

North England Conference Camp Meeting

'That which makes us distinctive is LOVE!'

Taj Pacleb (youth speaker – Friday evening communion)

by Lungani Sibanda and NEC Communication team

When North England Conference members arrive at the Pontins Southport Holiday Park, they are not only holidaymakers, but also Christ-followers wanting a deeper and closer relationship with their Master.

A unique feature of Pontins Southport is the layout of the accommodation; circular for a reason – togetherness. As if to reinforce this value, the opening ceremony began with the Pathfinder Drum Corps walking prayerfully around the circular site, culminating with the introduction of the speakers for the adults, youth, teens and children.

Main stage speakers were Pastor Mansfield Edwards (President of the Ontario Conference) and Pastor Tricia Wynn-Payne (pastor, Lake Regional Conference, USA), who served members evening and morning respectively. Pastor Wynn-Payne provided a Midday Manna buffet of spiritual nuggets. Her spiritual takeaway: God uses our frailties for His purpose.

Pastor Anthony Kent (Associate Ministerial Secretary, General Conference) reminded members of the importance of carrying a printed Bible instead of one embedded in a smart device, which is prone to losing power, breaking down and getting lost.

Prayer with purpose

With the 2 Chronicles 7:14 motto, the early-morning prayer programme,

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Pastor Tricia Wynn-Payne

Pastor Mansfield Edwards





Chronobiology and human life – Part 6

Exercise impact

We turn our attention in this episode to the link between our internal body clock and exercise. Can our natural body rhythm influence how and when we exercise? It appears so, according to recent research.

Analysing the efficacy of current exercise, emerging research suggests that the timing of exercise may be more important than we think. *Chronobiology – Timing Is Everything* posted an article on their website titled: 'Circadian Rhythm Determines Best Time of Day to Exercise'.¹ They state:

'Many people do not get the results that they desire from their exercise regimens. New research suggests that this may be partially due to the timing of these activities. Due to certain factors involving our circadian rhythm and internal clocks, there appears to be a best time of day to exercise.' Their research found the following:

- Overall, people lose more weight when they work out in the evening.
- However, the afternoon may be the best time for people who are trying to build performance, especially in weightlifting and other strength training programmes.
- Morning is still the best time for many people, due to scheduling and other real-life factors.

effects may depend on your goals and individual needs.'

Other research indicates that circadian rhythms can also determine your level of workout success.

Very Well Fit posted an article on their website by Christine Luff titled: 'What Research Says About the Best Time of Day to Exercise'.² The research found:

- We get optimal results when our body temperature is at its highest. This is usually between 4 and 5pm, although some research indicates it can extend to 7pm.
- Endurance peaks during this time frame.
- Physical performance tests measuring aerobic capacity and reaction time indicate a peak period between 4 and 5pm.
- Injury prevention also appears lower at this time, suggesting more alertness in the afternoon and the muscles being warmed up from the day's activities.
- Morning exercisers are more consistent with their workout regimens than those who work out in the afternoon or evening.

Analysing exercise timings, *Very Well Fit* concludes: 'It is possible to adjust it or "teach" your body to perform better at certain times. . . . Once you determine that a certain time of day works best for your schedule, body, event, and all the other factors, you can begin to train your body to match it.'

Good health!

¹<https://www.chronobiology.com/circadian-rhythm-determines-best-time-day-exercise/>
²<https://www.verywellfit.com/whats-the-best-time-of-day-to-run-2911466>

Having drawn these conclusions, they make the following statement, indicating that individuality is also important: 'However, your personal best time of day to exercise for weight loss and other positive health



Character matters

By the time you read this edition of *MESSENGER*, the new prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will be in place. As we go to press, who that person will be is uncertain, but the gift of predictive prophecy in this case is probably not required.

I've always taken a keen interest in UK and American politics. The way I like to express my interest is best described in this way: religion is my serious business, and politics is my hobby (as an armchair spectator). As a learned behaviour over the past 45+ years, reading the newspaper used to be an enjoyable experience: so much so, that during high school morning break I'd more likely be in the library having a quick read of the paper than mixing with the lads in the playground. The interest in US politics? Blame the preachers! As they kept raising the matter of America in Bible prophecy, my interest grew in watching the nation. And from that perspective I still watch to preach to the times. Therein lies the link to my role as an Adventist pastor – to preach to the times.

The 'clear blue water' principle

While Adventists keep clear blue water between church and politics, preaching to the times is our hallmark, without falling into the trap of partisanship. We do not comment on matters left, right or centre from the pulpit, in our publications or in official statements. We feel this approach to be the safest path for a number of reasons, not least for the treasured value of keeping unity among ourselves. Church history also confirms that without the clear blue water, the church loses its missional direction.

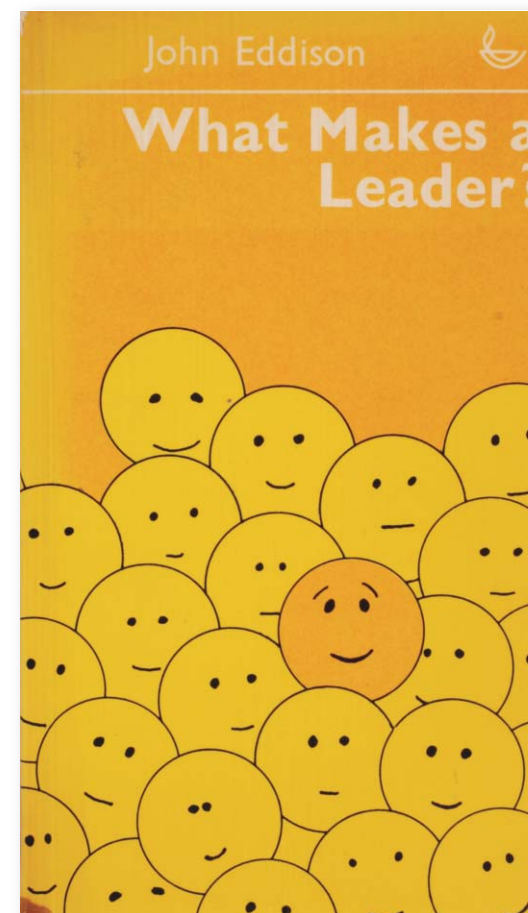
On the other hand, there have been times in the history of our movement when we've been so afraid to engage with civil society and the political discourse that our prophetic voice became muffled. While we were busy 'looking heavenward', we missed the appalling injustices faced by those around us. It's still taking us a long time to 'unlearn' that sometimes when things are outrageously wrong in our world, to refuse to engage, to protest, is not a neutral position, but one compliant with the oppressor.¹

While remaining scrupulously non-partisan, we cannot be silent about the current lack of moral leadership on both sides of the Atlantic. Does it seem that the leaders who admonish us about how 'uncivil' things are, are the very same ones stoking the fire? There's also a popular soundbite linked to this, which in these times should trouble us.

'What a politician does in his private life, or how he behaves, is of no concern to me, so long as he gets the job done.'

To illustrate why character is important, I want to share with you a couple of books I've been reading. The first is called *Why Does God Allow War?* by the former minister of Westminster Chapel, London, Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who began his ministry in the autumn of 1939. We meet him in his pulpit, trying to explain from Scripture why God seems to allow war to happen. His congregation are living with raw fear as the Second World War has just started and they are not sure if God is still in control of events. In his explanation, Lloyd-Jones shares a few lines to describe what God is like:

'There is nothing which is so humiliating, and so nerve-racking, as to be at the mercy of, or under obligation to, a person who is unreliable, whose moods are constantly changing, and whose purposes and actions are correspondingly variable. Never for a moment does one feel safe. At any moment something may be done which is a complete reversal of all that has gone before.'



*There is no sense of security or of peace. There is no hope as one looks to the future. Now, of one thing we can always be absolutely and definitely certain – God is not like that. And He will never behave in that manner.'*²

In these times how easy a trap it is to fall into, to believe that the bad behaviour of instant tweets without filter or control is the norm. It matters, 'because God is not like that and He will never behave in that manner'. While the context is quite different today, I want our children and grandchildren to be reassured of what God is like. The President and the Prime Minister may be secular, but they still have the power to distinguish right from wrong. That's why character matters.

Food for thought

When I was about 10 or 11 I received a book (pictured) as a prize for correctly reciting all 13 Sabbath School memory verses. The book is called *What makes a leader?* examining the characteristics of ten top people from the Bible. Describing the character of Joshua as 'The Commander-in-Chief', the author says:

*'And the good leader never stops being a learner. As soon as he does, his influence wanes and he becomes at best stale and at worst inflexible and even arrogant. He will learn from the past. He will learn from his friends. He will learn, and this is perhaps the hardest of all, from his subordinates and even from those with whom he disagrees, and who oppose him.'*³

'We have many lessons to learn, and many, many to unlearn.' Ellen White.⁴

- What are the strengths of keeping clear blue water between the Church and politics?
- What circumstances or matters can you think of when Christians need to engage, speak out, and act?
- Is it true that to say nothing is compliance?
- Why is it so difficult to 'unlearn'?
- Bible characters were far from perfect. Politicians and character – a fuss about nothing. True or false?

