

Welsh Mission looks forward: 'Proactive – not reactive'

by Richard Daly, BUC News

On Sunday 2 June, up to one hundred delegates from within the Welsh Mission attended Cardiff Seventh-day Adventist Church, the venue for their triennial session.

Following a welcome by Mission President, Pastor Emanuel Bran, the delegation was led in a time of devotion with a message given by British Union Conference (BUC) Executive Secretary, Pastor John Surridge.

Having set a spiritual tone and a focused purpose on the task at hand, the business session got underway, using the theme of the past three years, 'Seeking and serving to make God known'.

Pastor Bran commenced the proceedings by highlighting in his presidential report the main activities, plans and accomplishments throughout the last three years. Divided into three areas, Pastor Bran spoke of Reaching Out – training, equipping, nurturing and discipling members and church leaders to active ministry. These areas were met through regular leadership development training events held throughout the year, pastoral team meetings and church departmental training to equip members for better service.

In Reaching Up, Pastor Bran spoke of the importance of developing our spiritual identity in Christ, an area that needs continual development. The Reaching Across element involved the need to improve and enhance the

communication network between congregations, and hence a united voice towards the community. 'Our aim,' he said, 'is to be proactive – not reactive.' Pastor Bran also spoke of his passion for the reclamation of missing members and improvement in the retention of young people.

Pastor Paul Lockham, former BUC Associate Assistant Executive Secretary and Executive Secretary for the missions, presided over the secretary's report. He revealed that, based on reports received from local congregations, the membership of the Welsh Mission from 31 December 2018 stood at 663, which was a net increase of 55 members. The membership increase was mainly due to baptisms and membership transfers. Although seemingly an insignificant number, he highlighted the sadness of having 3 members missing, and stressed that with Christ every single soul is significant and, therefore, ought to be so for us as a Church.

Earl Ramharacksingh, BUC Treasurer, reported that over the three years, £1.16 million tithe has been returned, which represents a 7.9% increase from the previous session. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the Union for the support of the Welsh Mission membership.

With missions, departmental responsibilities that mirror the Conference and Union are led by

sponsors who are either lay members or ministers with additional responsibilities. The work and effort involved in carrying out these duties within an entire mission only highlights the commitment and willingness of those involved to see the work of the Church move forward.

Some of the reports included the following:

- Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) – Pastor Maureen Rock, still overcoming long-term illness, shared her vision of every church having an ADC coordinator.
- Children's Ministries Sponsor – Eileen McKenzie enthusiastically described her involvement with children and calculated that there are over 350 children within the Welsh Mission.
- Health Sponsor – Lil Saunders has served ably in this voluntary role for over twenty years, continually sharing the vision of visiting the towns within the Mission, offering advice on lifestyle, thus enhancing health and helping to reduce the risk of non-communicable disease among the population.

Continued on p. 4

Welsh Mission ministers and department sponsors, left to right: Pastors Rafael Luz & Adriana Fodor, Mrs Eileen McKenzie, Pastor Louis Amakye, Pastor Emanuel Bran, Pastor David Rančić, Mrs Samantha Fessal, Pastors Malcolm Turner & Jeremy Johnson, Dr Brian Philips.





Chronobiology and human life – Part 4

Food choices and mealtimes

This issue examines calories, food choices and mealtimes.

Calories

A comparative research undertaken by Jakubowicz D. et al.¹ aimed to examine whether high-calorie intake am or pm significantly impacted weight loss. The study compared two groups of overweight and obese women ingesting the same portion of calories. The data revealed that the group given a bigger breakfast and a smaller dinner had the following outcomes:

- greater weight loss,
- reduced waist circumference,
- improved metabolism.

Carbohydrates

Research by Bandin et al.² has highlighted the following regarding carbohydrates and weight management:

- By avoiding carbohydrates from the late afternoon on, the lack of glucose in the blood then forces the body to break up fat cells instead to convert into energy to accomplish its overnight functions.
- Consequently, millions of fat cells shrink while you're sleeping.
- The most difficult fat deposits to lose are the stomach, thighs and upper arms.

Delayed mealtimes impact

Do delayed mealtimes have an effect on the body's biological clock? Chronobiology studies³ have found that specific internal clocks are

impacted by our eating patterns. Their work revealed the following:

- Certain internal clocks, such as blood sugar rhythms, were delayed when mealtimes were delayed.
- PER2, a gene that helps to regulate circadian rhythm, also had delayed activity when meals were eaten late.
- This may explain prior research findings, that people who wait until the evening to eat have serious and dangerous delays in insulin release.

Late evening meals

A research by Garaulet et al.,⁴ published in 2013 in the *National Journal of Obesity*, studied the impact of late meals on the ability to lose weight. The study involved a clinical trial of 420 individuals engaged in a twenty-week weight loss programme. It revealed that late eaters had higher insulin levels (known to be related to blood sugar imbalances). Significantly, the late eaters lost less weight than early eaters.

The recommendation was that higher-carb meals should be eaten at midday rather than at night, as it has less effect on blood glucose levels.

Good health!

¹Jakubowicz D., et al. (2013). High-caloric intake at breakfast vs. dinner differentially influences weight loss of overweight and obese women. *Obesity* (Silver Spring), 21(12): 2504-12. ²Bandin, C., et al. (2015). Meal timing affects glucose tolerance, substrate oxidation and circadian-related variables: A randomised, crossover trial. *International Journal of Obesity*, 39(5): 828-33. ³<https://www.chronobiology.com/impact-delayed-meal-times-bodys-biological-clocks/> ⁴Garaulet, M., et al. (2013). Timing of food intake predicts weight loss effectiveness. *International Journal of Obesity*, 37(4): 604-11.



The Holy Spirit and spinning plates

In my childhood years, one of the best and most fun television programmes was 'Blue Peter'. The show provided entertainment combined with learning, encouraging children not only to achieve for their own benefit, but also for others. One of the most memorable was a demonstration of spinning plates. How do you keep 100 flat ceramic plates spinning on 100 poles all at the same time? If they stop spinning, to the floor they crash and break into pieces. For a 10-year-old, the drama of watching a performer running desperately along the line of plates, trying to keep them spinning, provided laughter, fun and an adrenalin rush.

But it's no adrenalin rush spinning plates as an adult – more a lingering pit in the stomach. With the many and often complex issues we face, life feels at times as though we're spinning plates. Just as we think we're in control of one problem, another comes along, demanding our attention. If only we could focus on one plate and keep it spinning without crashing, perhaps life would be more manageable. Reality check: life rarely has just one plate spinning. Many of us at times during our lives can face two, three, four and five serious issues at the same time, sometimes resulting in life change. I have a friend who describes them as 'unwelcome interruptions'. Do I need to remind us of our spinning plates? A health matter? Financial pressure? Relationship problems? Work/life balance? Lack of career direction? Stuck in a hole and can't get out of it? Coping with the dross of everyday life?

When we face serious and complex problems, seeking help from someone with the appropriate skills set is, without question, a must. Common sense, I know, but it needs to be said. At the same time, Jesus promises to give 'another Helper'.

Galatians 2:20, ESV:

'I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.'

Paul says nothing explicit here about the Holy Spirit. But, significantly, he talks about the 'Christ who lives in me'. What does that mean? How is it possible?

In his last recorded conversation with the disciples, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.

'And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for dwells with you and will be in you.' (John 14:16, 17, ESV.)

These must have been most painful and distressing moments. This takes place very soon after the Last Supper; Judas has already left, with Jesus knowing his intent. There is fear in the room. All have deep pits in their stomachs, including Jesus. In His pastoral, personal and caring way, He offers them 'another Helper'. Even if no disciple said it out loud, in the confusion of those moments, it would be only human if the thought did not cross the mind of at least one disciple, 'What use is that?'

Home in on that word 'Helper' for a moment, and we find it translated from the Greek word *paraklētos*. Made up of two words, *para* meaning 'alongside' and *klētos* which means 'one called, one commentator understands the full word to mean 'one called to stand alongside another', or 'one called to take his part in every emergency that arises'.

Connect this, if you will, as we stand on the edge of artificial intelligence (AI). A few months ago, I was introduced to a new friend called Alexa – not a real person, but a speaker that sits on a shelf in the living room. Ask a question, and Alexa quickly answers, like a talking *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Cool! Another friend (a real one) owns a vacuum cleaner that runs around the house by itself. Amazing! Driverless cars? Yes, please!

