

Nurture, retention and renewal for pastors

MESSENGER News Service

As British Union Conference Ministerial Director Eglan Brooks and his team of association secretaries, pastors, George Kumi (NEC) and Ebenezer Jones-Lartey (SEC) planned the 2019 Ministerial Council, they designed it with a difference. 'Our world needs strong leaders to nurture, retain and place opportunities for renewal before our members,' explained Pastor Brooks, believing that 'such a process starts with the pastor and his/her family'. Continuing, he said, 'This retreat is designed to leave pastors with skills to practise nurture, retention and renewal with members.'

Meeting together at the Jurys Inn Hinckley Island hotel over the weekend of 3-6 May, this was a time for the pastor, spouse and children to enjoy a weekend of refreshment in every sense of the word. The council, held over a Sabbath, was a deliberate attempt to get the pastors to rest, with a clear order from Union President, Ian Sweeney: 'No work for you! I want you to enjoy a true Sabbath rest so that you and your loved ones return home refreshed.'

Making sure it was a 'real' retreat, pastoral meetings were limited each morning from 9am to 1pm. Main presenters Pastor Robert Folkenberg, Jnr, Dr David and Dr Beverly Sedlacek, Pastor Calvin Preston and Dr Patrick Johnson in their various disciplines of expertise shared their perspective of excellence in ministry, including the family dimension.



Top right: Pastor Robert Folkenberg. Top left: Pastor Calvin Preston. Above: Dr Patrick Johnson. Left: Dr David and Dr Beverly Sedlacek. Below left: Pastors' Council singing group. Below right: members of the pastoral team.





Chronobiology and human life – Part 1

Overview

We commence a new series looking at the scientific research into chronobiology and its impact on our activities of daily living.

What is chronobiology?

The term 'chronobiology' is the research of how biological clocks function to regulate and control almost every function of life.

Amita Sehgal, PhD, professor of neuroscience and investigator for Howard Hughes Medical Institute, explains: 'Chronobiology is biological timing. . . . It basically refers to the process by which organisms time physiology and behaviour, so that everything takes place in a rhythmic fashion.'¹

Why is it important?

Chronobiology is important because it relates to the day-night cycle that impacts the human organism when the earth rotates. Another explanation, titled 'Chronobiology: The Science of Time', reads:

'Since the beginning of mankind, human history has been shaped by light and darkness. Genetically manifested timers reside deep in our bodies that control this fundamental rhythm. The more intelligently we absorb their information, the more useful it is. This connection is important in the prevention and treatment of diseases, as well as for the healing process.'²

How is it being used?

Chronobiological principles are currently being used by medical professionals, researchers and others in diverse studies such as the efficacy of medication timings and research around when is the most effective time of day to exercise. Other aspects of research in this area

include ecology, endocrinology, genetics, psychology and sports medicine.

Chronobiology is a relatively new science, originating in Europe, which has emerged over the past 30 years. However, the University of Pennsylvania (USA) is now one of the world's leading centres of chronobiology.

Studies undertaken at the Penn School of Medicine (Pennsylvania) are currently exploring the impact of our circadian rhythms (24-hour body clock) on our life cycle and medical interventions.

Explaining their chronobiology programme, an article from their school of medicine titled 'Chronobiology at Penn School of Medicine' reports:

'The past two decades have seen major advances in our understanding of the science of circadian rhythms (chronobiology). These studies are also highlighting the biomedical importance of rhythms, with disrupted rhythms linked to ageing as well as to metabolic, psychiatric and other disorders. Treatment of many diseases might also benefit from an approach that takes time of day into account.'³

In the same article, they give an example of how chronobiology works: 'Clocks in humans ensure that sleep occurs at night, body temperature is highest in the evening and cortisol peaks following morning awakening.'

The next issue will examine chronobiology and pharmacology.

Good health!

¹ <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-06-clock-science-chronobiology.html>

² <https://www.chronobiology.com/about-chronobiology/>

³ <https://www.med.upenn.edu/chronobiology/>



One size doesn't fit all (2)

As I write, I'm still living in the glow of the recent BUC Ministers' Council, one of the best in recent times, as reported elsewhere in this edition of *MESSENGER*. Eglan Brooks and his team got it right over choice of venue, meetings and time-out balance, but most of all for their choice of pastors to feed us with refreshing core messages. The first was from Pastor Calvin Preston:

'People today don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. . . . It's about finding the way to someone's heart.'

The second was from Pastor Robert Folkenberg, Jnr:

'We know the truth about God, but we do not know God.'

Refreshing! Sobering! A statement of the obvious? As I muse over their Spirit-inspired promptings, I see the common link between the two. Relationship! It's still **all** about relationship!

Continuing the theme of our first editorial, the solution to our challenge, I believe, has much more to do with **who we are** than **what we do**.

Imagine a church where the members are looking forward to the soon return of Jesus. Even though they appear confused about how to live, and how their church should be, the Thessalonian church is described as a place of warmth, compassion and support. Do Paul's Thessalonian letters (in particular 1 Thess. 5:16-22) contain any insights that might help us engage with millennials?

Rejoice always (1 Thess. 5:16).

The AD 50 Thessalonian church was a 'suffering church' experiencing troubles of every sort: and yet, even though Paul describes a theologically mixed-up community, his church is still a happy place full of hope. They are chosen people, imitating Christ's love, and experience the joy of the Holy Spirit because of their grace awakening 'in Christ'. The result is that it is a happy church (1 Thess. 1:1-6).

As a litmus test for your church, try this. If a 20-year-old were invited to serve on your board, or join an adult Sabbath School class, what would they see? A theatre of war, or a theatre of grace? Members in combat, or conflict-free zones? Folkenberg's words keep ringing in my ears: *'We know the truth about God, but do we know God?'* Is your church a happy church? Millennials watch us!

Pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).

At face value this is such a simple instruction: but if Paul is 'in Christ', and wants to stay in Christ, prayer is essential. Joseph Scriven says it well: *'What a friend we have in Jesus . . . what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!'* The key word in that song – 'everything'. Is it not in the very activity of listening and talking with God through prayer that Christ moulds and shapes us into the people He wants us to be? It is then that we are able to say the hardest words we might ever have to say on a matter: not my will, Lord, but Yours. Millennials watch us!



Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thess. 5:18).

In these times, I'm thankful we still have freedom to worship without fear or threat. Most of us have access to good food, shelter, education and healthcare. Make no mistake: many of us face a heap of potentially crushing problems every single day, for which no immediate end seems in sight. But it is that attitude of gratitude which lifts us, which keeps us going – the 'in Christ' experience. Is it prayer that fuels this attitude? Millennials watch us!

Do not quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19).

The objective truths of Holy Scripture are vital to understanding the character of God; but Jesus said that knowing Scripture is not enough: *'You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.'* (John 5:39, ESV-UK) In our loving desire to be faithful to 'knowing the truth', I think we're still nervous and even afraid of emotional feelings, uncertain as to whether they are prompted by the Spirit – or not. Millennials watch us!

Do not despise prophecies, but test everything (1 Thess. 5:20, 21).

'It's all about Jesus,' all about relationship – and who cannot fully endorse that – and yet it seems rather biblically imbalanced for Adventist Christians, in particular, to dismiss what the prophets say. It's easy to ignore Isaiah's teaching on social justice due to personal discomfort. It's just as easy to ignore John's vision for appearing too complex. And perhaps it's easier still to dismiss Ellen White's prophetic ministry because, well, her writings are not on the same level as 'Holy Scripture' (and they are not). However, Paul gives a clear instruction – take prophecy seriously. That's who Adventists are, aren't they? Millennials watch us!

Hold fast to what is good (1 Thess. 5:21).

'Hold fast to what is good,' says Paul. In this deeply cynical society – in politics, in business, in media, where the 'low trust' value reigns supreme – followers of Jesus live differently. They are, as Jesus says, 'lights' in darkness (see Matthew 5:14). Is it not important for Kingdom people to make a difference for the better – not just in society, but also in the church? Millennials are watching!

