgive Paul, none of us can claim to be irredeemable, other than by our own choice!

Back to the dichotomy . . .

For me, however, there are nagging questions still. I am in awe of God's amazing grace, but there is still a problem that each of us faces to some degree: **the embarrassing and painful memory of our sinfulness**. When God forgives, Scripture assures us that He 'forgets' our sin (Hebrews 8:12) – but do we? Can we? Should we?

I think that I am correct in saying that God's forgetting is not a loss of memory, but rather **a decision not to attribute guilt to us anymore**. This is possible because – in some wonderful way, impossible for our humanity to fully grasp – it has been attributed to Jesus. As the Bible says, 'God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.' (2 Corinthians 5:21, MSG.)

This brings us to the crux of the problem: do we really believe that our guilt is gone? If we do, we will be able to face the memory of our failure without the dreadful burden of its guilt – as did Paul.

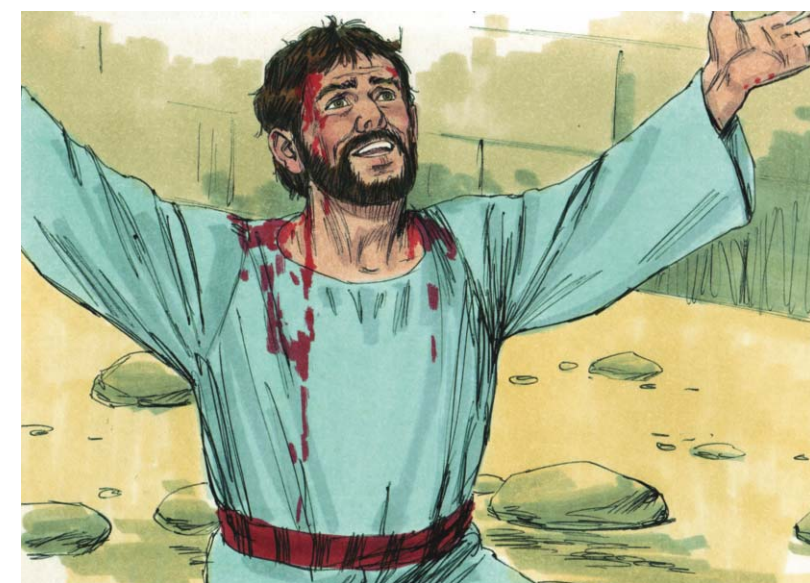
How is this possible, then?

Let me suggest a two-part answer to that question. **Firstly, nothing changes unless you meet Jesus face-to-face, and regularly.** Where did Peter have his burden of guilt lifted? In conversation with Jesus on the shore of Galilee (John 21:15-19). Where was Paul's life changed and his guilt relieved? In conversation with Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 26:12-18). **Our guilt will never dissipate unless we stay in a warm relationship with Jesus.**

Secondly, nothing changes unless you firmly believe that it has, and that it will continue to be that way. Memory is there to keep us humble and close to Jesus, but faith makes life beyond guilt a joyful reality: 'For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is **by faith from first to last**, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."' (Romans 1:17.)

Editor's note: Unless otherwise indicated all Bible texts are from the New International Version.

**<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/dichotomy>*



Vacancies

Stanborough Secondary School seeks to employ the following staff:



1. Full-time English Language and Literature Teacher (Years 7-11): Salary: £32,900
2. Part-time Maths Teacher (Years 7-11): Salary: £17,500
3. Part-time History Teacher (Years 7-9): Salary: £17,500

We are seeking experienced, enthusiastic and highly motivated individuals to teach the above subjects. The ability to teach a combination of any two of the above subjects will be an added advantage. Applicants should hold QTS and be capable of teaching to Key Stage 3 and 4 (GCSE) levels in these subjects, preparing and delivering appropriate learning materials and carrying out assessments of their students and their work. They will also be required to contribute to curriculum development within their departments, including the planning and implementation of new programmes. All applicants must be able to demonstrate excellent management of pupil behaviour and a proven track record of successful attainment in these subjects in order to be invited for an interview.

Applicants must be committed to safeguarding and the promotion of the welfare of children and young people. The offer of employment in respect of each post will be made subject to a Disclosure Certificate from the Disclosure & Barring Service and the receipt of satisfactory references.

Applicants should be able and willing to support the Christian ethos of this Seventh-day Adventist school.

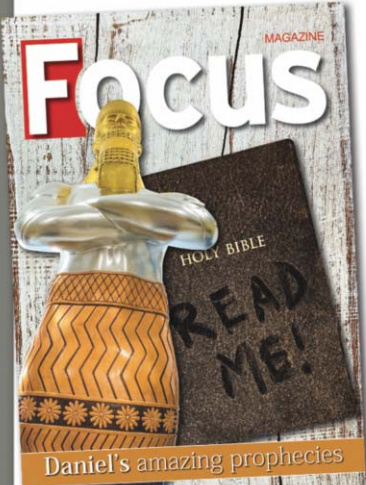
Please contact Mrs Milimo Mumbo, the Head Teacher's PA, on mmumbo@spsch.org with a covering letter and CV when requesting application and job specification forms. If you require further information please telephone Stanborough School on 01923 673268.



Adventist Book Center.com

In the latest Focus you can read more about this metal man . . .

Make sure you get a copy to read for yourself, and how about buying a supply to give out to your friends and family?



This is a great issue of *Focus* to use in your church's Personal Ministry programme. Order now through your PM secretary or directly from the Adventist Book Centre by phoning 01476 591700, Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm.

Quantities up to 50: 33p each, plus p&p.
 Quantities of 51 and more: 30p each, plus p&p.

Order on our Sales Hotline
01476 591700



©mikeorlov/StockPhoto.com

In Luke 15 Jesus tells three parables about lostness with which most of us are familiar. In the first parable (Luke 15:3-7) Jesus posed this question in verse 4 (NIV):

‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?’

What is the correct answer? Now, Jesus asked the question as if the answer is obvious: ‘Yes, of course we would leave the ninety-nine in search of the missing one!’ We may affirm our willingness to seek the lost one out; however, our practice and statistics testify to a different reality.

That aside, it is really His second question in Luke 15:8 that interests me (NIV): ‘Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?’

What should be the answer to this question? Unlike the first question, to which the answer could have been a ‘no’ if the shepherd was willing to risk a 1%

loss in the size of his flock, the expected answer here is clearly a ‘yes’. After all, a 10% loss is not so acceptable, particularly when that loss is in hard cash!

In these parables of lostness, I don’t believe that Jesus was saying the same thing in each of them. And, of the three, for me the second is the most disturbing. Let me tell you why.

When preaching on the first parable we preachers paint the picture of the sheep being found and carried safely home around the neck of the good shepherd. When preaching on the third parable we paint the touching picture of the father running to welcome his son back home.

The second parable is not preached about that often, however, and doesn’t lend itself to the painting of such touching verbal images. It doesn’t have the same force or intensity as the other parables, maybe because it doesn’t involve a cute lost lamb, or a son beaten up by sin. In this second parable, it is an inanimate object that is lost, a coin.

However, I find this parable to be the most disturbing of the three. **Firstly because** the woman in this parable lost her

is because of the hint of blame associated with this case of lostness. It suggests that they are lost because of carelessness. In other words, their lostness is our fault!