Footnotes:

¹ *The Reformation and the Remnant*, the chapter on religious liberty and public morality
² *Why Does God Allow War?* D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Evangelical Press of Wales, p. 52
³ *What Makes a Leader?* John Eddison, Scripture Union, p. 25
⁴ *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, Nashville, TN: Southern Publishing Association, 1946, p. 37

Sheepcot Villas retirement homes

Sheepcot Villas is a prestigious development of seven retirement flats for the use of members of the Adventist Church on a life tenancy basis. Flats are of an attractive and traditional design suitable to meet all modern standards and requirements. There is presently one flat available, which comprises an entrance



lobby; a well-proportioned living/dining area; two bedrooms (a good-sized double bedroom and a generous single); a bathroom with steam extraction to the outside; and a fully-fitted kitchen. It also benefits from a sunny southwest-facing balcony, overlooking the garden. For a full list of its other comforts and conveniences, please make contact as indicated below.

The grounds are attractively landscaped and screened with trees, shrubs and other foliage, and

include pathways, seating areas, and ample designated car parking. The flat is a short walk to a doctor's surgery, half a mile from Stanborough Park Church, with a good bus service to Watford Town. Should you be interested in this flat, kindly contact:

Steve Okelo, Treasurer-Secretary
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Lessons from a pencil

Pastor Mansfield Edwards

In his first evening address Pastor Edwards referred to the passion he shares with his friend, North England Conference (NEC) President Pastor Richard Jackson, to help finish the work of the Gospel. His messages were motivational, powerful and relatable. One notable illustration he shared was a lesson from a pencil. His childhood habit was to bite and chew a pencil, resulting in his finishing his writing implement before his siblings and friends. This also got him into trouble with his mother.

A pencil is of the utmost importance to a child, not just for the art of writing. The philosopher Ambrose once said, 'A pencil without lead is pointless.' As Christians, it is what is within us that matters most. The world emphasises the external at the expense of the internal. He also drew from the apostle Paul in Colossians 1:27: 'To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.' (NIV.) If we are to make an impact in extending God's kingdom, it has to start within us. God has to renew us so we can be useful to Him.



led by Pastor Victor Marshall and team, gathered momentum each day as Pastor and Mrs Beckles (East Caribbean Conference) spoke passionately around the theme of nurturing each other and winning another. Pastor Beckles and his wife also conducted, among other workshops, a 'Prayer and Anointing Healing Ministry'. All prayer team members gave special attention to the many requests for prayer from the prayer box and allocated protected time to intercede for the conference leaders and workers, for camp meeting speakers/programmes, and for the campers' safety.

This year's camp meeting health focus was *The Methylsulphate Factor* – a great hit with members. *The Methylsulphate Factor* provides practical, life-changing insights into the cutting-edge science of haemorrhology or blood fluidity. Dr DeRose walked the attendees through a step-by-step 30-day programme that puts them in the driver's seat when it comes to revolutionising their health. They learned how improving their 'Methylsulphate Factor' (DeRose's term for blood fluidity) promises to help:

- improve mental performance and decrease the risk of dementia;
- give better success when it comes to shedding excess pounds;
- provide new hope and help for diabetes and high blood pressure;
- decrease the risk of killer diseases like heart attack, stroke and cancer;
- improve or prevent common causes of arthritis;
- enhance physical performance;
- decrease the risk of visual impairment.

(ABC manager Trevor Johnson informs us that a further order has been made for The Methylsulphate Factor, which is expected to be available at the Stanborough Press Open Day, Sunday 1 September.)

Music

'The music is inspirational!' Every morning began with a capella singing, as voices joined in praise during the prayer sessions. Members were blessed with a wonderful praise team of four singing sisters – Marie Rattray-French, Sonia Mills Johnson, and Annmarie Herbert, led by Zena Taylor – and outstanding young musicians, Joel and Joshua Robinson, Simon Facey, assisted by Kendoll Bacchus, who also conducted the ministerial spouses in a truly beautiful moment during the Friday evening communion service.

Of special note was the welcome and providential addition of the Chitans gospel family group to the music during the power hour and commitment services. This gifted and humble family of young people allowed God to minister powerfully to all, day after day, and the listeners marvelled at the nature of family harmony, both musically and in terms of how they allow God to help them work and grow together.

Youth

Camp Meeting for the youth began every morning with a thought-provoking sermon delivered by a local preacher. Guest speakers Dr Eric Walsh and Taj Pacleb joined the youth for the midday and evening services. The inclusion of youth in the preaching rota is



Dr Eric Walsh



part of NEC Youth Director Adam Ramdin's vision of equipping young people with the skill set to share Jesus, and also as a training platform to build their 'preaching muscles'. Here's the response of just a sample of youth.

Dylon Mushambi said: 'My experience was a true turning point. Having to relive the way God pursued me in my younger years was a real eye-opener that triggered yet another turning point.'

When asked what her take-home lesson from Camp Meeting was, Youth Advisory member, *Naomi Maganye*, said: 'Eric Walsh shared an empowering testimony. What I am taking home is that God allows us to go through trying times but, at the end of it all, if we are faithful to Him, He will always come through and bring glory to His name.'



Thabani Sibanda, a member of NEC youth media, said: 'Adam Ramdin's seminar on jewellery showed views from the Old and New Testaments, reformers' history and the *Church Manual* on where we stand when it comes to jewellery. And he also explained the purpose of the wedding ring.'

In every sermon Taj Pacleb used an object lesson from his own life experiences. In one he shared how 'the net' is the biggest killer in the ocean and not sharks. He went on to explain how sin captures us like a net, including the 'interNET'. He then explained how Jesus has a knife and wants to cut us free.



Taj Pacleb

Dr Eric Walsh's Sabbath morning testimony highlighted the extent to which he felt God had been with him and brought him through the most difficult times in recent years. He confessed that there were periods when he felt that 'the Church was not there to support me'. Rather, it was people from 'other Christian organisations who rallied to help me'.

The youth programme was packed with both spiritual and social activities, which included sports games, socials, a BBQ, a men's and women's night, and much more.

Teens

The teens were treated to the inimitable, engaging style of Dr Eric Walsh. He challenged the young people to stand for something, to be prepared for the trials of life and to stay faithful to God. He also spoke about the fake things that the world presents to sidetrack us from our main goals. Through the week the teens had workshops and presentations on knife and gun crime and sexuality – all with the purpose of safeguarding their spiritual lives.

Children

The theme for this year's children's programme was 'Children of God: A Question of Identity!' Children were given the opportunity to reflect on the experience of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, the Hebrew captives in Babylon, who, in spite of adversity, held fast to their faith in God. The children were taken on a journey in a quest to understand how these young men rose to positions of prominence within Babylon, examining key components: relationships, attitude, faith, commitment and identity.

Gloria Bishop is passionate about her work as a teacher at the Seventh-day Adventist Harper Bell School. As guest speaker for the 0-5-year-olds, she took them on a journey, which included constructing a bed into which one of the children jumped, as she proceeded to tell the story of Nebuchadnezzar and his dream. Pastor

Clifford Herman, a minister from the South England Conference, captivated the children as he began by bouncing a basketball across the room, while at the same time telling the story of a girl suffering from asthma who wished she didn't have to depend on her inhaler. She complained that it was not fair. This was the vehicle used to convey to the young ones the reality that life isn't always fair. On the witness stand were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, and the rest of the story – the ancient history we still tell our children today. 'Ancient words, ever true.'

Deserving of special mention are Hyacinth Taylor and her team, who ensured that the children remained hydrated, providing water, fruits and even party treats that made for an exceptionally good time. The camp meeting Children's Ministries team consisted of staff from Harper Bell School, pastors and youth workers from the local church. For the first time there were four work experience students – Abigail, Sachia, Alana and James. Children's Ministries director Pastor Patricia Douglas said, 'The North England Conference recognises the immense value of young people, their unique insights, and the importance of mobilising them in this way so that their voices may be heard. Discipleship forms the focus of the NEC Children's Ministries programme. It's at the heart of all we do. It's about nurturing children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus.'

It is always very easy to acknowledge the most visible speakers at Camp Meeting, because they are easily seen on flyers and booklets. We pause to acknowledge the volunteers, as they are the glue that knits the camp meeting together. There are those who work tirelessly, in many cases without acknowledgement. May the camp meeting experience be one which the Lord uses to extend His kingdom.



Stanborough Schools remember

by Richard Daly

The weekend of 6-7 July saw crowds of over 1,000 people coming together in recognition of something very special within the British Union Conference (BUC). This year marked the centenary year (1919-2019) of Stanborough Primary and Secondary Schools. To mark this special occasion two events were planned – a Sabbath service held on the Stanborough Park grounds under a marquee, followed by a family fun and recreation day held on the Sunday. Both well-planned events proved to be well supported, not only by the Adventist membership but also by visitors from the local community.