From my perspective Tracey Emin is not an artist I appreciate. While she's not a millennial, she's caught the mood of these times. When relationships often seem shallow and dysfunctional, Emin, as a reaction to her own life experience, decided to display a message from the rafters of St Pancras International Railway Station in bright neon lights. Admittedly, there is a Brexit context to it, but its message is a deep symbol of our times – and, I believe, of how millennials think: for it is a cry from the heart, the cry of every millennial I know. It reads, 'I want my time with you.' The God I know couldn't be more pleased. I hope His church is, too.

A dedicated ADRA-UK collector

It's not a competition, but a long-standing member of St Albans Church, Nigel Savage, leads where others follow when it comes to the ADRA Annual Appeal. It all started one day after school in 1966 when he lived with his mother near the Kent/Sussex border. Timidly, he approached and knocked on the first door. 'What a relief it was when nobody answered,' he recalls. The second year, canvassing the same houses, the total increased modestly from £8 to £9. In 1968, when he transferred to St Albans Church, members were allocated a specific territory in which to collect. With some expansion in the subsequent two appeals, he has covered that same ground systematically for 50 years. That he was once bitten by a dog did not deter Nigel; nor did inclement weather. His success is down to three things: 1. methodical planning; 2. returning to the same territory each year so that he becomes well known; 3. remembering that if he can help somebody then his living will not have been in vain. This year Nigel collected £1,450. Praise the Lord, and thank you Nigel!

MESSENGER NEWS SERVICE



Formal Notice – May/June

South England Conference Quadrennial Session

Notice is hereby given that a regular session of the South England Conference will be held at Portsmouth Guildhall and University from Thursday, 5 September until Sunday, 8 September 2019. Registration of delegates will take place from 11am on Thursday and the business sessions are due to commence at 2pm.

Notice is given that proposed changes to the South England Conference constitution will be considered and that these will be circulated to the delegates along with all necessary packs in due course.

All enquiries should be made to the SEC Secretariat.

South England Conference

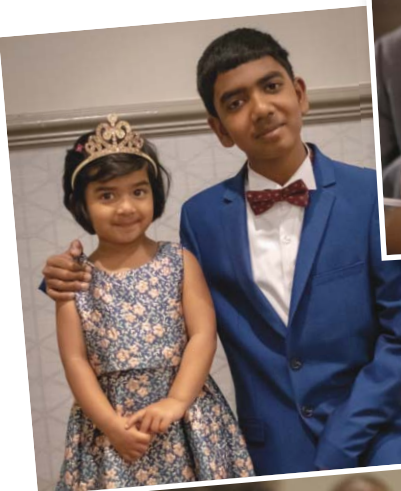


Continued from p. 1

Robert Folkenberg, Jr
(President of the Chinese Union)

For the last 15 years, Pastor Robert Folkenberg, Jr has served as the president of the Chinese Union. His invitation to preach at the BUC Council is based on his depth, enthusiasm and experience as a pastor. Naturally, he also took some time to share news from China. The mood among members is a feeling of resilience. During 2018 13,000 people were baptised, raising the recorded membership to 455,000 worshipping in 4,000 churches. Each of his three sermons focused on the pastor and his relationship with Christ. Here are just a few of the takeaways:

- 'What can God do through one committed person constrained by the love of Jesus?'
- 'We know the truth about God, but we do not know God.'
- 'Is there such a thing, Pastor, as a Christian without surrender?'
- 'Go deep; stop living in shallowness (a fish cannot grow big in a shallow pond).'



Dr David and Dr Beverly Sedlacek
(Andrews University professor and therapist respectively)

The purpose and focus of David and Beverly's ministry at the council was to help the pastor and spouse enjoy healthy emotional relationships, frequently using their personal experiences to illustrate. Recognising that everyone picks up and carries emotional scars of one sort or another, through teaching and prayer they aim to help heal, turning what could be described clinically as dysfunctional into the functional. However, in the Christian context, the purpose is to rise far beyond the functional and experience the joyful life Christ promises.

Here's just a sample of their ministry:

- *Adverse childhood experience*: participants were invited to complete a questionnaire about family and life experience, particularly situations causing emotional pain. This observer filled in the form with a low score (just a few of the adverse experiences described). But what of fellow pastors and spouses with high scores? How does it affect their present personal wellbeing? How do they relate with others – children, colleagues and members? This is a complex matter with no easy answers.
- Their Sunday morning presentation dealt with *forgiveness*. Here's the response of one pastor to their presentation:

'What stood out for me most in the presentation was their discussion on the process of forgiveness. In particular I really found their perspective on learning to forgive as Jesus forgave very thought-provoking. They used Jesus' experience in the Garden of Gethsemane as an example. This is a summary of their explanation of what happens:

"In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prays. Somewhere in the process of praying to God, He who knew no sin became sin. He went to Gethsemane and was spotless. At that point, the sins of the world roll onto Him and He becomes the Sin Bearer. Likewise, when we go through the process of forgiveness it is similar to Jesus' experience in Gethsemane."

If *MESSENGER* readers would like to know more about the Sedlacek ministry, details can be found at intothisrest.org.



Pastor Calvin Preston
(Executive Vice President, South Atlantic Conference)

There is something special about a veteran pastor. Notably, they are not afraid to cut to the chase and say it as it is. They are gifted with the holy confidence of experience. As Pastor Preston shared as he opened his final presentation, 'We know a few things, because we have seen a few things.' He proceeded to share a few lessons learned:

1. I would take better care of myself.
2. Be financially independent.
3. Prepare for retirement.
4. Spend more time with my wife.
5. Spend more time with my family.
6. Perfect my leadership skills.
7. Learn to laugh at yourself.

Pastors and the church they serve:

'Young ministers often fall into the trap of focusing on what is wrong with the church. Older pastors have a similar trap, except that they tend to focus on who is wrong with the church. Both of these foci are unhealthy if you dwell on them for too long, and both will mess you up.'

Pastors and problems:

As pastors we find that we often face problem after problem. . . . The children of Israel cried to Moses; but Moses cried to the Lord. As Moses approached God with his problems an interesting thing happened: he realised that he needed to protect God's reputation.

Pastors and communication:

Why would the church pay for your phone if you don't answer it? Be accessible!
People today don't care about how much you know until they know how much you care. . . . It's about finding the way to someone's heart.
Trust makes leadership possible.



Pastor Patrick Johnson
(Trans-European Division Ministerial Secretary)

The final meeting together was not a lecture or seminar, but a worship service – Communion. Pastor Patrick Johnson reminded pastors about its meaning, something quite strange if considered for a moment. Using Luke 22 as his text, he explained how Luke describes a meal with three reminders:

- Context – it may have been a Passover meal, but there is a bigger context, a bigger story.
- Emotion – the story has strong emotions: about our salvation, because of Jesus Christ.
- Content – looking forwards, looking backwards, and looking to the present (Luke 22:17-20).

As we ate and drank together – one in Christ – Paul Lee sang an old gospel song, the testimony of countless Christians past and present. Significantly, though, it's also the story of every pastor who daily commits to serving you and me.

'I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus
Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true;
I would tell you how He changed my life completely:
He did something that no other friend could do.

'No one ever cared for me like Jesus,
There's no other friend so kind as He;
No one else could take the sin and darkness from me:
O how much He cared for me!

'All my life was full of sin when Jesus found me,
All my heart was full of misery and woe;
Jesus placed His strong and loving arms around me,
And He led me in the way I ought to go.

'Ev'ry day He comes to me with new assurance,
More and more I understand His words of love;
But I'll never know just why He came to save me,
Till some day I see His blessed face above.'

Charles Weigle



The devotional speakers for each day were Pastor Nerine Barrett, Dr Patrick Herbert, and Pastor Adriana Fodor. Over the next few editions, *MESSENGER* hopes to publish transcripts of these inspiring sermons.

Our children's first and greatest teachers?



by Pastor Ian Sweeney

As a child, I loved school holidays. The opportunity to play outside, meet up with friends and watch my favourite TV shows all figured prominently in my holiday activities. As a parent, however, school holidays were a headache as I had to ensure the children were properly looked after and cared for. As a parent, it was a welcome relief when the long summer holiday was over and the children were sent back to school.

However, I know that Adventist parents are now experiencing headaches not only during the school holidays, but also during school term as we wonder what our children are being taught. The headache of knowing what is being taught to our children when they are away from us is real.