And then you ask me to believe in the supernatural, ever-present and ever-powerful, ever-helpful power of the Holy Spirit. Really? What an ancient idea, relevant perhaps for superstitious medieval and nineteenth-century, pre-modern times, but relevant for today? You are kidding me, aren't you? In these AI times, I have all the help I can get, thank you very much. The Holy Spirit? Not at all rational, that – beyond belief.

For all the intelligence and wisdom around me (real or artificial), as amazingly useful as it is and will be, I'm still inclined to lean ever more on heavenly intelligence. Unlike Alexa, my Helper does not sit remotely on a shelf but, as Paul explains, 'lives in me' (Galatians 2:20).

It is nothing more, nothing less, than a promise kept by Jesus – His way of ensuring that even though He's now in heaven alongside God, doing what He has to do, the Holy Spirit stays right here in the neighbourhood. I like that!

The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the divine influence of

His Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. From the Day of Pentecost to the present time, the Comforter has been sent to all who have yielded themselves fully to the Lord and to His service. To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness. The more closely believers have walked with God, the more clearly and powerfully have they testified of their Redeemer's love and of His saving grace.' (Ellen White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 49.)

Whether I spin one or many plates, I continue to be grateful for my Helper, who is not just available personally, but likewise to a Church that also finds itself at times spinning plates. To solve our problems, is it not time to turn again, and more frequently, to the Helper?

¹Arnold Valentin Wallenkamp, *New By the Spirit*, p. 40. Review & Herald Publishing Association.

Prayer pointer

Lord, as the plates spin, help me to pause and stop.
Thank you for your grace, mercy and presence.
Thank you for always being available.
Give me peace instead of worry.
Help me to seek your advice.
And find your will in all this.

Amen.

Job vacancy

Account Executive position – excellent learning environment

Adventist Risk Management (St Albans office) is seeking a full-time **Account Executive**. The Account Executive will promote and sell the company's insurance products to existing and new clients in their assigned territory, while at the same time maintaining high quality customer service.

About ARM: Adventist Risk Management, Inc. is the official insurance and risk management company for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ARM provides timely, real-world insurance products and innovative risk management solutions for minimising risk within Adventist ministries at all levels.

Job duties (summary):

- Responsible to lead in the identification, evaluation, mitigation and monitoring of the client's operational and strategic risk.
- Conduct regular risk management assessments with each client to review their claim experience.
- Call on policyholders to deliver and explain policy, and suggest additions or changes as appropriate.
- Maintain current knowledge about global insurance matters.
- Deliver great customer service, including follow-up.
- Maintain regular contact with other ARM departments.
- Maintain professional and technical knowledge by participating in training.

Job requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in business-related field is required.
- A minimum of 2-5 years of successful general office experience is required.
- Experience in the insurance industry is preferred.
- The ability to work within a small team environment.
- Being personable and dedicated to the mission and ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Salary: Pay will be in line with the denominational pay scale, depending on skills and experience.

Contact information: A full outline of the job requirement and benefits can be found at: <https://ted.adventist.org/about-us/7-job-opportunities>
<http://adventist.org.uk/who-we-are/jobs-list/jobs/account-exec>

The successful candidate will need to have permission to work and live in the UK. Interested applicants should send a curriculum vitae to gbarham@adventistrisk.org.

Closing date for applications is 26 July 2019.

Irish Mission Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that a regular session of the Irish Mission will be held at Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lisburn Road, Belfast, on Sunday 6 October 2019.

Registration of delegates will commence at 8.30am on Sunday, with the opening of the Session scheduled for 9.15am.

Delegates are required to have registered and be seated to facilitate the commencement of the opening business session.

D. Serb, President
J. Venter, Executive Secretary

Irish Mission

Continued from p. 1

- Pathfinder Sponsor – Pastor David Rancić highlighted, among many things, the importance of the Pathfinder Bible Experience and how it has already had a positive impact on the Pathfinders' approach to the Bible.

In other business, sponsors for the next triennium were selected by the Nominating Committee and accepted by the main delegation as:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Children's Ministries | Mrs Eileen McKenzie |
| Communication | Pastor Emanuel Bran |
| Education | Mr Jonathan Nyengani |
| Family Ministries | Referred to the incoming WM Executive Committee |
| Health Ministries | Referred to the incoming WM Executive Committee |
| Pathfinders | Pastor David Rancić |
| Personal Ministries | Pastor Adriana Fodor |
| Stewardship | Referred back to the WM Executive Committee |
| Trust Services | Dr Brian Phillips |
| Women's Ministries | Mrs Samantha Fessal |
| Youth | Pastor Jeremy Johnson |

The Nominating Committee considered two referrals and gave prayerful consideration to them, particularly regarding the lack of representation from the North Wales area on the Welsh Mission Executive Committee.

It was the opinion of the Nominating Committee that the report should remain with the names as presented; nevertheless, the importance of addressing the issue of representation from North Wales was stressed. To this end, the Nominating Committee made the following recommendations to the Plans Committee of this session:

How can we make our church more relevant to those around us?

1. Request from the BUC Executive Committee for a variance to the Model Operating Policy to allow an increase in the size of the WM Executive Committee, which is currently nine, plus the Executive officers. The Trans-European Division Model Operating Policy would allow for this.
2. Recommend to the incoming WM Executive Committee that they have a permanent invitee (or invitees) from the North Wales region with a view that such invitee(s) will be appointed as full Welsh Mission Executive Committee members when/if the operating policy is changed.

This recommendation was seconded and accepted by the delegation.

In a question and answer period at the end with Pastor Emanuel Bran, some of the following concerns were raised:

- Why do we have churches in Telford and

Shrewsbury which are outside Wales? (Dr Brian Phillips was able to provide the historic reasoning for this. Based on geographical and transport routes from North to South Wales, it had been more feasible for those areas to be included in the Mission.)

- How can we make our church more relevant to those around us?
- What can we do about unentered areas in Wales?
- With an increasing number of children in our Mission, how can we provide a strategic plan to enhance their development?
- The need to reach out to the indigenous Welsh through material in the Welsh language.
- Need to update our online presence.

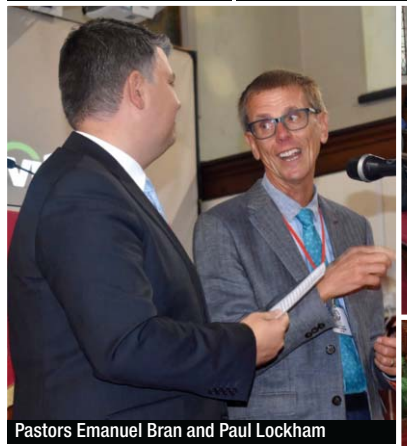
The atmosphere for the session showed a collaborative spirit between delegates and administration, and the day ended with a commitment message by BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney.

Afterwards Pastor Bran thanked everyone for their attendance and participation, and encouraged delegates as they returned to continue embracing the theme and mission of 'making God known' in our own regions and communities.



BUC President Pastor Ian Sweeney

WM Treasurer Earl Ramharacksingh



Pastors Emanuel Bran and Paul Lockham



WM delegate John Nembhard



WM delegate Crystal Knight



Pastor Adriana Fodor

Emerging from the pit

Pastor Adriana Fodor serves as the minister for the Welsh Mission districts of Ystrad Mynach and Carmarthen. The following was delivered as a morning devotional at the British Union Conference Ministerial Council at the beginning of May.

'I waited patiently for the LORD;
And He inclined to me,
And heard my cry.

He also brought me up out of a horrible pit,
Out of the miry clay,
And set my feet upon a rock,
And established my steps.'
(Psalm 40:1, 2, NKJV.)

The pit

In Psalm 40:1, 2, King David recounts his 'pit experience'. We're not sure which pit experience he was reflecting on; whether it was when Saul was seeking to kill him or when he, David, had fallen into sin. Perhaps when his family was falling apart or his kingdom was being divided. Maybe when he was in battle and being surrounded by his enemies – the armies of other nations. Or was it when he was grieving for the loss of his son? Or maybe all of them together?

What we do know is that King David was a leader of God's people, a man after God's own heart, who found himself in a horrible and muddy pit, crying out to the Lord, waiting for His deliverance.

Many times our bad choices or life circumstances throw us into a horrible, muddy pit. It's that place where we hit rock bottom. It's dark and lonely. It's a place of desperation, doubt and fear. We feel helpless and hopeless. We feel trapped in that dark pit with no way out. In the pit we reflect, trying to make sense of everything: why is this happening to me? How did I get here? What's the way out? What does the future hold for me?

How many of us are familiar with this kind of pit? What has been your pit experience? Or what is your pit today, in the present, right now?