This parable is extremely disturbing because it identifies you and me as one of the reasons people are lost. When commenting on these parables, my favourite Christian author says this about our attitude towards them: ‘Angels weep, while human eyes are dry and hearts are closed to pity’ (Ellen White, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 192). We don’t care!

The Seventh-day Adventist Church conducted a study during which many people who had left the church were asked why they had left. The findings were both fascinating and frightening. Of those who left:

- 79% said that they still believed in the authority of Scripture, as we teach it.
- 58% said that they still believed in the authority and writings of Ellen White.

Three of the four top reasons why people left the church have to do with us. The study showed that we are the primary reason people leave the church.

- The number-one reason was our hypocrisy! Yes, they left because they were tired of watching our hypocrisy at church and in our homes.
- The number-three reason also involved us – they did not have friends in the church. We may call one another brother and sister, but we are not necessarily friends with one another.
- The number-four reason also had to do with us – the high level of conflict in their local church. Yes, these folks said they left because of the fights they had witnessed at board and business meetings, at conference sessions, against the pastor and among one another... watching boxing on the telly is one thing, but watching it in church is repulsive!

People have left this church not

so much because they don’t believe what we believe, **but because of how we behave.**

They have seen our hypocrisy, lack of friendliness, and how much we fight in our churches and homes, and they have voted with their feet, saying, ‘I am out of here!’

A third reason why this is the most disturbing of the three parables is found in the following set of questions and answers. Who was primarily to blame for the lostness of the sheep? The sheep or the shepherd? I would argue that it was the sheep, because it wandered away. Who was to blame for the lostness of the younger son? He or his father? Definitely the younger son. Who was to blame for the lostness of the coin? The coin or its owner? Well, coins do not lose themselves – they are lost by careless owners!

Jesus is suggesting to us that there are those who are lost to Him and from His Church because of the carelessness of those in whose hands they have been entrusted.

Ellen White, in her book *Christ’s Object Lessons* (page 194), declares, ‘In the household there is often great carelessness concerning the souls of its members.’

We may be saying to ourselves, ‘People are lost because they choose to be lost... a person’s lostness is ultimately a result of their own choice.’ Maybe so. However, Jesus, through the parable of the lost coin, calls upon us all to consider our individual responsibility for the loss of those souls within this house that we call the church.

Our language betrays our carelessness to one another. When a member is missing from church for six weeks, we show our carelessness when we say, ‘Hello stranger!’ – especially if not once in those six weeks did we pick up the phone to enquire about their welfare! We show our carelessness when we lie to missing members by saying, ‘I missed you!’ – particularly when we have made no effort to reach out to them.

This parable is not simply about apportioning blame, but, as uncomfortable as it may be, there are cases where we have been in some measure responsible for

losing souls within this church through **our carelessness.**

New Testament scholarship suggests that the woman’s coins were drachmas, each worth a typical week’s pay, totalling two-and-a-half months’ worth in wages. The mention of her possessing ten coins implies that these ten coins were all she had.

Senior members in our congregations, remember when you look at your younger members that **they are all that you have** and take care of them. Younger members of our congregations, remember when you look at your senior members that **they are all that you have** and take care of them. Sometimes we deal with one another as though we can easily replace that which we lose – but replacements are hard to find!

Let us never forget that as a lamb is precious to its shepherd, and as a son is precious to his father, so is a silver coin precious to its owner – they are irreplaceable! Likewise, every soul in this church is precious, for they are all that we have.

The silver coin, though lost, was still valuable, and the woman, realising her carelessness, takes action: ‘Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?’ (Luke 15:8, NIV.)

Her home, as was common for the time, only had a dirt floor. A silver coin dropped on such a floor would quickly be covered and camouflaged by dust and dirt. In addition to which, her home probably had only a couple of small windows, making it even more difficult to spot her coin.

Imagine her sweeping the floor, disturbing the dust that would have made her eyes itch and water. Hear her coughing because of the dust-laden air swirling about her. All in all, it was a difficult search, an unpleasant experience, but finding the precious coin made it all worthwhile.

As unpleasant an experience as it is, we have to recognise that we have failed Christ by losing some of our precious coins.

Maybe the decisions we made at board and business meetings in days past contributed to the loss of some souls. It’s an unpleasant thought, but the dust has to be disturbed, even if it is the dust of our own failures.

Some of us who are parents have painfully witnessed the loss of our children from our homes. Some of us may have tried to beat the love of Jesus into their hearts, while others may have been too lenient and spoil their children.

But we are not to despair. The woman whose coin was lost searched through all the unpleasantness, but she found it at last. Ellen White wrote this to us as parents: ‘But those who have been guilty of neglect are not to despair. The woman whose coin was lost searched until she found it. So in love, faith, and prayer let parents work for their households,

until with joy they can come to God saying, “Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me.” (Isaiah 8:18.’ (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 195, 196.)

Even when we do everything perfectly and correctly, there are no guarantees. God the Father lost a third of His angelic children. Ellen White’s twin sister Elizabeth, to our knowledge, never believed or accepted what her sister taught and lived for. Nevertheless, we are to have the heart of Christ, who valued us so much that He moved out of His mansion in glory to live among us here on earth!

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who left Heaven to find the lost *sheep, coin* and *son*. But, more than being a Good Shepherd, He became the Lamb who died for the lost! What an example of service to the lost for us all to follow.

Editor’s note: This article is an adaptation of the sermon Pastor Sweeney preached at the recent European Pastor’s Council.

Celebration 2

Presenters
PASTOR & MRS EDMONDS

Young Couples Retreat

2018
Register at £240 **2-4 NOVEMBER**
sec.adventist.org.uk/events PER COUPLE Needham House Hotel, Stevenage, SG4 7JJ

EXCLUSIVELY FOR THOSE MARRIED UP TO 12 YEARS

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Stanborough Park pastor to join BUC Secretariat team

On Thursday 13 September the BUC Executive Committee voted to appoint Pastor Jacques Venter as BUC Associate Executive Secretary. Pastor Paul Lockham, who currently serves in this role, will work together with Jacques for a period of four months before taking early retirement at the end of January 2019.



Pastor Jacques Venter with his family, daughters Layken and Jaymee, and his wife Lara

Pastor Venter has served as senior pastor of the Stanborough Park church for the best part of six years and is also studying for a PhD in Leadership through Andrews University. He very much enjoys pastoral ministry but is ready and willing to take on the new challenge. In his new position, Pastor Venter will become an officer of the British Union Conference and will also serve as Missions Executive Secretary, a role which involves regular travel to each of the three Missions.

In a letter to the BUC Executive Committee Pastor Venter admitted that he found the prospect of his new responsibilities daunting. However, he considers himself to be a good learner and has pledged to do his best to build on the excellent work done by Pastor Lockham.

Speaking of Pastor Venter's appointment, BUC Executive Secretary, Pastor John Surridge, said, 'Many people do not understand the wide range of tasks that Secretariat is responsible for. We, of course, have to look after various church records, manage human resources within the office, and serve on various committees. But in addition to that we manage the complicated pension system, for retirees as well as current and former employees. Then there is safeguarding, compliance, life insurance, income protection, Adventist Volunteer Services, visa applications, processing of service requests, development and management of database systems, data protection, health and safety, policy revision, directory production, statistical reports, and Charity Commission liaison. To the right person the work of Secretariat is a fascinating and challenging service pathway within the Adventist church

system. We believe that Jacques has what it takes and we look forward to working with him!