A number of primary schools in Birmingham hit the headlines recently when parents expressed their concerns in protests and letters to headteachers about the relationship and sex education lessons being taught to their children.¹ Five schools suspended classes on same-sex couples as a result.

At present, the national curriculum, which is a set of subjects and standards, is used in all primary and secondary schools. The intent is that all children learn the same thing. According to the UK government's own website, 'Sex and relationship education (SRE) is compulsory from age 11 onwards. It involves teaching children about reproduction, sexuality and sexual health. It does not promote early sexual activity or any particular sexual orientation.'

'Some parts of sex and relationship education are compulsory – these are part of the national curriculum for science. Parents can withdraw their children from all other parts of sex and relationship education if they want.'²

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from sex education; however, parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationship education in primary schools. Parents can ask the school for access to course content, and they should also ask if any external organisations are involved in the delivery of such courses.

So what can we do?

There is a petition going to the UK government which states, 'We believe it is the parent's fundamental right to teach their child SRE topics or to at least decide who teaches them and when and how they are taught. We want the right to opt our children out of SRE when it becomes mandatory in September 2020.'³

I would call upon all Adventists living in the United Kingdom to prayerfully consider whether they would support this petition.

Interestingly, the Republic of Ireland is following a similar path to the UK with regard to sex and relationship education. The Irish government has issued guidance for parents, in which it is stated, 'As a parent, you are the first teacher of your child. You hand on values and attitudes to each new generation of children.'⁴ This Irish advice echoes that given by Moses, who commanded Israel to love the Lord with all their heart and to place the commandments on their heart. In addition they were to 'impress them' on their children: to talk commandments, morning, noon and night. To make sure this happened they displayed the commandments wherever they could, even on their person (Deut. 6:5-9). If ever there was a time for Adventist parents to take seriously the 'home schooling' of their children, that time is now.

While full-time home schooling may not be a realistic option, and while we might not be in a position to send our children to a local Seventh-day Adventist school, I believe that parents are the first and greatest teachers on the earth. It was the effective 'home schooling' of Daniel and his three friends that ensured they were not corrupted by Babylonian teachings and influences, as well as preparing them for the high offices of Babylon. When we teach, we teach them to be citizens of the Kingdom of God as well as citizens of the world and society in which they live.

¹ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/lgbt-lessons-school-philip-davies-tory-same-sex-education-a8833076.html> ² <https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/other-compulsory-subjects> ³ <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/235053> ⁴ <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/for-parents/resources/relationships-and-sexuality-education-%E2%80%93-going-forward-together.pdf>

EDUCATION AND THE LAW

CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL
PROPOSED LEGISLATION - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

10AM - 4PM
26 May
2019

ADVENT CENTRE 37-39
BRENDON ST, LONDON W1H 5JE

Simon McCrossan
Head of Public Policy for the Evangelical Alliance
Before joining the Evangelical Alliance, Simon practised as a Barrister. Prior to his legal career, Simon worked as a teacher in secondary education. He is a frequent speaker at Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) symposiums.

Peter Mitchell
Education Policy Officer for the Evangelical Alliance
He has been involved in politics as a local councillor in England and in public policy in both the US and the UK. He has served as a school governor at both primary and secondary schools in the North East of England.

Gina Abbequaye
SEC Education Director and Headteacher,
Hyland House School

Brighton Kavaloh
Retired SDA Pastor, Director of the
AdventReligio - Legal Perspective Ministry

For further details please call 01923 232 728 or email
amclarty@secadventist.org.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND THE LAW

CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL
PROPOSED LEGISLATION - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

A legislation that targets our Seventh-day Adventist church?

What potential implications will this Government Consultation and proposed legislation have on our Home Schoolers, Sabbath School Classes, Pathfinder Clubs, AYS, Family Life Department, Personal Ministry Department, Pastors, Elders, Educationalists, Vacation Bible School.....our Religious Liberty!

This consultation is about establishing a local authority registration system for children who do not attend state-funded or registered independent schools.

Statistics show that Seventh-day Adventists have a higher proportion of Home-schooled children compared to other religious organisations. Therefore, this proposed legislation will affect us ALL directly!

It is imperative that church members in all capacities attend this crucial, timely, relevant and informative seminar at this momentous time in the history of Religious Liberty in this country!

The Event Aims:

- To mobilise a response to the Government's Consultation.
- To educate and inform attendees about the key provisions of these complex proposals and the potential implications for religious liberties.
- To advise on Elective Home Education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE): Parental Rights, Responsibilities and Emerging Policy Trends.

ADVENT CENTRE 37-39 BRENDON ST, LONDON W1H 5JE

For further details please call 01923 232 728 or email
amclarty@secadventist.org.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Community initiative founder earns award

'One Vision' has given greater visibility to Stanborough Park Adventist Church.

by June Coombs, Trans-European Division News

When a ball starts rolling, it can sometimes end up somewhere unexpected. That was the case for Enoch Kanagaraj, a member of Stanborough Park Church, when he set up the Community Chaplaincy Service at his local church.

Kanagaraj's aim of raising the church's profile in the community and establishing and meeting local needs not only got off to a good start but also led to unexpected developments when he was appointed to Watford Football Club's External Advisory Group. He then received a prestigious annual award from Watford Borough Council for his involvement with the community.

As a first attempt to engage with the wider community, Kanagaraj inaugurated an annual Christmas picture competition. Local schoolchildren were encouraged to submit their artwork on a Christmas theme. The competition proved to be popular with all sections of the community, Christian or otherwise, and celebrated its fifth prize-giving in 2018.

Bringing the community in
In 2018, Kanagaraj was encouraged by then Stanborough church pastor Jacques Venter to go a step further and bring local community groups into the church to explain how they operate and to seek support. This led to holding community days with representatives from various organisations, including local women's groups, charities for the homeless, The Red Box Project, and the local police. The day was a mixture of presentations and displays.

Around the same time, the Co-op Food supermarket where Kanagaraj works became part of the company's Foodshare scheme, in which food past its 'sell by' date is collected by local charities to feed those in need. One local

recipient of the food collections was Annette Kelly, who was running the GoKula cafe in central Watford on a pay-as-much-as-you-can-afford basis, with free food for the homeless on Mondays. Through Kelly, Kanagaraj met others who help the homeless.

Kanagaraj said he saw how everyone working on their projects was a good thing, but he realised how much more effective they could be if they communicated with each other, shared resources, and targeted problem areas together. Kanagaraj contacted several local groups and invited them to meet at The Stanborough Centre, adjacent to Stanborough Park Church. The response was positive, and the visiting group included the Watford mayor, representatives from the local council, the voluntary services council, the police, Neighbourhood Watch, and several charities.

'One Vision' is born

Several meetings later, and with the Watford Football Club on board, members of the group, now calling itself 'One Vision', benefited from training in food-handling and child protection offered at the church. They also took over running the GoKula cafe, rebranding it as One Vision, with the aim of holding workshops and highlighting healthy eating, as well as making it an inclusive location for everyone, especially those less fortunate.

The official opening on Monday, 25 February, 2019, was attended by many of the One Vision group and included people of all faiths and none. The Adventist Church's Health Ministries director in the UK and Ireland, Sharon Platt-McDonald, whose books on healthy eating were on display, was present, along with local pastor Geert Tap.

Now a chair of One Vision, Kanagaraj was invited to join UK football's Premier League External Advisory Group for Watford

Football Club. Members are selected from a broad range of minority groups within the area and advise the club on diversity issues.

Kanagaraj was also invited to attend Watford Borough Council's annual Audentior Awards Ceremony where, to his surprise, he was presented with the Chairman's Award. The award was presented by well-respected

former Watford Football Club player Luther Blissett.

'The town and I were very excited that for the first time in history this award was won by someone from the BAME [black, Asian and minority ethnic] community. I am pleased, honoured, and humbled to accept this award, and I would like to thank everyone who supported "One Vision" to come this far,' Kanagaraj said.

Kanagaraj is not the first Stanborough Park church member to receive the Audentior award; that honour goes to Pat Walton for her work running Stanborough Park Church's welfare service and community projects for more than two decades.

The original version of this story was posted on the Trans-European Division news site.

Adventist Radio London (ARL) vacancy

The South England Conference is looking to appoint two part-time radio producers for its radio station, Adventist Radio London.