How are things at home? In your family? In your ministry? In your kingdom? How are things going in your personal life? In your room, behind closed doors? What are you trapped by? What sinful choices or life circumstances have ensnared you and thrown you into a dark and lonely pit?

Everyone around you may see a smiley, happy face, a mask that pretends it's all good, yet no one knows: no one sees inside your heart.

But God does . . .

There is no cry God does not hear. There is no

tear God does not see. There is no pain God does not feel.

In the pit we hear God's voice and we know He is there. In the pit we realise how helpless we are without God. In the pit we learn to surrender, to let go and totally depend on God. In the pit we experience God and a glorious deliverance.

The choice

However, there is no deliverance without a choice. Yes, there is a choice we can all make. We either choose to stay down there, to dwell in that pit and make it our home – maybe sink even lower . . .

or

. . . we choose to rise up by faith – reaching out to the hand of God that is reaching down to us. We choose to grab God's hand of mercy and grace to lift us up from our pit of

sin. We choose to grab God's hand filled with hope to lift us up from our pit of darkness and despair. We choose to trust God and take hold of the 'exceedingly great and precious promises' we have been given. In spite of how terrible we might feel, or how terrible our pit-situation might be, we choose to rise up and stand on the Word of God. And say to ourselves: 'The pit is not my final destination.'

There are only two choices, two directions: we either rise up or sink further down. What will you choose?

Always remember this. Jesus did not die for you so that you could live a defeated life. Jesus died for you so that you could live a victorious life. Jesus did not call you so that you could lead a defeated ministry. Jesus called you so that you could lead a victorious ministry. Because you know that the power of the Holy Spirit is upon you, using you for the glory of God.

The song

In Psalm 40:3, David recounts his deliverance from the pit with a heart full of joy at God's wonderful works in his life. But also full of awe at God's mercy and power towards a helpless sinner such as he.

'He has put a new song in my mouth – Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.' (Psalm 40:3, NKJV.)

Did you know that out of the pit, testimonies arise? Because each time we *choose* to rise up, to take hold of the hand of God, we stand on His promises. And each time God delivers us, we praise Him, testifying to everyone how awesome He is. And each time we praise Him and testify to what He did, many who dwell in their own pit will hear of our deliverance and know our God. Many will be encouraged and inspired to trust in the Lord and will be delivered from their own lonely and dark pit.

God says, 'I'm going to use your pit experience – your story – so that many others who find themselves in a similar pit may hear and know God, trust Him, and be delivered also.'

Psalm 40:1-3 is a song of praise, but also a song of hope. This can be your song, too.

Welsh Mission fast facts

For the reporting period January 2016 – December 2018

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| President | Emanuel Bran |
| Executive Secretary | Paul Lockham/Jacques Venter |
| Treasurer | Earl Ramharacksingh |
| Population of Wales ¹ | 3.1 million |
| Adventist presence since | 1902 |
| Re-organised | 1928 |
| Mission territory | Wales and the English counties of Hereford, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin |
| Membership (December 2018) | 663 |
| Net growth 2016 -2018 | 9.05% |
| Churches and groups | 19 |
| Tithe return 2016 | £366,954 |
| 2017 | £375,327 |
| 2018 | £422,176 |
| British Union Conference appropriation | £391,500 |
| World mission offerings | £233,000 |
| ADRA Appeal support | £31,012 |
| Gift Aid return | £181,461 |
| Adventist Discovery Centre students | 152 |
| Course completion | 106 |
| Free Bibles delivered | 133 |

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/articles/overviewoftheukpopulation/november2018>
Source: Welsh Mission Triennial Report



'The Core is getting bigger'

The Core of Adventism has firmly become established as an annual event in the calendar of churches around the British Union Conference (BUC). The programme, now in its thirteenth year of operation, aims to promote some of the key doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, such as the sanctuary, the state of the dead, the Sabbath, the Second Coming, and the Spirit of Prophecy. Held from 11-18 May, this year there was a special emphasis on the family and the Sabbath.

As in the past, numerous churches took part, with over twenty-five overseas speakers joining forces with pastors in thirty-five churches around the BUC, revealing the development and growth this annual event has experienced. Among the churches involved were the Glasgow district in Scotland, Swansea in the Welsh Mission, and the remainder from both

the North and South England Conferences.

Many churches held baptisms on the last Sabbath, resulting in a combined total of twenty-five new members and several more signing up for Bible studies.

The event, planned and coordinated by Dr Kirk Thomas and his Core of Evangelism committee, involved

Conference and Mission Evangelism directors and sponsors, Area coordinators and host pastors.

Prior to the Core meetings, ministers were given a 'back-to-spiritual-basics' period of training and biblical residential teaching, which took place from 3-5 May at De Vere Venue, Denham Grove. The purpose of the residential is to keep ministers in tune with current biblical thinking and how contemporary issues compare to the core values and teachings of the Church. It is an event greatly appreciated by pastors seeking greater clarity on how to address ideas which lack biblical accuracy and challenge mainstream teaching that may be creeping into the Church. With guests from overseas, the event saw up to eighty ministers in attendance.

BUC Evangelism Director, Dr Kirk Thomas, said of the event, 'The Core is getting bigger and reaching more churches with each year and, because evangelism is the heartbeat of the Church, when it is combined through these meetings, churches become equipped with sound biblical teaching that reinforces our Adventist beliefs and galvanises us to reach out to others with the truth.'

We look forward to further events and conferences that will be put on by the Evangelism department throughout the coming months.

RICHARD DALY, BUC NEWS

TED Bible Conference Future of the Church in the hands of the Holy Spirit

'Humanly speaking, there is no future for the Church,' said Dr Artur Stele, General Vice President of the General Conference, a keynote speaker at the recent Trans-European Division Bible Conference. During the event held on the campus of Newbold College of Higher Education from 17 to 19 June, Dr Stele, originally from Kazakhstan, shared how the book of Acts gives him hope, the antidote to his bleak diagnosis.

For his starting point, Dr Stele explained that immediately prior to the ascension of Christ into heaven, the disciples asked Jesus a question. 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' 'If ever there was an occasion for Christ to be distressed, it was at this moment,' explained Stele. 'Even at this point, the disciples were still expecting a "different kingdom" from the one Jesus had been teaching about for the previous three years.' But it seems Jesus was far from concerned about their question, because 'He knew that the future of the Church is not in the hands of the disciples, but in those of the Holy Spirit.' Developing his theme, he shared five instances of 'outpouring':

- Acts 2 Holy Spirit falls on disciples
- Acts 19 Holy Spirit falls on members
- Acts 8 Holy Spirit falls on Samaritans
- Acts 10 Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles
- Acts 9 Holy Spirit falls on Paul

Connecting Acts with the challenges Trans-European Adventists face, Dr Stele highlighted the problems. 'How do we enthuse pastors to greater service? How can we involve members in the mission of the Church? How are we to reach the secular mind? How can we encourage greater confidence in the fundamental beliefs of

the Church? How can we reach other religions?'

His answer was clear and may seem to some rather simple. 'If the Church belongs to God, the Holy Spirit is responsible for its mission, the supernatural aspect of the Church.' To Dr Stele, the falling of the Holy Spirit in Acts 'is an incredible source of encouragement and hope, turning a problem into potential, turning enemies into our friends. The best days in Europe are still ahead.'

And many a participant said a quiet and hopeful 'Amen' to that.

MESSANGER NEWS SERVICE



Dr Artur Stele

BOOKSALES

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| July | 14 Newbold Graduation 10am-2pm | |
| | 28 Hyland House 10am-2pm | |
| August | | |
| | 4 Manchester South 10am-2pm | |
| September | | |
| | 1 Press Open Day 8am-4pm | |

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

Newbold alumni join College's Theology teaching staff

The majority of Newbold's students have left for the summer, but the campus is bustling. International English language groups are visiting, and staff are well into preparations for the new academic year – including a reshuffle of leadership positions in the Department of Theological Studies (DTS), and the introduction of two new staff to the teaching team.

Dr Laszlo Gallusz joins DTS as a senior lecturer. Laszlo completed a postgraduate degree at Newbold in 2001 and a PhD at Karoli Gaspar University of the Reformed Church in Hungary in 2011 with a dissertation focusing on *The Throne Motif in the Book of Revelation*, which was published by T&T Clark, London. In addition to being an ordained minister since 2004, Laszlo has seventeen years' experience lecturing in Adventist higher education, primarily at the Hungarian and Serbian theological seminaries. He also served as academic dean at the Belgrade Theological Seminary for six years, and as Adventist Mission department director for the South-East European Union in Serbia for ten years.