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE, BUC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Pastor Dr Elofer (GC, France) and Pastor Shalom David (Israel) at the opening of the Torah



Delegates at the World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Advisory in Atlanta, Georgia (USA)

World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Advisory

by Dominique Joseph Clem (JAF-UK leader)

The World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Advisory of 2018 (27-30 July) held in Atlanta (USA) was a wonderful blessing for those who attended. Seventy-two people attended Shabbat meetings while about 60 people attended the Sunday and Monday working meetings representing seven of the Church's Divisions. The UK was represented by two delegates working in the Jewish-Adventist Friendship in London.

The representatives of the General Conference and the North American, Inter-European, South American and Trans-European Divisions gave their reports, followed by those from countries such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Hungary, Israel, New Zealand, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zimbabwe.

It was indeed a tremendous success, both in terms of spiritual uplifting and enlightenment on the wonderful work carried out worldwide in this area, led by Dr Richard Elofer, Director of World Jewish-Adventist Friendships.

There were also reports from various Jewish institutions, such as the Shalom Adventure website, the Shalom Learning Centre and the Israeli Migdalia Life Centre. These three entities are very successful in achieving their mission of reaching Jews.

The Shalom Learning Centre trains leaders for the Jewish-Adventist congregations, and they were delighted to learn that an agreement has been reached with Andrews University Seminary to offer an MA in Jewish-Christian studies, and, for those who do not have the level (BA) to enter this programme, it is possible to obtain a Certificate in Hebraic Roots of Christianity, and/or a Certificate in Jewish-Christian Leadership.

All of this indicates that the training of Jewish-Adventist leaders is being taken very seriously by our Church. Delegates were pleased to attend the granting of certificates from the Shalom Learning Centre to some of its students.

The Shalom Adventure website, which is actually 'a web magazine', gave a very interesting report. They provide new articles every day, which means anyone interested in this website, or 'web magazine', can visit it daily for something new and stimulating. Statistically, in one year, from 1 July 2017 to 27 July 2018, Shalom Adventure received approximately 63,000 visits, including 5,500 by 'unique' and new users, who collectively read 198,000 pages! Shalom Adventure has also launched a YouTube channel and a Facebook forum for discussion; and now they have started printing materials too.

Many reflected on the fruitfulness and timeliness of this World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Advisory and left deeply inspired to form friendships and build bridges with our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Many delegates said, 'We praise and thank God for the wonderful work of Pastor Dr Elofer (Director of World Jewish-Adventist Friendships) and his dedication in facilitating these friendships between Jews and Seventh-day Adventists, worldwide.'

The World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Advisory was able to release a Declaration of Consensus (see below).

For more information about Jewish-Adventist Friendship here in the UK, please email the writer at jaf@secadventist.org.uk. Shalom!

Consensus Statement

World Jewish-Adventist Advisory
Norcross, GA, USA
27-30 July, 2018

We, the members of the World Jewish-Adventist Advisory, consisting of representatives from seven Divisions of the World Church, have voted the following *Consensus Statement*: We wish to express our thanks to the Office of Adventist Mission for their strong support in establishing the World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Centre.

We affirm our commitment to *Sola Scriptura* and to the preaching of the Gospel of the Messiah in light of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14, exploring ways to apply it to our mission.

We affirm the necessity for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to continue working towards reconciliation between the Jewish people and the Church in order to recognise the value of the Jewish community:

'They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.' (Romans 9:4, 5, ESV)

... and to be faithful to the call of God:
'How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"' (Romans 10:14, 15, ESV)

Therefore, each Jewish-Adventist congregation should be considered by the local Conference as a mission* field which must be supported and trained by culturally sensitive leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We then recommend that such pastors be assigned in consultation with the Jewish ministry/Global Mission director of the Division, as this is not being done in many areas.

'The time has come when the Jews are to be given light. The Lord wants us to encourage and sustain men who shall labour in right lines for this people; for there are to be a multitude convinced of the truth, who will take their position for God.' (Elen White, Manuscript 66, 25 May, 1905.)

In closing, we recommend that this *Consensus Statement* be sent to the General Conference Office of Adventist Mission for consideration and submission to the Mission Board of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

*As defined by the six Global Mission Centres of the General Conference, Office of Adventist Mission

Israel Reflections

2018 seems to have been a bumper year for Adventist believers visiting Israel. There is something special about walking where Jesus walked, taking a boat trip on Galilee, or worshipping on the Mount of Beatitudes. And what can be more moving than celebrating communion near the garden tomb – remembering a Saviour who did more than die on a cross, but who overcame death to give us resurrection hope?

Those who have made the journey will testify to the spiritual benefits and biblical understanding that can come as guides and pastors bring great depth and understanding to the biblical narrative. Yet when we come home the memories fade – and, for the vast majority of Christians, the opportunity never presents itself in the first place.

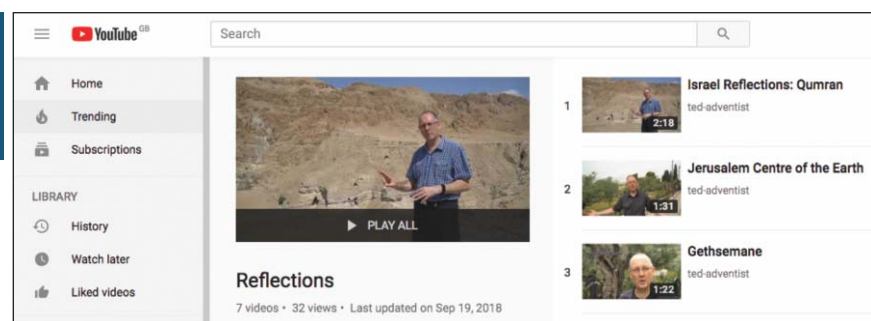
In a new mini-series being released on YouTube and Facebook, Trans-European Communication Director, Victor Hulbert, helps bring those memories back to life in short, sharp devotional thoughts recorded at key locations in the life of Jesus and other Bible characters.

Starting from a vantage point on top of the Mount of Olives, Hulbert gives a personal reflection on what it means to stand there, along with insights from some of those he met on the journey.

'These started as a personal project,' Hulbert states, but the small group of those he shared it with encouraged him to make the devotionals available online. 'They are personal – just me sharing a thought to camera,' he adds. 'I just hope that these short *Israel Reflections* can touch a few lives and help draw people closer to Jesus.'

Israel Reflections will be released on a weekly basis throughout the autumn. They are there for you to watch, but, more importantly, for you to share with others whose lives you may be able to touch. Go to <https://ted.adventist.org/news/1346-israel-reflections>, and click on the link.

TED COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Reaching your Jewish friends

by Dr Richard Elofer

Introduction

In the Adventist Church there is a growing interest about Israel and the Jewish people. I am sure that this interest is directed by the Holy Spirit, who wants to see us have a special interest for Israel. There are several reasons for this interest: **first**, the many quotations of Ellen G. White about reaching Jews at the end of time; **second**, the very existence of the State of Israel and all the theological questions that implies; and **third**, the growing Messianic movement all over the world, with its interest in the Hebraic roots of Christianity.