Based at our Watford head office, you will report to the Director of Radio. Successful candidates will be required to have the necessary skills and ability to carry out their responsibilities to a high level of competency. Working within a fast-paced and dynamic environment, they will undertake the following responsibilities:

- Generate research ideas for programme production.
- Write and develop materials for scripts, jingles and ads.
- Be available to produce programmes and give assistance to guest presenters.
- Conduct research of materials, contributors and potential interviewees in preparation for radio presentations.
- Select broadcast music which is in accordance with the general ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and appropriate to the programme, the audience and ARL.
- Undertake editing, interviewing and producing duties as necessary.
- Make appropriate arrangements for the management of guests for both live and pre-recorded programmes.
- Learn and observe the Ofcom Broadcasting Standards/Code for radio and ensure that all copyright matters are dealt with.
- Be available for such further training and development as recommended for Adventist Radio London.
- Become competent with the use of audio editing software (Adobe Audition) as recommended by ARL.
- Learn to operate all studio equipment relating to radio production and broadcasting.

Qualification requirements:

A degree in broadcast journalism or media studies will be useful, although evidence of practical and technical skills for radio are as highly valued.

Working 18.75 hours per week, depending on the level of experience and qualification, the monthly salary will be within the range of £1,416.66 and £1,526.17, which includes London Weighting.

Applicants are required to have the right to work within the UK and will be required to undergo all necessary checks.

For an Application Form, Job Description and Person Specification, please email Mrs Jacqui Crawford at jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk.

The South England Conference is an equal opportunities employer.

Deadline for applications: 31 May 2019.



Adventists lead out in Easter Sunday's *Songs of Praise*

Ken Burton and a number of Adventist singers were heavily featured in BBC1's *Songs of Praise* in two Easter programmes filmed in Jerusalem, specially commissioned by the BBC as part of the BBC 'Year of Belief' season.

The first programme, aired on 14 April, followed Holy Week and featured six singers and musical director Burton visiting and talking about their experiences in places such as the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed to be the site of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Ken Burton, a regular face on BBC1's *Songs of Praise*, was given an enormous responsibility: create a multicultural, mainly young choir of twelve singers from across the country from different walks of life, arrange thirteen pieces of music, create soundtracks for all thirteen pieces, and produce the vocals of the guest celebrity soloists: Shaun Escoffery, who plays Mustafa in the West End's *Lion King*; recording artist, Laura Wright; and the programme presenter and singer, Aled Jones.

Ken does not view the arranging process merely as a technical operation, but as an act of worship, as it is very often that new and deeper meanings are discovered in songs we have been singing for years in our churches.

Stoke-on-Trent Seventh-day Adventist Church's Children's Day

Pastor Ian Philpott (pastor for the Stoke District) set 16 March 2019 to be Children's Day for the Stoke-on-Trent church and invited Pastor Patricia Douglas to be the preacher for this special day. Pastor Douglas, the NEC Children's Ministries Director, designed a sermon specifically for our children, supported by her husband, Pastor Carlton Douglas, a previous Stoke pastor.



Pastor Patricia Douglas

The theme for the day was 'Children of God', which focused on the experience of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who were forced to choose between their loyalty to King Nebuchadnezzar and being loyal to God. The children were encouraged, likewise, to put God first in their lives. When asked who they were, they shouted, 'Children of God'; 'Children of God'; 'Children of God'!

The church family were delighted as the children led in both the Sabbath School and Worship Service, leading in praise and worship, Scripture reading, prayers and even an amazing 'adults' story' told by Daniel. The day culminated with messy church as the children were given the opportunity to illustrate and share what they had learned. Stoke Church members are very grateful to Pastor Patricia Douglas for her giftedness in connecting the Word of God with children.

HASTINGS KANDAYA (CHURCH ELDER, STOKE-ON-TRENT CHURCH)



Pastor Carlton Douglas (left) and Pastor Patricia Douglas (second from right) supporting children, teachers and parents



Aled Jones is singing in the Holy Land to celebrate Christ's resurrection. There are also Easter hymns and special performances by Shaun Escoffery and Laura Wright. 13:15 SUNDAY 21 APRIL BBC one

Other Adventist singers who were part of the twelve-voice choir were: Rochelle Burton (Ken's niece), Debra Simpson, and David Billett, all from the Croydon Adventist church; Wolverhampton's Jeharna South; Enfield's Angela Moikeenah, Newbold theology student; and London Ghana's Kwame Mensah-Sarpong.

The filming schedule in Jerusalem was very full, but rewarding, as the choir filmed songs in a cathedral, at the Tower of David, at the Mount of Olives, and – in an incredibly stunning video – in the Judæan desert.

Not all was plain sailing, however: during the filming of one of the songs, an Orthodox Jew, clearly disturbed by a group singing of Jesus, decided to shower down stones on the singers in a reminder of the very real tensions that exist in the country. Fortunately, no one was hurt, and the group's bodyguards ensured the continuation of filming.

Nothing detracted from the immense joy experienced over the time spent there, and every single singer and crew member of the production companies which make the programme was unanimous in agreeing that this was a life-changing experience.

BUC NEWS

MISSION POSSIBLE Rome
1-5 JULY 2019

Calling Church Planters! Group Leaders! Mission-minded members!
This is a unique opportunity to be part of a faith-driven study tour as we explore Paul's letter to the Romans alongside visits to **St Peter's; the Pantheon; Ara Pacis; Ancient Rome including the Catacombs, Colosseum and Forum.**

Stimulating Seminar sessions with **Dr Tihomir Lazic and Serena Santona**. Together we will explore what it means to "be" Church; the heart of the Gospel - the stuff worth giving your life for; and, what does it mean to pray "Thy Kingdom come"? Prayerful and thoughtful worships with **Pastor Wayne Erasmus and Kärt Lazic** exploring themes from Paul's epistle to the Romans.

- Accommodation in Hotel Degli Aranci (4*) B&B, Dinner Included. (Lunch - own cost)
- Including return flights to Rome from Gatwick Airport.
- (Additional £200 supplement for single room occupancy required)
- Bookings close Friday 31st May 2019
- 50% Deposit secures your place. (Balance required by 5th June 2019)
- 20 Places available!

£600 PER PERSON (sharing)

FOR ENQUIRIES & BOOKING FORMS CONTACT SEC CHURCH GROWTH DEPARTMENT
Mavis Bramble | mbramble@secadventist.org.uk | 01923 232728

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

'Restoring the Joy'

The nineteenth annual Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) respite and training weekend took place at the Wokefield Park De Vere Hotel in Reading. The theme for the weekend, 'Restoring the Joy', provided an inspiring backdrop to the programme, leaving attendees with a greater understanding of James 1:2, 3 in relation to the experiences of living with a disability and caring for someone with a disability.

Attendees expressed how much they enjoyed the weekend. Of the attendees who were not members of our denomination, fifty percent came for the first time this year. One of the new attendees said, 'I am really glad to be here this weekend. I have enjoyed the singing, making new friends and having new experiences.' A parent carer said, 'I am really glad I was able to make it to the weekend. I have had such a great time and look forward to the next one.'

The ASNA family weekend provides a place where people living with disabilities and special needs and those without such impairments meet and make friendships and spiritual connections. 'Disability Champions' within the church leadership also attend to meet families and receive training to support their work on a local level. Disability Champions



also give their services as volunteers to support the weekend.

Trevor and Joan Johnson provided resources through the Stanborough Press. Joan described the weekend as 'the highlight of my year'. We would like to thank the Press for providing resources to support the theme, and Adewale and Uche Ademuyiwa for their excellent workshops on emotional intelligence, an important skill to develop towards the development of healthy, joyous relationships.

ASNA would like to thank all the volunteers, workshop leaders, praise team and musicians for making the weekend a blessed one. For further information about the work of ASNA, or to become a member, please email Info@asna.info or telephone 01491 821104.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS (SEC DISABILITY AND DIVERSITY DIRECTOR)

The inclusive church

Sunday 28 April marked the first NEC Inter-departmental Disability Awareness Day. The event was co-sponsored and planned by both the Disability Department and the Children's Ministries Department, in recognition that it demands an inter-departmental response if it is to have the far-reaching effects which are desired across the Conference. The seminar began with a devotional by Pastor Patricia Douglas, who focused on King David's treatment of



Mephibosheth, King Saul's grandson. King David embraced Mephibosheth as an equal and treated him with dignity and respect, giving him honour by putting a framework in place to establish him as lord of his household. He was also given the privilege of eating at the King's table. The question was asked, 'How does your church treat disabled people?'