The Sabbath service saw higher-than-expected attendance with all 700 seats in the marquee taken, necessitating the welcome task of having to create more seating on the outside. The morning's proceedings began with opening remarks and welcome from Judy Clements (chair of governors for Stanborough Secondary School), acknowledging the unique and significant moment of Adventist education in the British Isles. After a 'walk through history', highlighting the past 100 years in picture form, acting head for Stanborough Secondary School, Eileen Hussey, shared in her mission report the important values that underpinned the ethos of the school and how its missional outlook has sought to make a positive impact on the life of each pupil.

The morning service, planned in a creative way, saw intermittent praise and worship, with greetings from the General Conference Education Director, Dr Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, and Peter Taylor, Mayor of Watford. Angelika Horwood, co-head teacher for Stanborough Primary School, led out in the children's story with Heather Hanna, whose father, Ivor Margerison, played an instrumental role in the development of Stanborough Secondary School when serving as head teacher.

A representative of South England Conference (SEC) Pathfinders led in a procession



Peter Taylor, Mayor of Watford



Pupils from Stanborough Primary School



From L to R: Angelika Horwood, Dr Emmanuel Osei, Eileen Hussey, Peter Taylor, Dr Daniel Duda, Dr Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, Gina Abbequaye, Judy Clements & Pastor Audrey Andersson

during the dedication ceremony, which saw the cutting of the ribbon by Peter Taylor and the dedicatory prayer given by SEC President, Dr Emmanuel Osei.

Musical items were provided by the Stanborough Secondary School orchestra and Stanborough Primary School junior choir. The main speaker for the day was Dr Daniel Duda, Trans-European BUC Education Director, who spoke on the people of 'The Book' – the Book that provides a story to help us see the complexities of life and understand the principles behind it, to allow us to think outside the box, to reflect, serve better and help change the community.

A welcome touch was the recognition of all past heads of the schools, some of whom were in attendance to receive a gift of appreciation. Hazel, 90 years of age, one of the original primary students, visited from Canada to be part of the celebrations.

With the day being bright and sunny, the park provided the perfect setting for the lunch prepared for all by the British Union Conference (BUC) Treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, and his committed team of volunteers.

The afternoon segment of the

day saw various items performed by the children of Stanborough Secondary and Primary Schools, including songs, poems, drama and instrumental music. Incoming BUC Education Director Gina Abbequaye shared a vision for Adventist education. She spoke of the endless possibilities that can be achieved when home, school and church work together. 'We produce children who will accept God as their Creator. . . . True Adventist education is not limited to the four walls of the school building. . . . Now, more than ever, there is a need for Adventist education,' she affirmed.

The closing vote of thanks was presented by Eileen Hussey and Angelika Horwood, when, among many acknowledgements, Kerrine Guthrie was thanked for her overall planning and coordination of the event.

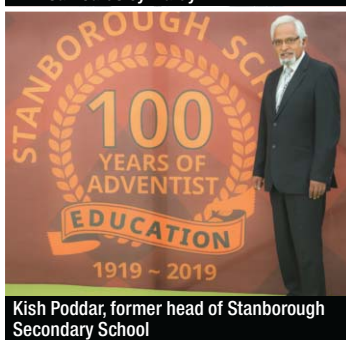
Despite the rain during the next morning, the weather turned out to be quite pleasant for the fun day, which attracted several hundred people throughout the afternoon.



Dr Daniel Duda



Dr Lisa Beardsley-Hardy



Kish Poddar, former head of Stanborough Secondary School

The weekend proved to be hugely successful, considering the many challenges that Adventist education in the British Isles has faced within the past 100 years. Adventist schools have prevailed and continue to be major contributors in the Union in helping prepare children to be effective citizens in the community and ready for the kingdom.

However, like most other faith schools today, there are real challenges that lie ahead. If our Adventist schools are to continue providing an education based on high intellectual and spiritual standards, they will need the support of the membership at large. It is up to church leaders to ensure it will thrive both now and well into the future, led by the motto *Dominus Magister Ludi Nostri* – God is the Master of our School.

Reaping from dry ground: witnessing to the unwilling in Eden School

by Akwasi Agyemang, Eden School

It was an evening of frenzied activity, and rumours of war were on the horizon. A mere 10 hours down the bright end of night and Ofsted would burst through the reluctant doors of Eden School. I was hidden in my thoughts with the detachment of a concussed gazelle stranded before an advancing pride of hungry lions. The air was fomented with anxiety. Suddenly, the place came to a standstill as Gina Abbequaye, the then South England Conference Director of Education, burst through the doors, laden with the world. She dropped her hefty carrier bags on the floor and welcomed herself on a chair, her searching eyes penetrating every display with an astonishing seriousness. I could barely breathe as my colleagues smiled uneasily behind stolen glances at me. 'Tell me how I can help,' said Gina.

I said in my head, 'That sounds like Eden School!' When a parent or a carer walks through our doors, regardless of the nature of their situation, they always find a welcoming hand. Before I could speak, Gina stole the initiative again. I was bowled over.

'Sir,' she said with her polished British courtesy, 'if the inspectors enter this premises tomorrow, how will they know they are in a Christian school?'

Every morning, children in Eden have full worship with prayer, praise, a message and testimonies. For about 24 or so years, the energetic morning worship has been both the signature and backbone of Eden School. This is where students written off by mainstream schools and the state have encountered destiny. Here they have been rebuked, admonished, encouraged, prayed for, redirected, exalted and pointed forwards and backwards to Jesus. This is their take-off ground to the

cross. For many of the children who enter Eden's doors, morning worship will be the first time their fumbling hands will touch the Holy Scriptures, their quivering lips singing their Maker's praise.

But Gina was thinking beyond my self-conceit, determined to better my genius. She left and soon returned from her car, laden with an extra-large carrier bag full of large framed biblical texts and reassuring spiritual décor. She dumped them at my feet and gazed at me with intensity, her lips quivering with the eternal words: 'Wherever the inspectors turn tomorrow, I want them to see Jesus.'

Gina's desire epitomises Eden's marvel. Every year Eden presents students to local churches and at Camp Meeting for baptism. In the summer of 2018, the leadership of the school made a decision to make Jesus even more visible. As a result, evangelistic materials were made more accessible to students. Staff were retrained about the ethos of the school, and new strategies were put in place to encourage the sharing of the Gospel. The leadership team also decided to ensure that non-Adventist members of staff would be given more opportunities to encounter Jesus. Both staff and students were given the opportunity to explore relevant and authentic discourse on faith. The Gospel was also shared with students through pastoral care

I remember a teaching assistant throwing himself before a moving truck to pull a student who had deliberately placed himself there to be mowed down.

from Pastor Ray Patrick.

Over the years, Eden has experienced all sorts of students. Every now and then, the local authority presents us with one difficult case after another. The

local authority has sometimes borne with Eden more patiently than a mother would. One of the leading voices on education at Ealing Council once said, 'I love what Eden does with our special educational needs children.' Adventist education's secret is that whether the child comes to us as their first choice or their last resort, every soul is precious in the sight of God, and Eden knows how to find the fix.

If you purchased a million-pound Rolls-Royce and it became faulty along the way, where is the best place to find a fix? Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited, of course! Adventist education's genius is that it always refers the broken children to their Maker. In Genesis 26:1-3, we read:

'A severe famine now struck the land, as had happened before in Abraham's time. So Isaac moved to Gerar. . . . The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you. Live here. . . in this land, and I will be with you and bless you."' (NLT.)

I remember the case of Antonia, a girl overwhelmed with her own teenage emotional spasms. This morning had been particularly toxic, as this beautiful girl continually banged her head hard on anything that could hurt and repeatedly kept saying, 'I hate myself. I want to die, I want to die!' I remember placing my open palms between her head and the door post to cushion the impact, as if to say with the Saviour as His palms were being nailed, 'Put it right there in the palms of my hands.' She



continually bruised my hand, driving the nail in deeper still with her raging head-butting.

Some teachers in Eden School have earned legendary status with interventions too risky even for the brave. I remember a teaching assistant throwing himself before a moving truck to pull a student who had deliberately placed himself there to be mowed down. Marion, a female teacher, once



Gina Abbequaye, recently appointed BUC Education Director

said, 'Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.' Yet when the fool treads where angels fear to go, we find that mercy comes running; for in God's compassion He could not suffer the least of these ones to be moved. Eden has been farming on drought-stricken ground, yet the Lord has said, 'Stay here and I will bless you.'

So Gina did not come to abolish Eden's devotion to the Adventist cause, but to fulfill it. To preach to the unwilling, to farm on Isaac's dry ground, you need to be intentional to create visibility. You have to ensure that every turn of the eye lands on the face of Jesus. That is Eden's genius. We have now established a voluntary Bible study class on Wednesdays at lunchtime, and children pour in to listen. Most of these children have studied most of the fundamental beliefs using Discovery Bible lessons.