Biblical and prophetic reasons for a Jewish ministry

However, the **main reason** is that we have received a mandate, a great commission from the Lord: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you' (Matt. 28:19-20, NIV). We remember that when Jesus repeated the great commission to His disciples, just before His ascension, He said that we have to go first to Jerusalem and Judea (Acts 1:8): that means specifically to the Jewish people. Even though this commission was given two thousand years ago, there is no reason to say that it isn't valid today – all the more so since Paul expressed the same idea in the first chapter of Romans: 'For I am not ashamed of the Good News, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who trusts – to the Jew first and also to the Greek' (Romans 1:16, TLV). Furthermore, in Romans 9 to 11 he expressed his sadness about Israel in these words:

'I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.' (Rom. 9:2-5, NIV.)



'For I am not ashamed of the Good News, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who trusts – to the Jew first and also to the Greek.'

Romans 1:16, TLV

©tzzahV/iStockPhoto.com

We have many texts from Ellen G. White urging us to start a mission to the Jewish people. 'There are Jews everywhere, and to them the light of present truth is to be brought. There are among them many who will come to the light, and who will proclaim the immutability of the law of God with wonderful power.'¹ There is no doubt today that we have received this specific mission to preach the Good News to Jews. Therefore, the theme of this article is, 'How to reach Jews for Yeshua?' (Hebrew for Jesus' name.) It is not easy to answer such a question in a few words. We need hours for such a topic. However, let me share this brief advice. Being a Jew myself, and having worked in Israel for more than fifteen years, I have practical experience in this matter. The promises of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy assure us of the success of this ministry. It is the will of the Lord that Jews will be touched by the Gospel and come to Jesus.

A prayer ministry

My first point for this ministry is about prayer. We have to lift up our contacts, our friends, our family members to the Lord for their *teshuva* (repentance). After forty years of ministry I have never seen a more powerful tool of evangelism than prayers.

To bring a Jew to the *Mashiach* is a long process

We have to be aware that bringing Jews to

Yeshua is not a quick ministry. Jews will not come so quickly. It took me about five years to accept Yeshua and to go to the *mikveh* (baptistry). Let us remember that to be Jewish is not only to be part of a synagogue or a religion. To be Jewish is to be part of a special people who were established by the Almighty four thousand years ago. To be Jewish is to be part of a suffering history of persecution. To be Jewish is to be part of a special culture and a special history. That means we have to show clearly to our Jewish friends that believing in Yeshua is not to deny their identity, their people, their history, or their culture. It is a fulfilment of thousands of years of history. But emotionally, relationally, intellectually, this process of *teshuva* takes time. We have to be patient. In Hebrew we say *savlanut*. In fact, a Jew who accepts Jesus as his personal Saviour and is baptised is still a Jew, and nothing will change this reality.

Don't invite your Jewish friend to a church too fast

If we understand that to help a Jew to recognise Yeshua as the Messiah is a long process, we must not try to bring our Jewish friends to our *kehillah* (assembly) too soon. Our *kehillot* (assemblies) are not ready for that; our preaching on Shabbat is not contextualised for them and it would be a pity to see a friend breaking all contact just because a *drasha* (sermon) was not

appropriate for him. It is because of these difficulties that I have helped many Jews all over the world to start new Jewish Adventist congregations: Adventist congregations where the Adventist message is preached, but where our members are very sensitive to the Jewish culture and where Jews can worship God, pray, sing, and so on, in a contextualised way according to their own culture with a *talith* (shawl of prayer), a *kippa* (small cap on the head), *tefillin* (phylacteries or cubes on the head and left arm) and *tzitzit* (fringes or tassels attached on the corners of their clothes), if they so prefer.

Start a small group ministry

Although it is difficult to invite our Jewish friends to our *kehillot*, I have noticed that one of the most successful ways to help Jews accept Yeshua is through what we call 'small group ministry'. They could be secular and post-modern people; they could be Muslims or Jews. A Jew does not like to enter a *knesiya* (church). He has learned from his childhood that it is a sin to enter a *knesiya*. It is like entering a pagan temple because *knesiyot* practise idolatry and paganism; they worship statues and idols. That is why it is better to work slowly with them through a small group ministry. It is easier to invite our Jewish friends to our homes rather than to a *kehila*. In a small group ministry we can have a good relationship with one another, build a strong friendship, and, since we have many things in common, we can touch their hearts by sharing these common values and beliefs.

Fellowship, friendship and relationship

The strongest point in small group ministry is friendship and relationship. Most of the surveys done show us that the main reason why people join our church is because of relationships and friendships with Adventists who have been kind and gentle with them. The principal reason is not a doctrinal or a theological reason, but much more a relational reason. It is very important to keep this point in mind. It was my own experience. I come from an orthodox family. I was circumcised on the eighth day. I went to a Jewish school called a *yeshiva*. I observed the *Shabbat* at home. When I was 12, I became *Bar-Mitzva*² and so on . . . but one day I met an Adventist family who befriended me. Then, little by little, I became interested in their beliefs and their way of life. At the beginning they did not even say to me that they were Adventists. They just said that they were 'spiritual Jews'. They wanted to be my friends and they avoided all obstacles, everything which could be difficult in our friendship.

'Paul did not approach the Jews in such a way as to arouse their prejudices. He did not at first tell them that they must believe in Jesus of Nazareth. . . . Step by step he led his hearers on, showing the importance of honouring the law of God. . . . The Gentiles, Paul approached by exalting Christ. . . . Thus the apostle varied his manner of labour,

shaping his message to the circumstances under which he was placed' (Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 118).

Use appropriate language

When we speak or study the Bible with Jews it is also very important to be careful of our terminology. Here are some examples of words to avoid or to replace by other words more acceptable for Jews. The first example is about the Bible. It is better not to use the designation 'Old Testament'. This suggests that the Jewish Bible is 'dated' or no longer valid. The Old Testament is called by Jews 'the *TaNaKh*', consisting of:

- The *Torah* or five Books of Moses,
- The *Nevi'im* or Prophets and
- The *Kethuvim* or Writings.

It may also be referred to as the **Jewish Bible** or **Hebrew Bible**. The New Testament, if used, should be referred to as a Jewish book (let's remember that nearly all the authors of the New Testament were Jews).