Laszlo has a particular interest in New Testament exegesis and theology and has authored four books. His latest, *The Seven Prayers of Jesus*, was published in 2017, and his current research project focuses on the theology of Revelation.

'As a Newbold graduate I am looking forward to serving at the institution which significantly contributed to preparing me for pastoral ministry and my academic career,' he said. 'I am honoured to work at Newbold – a place I see as an academic centre of excellence, and the heart of Adventist education in Europe. I believe in the critical importance of quality Adventist education, particularly theological education, which forms future ministers on whom the future leadership of the Church depends. I hope to see generations graduating from Newbold who are competent to serve people in twenty-first-century Europe and the UK, and who are making a difference by extending the Kingdom of God.'

Laszlo has joined the Newbold community with his wife of over twenty years, Helena, and their son Benjamin, seven.

Julian Thompson, who has joined DTS as a lecturer, also holds a postgraduate degree from Newbold (2012), and has served as a pastor in the South England Conference since graduating. Julian describes his time in ministry as having provided many wonderful experiences, and as having brought him into contact with churches, leaders and members that have 'shaped my ministry and made me the pastor that I am today'. Julian has served in several churches in the south west of England, London and, most recently, as pastor of the Brighton & Hove and Worthing churches.

In 2014 Julian was awarded a scholarship to undertake a doctorate at the University of Oxford, which he has progressed over the last five years, in addition to working full time in ministry. Through an examination of the interpretive significance of orality in Judges 5, Julian's thesis promises to shed new light on the role and function of twice-used songs in the Hebrew Bible.

'As a pastor and a theologian, I have spent a lot of time reconciling the high theology of academia with the everyday pastoral reality of what it means to pursue a life centred in Jesus,' said Julian. 'I have a passion for communicating theology in a way that is accessible, current and life-affirming; these are values that I hold dear and will take with me as I join the teaching staff at Newbold. The work of resourcing our pastors, laity and leadership to take the Gospel to every nation, language and people is a humbling call and a great responsibility. I feel truly honoured to have been invited to serve the Church in this new capacity.'

Julian will join his wife, Ana, on the Newbold staff. Ana is a teacher in Newbold's English Language Centre and is overseeing the 2019 Summer School in English.

Julian and Laszlo joined the DTS teaching team on 3 June. Their addition coincides with several other changes in department leadership. **Dr Ivan Milanov**, Senior Lecturer in Old Testament Studies, will take up



Left to right: Julian Thompson, Laszlo Gallusz, Tom de Bruin, Bjørn Ottesen, Ivan Milanov

the mantle of Head of Department in July, following the announcement that **Dr Bjørn Ottesen** has accepted a call to serve as the Danish Union's Ministerial Director.

Bjørn served for seven years at Newbold, most recently as head of DTS. 'Bjørn always showed the utmost care and concern for his students and his colleagues,' said Dr John Baildam, Newbold's Principal. 'The Newbold community will miss his genial and collegial presence on campus as he returns to Denmark, though we look forward to his teaching the occasional future module for us.'

Dr Tom de Bruin, who has been with DTS since 2016, will take over as Postgraduate Programme Leader following the retirement of Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia. Undergraduate programme leadership is expected to be finalised in the coming weeks.

KIRSTY WATKINS, PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

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Waking the watchmen?

by Adrian Roberts



The laws of our land and the values of our culture seem to be changing at such a quickening speed, Christians are finding themselves at odds with both.

We've been burgled!

This was the cry from our next-door neighbour about a month ago. The son had gone out one Saturday morning to find his white van broken into and all his expensive work tools stolen.

There is a green verge and small public pathway between our house and the neighbour on the other side, and much of the robbery was captured on their CCTV. It turned out that the perpetrators drove their car off the main road, up onto the pathway between our two houses, committed their dastardly deed and made good their escape by reversing back between the houses onto the main road and speeding away. Over the next couple of days the son of the burgled house could be seen setting up a whole system of burglar alarms and CCTV around their house.

In Matthew 24:42-44 Jesus did not rebuke the owner of the house for not knowing what part of the night the thief would come, but for not keeping watch.

The literal return of Jesus, in line with the prophetic interpretation of Scripture, has been the focal point of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since its inception in 1863. The Church anticipates that certain events will precede that return, which broadly come under the umbrella of apocalyptic prophecy. It is believed that these events will eventually touch everybody the world over, including Seventh-day Adventists.

Although UK and Eire Adventists may not presently experience the horrors of faith-based persecution that some Christians abroad are now facing, we do, however, see the initial stirrings that make even the most listless Adventists stop and take stock.

No longer is it just those in faraway countries taking a brave stand for Christ that we hear about in our weekly missions report. Events now begin to affect us here.

The laws of our land and the values of our culture seem to be changing at such a quickening speed, Christians are finding themselves at odds with both.

Currently, teachers are being censured and even threatened with dismissal for inadvertently sharing or standing by their beliefs.

While visiting Ireland a few years ago, a young teenage Adventist shared with me that his mother had to move him to another school, because he had become the target of a bullying campaign for expressing his views as a Christian regarding homosexual lifestyle.

There have been employees in the service industries threatened with dismissal for refusal to work on Saturdays. Home-school teaching professionals are now expected to experience an unscheduled Ofsted visit. If they are not compliant, closure of their home school is possible. On the Government's agenda is a plan for a UK-wide home-schooling register, as all forms of Christian education outside the state school setting come under the spotlight.

The world is changing rapidly. No longer are we just hearing about cases in the news like the Ashers Bakery in Belfast, Mary and Peter Bull's B&B in Cornwall or the late Lillian Laddell who was a marriage registrar in London. We are hearing more frequently of cases where the requirements of work are clashing with the demands of conscience for Adventist employees and students alike, who may not be clear on their rights in 'Modern Britain', or the correct and appropriate way to respond.

Though we as a Church pride ourselves on our knowledge of end-time prophecy, we appear to have been caught on the back foot somewhat in making preparation to face some of the challenges that lie ahead. In fact, other Christian denominations have been quicker to respond than we have.

A case in point was when the Scottish Government sought to introduce The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which included a host of measures intended to support and protect children in Scotland. One such measure was the introduction of a 'Named Person Service' (NPS) under Part 4 of the Act. This required public service providers to designate a named person to every child in Scotland, entrusted with promoting their wellbeing through support and advice in securing access to services such as health professionals or senior teachers.

The 2014 Act also contained provisions relating to the sharing of information between named persons and public authorities. This provoked outrage among many groups, including Christians, who viewed it as inappropriate Government surveillance, potentially undermining and overruling the authority and autonomy of the parents.

The Christian Institute investigated further and found it to be in breach of the rights of parents to private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

In 2016, the UK Supreme Court ruled in favour of The Christian Institute's case against the Scottish Government, declaring the data-sharing provisions of the NPS to be in contravention of European law and Article 8 and, therefore, illegal.

When the owners of the Ashers Bakery, Daniel and Amy McArthur, eventually won their case against baking a cake with a pro-gay message on it for a gay couple, after thanking God, family, friends and lawyers, they thanked The Christian Institute for their advice and guidance throughout the four years of their trial.

To date, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK has no comparable advisory body to support its own membership!

It is for this reason that the North England Conference

president, Pastor Jackson, is ready to engage and support this initiative, which builds on the research of Pastor Brighton Kavaloh into this issue.

As a result of much prayer and deliberation, a new and pertinent body called the Religious Liberty Adventist Advisory Council (RLAAC) has been convened for the express purpose of providing advice and guidance to rank-and-file members who find themselves in situations where conscience and employment policy clash.

Under the auspices of the British Union Conference's president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, the UK Seventh-day Adventist Lawyers Signposting is being initiated. This is a BUC-supported venture that is going to help members by signposting options in regard to legal issues of conscience that may be encountered in the workplace and other environments. (If you are a qualified lawyer interested in supporting this signposting service, please contact: parlseceee@gmail.com.)

The Religious Liberty Adventist Advisory Council will be officially launched in the North England Conference on 31 August – Religious Liberty Day.

Jesus spoke of the end time, saying, 'You will be brought before . . . rulers. . . But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony.' (Luke 21:12, 13, NKJV.)

The aim of RLAAC is to advise and equip Seventh-day Adventist members to better defend their position in the workplace on matters of conscience and Christian principle as wisely as serpents and as harmlessly as doves.