To the glory of God, several children, including Antonia, have all been baptised. This year alone six children and one staff member have been baptised.

From the mouth of babes He has desired praise, and from your hands, dear parents, His honour. Your children deserve better; they deserve a Christian education.

Ring that bell!

An early sunny summer morning and outside our bedroom window the sparrows are holding a treetop sale: 'Cheep! Cheep! Cheep! Cheep! I wriggle my toes under the summer-weight duvet. It's so good to be alive! I tell the sparrows.

However, anything good comes with a price. I don't know how it happened but when I signed up for cancer treatment I must have ticked a box that said, 'Side-effects? Yeah! Bring 'em on!' I won't bore – or frighten – you by listing them, but the lovely folk at the chemotherapy unit do everything in their power to make life worth living anyway. For a start, they are the most cheerful bunch of nurses (or should that be 'nurture of nurses?') I've ever met. And it's contagious. There are far more laughs in the chemo unit than tears. Maybe the Lincoln County Hospital is a shining exception to the rule, but I doubt it. Every now and then we waitees are treated to a lovely ceremony in the far corner of the waiting room. All eyes turn to a beaming patient as relatives and nurses gather round them. Then said beaming

patient gives three rings on what is called the 'end-of-treatment bell'. Everyone is smiling and clapping, photos are taken, and the moment lifts all our spirits, no matter how hard we might be feeling our own journey is.

Ring the bell doesn't necessarily mean that the patient is cured, by the way. It more often signifies a crossroads – the end of a course of chemo, most likely, though, after consultation with the staff, anyone can ring it if they want to make a joyful noise to let everyone know that their treatment is going well.

**'Those joys are very few
That illness brings;
So I shall lie and think
Of lovely things.'**

Mumei, *Escaped as a Bird*, TLM

How it all began
In September 2013 Tracey and Phil Payton's youngest child, Emma, was diagnosed with a rare soft-tissue cancer. Chemotherapy was started immediately, but it soon became obvious that it wasn't working. So in January 2014 the whole family, including 8-year-old Emma's siblings Holly and Ben, flew to the Procure clinic in Oklahoma, USA, so that Emma could have NHS-funded proton beam therapy. And that was where the family first came across an 'end-of-

treatment bell'. Emma rang the bell in March 2014 before returning to England.

'We loved the bell and the symbolic nature of it...' says Mum Tracey. 'Back home we showed a photo to the staff treating Emma, and they agreed it would be great to have one.'

'It was made and in situ for Emma to ring after her last chemo session in April 2014,' adds Dad Phil.

Since then, working with the Maria Watt Foundation, the couple have placed over 200 end-of-treatment bells in hospitals in the UK and abroad. Their Facebook page is regularly updated with news and photos which have been sent to them to share.

It's not just a bell. Along with the rainbow behind it, it's a symbol of hope. The words accompanying the bell are as follows:

'Ring this bell
Three times well
Its toll to clearly say
My treatment's done
This course is run
And I am on my way!'

It costs around £150 to place each bell in Britain, and the family are setting up a charity so that anyone can contribute to the non-profit-making endeavour.*

In my dreams...
... I walk, I run, I ride my bicycle. Which is wonderful because, in reality, I'm very slow on my feet these days, and I haven't been able to run or ride a bike for years due to a dodgy arthritic knee. (I pray

fervently that my subconscious doesn't catch up with that reality!) But things – *in reality* – are improving slowly, and on good days I manage to get out and do a little shopping or light gardening, which is so good for my soul!

Even better for my soul is the thought that things won't always be this way. I've come to see every day, good or bad, as an investment in my future.

And yes, I do believe that my Christian faith helps

me to cope. At the same time, I meet lots of folk who are coping without any definable faith. There's something in the human psyche that, when faced with life-threatening situations, makes most people face up to the challenge with a minimum of moaning or complaint.

As a dear friend of mine once said from the depths of multiple sclerosis: 'You don't get anywhere by being miserable. Would you visit me so often if all I did was moan?' Probably not, but putting on a brave face can be very wearing if we don't have a source of strength or refreshment when the well of our forced bonhomie runs dry.

It all takes 'living in the now' to a new level. Treatments for cancer (or anything else) can be a roller-coaster ride, so when we are up there in the heights, feeling the wind in our face and nothing but blue sky around us, we should let the people around us know that life is still worth living. When we are stuck at the bottom of the ride, it's best just to hunker down and remember the up-times. They will come again, however hard that is to believe sometimes.

No one really wants to know the grisly details of our side-effects. They have problems of their own to cope with. I often remind myself that *I am not the only person suffering in an increasingly difficult world.*

The best thing about having a Christian faith, of course, is knowing that the end of life isn't the end. If we make the effort of getting to know God, we are promised: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.' (John 3:16, NKJV.) And, in the meantime, He really is there to comfort, cheer, strengthen and bless us as we face life's challenges. I have felt all of those signs of His presence. All it takes is a prayer.

I can't think of anything in this world to beat that. Can you?

*Source: <https://endoftreatmentbells.com/>

Update: On a recent visit to see my oncologist, I was told my condition is stable, though treatment, for the time being, is ongoing to keep the cancer under control.

Anita Marshall



OPEN DAY 2019

Sunday 1 September • 8am-4pm

Speaker



Ranko Stefanovic

Ranko Stefanovic is Professor of New Testament at Andrews University. He earned a doctorate from Andrews University in 1995 in the area of the New Testament with an emphasis on the book of Revelation. Prior to joining the faculty at Andrews University, he served for eighteen years as an ordained SDA minister. He taught and chaired the Department of Religious Studies, Canadian University College, from 1996 to 1999, as well as the Department of Religion, Andrews University, from 1999 to 2009, when he moved to the SDA Theological Seminary. He is a recipient of several awards for excellence in teaching; in 2013 he was awarded the J. N. Andrews Medallion by Andrews University for his contribution to the church in the area of scholarship and service to the church. Stefanovic is an author of numerous scholarly articles. He specialises in the book of Revelation; he has authored *Revelation of Jesus Christ*, a very popular 670-page commentary on Revelation, which is the standard textbook in many Adventist colleges and universities. His most recent book is *Plain Revelation: A Reader's Introduction to the Apocalypse*. His lectures on Revelation are featured in a long-running series on the 3ABN television network. He is a sought-after speaker and lecturer at symposiums, seminars, workers' meetings, camp meetings, and various gatherings across the globe. He and his wife Estera have two grown children.

Special music

The Golden Chords and Christine Burt Trio

Food specials

We are happy to extend the offer from Camp Meeting on the Cedar Lake lines: buy one case, get the second half-price. We have a new line of non-soya mince: sunflower-based organic mince, which was introduced at both camp meetings this year. The introductory price will be kept for Open Day only.

Food demonstration

An experienced dietician and chef will demonstrate some menus you can prepare using a range of the products we provide. You can try before you buy!

Books & resources

There are host of new titles, Bibles and resources that you can take home with you.



Entertainment available for the whole family – bouncy castles, food and good music – so make this date one not to miss and join us for the day!

For any further information contact us on 01476 591700 or eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Exhibition marquee

There will be space in an exhibition/vendors' marquee for those who respond early and meet our terms and conditions. Official permits may be obtained by **no later than 29 August**, at a cost of £35 from Elizabeth Parkinson (01476 591700 or eparkinson@stanboroughpress.org.uk), and are subject to availability. *No displays or vending will be permitted on The Stanborough Press property without an official permit obtained in the above manner.*

Catering

Provision has been made for an authorised caterer to supply a variety of tasty meal options at reasonable prices. No other food or refreshment vending will be permitted.



End-of-treatment bell

OPEN DAY 2019

Sunday 1 September • 8am-4pm

Special Open Day offers

Leading Like Jesus - £2.50 (New £3.50)
Women in the Bible...and Me 2 - £3.95 (New)
Discipleship Handbook - £8.50 (New)
Colours of Inspiration - £3 (New £3.95)
Plain Revelation - £10.50 (New £11.95)
The Book of Revelation - £2.50 (New £3.75)
Apocalypse! - £2.50 (New £3.95)
The Bible Story - £65 (New £120)
Colouring books for kids (Jesus and His followers) - £1.50 (New £1.95)
Colouring books for kids (Parables and sayings of Jesus)
Colouring books for kids (The story of Jesus)
Colouring books for kids (Old Testament stories)
A Treasury of Miracles for Friends - £5 (New £8.99)
from MOTHER to DAUGHTER - £3.50 (New £5.99)
from FATHER to SON - £3.50 (New £5.99)
Here I Come, Ready or Not - £5 (New £6.45)

Pastors Serb and Keough in dialogue with Irish Government

On 4 July Pastors Dan Serb (Irish Mission President) and Adam Keough (Dublin senior pastor) participated in a meeting called by the *Taoiseach* (Irish Prime Minister), Mr Leo Varadkar. The event was held at St Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, and it was a plenary meeting with churches, faith communities and non-confessional organisations. The background of this meeting was clearly outlined in the programme of the day. This dialogue process, established by the Government in 2005, 'forms part of the (Irish) Government's commitment to carry out wide-ranging and inclusive consultation on public policy. It also reflects the increasingly diverse range of faith-based communities in Ireland and the important role they play in today's society'.