Here is a list of words to adapt or to avoid:

Baptism	Immersion: in Hebrew, <i>Tevila</i>
Baptistry	<i>Mikveh</i>
Christian	Believer
Christ	Messiah or <i>Yeshua</i>
Conversion, repentance	<i>Teshuva</i>
Cross	To be avoided
Church	Temple: in Hebrew, <i>Quéhila</i> , assembly of believers
Crusade	To be avoided
A converted Jew	Jew who did <i>teshuva</i>
Christmas	Pagan feast – to be avoided
New Testament	A Jewish book
Palestine	Israel
Pastor	A biblical teacher: in Hebrew, <i>Cohen Dat</i>
Evangelism	Biblical meeting
Holy Spirit	The Spirit of God: in Hebrew, ' <i>Ruach Elohim</i> ', or, better, ' <i>Ruach Hashem</i> '
Saviour	Messiah – <i>Mashiach</i>
Trinity	God: even better in Hebrew, <i>Hashem</i> , which means 'the Name'; Hebrew name of God should be avoided – when they speak about God Jews say ' <i>Hashem</i> '

Appropriate Bible studies

If your Jewish friend is ready, and if it is appropriate to study the Bible in a small group or personally with him, do not study the Bible as you would with a Christian. My recommendation is that you study the book of Daniel because Daniel was living in the Diaspora, in a difficult time, like the Jew of today, and he was confronted with the same challenges and questions: kosher food (Daniel 1); is God still in charge of human history? (Daniel 2); what is idolatry and what is true worship? (Daniel 3). The first part of Daniel is very interesting to show the Jew that

in spite of the *Shoa* (Holocaust) and all the tragedy of history God is leading the world and will deliver the world with the coming of the *Mashiach*. When you study the prophetic part of Daniel, it is not necessary to apply the persecution done by the small horn to the remnant church, but rather to Israel and the true believers who did not accept the falsification of the Bible and its teaching. During the time of papal supremacy, it was not only the remnant church that was persecuted, but also Israel. Historians say that in the first century there were 4.5 million Jews in the world. In the sixth century there were only 1.5 million. Another very important point is that when you study Daniel 9 and the Seventy Weeks, it is not about the rejection of Israel after the stoning of Stephen (which is not true anyway). Speak about the conversion of Paul and the opening of the Gospel to the Gentiles. Then this wonderful prophecy will become much more positive for them.

'The time of Christ's coming, His anointing by the Holy Spirit, His death, and the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles, were definitely pointed out. It was the privilege of the Jewish

people to understand these prophecies, and to recognise their fulfilment in the mission of Jesus.' (Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 234.)

Let's be positive with Jews when we present the Gospel to them.

¹ *Evangelism*, page 578, chapter 'Labouring for Special Classes'

² Special ceremony for a boy of 12 who becomes a 'son of the commandment' (cf Luke 2:42-52)



Anti-gun and knife crime rally – Wolverhampton

by Donna Palmer

Photos by Jason Daley

Wolverhampton has not been immune from the wave of youth knife and gun crime that has swept across the cities of the UK in recent years. Just last month figures showed that gang-related crime has almost doubled across the West Midlands in the past five years, and that the possession of illegal weapons has also sky-rocketed. This increase has also been seen in Wolverhampton, with the number of young people caught with guns or other lethal weapons up by 20 per cent in the last 12 months alone.

In April this year the discovery of 12-year-old Viktorija Sokolova's body in a park in the city was the catalyst for a discussion between Adrian Roberts and Donna Palmer, members of the Wolverhampton GBK and Central churches respectively. They felt passionately that the church should in some way be involved in finding solutions to this meaningless taking of young lives.

Adrian had already chaired a community discussion between the police and the community on gang violence which included local leaders and victims of violence. They felt that more could be done to highlight the issues facing our community, so on 25 August Adrian and Donna organised an anti-knife and gun rally in the city centre.

The Wolverhampton Central Pathfinder Drum Corps opened and closed the event and attracted the attention of passers-by.

The two-hour event included presentations by youth motivator Leslie Fairclough, Joe

Jackson from the organisation *Men for Positive Change* and Jenny Taylor from the *Engage Youth Empowerment Services*. They each provided encouragement and highlighted what they were doing to address the issue, while also relating their own personal experiences, as this infestation had touched their lives too.

There was a powerful speech from the stepfather of teenager Keelan Wilson, who was fatally stabbed just yards from his home in Merry Hill, Wolverhampton, in a late-night attack in May this year. This particularly moved the spectators, especially the mother and father of the victim, who were there to attend the rally. They were moved to tears but received much comfort from the church youth.

It was the testimony of Andrew Graver, a newly baptised member from Birmingham who gave up his life of crime for a life with Christ, that brought hope to all as he related how he was changed by the power of Christ.

Audrey Reid spoke very emotionally as a mother who had suffered the violent loss of one son in a car crash and the incarceration of another (now reformed). She also had given Bible studies to Andrew Graver.

Many in the crowd were visibly moved by the real-life experiences of the parents who had lost loved ones or had sons who had barely survived, but they were also inspired and encouraged by the words of Andrew Graver and Michael Danzie. Throughout the rally the crowd



were led in praise by B. J. Taylor and heard songs of hope from Karin Williams, Tristan and Miranda Roberts, Ian Palmer, Esther Putzgruber, Ray Augustine Jr and Michonne Palmer.

Throughout the rally Clive Palmer, North England Conference Men's Ministries leader, kept the crowd focused on why we were there and the seriousness of the issue. He

repeatedly united the crowd in a rousing rallying cry to stop the violence. There were also those in the crowd holding boards with powerful slogans written on them. Passers-by on foot and on public transport were able to see the slogans and engaged with the church members in a way that was wonderful to see. After the football many Wolves fans, returning home, passed by, and some also stopped to listen and ask more about what we were doing.

Literature supplied by the NEC Personal Ministries Director, Pastor Michael Simpson, was readily received by the public, and the *Express* and *Star* put pictures and an article online with a short video, along with an article in Monday's edition of the newspaper. A local radio station subsequently contacted Donna and Adrian for an interview on Sunday 2 September.

The rally has enabled us to begin the process of talking about the real issues that affect us in our communities. The youth that attended felt it was a positive event as it dealt with an issue that culturally we do not talk about, even though we have friends and family who have been affected by such crime.

The event was given the go-ahead and blessing by the local pastor, Patrick Herbert, but was overseen by our Heavenly Father, who also held back the rain that had threatened the event.

'Men armed for the Gospel'

In June most families honour their fathers and grandfathers, showering them with gifts of love and affection. However, Ashley Grandson, head of Men's Ministries at Erdington Church, chose Sabbath 23 June to remind all male relatives that they should be 'men armed for the Gospel'.

Prior to the worship service Clive Palmer, head of Men's Ministries for the North England Conference, took 10 minutes to challenge all the men in the congregation, stating that 'we need an awakening of men of valour within the Seventh-day Adventist Church'. He went on to say, 'When you're in the hands of God you will become something. . . . God is waiting to raise up men of valour to do His purpose. . . . Are you ready and willing to become men of valour for Jesus Christ?'

Beautiful music by Simply Praise and Agron Hutchinson then prepared the way for evangelist Anthony Taylor's sermon, 'Men Armed for the Gospel', during which he demonstrated that it is important for God's children to understand how to use the armour of God, especially the men of the church.

Following a scrumptious lunch Cliff Lewis presented an engaging AY programme entitled 'Wanted! Men of God', during which he addressed the

He is risen: come and see; go and tell

Hackney's men took centre stage as they told the congregation in sermon and song that the Lord Jesus Christ is risen and coming again during their Men's Ministries Day on Sabbath 11 August 2018. The writer, Sabbath School Superintendent for the day, encouraged the church to hold on to their faith, knowing that Jesus is soon to come, while Men's Ministries leader, Leroy Daley, based the mission story on the work they do in the community, which includes visiting housebound members, offering DIY assistance in various homes and recruiting members into their singing group.