Pastor Patrick Johnson, the TED Special Needs Director, graciously accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker, and we were truly blessed. Pastor Johnson spoke from personal experience as well as acquired knowledge on disabilities. His in-depth knowledge comes from the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) study he undertook on 'Physical Disability and the Seventh-day Adventist Church'. This is the first study of its kind in the Adventist denomination. In his presentation he gave us the definition of disability using the medical, social and experiential models, along with the biblical model, which is holistic and God-centred and requires individual responsibility. We look forward to the publication of his book in the near future.

Our other presenter, Ayo-Ola McKenzie, spoke about hearing impairment and how to minister effectively to the deaf. Ayo-Ola is a veteran of deaf ministry and teaches British Sign Language (BSL). Statistics she shared revealed that there are over 11 million people in the UK who are deaf or hard of hearing. Therefore, she suggested that in every congregation there should be a band of compassionate workers responsible for sensitising and reminding the entire church of its mission to the deaf community.

Satish Paul, who has a Master's in autism and specialises in teaching children and young people, presented information on autism. He currently teaches young people with autism at a college, which he enjoys fully. He stated that, of all the qualities needed to work with children with autism, patience is paramount, and he just exudes patience. He explained that with autism 'a picture really is worth a thousand words' because a complex idea can be conveyed with just a single picture.

This one-day training was not sufficient to cover all information and questions, as conveyed in feedback by the attendees. An attendee described the training as 'inspiring, motivating and pure genius'. Therefore, the North England Conference is planning another programme for early 2020, so there is ample time for presentations and questions and answers. Please look out for the new dates. We would like to encourage you to attend that training so that you can be motivated and equipped with the skills you need to make your church relevant and inclusive within the community.

We praise God for the blessings from this seminar with its abundance of expertise, evident in both presenters and those who attended. It is clear to see that there's a deep-seated desire for the North England Conference to wholeheartedly embrace disabled people as equals, just as King David did, for Jesus admonishes us, 'Love as I have loved you.'

GRACE WALSH: HEALTH MINISTRIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES & DISABILITY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR
PASTOR PATRICIA DOUGLAS: CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Walking with Jesus

A day of prayer, praise and testimonies took place during the International Women's Day of Prayer at Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath 2 March 2019.

The day truly lived up to its theme – 'Walking with Jesus' – as many testified of the Saviour's blessing in their lives. A young lady shared an emotional testimony about her battle with cancer and her determination to hold on to her faith because God has been too good to her. There was not a dry eye in the sanctuary as she proclaimed, 'If I live, I win, but if I die, I still win, because the next face I will see will be Jesus, my Lord and Saviour who died for me.'



While it was a day specifically designated for women, there was no shortage of testimonies from the men. One young man shared a recent photo of him in hospital during a time in which he had pneumonia in both his lungs and was told by doctors that, due to the extent of the damage there, he would never sing again. However, when Jesus says yes, nobody can say no, as this young man would be miraculously healed with his voice and ministry in song restored, to the glory of God. Accompanied by the Ilford Central Seventh-day Adventist Church praise ensemble, the young man encouraged the church to take all of their problems to the Lord in prayer.

The guest speaker, Jacqueline Otopka, was no stranger to Hackney, having started her ministry there as an elder and Women's Ministries leader before her move to her current church, Ilford Central. Addressing the theme, 'Walking in Discipleship with Jesus', Elder Otopka challenged the church to examine the call, cost and consequences of being a disciple of Jesus. She said: 'Salvation is free, but there is a cost to discipleship. We must give up our old self in order to become the new self Christ has called us to be. We achieve this by picking up our cross and crucifying the flesh (of sin) daily. The result will be that our will becomes His will, meaning that it's no longer about us, but instead it's all about Christ.'

Elder Otopka concluded her message with an examination of Matthew 5:13-16, which addresses the need for Christians to be the salt in the earth and light in darkness. 'Many people, such as those involved in knife crime, are dying needlessly. Jesus is the answer for the world today. By sharing the good news of salvation with others, lives can be preserved and brought out from darkness into the light,' she said.

The day came to a powerful conclusion as members testified of the goodness of God in their lives, while Hackney's pastor, Joojo Bonnie, along with head elder, John Mathieu, prayed a blessing into the lives of the women and their families.

DARELL J. PHILIP



Plymouth's Pamper Day Fundraiser

Plymouth Church members have kicked off with their first fundraising event to send 11 people on a mission trip to South Africa this December. Flights have been booked and the mission finalised: now the only thing left to do is to raise the funds.

The first of a long line of fundraising events planned for this year was a Mother's Day pamper afternoon on Sunday 24 March, ticketed at £5 per person. This was a joint effort from both church and school. Ophelia Herman, dedicated member of the church and chair of the Fletewood School PTFA, organised and executed the event with class and style. Two school parents donated their skills and time by providing manicures, while Joy Yutoc and Gemma Hall were 'on hand' providing hand and back massages. Others joined in by serving hot drinks with homemade cake and scones, and a small handmade craft sale also brought in a few more pounds.

Every other year Plymouth Church organises and goes on a mission trip. This started in 2015 with a trip to Romania to renovate some houses and run church programmes, followed by a trip to Moldova in 2017 to do the same; so 2019 is our year for mission! A couple of projects were proposed, but it was decided that Cape Town, South Africa, was the place to go. Pastor Clifford Herman set about contacting his friends and family, and found a few projects in need of some assistance. While in Cape Town the group will be redecorating a local Adventist primary school, leading out in church services, conducting messy church programmes, visiting the local hospital's children's ward on Christmas Day, and much more.

Over the past year or so the Fletewood School PTFA has been raising money to renovate the school playground. Being in the busy inner city, the site has limited space – but, with some demolishing, the playground has been enlarged and resurfaced. All that's left to do is design and decorate the floor and invest in some additional play equipment. Much of the money raised so far has been through fortnightly Friday school meals and special events throughout the year.

Everyone enjoyed the event and left feeling relaxed and pampered. £146 was raised in total, which will be shared equally between the two projects. Not a bad start for a small church and school in the Southwest!

JENNIE HALL

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE
Retention
 EVANGELISM EVERYWHERE
17-23 JUNE ADULT SPEAKER **Dr. David McKenzie**
2019 CAMP MEETING
 PONTINS PRESTATYN SANDS, Central Beach
 Barkby Ave, Prestatyn LL19 7LA.
 Daily Worship Services • Prayer & Praise Services
 Devotionals • Health Plenaries • Bible Studies
 Workshops • Youth • Teens & Junior Programmes
 Children & Cradle Roll Programmes

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Exeter Pathfinder Day

Pastor Kevin Johns travelled to Exeter Church to take the morning service on 23 February and he awarded honours to the following Adventurers and Pathfinders: David Gangan, Mufarwashe and Mutsawashe Gwelo, Emma Šolcová, Tosia Zaniewski, Daniela Gangan, Leon Mabonga, and Jesse and Phoebe Mogeni. The children participated in the service with prayers, readings and songs, and they all received gifts at the end of the service. In his address Pastor Johns advised the children to be careful about their choice of friends and to be occupied with worthwhile activities that will help them to learn more of God.

Leaders, Chiedza Gwelo and Rose Mogeni, had organised the day, and had invited young people from Plymouth to come up in support of the Pathfinders. Daniel Costin played two beautiful saxophone solos in the service.

After a fellowship lunch, Pastor Johns encouraged members to think of skills they could teach children in their honour programme. They were told that if they taught an honour, they would get the badge as well!