Alongside our church over 25 Christian and other world religion organisations were represented. The event began with lunch, followed by a family photo of the participants and informal introductions. The participants then moved into the main meeting hall, where they were welcomed by Mr Andrew Munro, Assistant Secretary, Department of the *Taoiseach*. In the presence of the media, the *Taoiseach* then gave his opening address. Mr Varadkar began by introducing the initiative

as a means of building a new relationship between religious and non-confessional organisations and the State. He described it as 'a new covenant', which recognises common interests, respects differences, and addresses interests which go beyond religion, such as housing, immigration and the impact of Brexit on Ireland. The *Taoiseach* also acknowledged that Ireland has experienced considerable change in the last while, where 1 in 10 people declare that they adhere to no religion, and where 1 in 6 people were not born in Ireland. This makes Irish society one of the most diverse in the world, defined by pluralism rather than an absolutist secularism – a place where such dialogue is necessary and needs to take place regularly. Mr Varadkar concluded his address by stating that this initiative is 'a bit of an experiment', which he hopes will work.

The meeting was then open to the floor where, after excusing the media, the participants were asked to address three main themes: 1) effective structured dialogue, 2) inclusive and diverse communities, and 3) education. The dialogue consisted of participants raising various issues and concerns with government ministers and representatives responding. Some of the main

ideas presented were i) The role of faith and religion – that it still is and should remain important in today's society; ii) Such dialogues should translate into concrete and tangible implementation; the state needs to remain neutral in matters of faith; iii) Individuals should be protected from the 'tyranny of the majority'; iv) Dialogue participation needs to be enlarged in order for prejudice barriers to be broken down; v) For the relationship between Church and State to be efficient, the wrongs of the past need to be acknowledged and addressed.

Pastor Serb raised the issue of the great difficulty encountered in purchasing land or property for places of worship. As the right to worship also translates into the right to hold property for that purpose, this difficulty needs to be addressed by means of putting together a guide of codes and rezoning practices, as well as redefining what 'church' means. Pastor Serb gave the Ranelagh church in Dublin as a fitting example of church facilities offering community services and programmes on a daily basis through the work of the *Cuisle Centre*; the 'Centre of Influence' concept was expounded upon, thus highlighting that 'church' should be understood as **a gathering place for the community rather than for a community**. Also, the 'church' is a place which facilitates integration within the Irish society for the immigrant segment of our congregants, and networking between State and Church should be sought to this effect. This latest point was welcomed by Mr David Stanton, Minister of State with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration, while Mr Eogan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, acknowledged the difficulties for religious communities and organisations to secure property. He responded to

Pastor Serb's observations by promising to commission his team to compile a guideline in this respect, and also to assess possibilities within local councils. Of special interest was his remark regarding the *Cuisle Centre*: **'I know the church in Ranelagh, and it's true – the place is always buzzing!'**

Education was the last item on the agenda and it generated the most passionate contributions. The main issues discussed were religious education in schools; pluralism versus secularism; disproportionate time given to faith education, especially from within one specific Christian tradition; church ownership of schools; and the introduction of alternative subjects to religious education. Pastor Keough addressed the matter of facilitating and respecting Sabbath observance to those scheduled to sit examinations on a Saturday as an intrinsic right for religious expression. Mr Joe McHugh, Minister for Education and Skills, addressed most of the issues raised and iterated the Government's efforts in establishing an education system based on equal opportunity, integration and fair distribution of assets and skills.

The meeting concluded with the *Taoiseach* thanking all participants for their contributions and participation, and committing themselves, as Government, to address the concerns raised during the meeting. Both Pastors Serb and Keough found the meeting beneficial and ground-breaking, as it allowed them to voice the church's position on various issues of general interest. **This was not an ecumenical meeting**; it was a consultative meeting between State institutions and religious (and non-religious) organisations seeking to inform adequate public policy actions and provide networking opportunities, as stipulated in Article 17 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and protected by the European Convention on Human Rights. As a church which exists within the realm of law and order, it is our responsibility to be positive contributors to such initiatives and promote our role as guardians of religious liberty within an increasingly secular society.

PASTOR DAN SERB



North Wembley – ‘more in common than divides us’

On the sunny Sunday afternoon of 7 July North Wembley Community Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a ‘Great Get Together Community Lunch’.

The government-sponsored event was inspired by the tragic murder of MP Jo Cox.

It was opened by the Willesden and North Wembley Pathfinders drum corps and had stalls and vans laden with food for the community.

Music and chatter enveloped the corner pitch where the lunch was provided to encourage neighbouring guests to come and join in.

Health stalls and stations were available for guests to take blood pressure and health assessments.

Councillor Orleen Hylton and other representatives from local community groups, such as Barnabe Nemi, chair of the Sudbury Metropolitan Police Board, and Renu Kaul, chair of the local Sudbury Town Residents Association (STRA), also attended.

Among the regular guests were new and old neighbours, local shop owners, those passing by on foot, those in cars and on the bus, as well as visitors who left only to come back with their friends.

Everyone felt welcome as we embraced the sentiments of Jo Cox, finding that we have much more in common than that which divides us.

Local ministers Pastors Kwesi Moore, Dennis Mingo and Ottakal Chackochen also supported the event.

NORTH WEMBLEY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Hanwell member – 100th birthday

Sabbath 20 April was an exciting day of celebration at Hanwell Church. Stanley Kern, the oldest member, had reached his 100th birthday two days earlier and had received a letter from the Queen. He was also celebrating his golden wedding anniversary.

Elder Elliot Odle and his wife Tessa led the church members in thanksgiving and prayer for these two remarkable achievements.

Community Ministries coordinators Sarah and Bea Jackson had arranged a special visit to honour and cheer up Stanley and his wife. The church was delighted when Stanley's local MP, Mr Steve Pound, agreed to attend, despite his several commitments on that day, and his presence truly boosted Stanley's spirits.

The visit had been kept as a surprise to Stanley, and as he walked to the door he was very excited to see the honoured guest, exclaiming cheerfully, ‘My MP! My MP! This is my MP!’ and ‘Thank you.’ He continued, ‘Church, why do you love me sooo much like this?’ before posing for a picture.

Mr Pound had also brought with him a gift and a card from his constituency. Both these and the MP's humour added an honour and joy to Stanley, as had been the church's intention for him.

Stanley Kern's history is interesting. He served in the British Army for 6 years and 3 months (1939-1945) in an artillery regiment in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), which was then a British colony. Prior to that he had served as

Grantham at town carnival

Following the success of its health expo last year, the Health Ministries Department of the Grantham church decided on a repeat appearance at the annual town carnival.

Spread over the weekend of 15/16 June, and despite a period of unexpected rain for the time of year, the stand in a local park, ‘manned’ by health professionals and helpers, reported a good number of visitors.

Help was on offer, as before, with sugar and blood pressure monitoring and a friendly chat.

A fair number of goodie bags which contained Adventist and health literature were taken away by both young and old.

This contact with the general public was followed up with a short series of talks and demos. We await any long-term response to this witness programme.

MIKE COWEN

a peace soldier in the rank of bombardier (equivalent to a corporal). But this particular day was one of the most exciting days of Stanley's life, because, after the MP's speech, Stanley was given time to tell his story. He was just as excited as the congregation was.

All the elders assembled in front of the church and offered prayers of thanksgiving.

Mr Steve Pound thanked the Seventh-day Adventist Church for feeding people both physically and spiritually. The MP alluded to the weekly community lunch currently being led by Carol Fletcher in conjunction with the weekly worship. He is also very aware of ADRA and is acquainted with both Pastor Berhanu Tsehaye and former pastor, Dusan Uzelac.

The message from Elder Elliot Odle and Senior Elder Alistair Martin to the church seemed to echo Leviticus 19:32 throughout: ‘You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.’ (NASB.)

SARAH LUBANGA (COMMUNITY MINISTRIES, HANWELL CHURCH)



New pastor for Nottingham Central

On 8 July Pastor Richard Jackson, President of the North England Conference, introduced Pastor Dachin and his family to the Nottingham Central members. The Dachin family are originally from Romania and pastored in Middlesbrough before coming to Nottingham Central. We wish them God's blessing as they begin their ministry in our district.

DENNIS TAYLOR, STEWARDSHIP LEADER



Mansfield Woodhouse Church's outreach in the town

On Sabbath 1 July the town of Mansfield Woodhouse had a day ‘mingling’ at the Focus Point Hall and surrounding grounds.

Woodhouse Seventh-day Adventist Church took this opportunity to get to know the people from the town and to tell them about our church. We had decided that it was about time we got to know the people. We thought that we would mingle with people where they are in the hope that in the future they would come and mingle with us and learn about Jesus. That was our goal.