Much prayer, vigilance and a clear testimony are needed if we are to be effective witnesses in these times. May this be our collective experience, as we work together to put the 'CCTV cameras' of Holy-Spirit-guided watchfulness out there, standing together to await Jesus' return.

God and Caesar

Hackney held its Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Emphasis Day to a packed congregation on Sabbath 27 April 2019. Invited were guest speakers from Advent RLP – a body who provide critical religio-legal analysis on current events and legislature that impact on religious freedom for all people in the United Kingdom and Europe.

Sabbath School guest speaker, Gina Abbequaye, addressed the subject of 'Fundamental British Values and Faith Schools'. Mrs Abbequaye, South England Conference Education Director and head teacher of Hyland House School, shared some of the issues which are impacting upon schools at Government level. She said, 'The Government's Fundamental British Values focus on four areas:

Democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. **Taken at face value, there are no issues in teaching these in schools. Issues only tend to arise where there are direct, or in some cases indirect, conflicts of interest relating to the religious**



Above: Advent RLP team, left to right, Dr Brighton G. Kavaloh, Gina Abbequaye and Sonia Munroe
Right: Pastor Joojo Bonnie



belief and liberty of those who follow a particular faith-based religion.' More than 11,000 individuals responded to a government proposal which would introduce the teaching of sex and relationship education lessons to children as young as 5 years old, with 58% of the respondents saying that the proposal was not age-appropriate. While there are other current issues arising, such as the right for young people to consider gender reassignment, Mrs Abbequaye reminded the

church of God's biblical plan for humankind. 'The aim of true education is to restore human beings into the image of God. Children are created in the image of God. Therefore, the home, school and church are to co-operate with the divine agencies in preparing children for a life of eternity.'

In his sermon entitled 'God and Caesar: Truth and Deception – a welcome challenge and opportunity', Dr Brighton G. Kavaloh challenged the church to take the issue of religious liberty very seriously. He encouraged the church to render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and unto God what belongs to God.

'The question of religious liberty is very important and

should be handled with great wisdom and discretion. Jesus Himself handled issues of truth and deception with great wisdom and discretion. Therefore, the burden of our message should be based on the keeping of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus,' he said.

In the afternoon, Citizens Advice Bureau officer, Sonia Munroe, focused on 'Religion and Belief in the Workplace'. She educated members on Article 9 of the Human Rights Act (1998), which states an individual's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the right to practise that belief. Sonia, an elder in Tottenham West Green Road Church, also spoke about the protected characteristics to be found in the Equality Act (2010), which are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Sonia shared a number of different cases where individuals were unfairly discriminated against on the basis of their religious liberty and faith, including an ongoing case in the US, where an individual is on trial for his refusal to work on the Sabbath.

DARELL J. PHILIP

Education, religious liberty and the law seminar

Educators, religious liberty leaders and law professionals came together for an important seminar, which focused on the Government's consultation, referring to a proposed legislation relating to children not in school. The aims of the seminar (which took place on Sunday 26 May 2019 at the Advent Centre) were to:

- mobilise a response to the Government's consultation;
- educate and inform attendees about the key provisions of these complex proposals and the potential implications for religious liberties;
- advise on elective home education and relationships and sex education (RSE): parental rights, responsibilities and emerging policy trends.

On hand to give advice and counsel on the issues at stake were the South England Conference Education Director and head teacher of Hyland House School, Gina Abbequaye; Education Policy Officer for the Evangelical Alliance, Peter Mitchell; head of Public Policy for the Evangelical Alliance, Simon McCrossan; and retired Adventist pastor and Director of the Advent Religio-legal Perspective Ministry, Dr Brighton G. Kavaloh.

All speakers addressed the potential implications the Government consultation and proposed legislation could have on those who home school, Sabbath School and Pathfinders clubs, to name just a few. The consultation is about establishing a local authority registration system for children who do not attend state-funded or registered independent schools, and as statistics show that Seventh-day Adventists have a higher proportion of home-schooled children compared to other religious organisations, the proposed legislation would have a direct effect on our religious liberty.

As the 24 June deadline to respond to the government proposal loomed near, **Dr Brighton G. Kavaloh cautioned attendees to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves in their approach to the matter. He urged all to exercise wisdom and discretion so that we would be measured and balanced in our response to the Government consultation.** There is a battle of the minds at stake here. The enemy of our souls tries everything he can to undermine God by interfering with His creation. But as we come to recognise the temper of the times and remain faithful to God, He has promised to be with us and bring us through.'

Simon McCrossan and Peter Mitchell from the Evangelical Alliance encouraged

attendees to do their research and respond to the consultation in an informed and intelligent way, so that the religious liberty upon which the Church is built can be upheld and God be glorified through us as we take a stand for Him.

In her closing remarks, Gina Abbequaye said: 'This is not our fight, it's the Lord's. The little effort we put in will pay dividends, because when we take a stand for God, He will take a stand for us and do the rest.'

For more information on the Children not in school: proposed legislation – Government consultation, please visit: www.adventrlp.com.

DARELL J. PHILIP



Peter Mitchell of the Evangelical Alliance

North England Conference conflict resolution training

'What does the pastor do at workers' meeting?' Sometimes the pastor is training. North England Conference pastors gathered at the Windsor Street church in Birmingham at the end of May to be introduced to the basics of conflict resolution. Pastor George Kumi, Conference Ministerial Association Director, had invited Liz Griffiths from Bridgebuilders, an organisation which trains local Christian communities to have a biblically-grounded culture of peace-making, reaching out to offer life to the world.

Liz, an ordained priest in the Church of England, is a skilled trainer who is not a chalk-and-talk teacher but a woman who seeks to enable her students to think through and work out how individuals deal with conflict. Time passed rapidly and enjoyably as our workers engaged in discussion and debate to help them learn, explore and apply basic new skills.

During one element where listening skills were explored, Pastor Isaac Liburd, Teens Ministry Sponsor for the Conference, engaged in a swiftly-rehearsed role play with our trainer. His attempts at communicating his needs were met by a 'pastor' who was obviously hearing but not listening to his needs. Pastoral ears took note and were reminded of the need to engage in deliberate listening.

Solon Kyriacou, pastor from Grantham, observed that teaching about relationship styles and response to conflict had been very enlightening. Beulah Plunkett, Sabbath School and Women's Ministries Director for the Conference, recognised that the training had been very informative. She liked the interaction, while appreciating the ability to learn experientially.

Liz Griffiths said, 'I want to resource people for the practical work of reconciliation and peace-making,' and that she is 'passionate about helping people to be curious about each other'.

Those words were, to this writer, the most significant. Christians need to be curious, so that, through sensitive questioning of those we are trying to help, we can find out what is going on in their minds and assist in resolving conflict, thereby creating peace in our communities.

PETER JEYNES

Northolt Church – Party in the Park 2019

This year marks the sixth year of Northolt Church's Party in the Park, which provided a glorious day of community engagement and interaction. The cuisine catered for all palates and included vegetarian, West Indian and Sri Lankan flavours. No one went home hungry.

Pastor Wentworth Sewell brilliantly compered the various events. Children played on the bouncy castle and enjoyed face painting. Adults hosted and attended the various health seminars and checks conducted by professional health staff, including Gloria Simon, Millie Williams and a team of local nurses led by Marian Ndongwe and Sandra Ositelu. Counselling was available throughout the day, and individual prayer sessions were conducted by Pastor Philip and Agnes Phillips.

The highlight of the event was the annual 'Northolt's Got Talent' spot, which this year featured karaoke singing. The renditions were an eclectic mix of country and western, popular music, soul and rock.

The community fellowship was blessed by the holding back of the rain for the entire day. We praise God for answered prayer and pray for more opportunities to encourage greater diversity of people in our congregation, as we share the Word of God in our community.

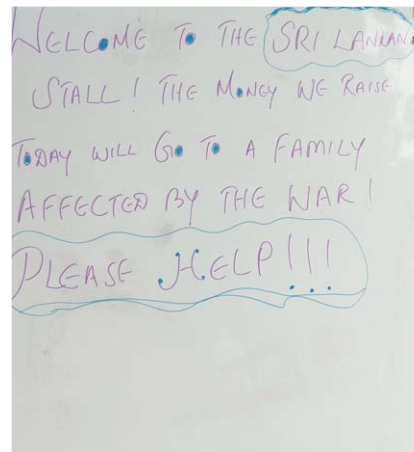
GLORIA SIMON



Jeff Nicholson



Liz Griffiths



Harry Wilby

No greater love

As an RVS driver I recently took a 91-year-old man, Oscar, to his appointment at the health centre. As we walked into the building, he said, 'The last time I came here, my wife was with me.' She had died just two weeks previously.