STELLA JEFFERY

Extending God's Kingdom
North England Conference
Camp Meeting 2019
1- 7 July 2019
 Pontins • Southport

Pr. Marshall Edwards (Elder, Speaker)
 Pr. Tricia Wynn-Payne (Ministry Minister)
 Pr. Anthony Kent (Elder, Speaker)
 Pr. David Beckles (Elder, Speaker)
 Pr. Clifford Herman (Elder, Speaker)
 Dr. Eric Walsh (Elder, Speaker)
 Taj Pajala (Youth, Speaker)
 Dr. Edward Dokuze (Elder, Speaker)

Nurturing Each Other & Winning Another
 Please call Pontins on 08714 742776 quoting NA19 after 9 January 2019 to make your booking or send your application form directly to Pontins. More information can be found at www.necadventist.org.uk or contact the NEC Office on 0115 960 6312.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Adults' story, children's sermon

Sabbath, 23 March was a momentous occasion at Chelmsley Wood Church. Instead of the usual children's story followed by a sermon aimed at the adults, this Sabbath the children led out in the service for the whole day! The children taught their Primary and PowerPoints Sabbath School lessons to the adults and preached three powerful sermonettes. The children even carried out the duties of the deacons and deaconesses. This is something we had never experienced before at Chelmsley Wood, and it was quite refreshing.

The special item sung by the children's choir summed up the day: 'You must become just like a child to enter the kingdom of God... Let all the little children come to Me.'

'Awesome!' The children had only positive feedback at the end of the day. 'We would like to do this more often,' they said.

Usually, parents have to think of creative ways to keep the kids occupied during sermons.

This time it was different. The children were the leaders, and how beautiful a Sabbath it was!

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Seven blessings for 50 years of marriage

As marriage and commitment are becoming more of a challenge, to attain a milestone of 50 years of matrimony is not only something to esteem, but also worthy of a grand celebration; so on 7 April Lloyd and June Peynado, members of the Serenity Seventh-day Adventist church, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in style. They were joined by their five children, their spouses, and scores of family and friends.

Escorted by their twelve grandchildren as they marched into the beautifully decorated banquet hall, they could not fail to show their overwhelming joy.

Delivering words of encouragement, Pastor Mohan pronounced seven special blessings upon them, based on Psalm 128.

An especially poignant moment was when we remembered how, several months earlier, June had become seriously ill, which left her hospitalised for many weeks.

How lovely it was to see the happy couple smiling and mingling freely with their guests as they reminisced of the Lord's goodness towards them.

They would like to thank their family and friends for their fervent prayers, and give God all the praise for His hand of healing, and for sustaining them during their many years together.

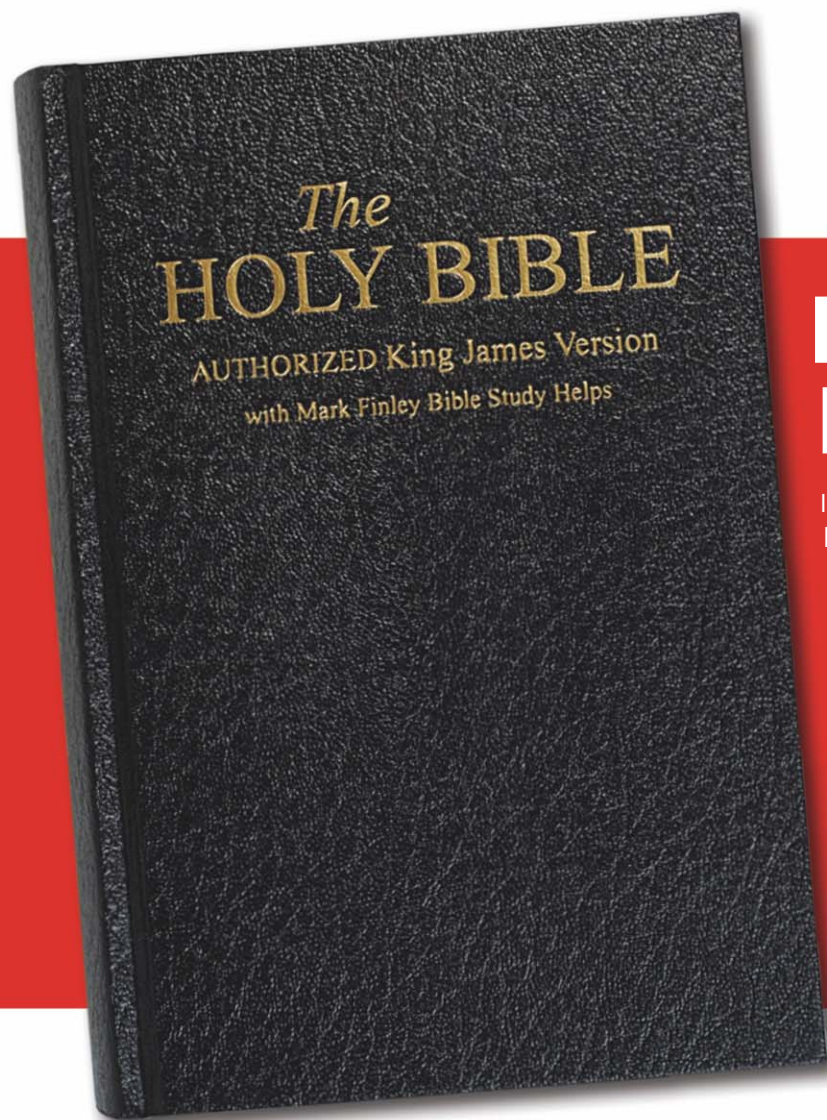
Brother and Sister Peynado continue to model the meaning of love and commitment, and attribute their matrimonial longevity to God, who Himself is the Source of true love.

JULIETTE MARSHALL (DAUGHTER)



Adventist
Book Center.com

June Special



KJV Bible with Mark Finley Helps

ISBN: 978-1-909545-66-3
Hardback, black cloth

RRP £6.95
Special offer: £4.95 + P&P

Offer ends: 30 June 2019

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

Find us on:
 Adventist Book Centre – UK

Our mission

Pastor Llew Edwards



Can any good thing come out of Babylon?

Not long after arriving in Northern Ireland to care for a district, Pastor Weiers Coetser, the Irish Mission communication sponsor, introduced my wife and me to Lisa Maria Devlin, who operates a charity she named 'HeartShip'. The name seeks to capture its aim – from the heart, to ship aid to help suffering people.

Lisa learned of how the NHS hospitals in Northern Ireland divest themselves of hospital equipment that exceeds their needs. By this I mean anything such as hospital beds, heart monitors, unused mattresses, spare curtains, syringes, nappy pins, wound bandages, catheters, baby scales – the list goes on. As she thought about this she began scrolling through the internet, looking at people's medical needs, and came across Dr Michael-John Von Hörsten. Dr Michael, as we refer to him, is a young Adventist doctor who has dedicated himself to serving the poor.

Having worked with medical volunteers from around the world to make a difference in Greece, the *Adventist Help* organisation that they set up started co-operating with ADRA to establish a hospital in Iraq to serve people displaced by the battle to liberate Mosul. He is now doing the same in Uganda – in an area with 80,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Some of the refugees come from areas impacted by Ebola, and they are a hundred miles away from other established medical facilities.

Lisa made contact with Dr Michael and she regularly keeps contact with him on the phone. She quickly established that he could use the help. She managed to persuade more than one NHS trust in Northern Ireland to become a moving/recycling agent for the spare medical equipment several local hospitals have. The managers tasked with disposing of this old but perfectly usable equipment are very happy to see the equipment transferred to desperate situations in the Middle East and Uganda.

I chatted with the leader of a charity from England who told me that Lisa is simply unbelievable, having singlehandedly cornered the NHS market in Northern Ireland in terms of taking their spare goods and shipping them to desperate contexts.

In the time Pastors Weiers Coetser, Andrew Willis, Karin and myself have worked with her (Karin and I were able to average 1 day a week), three containers have gone to Syria, and we helped a few weeks ago to pack one bound for Yemen. To date two have gone for Uganda, with two more to follow. A current concern is that the containers that are bound for Uganda travel through Mozambique. Please pray for the situation in that country following the recent cyclone. All in all, Lisa tells us that she has dispatched more than 17 containers from her warehouse. Each of these containers typically contains medical equipment that is valued in excess of £100,000.

Lisa has also widened her work beyond the NHS. Knowing that Dr Michael wants to open a maternity unit in the Uganda hospital, she has contacted community centres, schools and ladies' organisations to contribute bras for mothers and nappies for babies. Suitcases of bras and nappy packs are pouring into the warehouse!

On top of that, Lisa assists refugee families who have escaped persecution and war – clothing, furniture and advice is given as they adjust to life in Northern Ireland. She drives her van up to 1,300 miles a month collecting from hospitals, clinics, youth clubs, churches and individuals.

Lisa gets no funding from any government agency for her work but relies on the generosity of people who hear of her work and donate to her.

She appears to have tireless energy but admits to sometimes crashing from exhaustion: but then, after a good night's sleep, the joy of serving gets her on her feet again. She told me that since she began this ministry she has never

been happier in her life.

It is such a privilege to work with her and see God responding to her desire to help. A few weeks ago, she called me to ask if I would accompany her to get port clearance for what I think was her first container to Uganda. She said that the process had made her so ill that she could not drive to the office in Belfast – so I drove her there. On the way I told her that Karin and I had prayed first that God would give her the words to say, and secondly that God would work on the heart of someone in that office to help her.

I dropped her off and drove around trying to find a free place to park. About forty minutes later she texted me and I got out of the car to see if I could see her, and there she was across the street. She dashed across to me, waving a paper in the air. I was wrapped in a huge hug as she told me what had happened. 'Llew,' she said, 'I had only said a few words to the official [who was a lady] when she asked if I was the HeartShip lady!' Lisa affirmed that she was, and the official told her that she was collecting bras for her, and that she was so moved by her work that from then on Lisa was only to contact her for documents like this and she would make sure everything went through for her!

Amazing things happen around

Lisa's ministry. She was given a Mercedes Sprinter van for collecting things; an appeal on Facebook got her a hangar-size warehouse; when the first container had all sorts of problems getting into Uganda, Dr Michael's appeal to the government resulted in the president's office declaring that all Lisa's containers were to be shipped c/o his office and not to be hindered by customs and their charges; and just last week she appealed for a caravan to keep in the warehouse as an office and kitchen for the volunteers who help at the warehouse – and a gentleman has supplied her with just what she needs, for as long as she needs it!

I had Lisa come to Banbridge Church and conduct a Sabbath service with me. What an inspiration she was to our members.

As I write this, Karin and I have a week left before our stint in Northern Ireland ends, and Lisa has asked if I would consider staying to be her van driver – I am torn!

Ireland is a beautiful land torn by strong divisions. It is a place where I can see political and sometimes deep religious divides – which can foster conspiracies and sectarian hatred – even, at times, in the church.

What do Babylon and Lisa have to say to that?

Lisa is a Roman Catholic.

A video featuring Lisa Maria talking about her outreach project:
<https://youtu.be/PXlwE4WecKw>



Theodore Carrington Roberts (1956-2019)
d. 26 January.



Born on 3 March 1956, Theodore Carrington Roberts entered the world into sunshine that beamed upon the sleepy village of Parham, located in the St Peter parish on the beautiful paradise island of Antigua. In 1964, aged just 8 years, Theodore journeyed along with his two older siblings on a ship across the Atlantic Ocean to join his mother, who had earlier travelled to England and was residing in Leicester.

Theodore grew and was very much part of the large Adventist youth scene at the Leicester Bodnant Avenue church in the early seventies, where he worshipped and spent many hours socialising with his friends. Theodore was noted for his sense of fun and distinct jovial laughter!

It was around 1973 when Theodore, aged 17, was watching the youth choir practice. Sister Charles, the choir leader at the time, asked if he would like to join. It so happened that Theodore's mother had an ability and love for singing. With rich operatic vibrato and tone, she would often provide solo renditions at church. This ability was clearly inherited by Theodore, and he happily joined.

His love and talent for singing saw him collaborate with friends Philmore, Cyril, Lestroy and Howard in 1975 at the age of 19 to form a singing group known as TIME, which was also the title of their signature song. Their music, presence, popularity and influence were robust within the Seventh-day Adventist community as they sang in churches across the North and South England Conferences.

The group sang with close harmony, and people would often query who sang the high part. That was Theodore! He brought a soprano with his special falsetto that enhanced the soothing tones of TIME. They had a bit of an edge, too: not only because they played guitar (considered a bit of a rebellious deviation from the traditional piano and organ

back then), but also because they penned their own spirit-filled songs. Theodore contributed lyrics to one of TIME's classics, 'Mother's Prayer'. Although the members of the singing group TIME went their separate ways, Theodore continued glorifying God using his talent and often sang solo. One of his favourites was 'His Eye Is On the Sparrow'.

After leaving school in the seventies, Theodore briefly worked in the hosiery and engineering industries until they collapsed. Not deterred, he engaged in care work, supporting young people with challenging behaviour at a residential school. He eventually returned to study, receiving his Diploma in Social Work from the University of Derby in February 1996. Theodore went on to work for Leicester City Council and latterly Leicestershire County Council as a social worker.

Theodore was creative and could engage in a decent bit of DIY. He turned his hand to woodworking, creating picture frames and pieces of furniture, some of which remain in people's homes today. He was a great cook, making anything taste delicious – and he had tailoring skills too. He was an active and faithful contributor to church life in Leicester, where he formed lifelong friendships serving in youth ministries and holding leadership posts as Pathfinder Director and Sabbath School Superintendent.

In November 2015, Theodore suffered a life-changing stroke which affected his mobility and speech. After six months spent in hospital he returned home in May 2016. Due to the loss of function to his right side, he relied on an electric wheelchair and was unable to continue working. He retired the same year.

Fiercely independent, Theodore was assisted by carers, family and friends. He faced health challenges which caused him to be hospitalised at various times but was always keen to return home, bouncing back with resilience and steely determination. Sadly, after admission to hospital on Friday

25 January 2019, his condition deteriorated rapidly and unexpectedly. Theodore fell asleep for the last time on 26 January 2019 at 8.30 Sabbath morning.

His eldest sibling, Leroy, passed before him in 2015, and so Theodore is survived by his mother, Amanda; two children, Dionne and Dominic; brothers, Sinclair, Patrick, Samuel and Morgan; and sisters, Rosemary and Sharon, as well as nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Theodore sleeps now, free from the confines and challenges of his condition, which imposed its limitations – but we hope in the return of Christ. We look forward to that great day when Theodore will be restored to perfect health, when he will be able to walk, even run, to meet his Heavenly Father. He will be able to raise strong arms to embrace his Saviour, and we will hear Theodore's laughter once again. On that day Theodore will be able to speak with purest clarity, without hesitation, and sing in tones more beautiful than those he ever possessed in this life!

We are promised, 'Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing! 'Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees... with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.' Isaiah 35:5, 6, 3, 10, NKJV.

Come soon, Lord Jesus!

DENISE ROBERTS

Linden Prescott Dyason (1935-2019)
d. 15 February.



Linden, third child born to Adventist parents, Milton and Dorothy Dyason, a brother for Caroline and Wilfred, was born on 23 May 1935 in Sydney, Australia. Valmae, the youngest daughter, was to join the family a couple of years later. Lin grew up in the Adventist community of Concorde Hospital in Strathfield, Sydney, where he attended the

primary school that was operated in the back of the Concorde church and went on to attend secondary school at Burwood High School. After completing school, Lin attended Avondale College. He had wanted to become a lawyer, but his grandfather said he could not pursue a career that required him to tell lies for other people, so instead he enrolled on the teacher training course. It was about this time that Lin's parents moved to North New South Wales to work at a farm owned by the Brunner family, and while visiting them he met Mary Brunner. He persuaded Mary to go to Avondale, and later they were to become married. However, after three years he quit the college course, having failed Greek (which he did not consider necessary for a teacher), and started to look around for other exploits in which to use his entrepreneurial skills.

Lin was a natural salesman, and had helped finance his time at Avondale by selling items students wanted. So, after Avondale, he commenced work in sales of televisions and, later, lighting. He married Mary (née Brunner) in 1956 and settled into life as a husband, father, and salesman. Lin and Mary had three children: Arthur, Cheryl and Scott, who all attended the Wahroonga Seventh-day Adventist Primary School. During this time Lin and Mary began fostering children. Over the years they would foster 59 children in both Australia and England.

Lin eventually became a regional sales manager for Encyclopedia Britannica, and while with them he was offered a job in London as regional manager. So it was that in 1971 Lin and Mary, with their three children, moved to the UK.

The family got involved with church life at Stanborough Park and the children attended Stanborough School. Over the years that followed Lin set up a number of businesses and marketing campaigns for other companies and organisations. At the same time, he constantly looked for ways that his business exploits could have a benefit to the mission of the

church and the involvement of young people. Lin supported Mary's involvement with fostering, and through this they eventually added a fourth child, Emily, to their family.

One of Lin's lasting contributions to business life was the setting up of the Institute for Independent Business, which now has hundreds of members around the world. One of Lin's enduring loves was brass instruments. In the 1980s Lin decided to donate enough brass instruments to Stanborough Secondary School for the pupils to have a brass band. He later started to take time off work on Thursday afternoons to give lessons to students at the school. Lin also joined the Watford Brass Band and spent many hours playing the 'eupho' or the 'baritone' over the years.

Lin loved young people and wanted to help them grow to be contributing members of society. As a result he got involved with Pathfinders at Stanborough Park Church, and soon became the leader for the church along with Paulina Rinta-Aho. Lin set up a coach business with two luxury 56-seater coaches, which he was then able to use for Pathfinders and other youth activities. The two coaches, 'Pathfinder' and 'Adventurer', were the vehicles used for a number of humanitarian projects involving Stanborough youth, providing practical help in schools, orphanages and hospitals in Albania, Lithuania and Poland, among other places.

Lin had a favourite Bible passage, Matthew 25:31-40, and everyone who knew him knew this was his almost stuck record – what are we doing for the 'least' of His brethren? While often controversial in his expressions of thought, Lin sought to practise what he preached.

In 2000 Lin, Mary, Arthur and Emily returned to live in Australia, leaving Cheryl and Scott in England. Lin and Mary returned to their native Australia, and it was a great sadness to them both that they were considered too old to continue fostering children. Lin continued to look for

ways to 'give back', even after Mary died. A few years ago Lin was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and later with amyloidosis. Lin faced both of these diseases bravely, and willingly became a 'guinea pig' for research in the hope that he would help others.

In 2015 Lin returned to live in England, and in November 2017 he married old friend Paulina Rinta-Aho; and the short time they had together before his death on 15 February 2019, at the age of 83, was one in which he continued to look for ways to help others. When it became clear that there would be no further time, Lin and Paulina agreed that donations from friends at his funeral should be directed to the UCL Amyloidosis Research Fund. At the time of writing £375 had been donated by friends.

The funeral was conducted by Pastors Patrick Boyle and Paul Lockham on Thursday 28 February at Stanborough Park Church. Lin is now at rest until the Lord returns. Maranatha.

PASTOR PAUL LOCKHAM

Ivan Karpinskyj (1927-2019)
d. 12 March.



Born on 17 August 1927 in Topilnycia, south-east Poland (now south-west Ukraine), Ivan was the youngest of five siblings and was 12 years old when the Second World War broke out. As a young boy of 16 Ivan was captured and sent to labour camps in Germany. By God's grace Ivan survived this horrific ordeal.

After liberation Ivan travelled and settled in England, and initially made London his home. While he was making a new life for himself evangelistic meetings were taking place in the heart of the capital city, and Ivan was impressed to attend lectures on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation advertised at the New Gallery Centre in Regent Street. In time Ivan accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour, and on 23 May 1953, at the age of 26, he was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church

and worshipped at the London Central church. Soon after, in 1956, he spent a short time working at the Hydro Sanitarium at Stanborough Park, Watford.

Ivan married his pen pal from Poland, Janina Soliwoda, in 1961. Out of this commitment one son and six daughters were born: Simon, Elizabeth (deceased), Lilla, Hania, Mary, Kalyna and Primrose (deceased). Three daughters went on to work for the Adventist Church organisations: Elizabeth at the South England Conference; Lilla at the British Union Conference, Trans-European Division and South England Conference (currently at Adventist Risk Management); and Mary at Stanborough Primary School (and presently at the British Union Conference).

Ivan qualified as a psychiatric nurse, and the family established themselves in the city of St Albans. Ivan was a founding member of the St Albans Seventh-day Adventist church, which met in various locations within the city until the current church was built and dedicated in 1981.

Unfortunately, life with Janina wasn't to be. In his retirement Ivan would often go to Ukraine and visit the Adventist church in Lviv, and some time later he met Tereza, whom he married in 2000. They shared 19 happy years together until his passing.

Ivan often spoke of his Saviour and loved to share the good news of the Gospel, taking every opportunity to relay the message of Christ's Second Coming – often frequenting 'Speakers' Corner' in Hyde Park over the years. He spoke of the blessed hope of heaven and eternal life and eagerly awaited the time when he would walk and talk with Jesus face-to-face.

Ivan fell asleep in Jesus on 12 March 2019. The funeral service was officiated by Pastor Nathan Stickland and took place on 3 April at the St Albans Adventist church, followed by committal at Hatfield Road Cemetery, where he awaits Christ's return and the glorious resurrection day. Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly!

HANIA KARPINSKA

Arnold Blackburn

'The family of Arnold Blackburn would like to thank everyone who sent their condolences and best wishes following his death in February. These messages of sympathy were greatly appreciated.'

HAMILTON BLACKBURN (SON)

Messenger

Volume 124 • 10 – 24 May 2019

Editor: David Neal
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 12 – 30 May 2019

Note to potential advertisers

It is important that those who submit adverts for display in *Messenger* 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 *Messenger* 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, *Messenger*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144. Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700
Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

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

Printed in the UK.

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

Sunset

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

	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
May 24	8.58	9.11	9.10	9.35	9.37
31	9.07	9.19	9.19	9.45	9.47
Jun 7	9.14	9.26	9.26	9.54	9.55
14	9.19	9.31	9.31	10.00	10.01

Pathfinder Bible Experience – not who did better or worse!

by Dejan Stojkovic

When you first hear about the Pathfinder Bible Experience, certainly the first thing that comes to your mind is not the word 'invasion'. You would most likely think of a year of studying a certain portion of the Bible to the level that you probably know it better than your local pastor; of sacrifices made by Pathfinders, families, and churches to attend four levels of testing: Area, Conference, Union, and Division; and of camaraderie among young people.

However, on 27 April 2019, 42 clubs from the British Union Conference (BUC), for the lack of better expression, truly did invade the North American Division (NAD), testing taking place in Rockford, Illinois, United States. Well, at least this is how many of our hosts described this small phenomenon. This information came to all of us as a surprise, since we were only the guests from across the pond, and we

ended up being the largest Union at this Division testing.

Now you probably wonder how well the BUC teams did, and I would say that is a good question; but to answer it at this point would overshadow what this programme is all about. The Pathfinder Bible Experience is not about who did better and who did worse. It is not about the pins you receive or sponsorships that your club wins. It is about helping our young people study the Word of God, and through that journey leading them to eternal life.

Having said that, I am proud of how extremely well our Pathfinders did, and of how their diligence and sacrifices produced remarkable results. This all could not have happened without the dedication and hard work of Pathfinder clubs, club leaders and their coaches; without

parents and guardians recognising the importance of PBE; without the pastors supporting them on this challenging and long journey, as well as the Conference and Mission Pathfinder directors and the area coordinators, who worked tirelessly to make this ministry a very prominent one within the British Union Conference.

I, personally, would like to thank, in no particular order, Pastor Njabulo King-Ndlovu, Mthokozisi Bhebe-Ndlovu, Pastor Kevin Johns, Bogdan Stan, Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi and Pastor David Rancic, who with their leadership inspired hundreds, if not thousands, of our Pathfinders

to take up this challenge and study the Word of God.

And the journey continues, because the books for 2020 PBE testing are Ezra, Nehemiah, Jonah, Micah, Amos, and Hosea with the following chapters excluded: Ezra 2; 8:1-14; 10:18-44; Nehemiah 7:7-63; 10:1-27; 11:3-12:26. Not forgetting our Adventurers – they will focus only on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, with the same exclusions as mentioned above.

Finally, I would like to say, 'God bless you, and hopefully next year even more clubs will join us in studying God's Word!'