Dr Michelle McCalmont provided blood pressure testing, forty times over, which was appreciated by everyone.

Our walk leader, Melvyn Ellis, chatted to people and gave invitations to join the Woodhouse Wanderers walking group.

May this be the beginning of more outreach, even though it takes us out of our comfort zone at times.

EUNICE MASON, ASSISTANT COMMUNICATION



Around the table

After a blessed camp meeting in the North England Conference (NEC) and a few days to recoup, the NEC Area 6 Fraternal met on Tuesday 10 July. This fraternal is made up of the following: Area leader Dr Patrick Herbert, Pastors Jeff Nicholson and Ian Philpott, and Elders Mark Langston and Craig Gooden. This particular fraternal meeting saw us

joined by Dr Jeff Brown, who currently serves the world church at the General Conference as Associate Ministerial Secretary and Associate Editor of *Ministry Magazine*. Dr Brown's attendance was particularly significant as he was our first guest under Area 6's new leadership.

We gathered around a table in a quiet section of the Cosmo restaurant. The meeting started with reflections on the previous week at the NEC Camp Meeting, followed by the main course of a devotional exercise from Dr Brown, who focused on 2 Timothy 4:5-22. We were encouraged to make full proof of our ministry and to make sure we look after four needs in our daily lives: our social, physical, mental and spiritual needs. We were also reminded to make sure we exalt Christ in all areas of our ministry. Of course, we enjoyed the dessert of sweet fellowship together and agreed that our time around the table was well spent.

Our meeting closed as we discussed the plans for the Area 6 district. We seek to build an army of youth by encouraging training in the home by Christian parents, and doing our best to make our churches places of growth, opportunity and intentionality.

Keep us in your prayers as we continue in 2019.

CRAIG GOODEN



National Vegetarian Week events in Barnsley

To celebrate National Vegetarian Week (13-19 May 2019), the Health Ministries Department at Barnsley led two special events to promote a healthy vegetarian diet to the public. The afternoon of Wednesday 15 May was beautiful and sunny, a perfect opportunity to taste picnic and light summer recipes. On the Thursday evening a cookery demonstration was held in the church, where visitors could learn how to make dishes as part of a special three-course dinner menu. There was then the chance to try all six dishes, including Italian arancini and mushroom pâté for starters, ratatouille, a nut roast, and BBQ tofu with root vegetable mash as the main, and vegan chocolate orange mousse and vegan pumpkin cake for dessert. Everyone was very impressed with the recipes and the food, particularly the desserts! The local community are now invited to come along to a monthly ‘Veggie Delight’ cookery evening to learn new recipes and share meals together.

DR RACHEL HAWORTH

Making Him known in Weston

On Sunday 9 June, as a service to the community, Weston-super-Mare Church held a health screening event at the indoor Sovereign Centre Shopping Mall in Weston. The team consisted of dedicated church members who are supportive and passionate about health ministry. The Pathfinders also attended to hand out literature and freebies in bags. The event was considered a great success as the team worked together to make Him known in the Weston area. One hundred and fifteen people were checked for BMI, blood pressure, blood glucose and carbon monoxide. Thirty-five also received medical advice. About 250 customised bags containing 600 pieces of literature were given away. It was a truly humbling experience for the team, and we praise God for the success of the day.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Pastor Rio Espulgar checking a lady for carbon monoxide



BARBARA LAWRENCE
Family Matters
Sun, 07:00am - 09:00am



LYNETTE ALCOCK
The Breakfast Show
Mon - Fri, 07:00am - 09:00am



VANESA PIZZUTO
On the Go
Mon - Fri, 3:00pm - 5:00pm



MARK GREY
In the News
Sun, 09:00am - 10:00am



JOSH ANDERSON GREY
In the News
Sun, 09:00am - 10:00am



CYNTHIA OSEI-OWUSU
In the News
Sun, 09:00am - 10:00am



MIKE HAMILTON
Explore
Mon - Fri, 10:00am & 7:00pm



SOPHIA PEART
Explore
Mon - Fri, 10:00am & 7:00pm



NIGEL MAUNGANIDZE
Drivetime
Mon - Fri, 5:00pm - 7:00pm



MIKE JOHNSON
Sabbath Breakfast/Christian Living
Sat, 07:00am - 09:00am



TREVOR JOHNSON
Reflections
Sun, 9:00pm - 10:00pm



RAY PATRICK
Prayer on the line/Ray of Hope
Sun, 10:00am - 12:00pm



EBENEZER JONES-LARTEY
Our Times
Sun, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

“I hope that through my shows, people will see God as someone real and relevant, someone who genuinely cares about them”
- Lynette Allcock

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Adventist Students on Campus – on Mission

by Abigail Hazel

In March earlier this year, a cyclone hit Mozambique as well as other surrounding areas. As a result, the Adventist University of Mozambique has been drastically affected and now needs support to mend what's been destroyed. The North England Conference (NEC) student advisory felt that, as fellow Adventist students, they wanted to do something – anything – to help. From their willingness to help came the plan to hold a fundraising concert, so that other students from across the NEC and anyone else who wanted to support could also come together and do so.

On 8 June 2019, the Adventist Students on Campus (ASC) on Mission fundraiser was held at the Keele University chapel, with several people in attendance, ready not only to receive a blessing from the items shared, but also to be a blessing to others in their giving. The evening was filled with songs and testimonies from students and others in England, but we were also treated to a video message from the Adventist University of Mozambique's president and a recorded song from the students there in their native tongue. This was translated as: 'In the heaven we shall sing, walk through golden paths, as we eat the fruit of life.' To see such vibrancy and joy from those in need helped to encourage those who watched to donate as much as they could.

The evening also included a word from Takudzwa Biston, a previous president of an ASC society. He shared with us the topic of a living sacrifice, and that in arriving at an understanding of Romans 12:1 we must rehearse some truths revealed in the sanctuary and its services. Although the sacrificial system given by God has been done away with, the character of God has not changed. Our lives can be sure in whatever sacrifice we offer to God; a condition of its acceptability will be now as it was then. It must be without blemish, or the best of its kind, so we can be acceptable living sacrifices to God when we render Him the best service with our lives.

With that principle in mind, the call was made to make a sacrifice with a monetary donation. The first collection that went around gathered an amount of £314, but the hosts encouraged those attending to dig a little deeper and see if they could aim higher by the end of the night. As the baskets went around for the second time and the praise team sang, another £117 was collected! As well as the concert, a JustGiving page was set up to receive online donations, and, with the two paired together, an amount of £576.56 was raised that will be sent directly to the university. It was wonderful to see that the generosity and dedication of Adventist students in the NEC does not just stop at their university home



cities but extends to the wider world. Any students who wish to be a part of such events in the future, or are interested in campus ministries, are invited to the annual ASC training retreat at Aberdaron this year on 2-8 September. Please email ascadvisoryteam@gmail.com for further information.

Noted

The Church of England have come up with social media guidelines. I'm tempted to call them commandments, but there are only 9. The first guideline has been slightly adapted for our context.

Archbishop Justin Welby launched these guidelines not only with a sense of optimism that things can get better, but also with mission in mind: 'Each time we interact online, we have the opportunity either to add to currents of cynicism and abuse, or to choose instead to share light and grace.'

- **Be safe.** The safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults must be maintained. If you have any concerns, contact the person in your church responsible for keeping the church family safe.
- **Be respectful.** Do not post or share content that is sexually explicit, inflammatory, hateful, abusive, threatening or otherwise disrespectful.
- **Be kind.** Treat others how you would wish to be treated and assume the best in people. If you have a criticism or critique to make, consider not just *whether* you would say it in person, but the tone you would use.
- **Be honest.** Don't mislead people about who you are.
- **Take responsibility.** You are accountable for the things you do, say and write. Text and images shared can be public and permanent, even with privacy settings in place. If you're not sure, don't post it.
- **Be a good ambassador.** Personal and professional life can easily become blurred online, so think before you post.
- **Disagree well.** Some conversations can be places of robust disagreement, and it's important that we apply our values in the way we express them.
- **Credit others.** Acknowledge the work of others. Respect copyright and always give credit where it is due. Be careful not to release sensitive or confidential information, and always question the source of any content you are considering amplifying.
- **Follow the rules.** Abide by the terms and conditions of the various social media platforms themselves. If you see a comment that you believe breaks their policies, then please report it to the respective company.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/terms-and-conditions/our-social-media-community-guidelines>



Newly appointed chaplain celebrates with graduates

On Wednesday 10 July it was my pleasure to attend the graduation celebration of two young people in the capacity of Recognised Chaplain at the University of Birmingham.