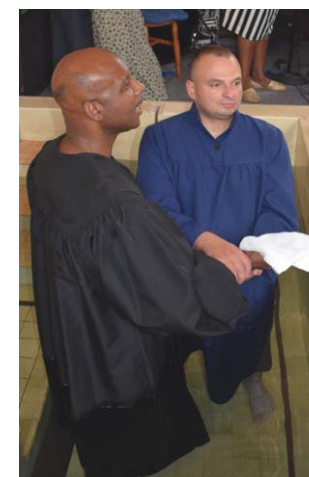
Assistant leader, John Locker, then gave a report about the history of the department, which began 18 years ago with Michael Flemmings and the late Curtis Bruce, Snr.



Baptism at Carter Knowle Church

On Sabbath 21 July, Jozsef Ferenc Albert was baptised by Pastor Carlton Douglas. In attendance was Pastor Mike Simpson (NEC Personal Ministries Director), who delivered an encouraging sermon before the baptism. Jozsef's mother also attended from Hungary. A special item was sung by the Sheffield Choir, and his favourite verse, John 3:16, was also read. Jozsef was welcomed very warmly into the church by members, friends and family.

ELVINA LEE (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)



Corrigendum

Due to an ambiguity in the report upon which the above news item was based, the editor assumed that Jozsef Ferenc Albert had been 're-baptised', which was not the case.

THE EDITOR



issue of why so few men attend church. This led to a lively discussion which was closed by Cliff Lewis reminding the congregation that they all needed the integrity of Daniel (chapter 6).

REBEKAH ECCLES

Hackney's children were then told a story by Alana Bramble, daughter of the guest speaker. She likened the followers of Jesus to a lighthouse, encouraging the children to be a shining light to their school friends and all those they meet.

The church's male voice group then encouraged the congregation to 'Go and tell someone about Jesus'. Guest speaker, Charles Bramble from Wellingborough Church, then spoke on the theme, 'Go Tell', admonishing the men to tell someone about Jesus. 'Whatever your experience is, God has given you something to tell about Jesus. If we are going to reach the men outside we need to understand what's going on. What are men talking about, and how can we tap into those interests so as to reach them for Jesus?' He concluded the service with an invitation to all the men in the church to come forward for a prayer of consecration for them to resume their priestly and discipleship roles in the home and community.

DARREL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

ZUSDAF PRESENTS
ANNUAL FAMILY RETREAT
REVIVE US AGAIN
07 - 09 2018 DECEMBER
FEATURING:
HERITAGE BROTHERS
DR DONNETT BLAKE

Price Packages:	Payment Details:	Location:	Contact Details:
Ensuite Rooms: ADULTS: £140 6-16 years: £70 0-5 years: FREE	Non Ensuite Rooms: ADULTS: £110 6-16 years: £55 0-5 years: FREE	Barclays Bank Account: 30526711 Sort Code: 209179	CCT Conference Centre Lord Street, Huddlesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 8SG Elder Tidings Chengeta +44 7429 121802 Sevy Gwasira +44 7961 514435

Day Rates:
Adults (Lunch & Dessert) £36
6-16 years: £18

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



88-year-old, Ann Williams



Ross Mathieu's Fit to Fite session



Veronica Joseph and Marcos Castejon

Hackney's Family Fun Day

There were positive vibes in the air as members of the public flocked to a Family Fun Day put on by members of the Hackney church on Sunday 19 August. The event, which took place in Haggerston, where the church is based, attracted both young and old with the variety of stalls and free activities offered. As well as there being tasty Caribbean cuisine, music to get everyone on their feet, a bouncy castle for the little ones and a domino tournament for the older ones, there were also stalls promoting health and well-being.

Event co-ordinator, Andrea Simpson, said the fun day was a follow-up to the march the church held around Hackney during the May bank holiday in response to knife and gun crime in the borough. 'After our march around Hackney many people asked us what we would do next,' said Andrea, adding: 'Today was another opportunity to be out in the community to offer some free health advice as well as some fun activities for youngsters to let everyone know that we care, and that as a church we are here to support those in need.'

Among the health stalls was one promoting living a smoke-free lifestyle. Marcos Castejon, from Hackney's smoke-free service, was heartened by members of the public who showed a genuine interest in quitting the habit. He said: 'There has been a really positive vibe here, with many people responding well to our message about quitting smoking. Hackney has one of the highest rates of smoking in London – so we are here to let people know of the dangers of smoking and the help that is on offer for anyone wanting to quit.'

One of the activities which drew a large crowd of participants was the 'Fit to Fite' session – its motto being: 'fighting moves to Gospel grooves'. Fitness instructor, Ross Mathieu, who led the high-tempo workout session, was happy to see the wide spectrum of participants wanting to keep fit. 'We had participants from as young as 8 to as old as 88, which just goes to show that there are no age restrictions when it comes to exercise,' said Ross. Ann Williams, a founding member of the Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church, agreed. After taking part in the 'Fit to Fite' session, the 88-year-old said: 'I felt good doing punching and kicking movements. We have to keep our limbs moving, especially as we get older, and exercise is important as it keeps our minds sharp.' Ross, who is also a five-time national champion and black belt in karate, added: 'I commend Hackney Church for putting on a wide variety of activities today which reached out to the community.'

Sixteen-year-old Joel Lendor, who attended the fun day, said: 'Events like these are good as they bring the community together.' Shemaiah N'guessan, also 16, added: 'There was something here for everyone – good food, music, the exciting 'Fit to Fite' session, the bouncy castle and ice cream.'

Flying in from America was Yvonne Joyce Dunkley, who promoted her recently published book – *Smiling through breast cancer*. She said: 'I am a survivor of breast cancer and I am here to share my story, letting people know that they are not alone, and, like me, they can get through it.' The

proceeds from the sale of her book will be used to purchase a mammogram to help women in Jamaica affected with the illness.

Hackney Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Joojo Bonnie, felt the day was a success. He said: 'We are not reinventing the wheel. This is about the church being seen in the community, letting people know that we care and that human relationships are important to us. This is just the beginning as we endeavour to meet, one step at a time, the growing needs of those in our community.'

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

Mission possible – when four is turned into five

How a four-day camp meeting ended up lasting five days is a bittersweet memory the islanders of Jersey and Guernsey will reflect on for some time to come – but more of that later.

Thanks to its wide variety of sermons, practical lessons and physical activities, the Channel Islands 2018 summer camp meeting, held on the famous island of Sark, was an experience worth remembering.

Sark is a 5.45 km² island in the southwestern part of the English Channel, off the coast of Normandy, France. The previous year's camp had been held on a sister island known as Herm. The two islands are similar except that Sark is twice as large.

The campsite, Pomme de Chien, comprises tents which accommodate either four, five or eight people, while the worship services were mostly held in a large marquee situated at the far end of the campsite.

The keynote speaker was Pastor Zephaniah Khoza, and he was assisted by Malika Bediako, Children's Ministries Director of the South England Conference. Pastor Khoza has frequently visited the group in Jersey over the last eight months. This was made possible because his wife, a nurse, has been working at the general hospital in Jersey. Malika, also a familiar face, had visited Jersey in 2017, so both facilitators were well known to the congregation.

The chosen theme for the camp meeting was 'Mission Possible', and in his presentations Pastor Khoza emphasised how every person is able to overcome by trusting the Lord in their everyday experience. The theme was equally reflected in the children's activities led by Malika. The young ones were taught new skills and songs, as well as learning exciting new ways to praise and give thanks to the Lord.