On the way home, he told me he had been in the RAF during the war and had flown eleven missions as a tail gunner in Lancaster bombers: a tail-end Charlie! He had applied to be a pilot and done the basic training, but with a surplus of recruits at the time, and tired of the long wait for advanced training, he had done the gunnery course instead so that he could get into action.

Two weeks later, after taking him to the optician, he invited me in for a coffee. As we chatted in his sun lounge, he took down from the wall a montage of his bomber crew around the Squadron badge and motto, and told me they had all

been awarded a medal for one special mission.

By 1944 the Germans were scavenging all the food they could from the occupied countries to feed their military forces and the population back home. In Holland the people were literally starving to death. Bomber Command were tasked, along with transport squadrons, to drop emergency food supplies to the Dutch population.

Germany was asked to allow uncontested access for the planes, but refused to comply. So the planes dropped to 110 feet before reaching the Dutch coast to avoid radar detection. As they turned on course to the drop zone, the crew spotted German troops in the distance, running to man a mobile machine-gun battery.

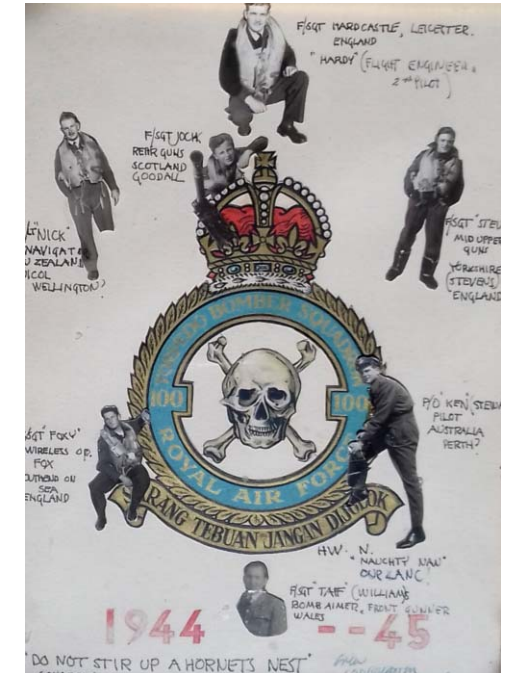
Cocooned in his tail turret, Oscar listened to the chatter from other members of his crew. 'There's a woman climbing onto

the truck!' one shouted. As the gun crew swivelled and elevated the machine guns onto the target – 'She's standing in front of the guns!' Their plane swept over the scene, and Oscar saw her; not just standing there, but with her baby held high over the silent muzzles.

A mother willing to sacrifice herself and her child – not just to save the British aircrews, but to ensure that the food was dropped to save hundreds of starving compatriots. 'She deserved the medals,' said Oscar. 'Not us.'

Our world today is still at war, and millions are dying for lack of

that 'bread of life', which Jesus offers to all. And Satan trains his weapons of temptation, hatred, persecution and many others onto the human race. But thank God He sent His only Son to stand in front of the muzzles and protect all who trust in Him.



Church elder, Karen Shelbourn, presents Elize and Julian Hibbert with a parting gift

Grantham grateful for the Hibberts

The coming and leaving of the Hibberts, Julian and Elize, has been documented in the pages of *MESSENGER* so far as the Stanborough Press is concerned, but on Sabbath 15 May it was the turn of Grantham Church to say a fond farewell.

A fellowship lunch had been planned, at which a presentation was made by Karen Shelbourn.

Since the couple came to Grantham, Julian as Editor and Elize as his secretary, they have not let their work dominate their stay. They have always been keen to join in as many activities as possible, and became part of the Grantham church family. For this they were loved by all the members.

With family members in the UK, we look forward to seeing them again; but, as our first elder commented on their final attendance at church, 'If we don't meet again here, we will meet again... you know where!'

We wish them well as they return to their homeland, South Africa.

MIKE COWEN

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Vanessa: Luke 15 – 39 years later

Vanessa was born into an Adventist family; her parents, her maternal grandmother and both paternal grandparents had joined the Church in the 1920s. She remembers the inauguration of Camp Hill Church in Birmingham. Her grandmother was 'Dear Sister Cranch', known for her kind, loving nature and affectionately remembered as the church treasurer for many years.

A student at Stanborough boarding school, Vanessa was baptised at the age of 15 in the Gloucester church and started the Pathfinder group there.

In 1969 she married Howard Parkin, pastor of the Holloway church at the time. Another Pathfinder group was established there by Vanessa and Kathleen Best. In 1972 Pastor Parkin was instrumental in the setting up of the Nottingham Central church, where Vanessa led yet another Pathfinder group.

After nearly ten years of marriage, Vanessa went away from her faith for a life with another husband. During the subsequent years, Heather Haworth and Heather Sayers, and their mothers, Edna Bryan and Gladys Adshead, stayed in touch, reminding her regularly of Christ's love for her. And in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Pauline Dixon supported not only Pastor Parkin in his loss, but Vanessa in her new life. None showed anger, resentment or displeasure, but through their loving care reminded Vanessa of what she was missing for 39 years.

Towards the end of her second husband's life, Vanessa prayed deeply that should she ever be on her own, she would worship with her local church family. On Christmas Eve of 2017 her husband passed away. The following Sabbath morning, Vanessa returned and worshipped in the Newark church, and has ever since. Early this year, Vanessa informed her local pastor, John Ferguson, of her desire to be re-baptised.

The baptism was booked for the afternoon of Sabbath 25 May 2019 at Grantham Church. In the preceding week, the devil worked hard, and Vanessa fell seriously ill on the Wednesday evening and was admitted to hospital. She started praying more earnestly than ever before. On the Friday morning, the consultant advised her that there was a waiting list of two to four months for the surgery she needed. He then took the unprecedented step of approaching her side, taking her hand and saying, 'But I would like to offer to fit you into my list tomorrow morning at 11.30.'

Amazed, Vanessa stuttered, 'That is very kind of you, but I am going to be baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath (Saturday) afternoon at four o'clock!' The junior doctor seemed knowledgeable and explained to the consultant, who then said, 'Does that mean total submergence?' Vanessa nodded. He asked how long she would be under the water. When she replied, 'Only a few seconds,' his



Pastors Paul Haworth and Peter Sayers with Vanessa



Aaron Sammy welcomes Vanessa into the Newark church family

response was, 'Well, if you feel well enough, that's OK with me.'

The operation took more than twice as long as is normal and was quite complicated but, by the evening, Vanessa was discharged home on morphine. She stayed in bed on Sabbath morning, praying in between dozing. Before the journey, a group of friends prayed together for her wellbeing, and during the journey from Newark to Grantham Vanessa continued to pray earnestly. By the time they arrived at the church, Vanessa realised the pain from the four surgical sites had totally gone; she was feeling alive and alert and as if she had had none of the previous days' experiences. The Lord had worked a miracle!

The service went ahead with Pastors Peter Sayers and Paul Haworth officiating, their joint sermon speaking of the sacrificial death and resurrection of Christ. Seventy friends and church family witnessed her baptism. Vanessa's testimony spoke of the difficult path she'd taken to arrive at her present destination. She thanked her church family at Newark for the wonderful way they had taken her into their fellowship and for all the people who had come to support her.

After the service, all present enjoyed a fellowship feast. Many people stayed well into the evening, not wanting the wonderful day to end. It was Luke 15 all over again!

VANESSA GENT

Witnessing in South Shields

Small churches have the same commission as big churches: they are there to spread the Good News. The difference is that sometimes the small churches need the help of a larger church.

The second Sabbath in May was a little cool, but a small team of members from Newcastle headed over to South Shields to worship and witness. Elder Francisco Curiaquita from Angola leads a multinational witnessing team who specialise in giving away copies of *The Great Controversy*. Delmane from Zimbabwe, Frank from England, Tony from the West Indies and Iulian from Romania travelled along with Elder Darlington and several children.

Divine Service focused sustenance, and a little training encouraged and guided first-time witnesses from Malaysia, Belgium, Bolivia and England, who would soon enter the town centre to hand out free copies of a book we are encouraged to use in witness. The fact that the team were able to hand out over 80 copies in an hour suggests that the literature is easy to use and is well received.

Our call for literature was answered by a great deal on a very large order of books that will be given out in the Tyne and Wearside area over the year. While this is a witnessing venture, the prayer is that people will take an initial interest and turn the information into a life-changing response to the Good News.

PETER JEYNES



Freddy Machicado, originally from Bolivia



A Jehovah's Witness lady was offered a copy of *The Great Controversy* by Hannah Chan, a Pathfinder from South Shields. The lady promised to read the book.

Erdington, Birmingham: numbers reduce

There is a projection stating that one third of children born after 2002 will die before their parents through type II diabetes. This is staggering! While we are presently at a time when on average people are living longer (The Office for National Statistics puts UK life expectancy at 79.2 years for men and 82.9 years for women), we are going to see this reversed, and very soon too!

Around 2016, when Grace Walsh was approached by Sutton-in-Ashfield Church to assist with health evangelism, she introduced a Reversing-Type-II-Diabetes programme, which was an effective outreach involving nearly twenty persons from the community.

Since then, the programme has been run in various parts of the North England Conference, including, recently, Erdington, near Birmingham. At first, it looked as though it might have mediocre results, but on the second session of the eight-week programme, 29 persons attended. While the numbers did drop, an average of 18 persons participated thereafter until the last session.

The programme comprises four parts. First, there are tests by volunteer nurses and staff in blood sugar, blood pressure, weight and BMI, and so on. This is followed by a presentation on one of a variety of topics, such as 'Sugar and Carbohydrates', 'Fats', or 'Diabetes and Insulin Resistance' and others. Next there is a food demonstration, and the session ends with a one-mile walk.

Participants are encouraged and challenged to adopt a healthier lifestyle, including diet changes, exercise and prayer, to help them reverse their diabetes. At the final presentation and graduation, one lady discovered she had lost 2.5kg and all her numbers had fallen to near normal, whereas a young man found that his blood sugar level had fallen from 'sky high' to close to normal. But, most fantastic of all, one gentleman has since started to attend prayer meeting as well as Sabbath service! The accompanying photo is treasured by Erdington members, because we have new community friends.

We are most thankful for the support of members of the Erdington church who assisted in many areas, including audio-visual, refreshments and cooking, registration and welcoming. A special mention should go to Jacky Lynton and her team of nurses who took the blood samples to measure blood glucose and so on.

It is possible to follow up the programme in many ways, one being exercise, and another a cookery school. Erdington members have decided to start a walking club.

We are excited too in that, as a result of advertising the programme in the area, we were contacted by the local wellbeing officer at Witton Lodge Community Association, who invited us to run the series at their health-and-wellbeing drop-in sessions at the Erdington library. This has since been extended to a request to run the series at the Perry Common Community Centre, after the Erdington one has concluded. As you can appreciate, this is a remarkable opportunity for the church to get involved in the local community, and we solicit your prayers. The series began at Erdington library on 24 June.

Pastor Paul Haworth and Grace Walsh have been working together to



make the material user-friendly to enable it to be implemented in many areas of our Conference. If you want to know more, please speak with Grace Walsh, the North England Conference's Health Director.

PAUL HAWORTH

REVERSING DIABETES

Learn how to prevent and reverse type 2 diabetes to get the most out of life and to LIVE HAPPIER & HEALTHIER



Mondays 24th June to 12th August
2.00 - 4.00 p.m.

LOCATION - Erdington Library, Orphanage Road, B24 8HP

With guest health presenters - Paul Haworth & Grace Walsh [Pg.Dip. - health promotion]
Includes cooking demonstrations

To register or enquire about these 8 FREE programmes

Call Rebecca or Fauzia on 0121 382 1930

Hosted by Wittonlodge Community Association and

Sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the Community

Supporting the NHS to raise awareness of Diabetes Self-management



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Coventry gospel concert

On Sabbath, 20 April, Coventry Central Church took to the stage in Coventry town centre to share the Gospel in song in their first ever Easter gospel concert. Spearheaded by Raoul Dusabe, the Personal Ministries leader, the concert brought together artists from the Coventry district of churches, along with a few special guest artists from further afield to share the love of Christ with passers-by through music and free literature.

We were favoured with brilliant sunshine as the local Pathfinder drum corps kicked off the concert with a well-played set that drew much attention. The concert included a range of items from a cappella renditions and instrumental pieces to original music and more. Church members were on hand to meet and greet the public and answer their questions.

Praise God for such an opportunity! We pray that He will continue to bless our efforts as we seek to reach out to the community around us.

RAOUL DUSABE



70 children invested at Yeovil

On 18 May at Yeovil, members celebrated the investiture of Golden Eagles Pathfinders and Adventurers, which consists of Yeovil, Dorchester, Chard and Taunton churches, with almost 70 children participating.

It was an afternoon full of excitement, not only for the children, but also for the parents who witnessed what their children had achieved over the last eight months. All Pathfinders and Adventurers started with a march to the hall, followed by a welcome and introduction by Pastor Deyvid Batista and Grace Attwood. As is the custom, they repeated the pledge and law and the Pathfinder and Adventurer theme songs.

The guest speaker was Pam Catchpole, who explained the different meanings of foundation candles that the members lit up. Here are the different colour candles and their meanings:

- Friend (Blue) – Friends learn skills that will help them be better neighbours now and friends of God throughout eternity.
- Companion (Red) – Companions explore ways to build a more meaningful and fulfilling companionship with Jesus Christ every hour of the day.
- Explorer (Green) – Explorers study God's Word and His created works.
- Ranger (Grey) – Rangers open up new areas of discovery in the natural and spiritual world to secure true and genuine happiness.

- Voyager (Burgundy) – Voyagers acquire a wholesome self-concept and Christian lifestyle by studying their physical, mental, cultural and spiritual development.
- Guide (Yellow) – Guides grow in knowledge about the Spirit of Prophecy, as they discover their place as leaders in society.

All awards and gifts were presented to the current and new members of Adventurers and Pathfinders. Please continue to pray for our church here in Yeovil and all Somerset and Dorset Adventurers and Pathfinders.

GRACE ATTWOOD



Save Ulceby Church

by Pastor Richard Daly

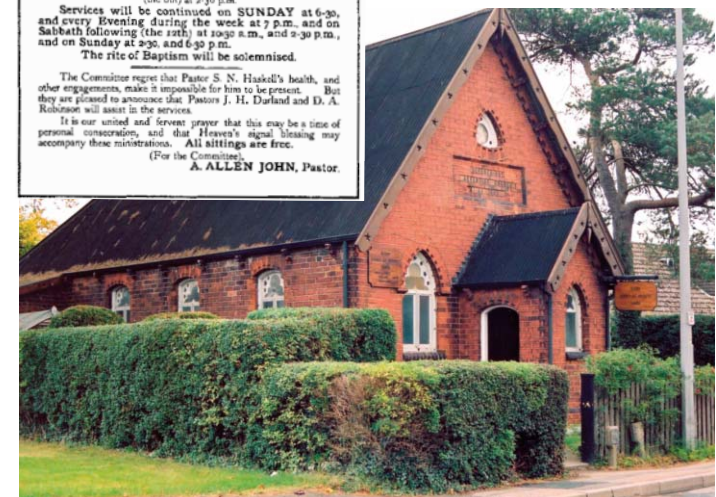
If there's one church within the British Union Conference (BUC) that ought to be maintained as a national church heritage, it would be the Ulceby Seventh-day Adventist Church. Why? Because Ulceby Church is the very first Adventist-owned-and-built church within the British Union, constructed in 1888. And it still exists today.

For those who may not know, Ulceby is a small rural village situated 10 miles from Grimsby and 14 miles from Scunthorpe, within the county of North Lincolnshire. Surrounded by fields and farms, the population of Ulceby is approximately 1,850. However, it was the Ulceby church that Ellen White visited on her trip to England in 1885 to encourage the new believers as the Adventist Church began to get a foothold in the northern territory of England.

How the church was actually built in the first instance is a pure miracle. It all started through the influence of the only ordained pioneer minister who worked in the region, known as Albert John. He was an American evangelist who had been assigned to work in the Grimsby area. John was an 'indefatigable worker, sometimes holding meetings seven days a week.' What was interesting about John was that, unlike other evangelists who had used tents or hired halls, he decided to do something different. He would conduct open-air meetings in the marketplace, to a ready-made, active audience. So in the summer of 1883 John embarked on a media campaign, using the local newspaper to advertise his meetings, spreading literature and designing simple posters to place on street corners and handbills to be distributed.