Okantan Ayeh, outgoing president of Adventist Students on Campus (ASC) at the university, and Gladys Owusu-Afriyie, an active member of ASC, both graduated with a Master's in Pharmacy. ASC at the University of Birmingham is a vibrant and active group of students I have had the privilege of supporting. While Okantan was ASC president, he approached the university administration on behalf of the Adventist students to enquire about the university's protocol when appointing chaplains. He also enquired whether the university could appoint an Adventist minister to represent and support the Adventist students at the university. The six-month process involved completing an application form, attending two interviews with the university's Chaplaincy Management Board and obtaining references from my employer, the North England Conference. The Council of the University formally welcomed me as a part-time recognised chaplain for the Seventh-day Adventist Church on 4 June 2019.

Some of the duties as Recognised Chaplain include: coordinating the delivery of individual faith-based and worship responsibilities on behalf of the Adventist faith community on campus; to be an ethical theological



and pastoral resource for the university; and to work with the full-time chaplain to ensure support for all students.

If you are studying at the University of Birmingham or plan to study there next year, I look forward to meeting you.

OBINNAYA IHEOMA

'Spreading love, doing good and making the world a better place'

It was a glorious occasion to witness the baptism of Shaniqua Benjamin on 23 March at Croydon Church. Shaniqua chose to follow Jesus all the way after having been in the valley of decision for many years. She said she hadn't chosen to make this decision earlier as she was too scared that

she would mess up and fail God. Shaniqua's motto is 'Spreading love, doing good and making the world a better place!' Her love for all people was evidenced in the number of friends and family who came to witness this momentous occasion, some of whom were



attending a church service for the very first time! Shaniqua's granddad, the late Brother Burton, first gave her Bible studies, helping her to understand the Scriptures more clearly. He was also instrumental in the direction she has taken as she continues his legacy of befriending all people, irrespective of who they are. She was very sad that he was not there to witness this event, but knows that, if faithful, they will celebrate together when they are reunited in the New Earth. Pastor Alex Mareniuc, who studied with her prior to baptism, was surprised by how much she knew about Scripture and doctrine, saying she even taught him some things! Shaniqua has a passion for helping out in her local community, working especially with young people to ensure they have a voice and their opinions are heard. She was encouraged to continue doing the good work she has already begun and to spread God's love to all around. Let us pray that she keeps trusting in Jesus and remains faithful until the end. KAREN BENJAMIN, CROYDON

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Midnight CRY
 WITH PASTOR BRENT ST. JEAN
For Change
 Saturdays (9.30am - Power of Prayer, Programme starts at 10.00am)
 Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (6.30-9.00pm)
 * No Meeting on Friday
August 10th—17th
 Venue
 New Life Centre, 8-10 Lennox Rd, Finsbury Park, London. N4 3JQ
 SPECIAL FEATURES: HEALTH GEMS & RELATIONSHIP TIPS
 Contact: Web: www.newlifesda.org.uk Email: info@newlifesda.org.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



'I gave; have you?'

My blood drive campaign story In loving memory of Orville (Fen) Braithwaite

Daddy, I loved you then; I love you still. I always have; I always will.

In April 2015 my dad was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and sadly passed away in April the following year. From his diagnosis to his passing he received three blood transfusions – three units each time.

As we sat with him on the ward we were encouraged by others in a similar position as him to stay positive and hopeful. I dreaded the thought of going at first, but in the end I was so glad I did.

On the second anniversary of his passing, I was writing my Instagram anniversary post and thought, 'This is not enough. For the inspirational person he was, how could I let his legacy end like this?' And so I decided to start a blood drive campaign called 'I gave; have you?' aimed at the BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic) community, to break the silence on the topic and encourage more of us to give blood.

When I speak about the campaign some people assume I started it because he was unable to get the blood he needed. It brings me joy when I tell them that I run it because he *did* get blood, and I want to give so many others the gift of life and time that my family and I were blessed with.

I'm excited to share that I organised my first IGHY blood drive on



Saturday 29 June 2019 with the help of the ACLT (African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust) charity at the West End Blood Donor Centre, where I brought along 20 family members and friends.

I will never be able to thank those who made the time we had with him that bit sweeter, but I can and will say thank you by using this campaign to give back.

If people are interested to join in the next one, they can contact me at igavehaveyou@yahoo.com or follow me on Instagram: [@igavehaveyou1](https://www.instagram.com/igavehaveyou1).

YOLANDE BRAITHWAITE

World PATHFINDER DAY
21.09.19
 Venue: Bonus Arena, Myton St, Hull, HU1 2PS
 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
 Ikwisa Mwasumbi: 07787936400 • imwasumbi@necadventist.org.uk
 Dejan Stojkovic: 07919172176 • dejan@adventist.uk
 Admission: £2.50 (an offering will not be taken)
 Registrations + Ticket Purchase: adventistyouth.org.uk
 Hosted by the North England Conference Pathfinder Department

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Men in sheds

The young British singer, Joe Jackson, sang a song a long time ago: 'It's different for girls' – and, indeed, often things are very different between the two genders, in particular when it comes to socialising.

'Where is John?' the neighbour asked. It will be of no surprise that the answer could well be something like: 'In the garage' or 'In the shed', as that is where a lot of men, if not all, will prefer to spend their free time. But not all men have the benefit of a shed to tinker in, and not all men have the luxury of a friend that will pop over to see how they are doing. Some people may make jokes about men and their sheds. However, a shed to a man can be like a castle to a king. It can be a place where he can leave things where he wants; or a place to play (you may also read 'work') with his tools on his hobby, and make or repair things, whether there is a need for it or not.

Last year, before Debbie and I moved to a 'cottage with outbuildings', I heard of an interesting meeting in our old town of Olney to promote a project called: 'Men-in-sheds'. It had been alleged that the average retired Australian man was lonely, as he would have found it difficult to talk to other men 'face-to-face'. However, they could manage to talk 'shoulder-to-shoulder' while doing something. This (in general) male issue would often lead to loneliness for many an Aussie man, and all too often to suicide. Some people in Australia with an understanding of the human male started thinking, and this is when the idea of men in sheds was developed and a test group was started. It turned out to be a great success. The number of groups increased rapidly as it became clear how the participating men benefited from this social activity. Soon the success story of men in sheds spread around the world, even here in Great Britain, where it is making good progress too.

So, after this meeting had lit up my candle, on a British web page about men in sheds I read the following statement: 'But there is

also a more serious discussion we need to have with health and social care providers about the contribution that sheds can play in either preventing deterioration in the health of older men or supporting the rehabilitation of men who have suffered events such as strokes, heart attacks or mental health issues.' I realised, as I am getting older myself and always loved my sheds but also need to find a way to meet with the locals, that this could well be an opportunity for me to set up a man-shed in one of our outbuildings when we have moved to Wales: in the first instance for myself; and later, when I have found like-minded men in the area,



I can open it up for others to come and join in. So, it's time to sort out my tools and workbenches and gather together that old coffee machine, toastie maker, barbeque

and some comfy chairs for the Aberdaron man-shed! After all, it was Bob Hoskins who said: 'It is good to talk' – and he was right, wasn't he?

BUC Health Department launches Bereavement Care Ministry

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

'To comfort all that mourn'

Do you have the skills to offer comfort to people who are mourning? This includes knowing what to say to someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

How can our churches create a nurturing environment for those experiencing loss?

Why the need for a bereavement care ministry?

From the moment we are born, we are taught how to live. We are not automatically taught how to prepare for death. Yet, because death is part of life, it is easy to assume that, as Christians, our faith will always enable us to come to terms with this reality and subsequently allow us to emerge well from grief.

Death can bring about a number of complexities which can make the bereavement journey challenging, even for Christians. Supporting individuals facing these challenges is our business as a body of believers seeking to minister to the needs of its community. This includes 'coming alongside' those who grieve so that they do not feel they are left alone.

In recognition of the challenges individuals sometimes encounter as they live through the loss of a loved one, the BUC Health Ministries Department has realised the importance of implementing a bereavement care ministry.

What does the Bereavement Care Ministry provide?

The main aim of the Bereavement Care Ministry is to raise awareness of the grief process, to help people understand the holistic implications and impact of grieving, and to offer support during bereavement. The ministry comes with a packaged training, which includes workshops, seminars, interactive and reflective exercises, and a resource pack.

The BUC launch event involved a full day's training, which incorporated the following:

- Raising awareness of death and dying and its wider

impact on the family and friends of the deceased;

- Grief recovery;
- Encouraging the maintenance of wellbeing during bereavement;
- Recognising complications of grief;
- Referral to relevant agencies;
- Support networks;
- Grief recovery resources.

Bereavement Care Befrienders

As part of the BUC Bereavement Care Ministry launch, attendees were trained on how to become Bereavement Care Befrienders. They were provided with a role description which outlined the remit of the role, how to offer support during grief, and what makes a good Bereavement Care Befriender. This included answers to the questions asked at the beginning of this article, in addition to several other aspects of bereavement care.

BUC Bereavement Care Befriender Coordinators

Leading the training at the launch of the ministry were Seventh-day Adventist professionals – Malaina Joseph (art psychotherapist and counsellor) and Sharon Platt-McDonald – who are the Bereavement Care Befriender Coordinators. Both have previously undertaken training in grief recovery.