In addition to the regular members, the group was blessed by the presence of friends and colleagues. There were also a number of grandmothers who attended the meeting, and their assistance with the children's programmes was greatly appreciated.

Individual members from the Guernsey and Jersey groups also assisted in conducting and leading out in services, which included a 6.30am prayer band that was followed by morning manna.

One of the main highlights of the camp was a four-hour nature walk to the southwesterly part of the island, known as Little Sark, where the views were breathtaking.

Departure time had initially been scheduled for Sunday 26 August; however, unexpected weather conditions on Sabbath afternoon led to the cancellation of most sea travel from Sark. This directly affected the group's itinerary, as the next available ferry was on a Monday.

The additional day gave opportunity for much singing and praising the



Lord, including the sharing of lessons which touched on the practical issues that enhance ordinary lives. It could be said that God's mission of a five-day camping experience was made possible by His control of nature. In the end, it was indeed a mission possible!

For more information about the church in the Jersey Channel Islands, or if you intend to visit, please check our website: www.jerseysda.com.

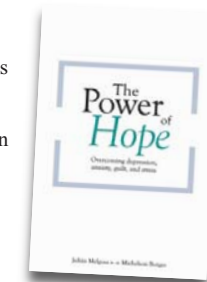
TAPIWA MUNYAWIRI

Missionary Book of the Year 2018

Today, things like Brexit anxiety, loneliness, youth depression and a variety of mental health problems seriously challenge our emotional happiness. There is a desperate need for us to regain our sense of hope, which is why our General Conference has chosen *The Power of Hope* by Julián Melgosa and Michelson Borges as Missionary Book of the Year 2018.

Every member will benefit from this book and – at only 45p per copy – we can afford copies for our neighbours, friends, family and work colleagues too. Available now at all ABC outlets (London, Watford and Aston-Newtown), and possibly at some satellite church branches.

You can also obtain copies through your PM secretary; or call us on 01476 591700; or email us at sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk. Postage and packaging charges apply.





Erdington Pathfinder investiture

On the morning of Sabbath 14 July Erdington's Pathfinders, Adventurers and Counsellors gathered together inside their church as they prepared to march to the infectious rhythm of the snow-white drums and show their family, friends and church members what they had learnt throughout the year. The morning service reminded the congregation of the humble beginnings and proud history of Pathfinders, while the Personal Ministries spot was taken by the Sutton Coldfield Pathfinder Club, who described their experience at the Pathfinder Bible Experience 2018 in Florida.

Pastor Mwasumbi delivered a rousing sermon based on the theme, 'Onwards and Upwards', in which he reminded the Pathfinders that, although they had completed another year of learning in their respective classes, they needed to look forward to the next stage in their curriculum. The investiture service took place in the afternoon, with parents and siblings alike beaming with pride as they watched children from Little Lamb to Voyager being invested. After this, awards were given out for the best Pathfinder and Adventurer of the year, along with a variety of other exciting awards. It was a joyous day, and the members at Erdington Church look forward to seeing even more children being invested next year.

REBEKAH ECCLES

BOOKSALES

October
28 Lewisham 10am-2pm

November
18 Croydon 10am-2pm
25 Batham 10am-2pm

ABC Shops
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm. **01923 893461**
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm,
Sunday - 11am-3pm. **0121 3286380**
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm,
Saturdays - November, December, January: after sunset. **0207 7236849**

Order on our Sales Hotline
01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE HEALTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

SUNDAY & MONDAY
18TH - 19TH NOVEMBER 2018
9:30AM - 4:30PM

LEICESTER CENTRAL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
Corner of University Road & London Road, Leicester, LE2 1EF

£50PP (BRING YOUR PACKED LUNCH)
ALL bookings are to be made online at: <http://tiny.co/nec-bookings>

What will I learn on the MHFA course?

Spot the early signs of a mental health problem	Help stop a mental illness from getting worse
Feel confident helping someone experience a problem	Help someone recover faster
Provide help on a First Aid basis	Guide someone towards the right support
Help prevent someone from hurting themselves or others	Reduce the stigma of mental health problems

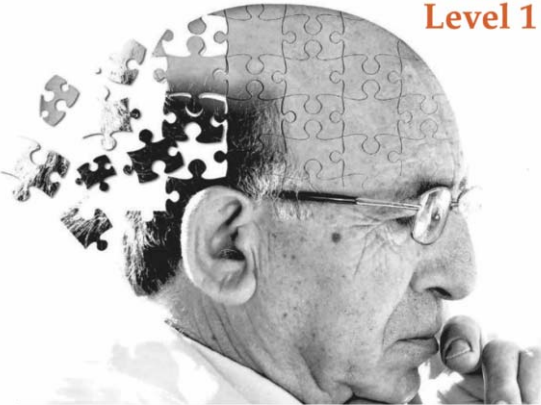
For more information contact:
Grace Walsh (Health Ministries, Community Services & Disability Ministries Director) On 0115 960 6312 or Email: gwalsh@necadventist.org.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

North England Conference presents

Dementia Awareness

Level 1



Cost £30pp
Sunday 21st October 2018, 9:30am - 4:30pm

Mission To The Cities & Resource Centre,
Aston-Newtown Community SDA Church,
Lichfield Rd, Birmingham B6 5SX

Registration Online only: uk.bookingbug.com/home/33185
For more information contact: Grace Walsh via Email gwalsh@necadventist.org.uk or
Orlene Dunkley odunkley@necadventist.org.uk or Tel: 0115 960 6312

This is an introduction to dementia so that carers can learn more about the subject and feel more confident about caring for someone with the condition. The course covers all aspects of dementia, including the symptoms to look out for, information on how dementia is diagnosed and tips for adaptations you can make to the person's home and lifestyle in order to make everyday living easier.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Reg Mayes (1923-2018) d. 29 August



The funeral service of Reg Mayes took place on Thursday 20 September in the Stanborough Park church, Watford.

Reg, one of the church's oldest and most respected members, was born in Southend by the Sea, and Reg, boats and the sea were inseparable. When he was called up in the Second World War, his skills as a boat builder meant that he spent most of the war working in the London Docks.

In August 1950 he married Betty, who was to be the love of his life. They were blessed with four lovely daughters: Sue, Kathy, Lynsey and Lisa.

Reg started a small building business, and as it grew he was

faced with the prospect of growing it into a larger company but chose to keep it medium-sized. The reason for this was his family. It is a tribute to both Reg and Betty that they made the time to create a loving, caring family for their daughters and their husbands, who gave them the pleasure of six grandchildren, with one great-grandchild on the way.

Reg was creative and could turn his hands to most physical and technical tasks. He drove an Austin 7. When his first daughter, Sue, was born, her place was on the parcel shelf. The arrival of another daughter, Kathy, led to the parcel shelf being developed into a car extension which looked like a greenhouse on wheels.

In his latter years Reg had trouble with his hand, and this restricted his car driving. The car was replaced with a mobility

scooter, which he proudly drove around at its top speed of 14 mph! Although a concern to those of us who enjoyed his presence at our Bible study groups, the weather couldn't stop him - whether dry, wet or windy!