The strategy paid off, and John preached publicly to scores of people who assembled to hear his message of hope and salvation. But it was when he started preaching about the Sabbath that things began to take a turn... for the good! The Sabbath topic preached in the open-air style began to provoke opposition and heated debates. Such was the intensity that the local village hall (Forrester's Hall) was used to continue the debates with local Anglican and Methodist clergy. The debates were reported to have lasted four hours: those arguing for Sunday proved to be unconvincing, and the result was the immediate acceptance of the Saturday Sabbath by two attendees and the eventual conviction of several others.²

With continued open-air meetings, media publicity and leaflet distribution, followed by visitations and Bible study, there was enough interest to start a new church in Ulceby with 12 members.³ One of those converts was a man called Edward Armstrong.



A few years later, the construction of a church building began on land that had been acquired by Armstrong, who had obtained it from the Earl of Yarborough. Armstrong was an acquaintance of the Earl's steward, and through this connection the land was leased at a nominal charge of

just two shillings (10p) per year.⁴ The new members themselves provided building materials to construct the church, which would, and still does, accommodate about 100 people.

The church building was completed in 1888, and the dedication was performed by the then BUC President, Stephen Haskell, on 9 January 1889.⁵ This would be the first church built and owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church after ten years of unflinching evangelism in Great Britain.

On my trip to this iconic church last year, I was inspired by the unmistakable presence the building has, situated as it is on the main country road, in view of all who pass by. The side road, appropriately called Advent Lane, still symbolically rings aloud the hard work and efforts of those who laboured in that part of the vineyard. The church signpost spells out the name and identity of the building – Ulceby Seventh-day Adventist Church. The date of its establishment still clearly seen – 1888.

Inside the church, much of the furniture still remains. The same pulpit, offering containers, chairs and windows. I stepped up on the pulpit, underneath which is the baptistery where those first souls were immersed, and had a sense of pride that perhaps even here pioneers such as Albert John, E. G. White, William Ings, John Loughborough, S. H. Lane, S. N. Haskell and J. H. Dorland, to name a few, would have stood.

Today the church building is empty. There are no church services there. The last faithful few members would have been asked some years ago to join nearby churches, such as Hull or Grimsby, due to the very low weekly attendance, causing worship services to become no longer viable.

However, the church still stands after 130 years! May you join with me in remembering this church and the influence it once had and, to some extent, still does. Let's treasure this church and ensure it is never removed, knocked down, neglected or abandoned – for the sake of those who struggled before to establish it, that their unwavering evangelistic labours will not be wasted.

¹Nigel Barham, *The Progress of the SDA Church in Great Britain 1878-1974*, 1976, p. 67.

²L. Murdock, 'Early Days', *British Advent Messenger*, (8 May 1942), p. 4.

³Ibid, p. 5.

⁴Walter R. Scott, 'Personal Experiences in Connection with the Opening Up of the Work in Ulceby', *Worker XXIX*, (25 July 1924), p. 5.

⁵Ibid.

Messenger

Volume 124 • 13 – 5 July 2019

Editor: David Neal
Design: David Bell

COPY FOR No. 15 – 11 July 2019

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

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

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

Sunset

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| Jul 5 | 9.19 | 9.32 | 9.32 | 9.59 | 10.01 |
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| 19 | 9.08 | 9.20 | 9.19 | 9.44 | 9.46 |
| 26 | 8.58 | 9.11 | 9.09 | 9.32 | 9.36 |



Hackney mayor, Philip Glanville, TED Teens & Community Director, Alastair Agbaje, Hackney's Pastor Joojo Bonnie and first elder, John Mathieu



ITV News London interview Hackney Pathfinders

Hackney peace march against gun and knife crime

The British Union Conference (BUC) designated two consecutive Sabbaths as days of silent prayer in local communities being impacted by gun and knife crime.

Churches across the BUC were called to rise up in prayer and take back their streets during the 'Power of Silence Neighbourhood Prayer

Walk against Gun and Knife Crime' on Sabbaths 18 and 25 May 2019. Among the churches who accepted the call to prayer for this national crisis was the Hackney church. Clothed in garments of red to symbolise the bloodshed in the country by knives, while also representing the shed blood of Christ for those lives cruelly taken, Hackney members silently walked in pairs on Sabbath 25 May. The silence was in tribute to those sadly taken from our communities.

The special day of prayer was followed by a peace march against gun and knife crime in Hackney, which took place on the May bank holiday, Monday 27. Led by Hackney members, the march brought together representatives of the council, including Hackney mayor, Philip Glanville, and Councillors Ian Rathbone and Carole Williams, as well as community leaders and members of the public concerned about the rise in knife crime throughout the country.

Leading the march from Haggerston to Dalston Square were Pathfinders. **Many members of the public opened their windows, front doors or businesses to see the group of young drummers making noise for all the right reasons – to let people know that the bloodshed on the streets must stop and that the lives of young people are important.** There was no shortage of media coverage, as ITV News London, the *Hackney Gazette* and Adventist Radio London ensured that the peace march was given the respective national, local and spiritual attention it deserved.

In a passionate speech in Dalston Square, Hackney's pastor, Joojo Bonnie, said: 'We are fed up with the dying, we are fed up with the gun violence and we are fed up with the knife killing. We need to come together as one community and take a stand against this issue plaguing our communities.'

Mayor Philip Glanville publicly thanked the Hackney church for taking a lead in bringing the community together in solidarity to fight against an issue which has now become a national epidemic. 'It is very clear,' he said, 'that the communities of Hackney care about our young people. The council and I as mayor believe in our young people, and marches like this are important to show that the community can come together in a spirit of peace and harmony.'

Councillor Ian Rathbone, who is responsible for faith communities in Hackney, was complimentary of the role the church can play in addressing such issues. 'We know that the police and the Government can do things. But it is us (the community and the church) who can do the most. Without us, the work cannot succeed, but with us, together, we can succeed.' He recognised the Pathfinders drum corps, composed of youth not just from Hackney but also from Dagenham, Grays, Ilford, Plaistow, Stoke Newington and Stratford, as a fitting illustration of this solidarity. Reading a few verses from 1 John, Councillor Rathbone encouraged the community to love each other, because love is from God.

Supporting the march, Pastor Alastair Agbaje, Trans-European Director for Teens and Community, said, 'This is the second successive

year this church has led a march, and I am very impressed with the way the local church has collaborated with other organisations and church groups to positively impact the local community.'

The peace march and all that transpired before it ended as it had begun – with prayer.

Since the beginning of the year there have been over one hundred deaths in the UK, the majority of those being the result of knife crime.

DARELL J. PHILIP, PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Silent prayer walk and showers of blessings!

Keen to engage in 'The Power of Silence' prayer walk, members of Leicester Central Church prayed in preparation, plotted the route, laid the plans and even bought the T-shirts: the Prayer Ministries polo shirts, that is, with the logo 'May I PRAY for you?' on their reverse. The cloudy skies threatening rain did not deter! While stationary prayer warriors earnestly interceded from the church, the prayer walkers, 53 strong, including Pathfinders, stepped out on Sabbath 18 May 2019.

Silent prayers were lifted up as we quietly walked the neighbourhood on both sides of the streets to maximise coverage along the just-under-two-mile route, asking God to shower His favour and protection on each person, home and business in the locality. Holding small posters that clarified our purpose, 'Prayer walk against gun and knife crime', we were well supported with applause, positive enquiry and comment from the public along the way, as well as drivers honking their horns! A loud, heated altercation between some angry young men was even quelled as one of our elders calmly reminded them, 'My brothers, life is short; let us live in peace.' They agreed as we walked on!

Only on our return to church did the rain, which had been held back, begin to fall. Sensing the significance of this, we spontaneously sang out in praise and joyful harmony, to the delight of passers-by, as we sang through the downpour, 'There Shall Be Showers of Blessings'. And there certainly were! What an appropriate finish to the silent prayer walk!

The walk was reported by BBC Radio Leicester and featured on its 22 May edition of *The African and Caribbean Show*. Interviews with Pastor Baker, Elder Mthimkhulu and members from across a broad age spectrum testified of our purpose, belief in God, His love and the power of prayer to bring peace and harmony to the streets of Leicester. Listeners were encouraged to contact the elder for further information.

We are grateful for this opportunity to witness, and we know that God has heard and is answering our prayers even now! We believe that He is showering the

community with the blessings of His peace and protection! We look forward to meeting those whose lives were touched by the power of the Holy Spirit on that day: if not in this life, then in our heavenly home, where guns and knives will be laid down, where there will be no more violence or crime, where we will study war no more!

DENISE ROBERTS – PRAYER MINISTRIES COORDINATOR, LEICESTER CENTRAL CHURCH