Malaina and Sharon will be responsible for taking the ministry forwards.

Should you wish to register your church for Bereavement Care Ministry training, please ring the BUC on 01923 672251 and ask to be put through to the Health Ministry Department.

Please pray for the development of this ministry as we reach out with the compassion of Christ to those experiencing the pain of loss.

Pam Whittle (1941-2018) d. 19 June.

Pam Whittle (née Girling) grew up in an Adventist family, her father and grandfather both being strong believers in the Lord.

She met her husband, Ray, in 1967 after being invited to tea by her boss. He also worked for the same company but in a different part of town. They were engaged a year later and married in Winslow in 1969, setting up home in a house provided by their boss.

In 1982 Pam and Ray moved to Devon, first to Newton Abbott, then Ipplepen and, finally, to Coniston House in Paignton. They attended the Torquay church, where Pam was the Conference treasurer for many years until her death. Pam was delighted when Ray was baptised by Pastor Ken Clothier in 2001.

Sadly, Pam became ill with cancer, but she remained positive and cheerful, despite the effects of chemotherapy. She fell asleep in the Lord one night and now awaits the return of our Saviour.

She is sadly missed by her husband Ray and sister Nita, and the members of the Torquay church.

RUTH MORRIS

Jeannie Agnew (1924-2018) d. 25 August.

Jeannie Agnew, née Gilbert, was born on 14 October 1924, the second of twelve children, in the Poguestown area of Larne, Northern Ireland. Jeannie met and married Andrew Agnew and went on to have five children – David, Rosemary, Shirley, Yvonne and John – as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Andrew sadly passed away on 23 December 1988.

Jeannie was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a young lady when she attended an evangelistic campaign with her mother and sister-in-law. Jeannie and her mother-in-law became founder members of the Larne church, a

church to which she remained committed her entire life, while her sister-in-law, Agnes Agnew, went to Newbold College to become a Bible worker.

Jeannie's faith was strong, and her love and commitment to Christ were an inspiration to many, including her nephew, Bobby Johnston, also a dedicated Larne member. He sadly passed away the week before Jeannie.

Upon hearing of Bobby's passing, Jeannie wrote from her hospital bed the beautiful but simple words of comfort for Bobby's wife, Margaret, and their children.

'In silence he suffered,
In patience he bore,
Till God called him home
To suffer no more.'

These were the last words Jeannie would write, a shining example of her love and faith in God.

Throughout her working life, Jeannie devoutly kept the Sabbath, often losing a job because of her commitment to honour her Lord. Living for Jesus, she accepted these trials as a cost of having a relationship with God. She finally found a job which accommodated her Sabbath beliefs, in the catering department of the GEC factory in Larne – one that saw her through to retirement.

A faithful servant, Jeannie strongly believed in the promise of Malachi 3:10 and always made sure that, no matter the hardship, her earnings were tithed before anything else. This was a custom she practised to the very end, ensuring that her final tithe was returned on her last Sabbath.

On Sabbath 25 August 2018 Jeannie fell peacefully asleep in her home, surrounded by her family.

The celebration of Jeannie's life, officiated by Pastor Mart de Groot, was held on Tuesday 28 August 2018 at the Larne church. Jeannie was laid to rest next to her husband at the Larne Greenland Cemetery.

Jeannie is sorely missed by her family and friends, who look

forward to that day when we shall all be reunited with Christ.

YVONNE DOHERTY

Pam Lewis (1941-2019) d. 1 March.

Riverway SDA Church recently said goodbye to one of the pillars of its congregation.

Pamela Lewis, 'Auntie Pam', was a tireless worker in the Lord's vineyard. As head deaconess she organised the running of the church with meticulous precision, so that she was the person everyone went to, whether they needed a safety pin or the name of a minister. This gave rise to the Riverway mantra: 'Ask Auntie Pam.'

As children's Sabbath School teacher she was a favourite with the children and youth, who could always expect a treat from the stash she kept in her cupboard for Sabbath.

However, this did not mean that the children, or anyone for that matter, could do as they liked in the church. A stickler for reverence and discipline in the sanctuary, she was anxious that everything should be done in order, and watching her brought to mind Psalm 69:9, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten me up' (NKJV).

Pam's kindness was legendary. Sabbath afternoons she often spent visiting the sick, the shut-ins, delivering food parcels, keeping in touch with those who were no longer attending church and living out the Lord's values of Isaiah 58:6-7.

She was always giving, but it was very difficult to give her anything. More often than not, whatever you gave her, she would find someone who needed it more and pass it on to them.

Everything Pam did was done without fanfare and so unobtrusively that the smooth running of the church was somewhat taken for granted. Her passing produced a new mantra in Riverway: 'Pam would know.'

Her family, Riverway Church, the neighbours, the hospice for which she helped to raise

money each year and, the many sick and lonely people she visited each week, will miss her dreadfully, and we look forward to the day when we will be reunited, never to part again.

VALERIE BLOOM

Corrigendum

Messenger 11, 7 June, page 13: In the article, 'Restored to Rise', a report on the Welsh Mission Women's retreat, Emily Tebbs-Ogutu (speaker) was incorrectly spelled as Emily Tedds-Otega. We apologise for this.

Messenger

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Sunset

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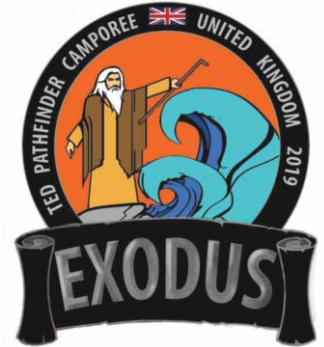
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Aug 2	8.48	9.00	8.57	9.19	9.23
9	8.35	8.47	8.44	9.04	9.09
16	8.22	8.34	8.30	8.48	8.54
23	8.07	8.20	8.15	8.31	8.38



What's new in the BUC Youth Ministries Department?

12th TED Pathfinder Camporee 30 July-6 August 2019

- www.camporee.net or <https://youth.adventistchurch.org.uk/ted-camporee-2019>
- It is the largest camporee ever to take place in the British Union!
- 20 countries in addition to the British Union are represented there.
- It is taking place at the South of England Showground in West Sussex.
- A team of volunteers has been planning the event for over two years.
- Pastor Dejan is thrilled that so many from the BUC are attending as well. Well done to those who promoted the event locally.
- We have attending: 56 from the Irish Mission, over 700 from the NEC, over 1,300 from the SEC, 80 from Scotland and 51 from Wales. In addition to the international visitors and the volunteer staff, there will be close to 4,000 people on site. It's going to be amazing!
- For those who didn't register on time (sorry, no day visitors), fear not, the meetings will be live-streamed via <https://ted.adventist.org/youth-ministries/pathfinders> or the TED Facebook page: Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists, TED.



Brand-new special-edition BUC Pathfinder scarf

- For those attending international camporees this summer (TED, CYE, Oshkosh etc.), this is a brand-new Union scarf, which has been specially designed.
- Each circle represents a region of the British Union – thistle for Scotland; flax flower for Northern Ireland; rose for England; shamrock for the Republic of Ireland; and daffodil for Wales. The map and the Pathfinder triangle complete the design.
- It can be worn in place of the Pathfinder scarf, but it is not obligatory.
- The scarves are available to purchase from pfclub.co.uk (£7 each or buy 5 for £30).
- Why not buy one for yourself, and one to swap?
- There is the option to save on postage by collecting from the BUC office or TED Camporee. Some may be collected at Oshkosh, but we are hoping that this option is saved for those purchasing internationally.
- A pin of the same design will be available very soon. Look out for the details!



Division-level finals of Adventurer Bible Experience (ABE)/Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE)

- From 2020, the Trans-European Division (TED), our home Division, has agreed that they will be hosting the Division-level testing here in this region.
- The good news is that travel costs will be greatly reduced, because the finals will be hosted much closer to home!
- The TED is a divisional branch of the General Conference and therefore the finals they host will be as valid as the North American Division finals.
- If you had planned not to take part next year because of prohibitive travel costs, please reconsider and encourage your Adventurer and Pathfinder Bible explorers to begin their studies!
- For PBE the study books are Ezra, Nehemiah, Jonah, Micah, Amos and Hosea. Please exclude the following chapters: Ezra 2; Ezra 8:1-14; Ezra 10:18-44; Nehemiah 7:7-63; Nehemiah 10:1-27; Nehemiah 11:3-12:26.
- For ABE the study books are Ezra and Nehemiah only. The same exclusions as above apply.
- You will be able to register your club teams via your local Mission and Conference office in the usual way. The BUC will host the Union finals in March, and the TED finals will take place the following month. The dates will be published very soon.



To keep up to date with all the latest Union Pathfinder and youth information, please like us on Facebook: BUC Adventist Youth UK Ireland, or sign up to the newsletter on pfclub.co.uk.