At the service tributes were paid by two of Reg's friends, Edward Hammond and Richard Poulton. They spoke of his humour, his Christian faith and his open and declared love for his Saviour. Reg was enjoying a stay by the sea with his daughter, Sue, when he fell ill and was confined to a room by himself overlooking Poole Harbour, where he spent much time with his family. There, without suffering pain, he fell asleep peacefully.

His family wrote the following: Reg's greatest 'passion of all was, of course, for his God and Jesus and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We cannot but

agree that his God looked after him to his last breath.'

He was cremated at a private family service held at North Watford Crematorium. It was conducted by the writer, supported by Edward Hammond and Richard Poulton. Joan Maxwell was the organist. Pat Walton and her colleagues provided delicious refreshments and Audrey Balderstone a beautiful floral tribute, for all of which the family are most grateful.

We look forward to the day when our Saviour will fulfil His promise to return those who have put their trust in Him to life everlasting.

PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE

Messenger

Volume 123 • 20 - 12 October 2018

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

COPY FOR No. 22 - 18 October 2018

Note to potential advertisers

It is important that those who submit adverts for display in *MESSANGER* ensure that they have permission (and a paid licence where required) to use any downloaded photographs or artwork that they incorporate into their adverts. It is also important that credit be given to the individual, organisation or company from which these have been obtained. For example, something like the following should appear within the advert: ©Joe Bloggs/StockPhoto.com. Please be aware that images downloaded from Google may also be subject to permission and licensing. The Stanborough Press Ltd takes no responsibility for any downloaded images submitted to *MESSANGER* by contributors and reserves the right to decline adverts about which we have copyright concerns.

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*'.

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *MESSANGER*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.
Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.
Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk
Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk
ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700
Mon-Thurs only, 8am - 5.30pm.
www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.
Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	Lon	Card	Nolt	Edin	Belf
Oct 12	6.14	6.26	6.16	6.20	6.33
19	5.59	6.11	6.01	6.03	6.16
26	5.45	5.57	5.46	5.46	6.01
Nov 2	4.32	4.44	4.32	4.30	4.46



Welsh Mission ordains 10

It was a truly blessed day, for never before in the Welsh Mission had so many churches come together to witness the ordination of so many elders so eager and keen to serve the Lord. They were supported by the members of the Newtown, Shrewsbury, Telford Central, Telford Ghana and Wrexham churches comprising the Shropshire, Powys and Dyffed district, which falls under the leadership of Pastors Jeremy Johnson and Louis Amakye. The men received their charge from the BUC Evangelistic Director, Dr Kirk Thomas, supported by the Welsh Mission President, Pastor Emanuel Bran.

As family and friends looked on, a prayer was offered for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and protect these newly ordained elders of the Shropshire, Powys and Dyffed district to do their work for Jesus Christ.

PASTOR JEREMY JOHNSON

Pray always

Acknowledging the vital need for prayer in our congregations, the Carter Knowle Church Prayer Ministries Department organise monthly prayer breakfasts. On Sunday, 26 August, Pastor Victor Marshall (NEC Prayer Ministries Director) led out with prayer, testimonies and relevant discussion. As a result of being inspired by all of this, and with an outreach event planned for 2019, the local church Prayer Ministries team leader is setting up a 24/7 prayer regime so that church members can pray for the outreach. Of course, everyone had a delicious and nutritious breakfast as well!



E. LEE (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)

ADRA CONNECTIONS

LET'S GO TO THE PHILIPPINES

Do you and a group of friends fancy visiting The Philippines?

Get involved in a real ADRA project
18th May - 3rd June 2019

volunteering@adra.org.uk
or 030 30 40 1017
for pricing and more details

Only 15 spaces!
First come, first to The Philippines

ADRA UK

adra.org.uk | www.facebook.com/ADRAUK | [youtube.com/adrauk](https://www.youtube.com/adrauk)
Registered charity 1074897 (SC037726 - IOM1101)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
NATIONAL LAY BIBLE WORKERS CONVENTION 2018
DE VERE STAVERTON ESTATE, DAVENTRY ROAD STAVERTON, NORTHAMPTON, NN11 6JT
23-25 Nov 2018

Going BIG!



MAIN SPEAKER - DR CLIFFORD JONES
President of The Lake Region Conference of SDA, USA



PR ALMIR MARRIONI
Associate Publishing Director, GC



DR LOUIS TORRES
Total Membership Involvement Team, GC



NEVILLE NEVELING
Adventist World Radio, GC



DR BJORN OTTESEN
Head of Theology Dept, Newbold College



DR ALISTAIR NOBLE
Director, Centre for Intelligent Design



PR SAM DAVIS



NICOLE GOODEN



PR IVANA MENDEZ



DR PATRICK HERBERT

PLUS MANY MORE SPEAKERS

Early Bird Discount available until 28th September 2018
£105 Per Person (Two Sharing), £150 Single

For more info please contact Kerrine Guthrie
01923 672 251 | KerrineGuthrie@adventist.org.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

ADVENTIST RADIO LONDON

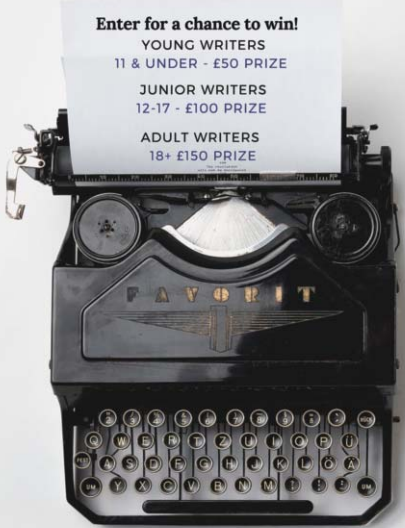
INSPIRATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION


Enter for a chance to win!

YOUNG WRITERS
11 & UNDER - £50 PRIZE

JUNIOR WRITERS
12-17 - £100 PRIZE

ADULT WRITERS
18+ £150 PRIZE





Do you have a passion for the Gospel and a gift for writing ?

Why not write devotions for Adventist Radio London and have them broadcast to London and beyond! Your devotion may be the one that convicts someone to change their life, gives hope to someone in need, or leads someone to make a decision for Christ.

Enjoy the process, share the hope, and allow God to use you!

Entries must be received by 30th November 2018

For more information, please visit our website www.adventistradio.london

All broadcastable entries will receive £10*

*Terms and Conditions Apply

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me".
C.S. Lewis

"When it comes to building solid families in this evil culture, Mothers and Fathers have to see prayer over their families as not optional - it's the only path to protect our children"

Mum's In Action proudly presents

mothers & fathers PRAYER CONFERENCE

Theme: **'ARISE, CRY OUT'**

Pastor Rebecca Davis



SAT 10 NOV 2018
THE ROCK TOWER
49 Tufnell Park Road, London, N7 OPS

Pastor Freddie Russell



9:15am Registration & Refreshments

10:00am Praise & Worship

10:30am Prayer School

11:30am "Arise, Cry Out" - Pastor Rebecca Davis and Pastor Freddie Russell

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm "What Next?"

Eventbrite Mothers
mothersprayerconference.eventbrite.co.uk

Fathers Eventbrite
fathersprayerconference.eventbrite.co.uk

Sponsored by SEC Family Ministry Department

PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH AND A LOVE OFFERING

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted