

Letter from a small island

Where the rubber meets the road: incarnational mission

One day, I was working in a charity shop when this snappily dressed man and his equally well-turned-out wife wandered in through the door. They moved up and down the aisle, looking at various items, until the man focused his attention on a thimble marked to be sold for the princely sum of £1. He picked it up to examine it, held it up to the light and eventually trundled towards me. 'Er . . . I am interested in buying this thimble, but I only

want to pay 50p! He has carefully modulated his tone to ensure I understand he is a reluctant buyer in need of a discount. I wanted to respond with, '50p! 50p! This is a charity shop, my friend! What are you thinking?' However, I managed to maintain a professional demeanour and told him it would cost a pound.

He sniffed, examined it once again and said, 'Well, not for me, not this time.' As he left with his wife, having doled out not a penny, he paused at the door and turned to me and said, 'God bless you!'

Continued on p. 4

Adrian Peck is the pastor of the Isle of Wight and Gosport District





Exercise and Alzheimer's disease

On 17 September 2019, *The Telegraph* published an article titled: 'Exercising for 30 minutes four times a week may delay brain deterioration in pre-Alzheimer's patients.' Science editor Sarah Knapton (author of the article) reports on recent research. She states: 'Researchers from the University of Texas found that people who had an accumulation of amyloid beta protein in the brain – an early sign that Alzheimer's disease is on the way – experienced slower degeneration in a region of the brain crucial for memory if they exercised regularly for one year.'

That's encouraging news, especially as the report goes on to highlight the positive conclusions scientists drew from the data. The researchers conclude from the findings that aerobic workouts could slow down the effects of Alzheimer's if exercise intervention occurs in the early stages.

In another study, this time from the Mayo Clinic, researchers examined two key challenges of Alzheimer's – that of memory loss and cognitive decline – and whether exercise had an impact. In their online post, the Mayo Clinic's Jonathan Graff-Radford, MD answers the question: can exercise prevent memory loss and improve cognitive function?²

Using study outcomes to answer the question, Dr Graff-Radford highlights the following potential benefits of exercising several times a week for 30 to 60 minutes:

- For people with mild Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive impairment, exercise may improve memory, reasoning, judgement and thinking skills (cognitive function).
- It may delay the onset of Alzheimer's for people at risk of developing the disease or slow the progress of the disease.

- For healthy individuals, exercise may keep thinking, reasoning and learning skills sharp.

So, how is this possible? Emphasising the positive impact of exercise on the brain, the article highlighted that physical activity:

- Encourages blood flow to our brain;
- Increases chemicals that protect the brain;
- Helps to counter some of the natural reduction in brain connections that occurs with ageing.

How much of a protective factor is exercise in relation to Alzheimer's? Help Guide³ provides an answer – 'According to the Alzheimer's Research & Prevention Foundation, regular physical exercise can reduce your risk of developing Alzheimer's disease by up to 50 percent.'

Reporting on recent research, Medscape⁴ builds on previous study outcomes. Their conclusion, drawn from a single-blind, proof-of-concept study, found that 'patients who were previously sedentary and who participated in an aerobic exercise programme experienced improvements in memory and executive function.'

The take-home message is: keep moving!

For more information on reducing the risk of Alzheimer's disease, visit: <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/alzheimers-dementia-aging/preventing-alzheimers-disease.htm>.

Good health!

¹https://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2019/09/17/exercising-30-minutes-four-times-week-may-delay-brain-deterioration/?WT.mc_id=tmg_share_em ²<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alzheimers-disease/expert-answers/alzheimers-disease/faq-20057881> ³<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/alzheimers-dementia-aging/preventing-alzheimers-disease.htm> ⁴<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/918699>



'I have a dream of a church which is a serving church ...

... which has seen Christ as the Servant and has heard His call to be a servant too, which is delivered from self-interest, turned inside out, and giving itself selflessly to the service of others, whose members obey Christ's command to live in the world, to permeate secular society, to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, whose people share the good news of Jesus simply, naturally and enthusiastically with their friends, which diligently serves its own parish, residents and workers, families and single people, nationals and immigrants, old folk and little children, which is alert to the changing needs of society, sensitive and flexible enough to keep adapting its programme to serve more usefully, which has a global vision and is constantly challenging its young people to give their lives in service, and constantly sending its people out to serve. I have a dream of a *servant church*.¹

As we enter the autumn season of 2019 expecting a general election, the political parties are sharing their respective manifestos. 'If elected we promise ... this is who we are ... you can trust us!'

Matthew's gospel records Jesus taking His disciples up a mountain to teach what is often described as the 'Sermon on the Mount' (Matthew 5-7). In reality what Matthew shares was not the product of one sermon, but a combination of many, the 'greater righteousness than' manifesto of the promised Messianic King. 'You have heard that it was said to those of old ... but I say to you' (5:21, 22)² is the refrain. These are the values not only of who I am, but of my heavenly Father and what He is like.

In verse 13 of chapter 5 Jesus describes those who are listening as 'the salt of the earth'. To the mind of the listener salt was a well-known commodity noted for its purity, its ability to preserve, and not least its ability to flavour. But with this description Jesus gave a warning: '... but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?' For Jesus' listeners the salt metaphor was a clear message – engage, get involved with society, and live out the principles of the Kingdom of God. About today's Christians, Michael Green says it so well:

'If they are insipid they are useless to their Lord. There should be a flavour of Christlikeness, a sparkle of joy and unselfishness about them that is immensely attractive.'³

'You are the light of the world' (5:14). When I was a child we were taught a simple song about shining for Jesus.

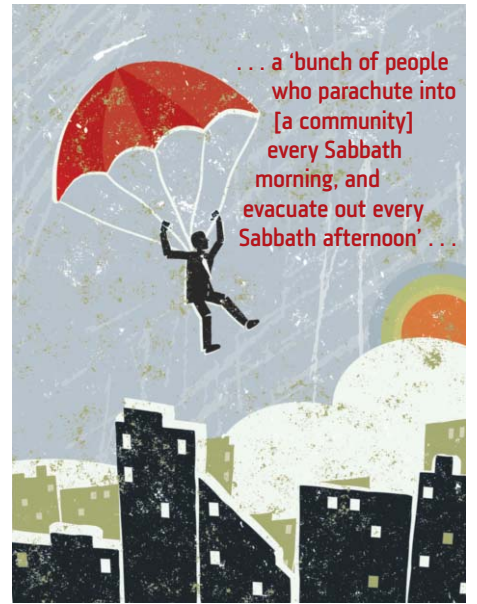
*'Jesus bids us shine with a pure clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world is darkness, so let us shine –
You in your small corner, and I in mine.'*

The same theme rings true in Graham Kendrick's signature song, 'Shine, Jesus, Shine'. The last line of each verse intensifies with the request, 'shine on me, shine on me ...' so that 'our faces display Your likeness ...' and, 'mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story'.

When we received the good news about Christ, something wonderful happened. We started living under new management. We have the best Leader, Counsellor and Friend we could ever wish for (and not forgetting Saviour). Just like our neighbours, Christ-followers of whatever age experience the challenge of tough everyday issues and the more troubling problems that life throws at us unexpectedly. In such times, do we not find that the serious 'grey dress' is lit up by His presence and comfort, turning even these moments into gold? Moments that are noticed by others as we reflect Christ living in us, 'simply, naturally and enthusiastically', as Stott describes.

Read any edition of *MESSENGER* and we read story after story of members serving their community. In this edition, on page 14, for example, a Leeds member is pictured taking MP Hilary Benn's blood pressure. (May the mention of his name not raise yours!) Our cover story reports on Pastor Adrian Peck's Spirit-inspired promptings to put theory into practice. It comes with a plea for us not to be a 'bunch of people who parachute into [a community] every Sabbath morning, and evacuate out every Sabbath afternoon, while not knowing a single person who lives there.'

'Amen' to that, I hear you say. And I think I know of an initiative that can help. On many an



occasion *MESSENGER* has reported on the Dublin Cuisle Centre, now up and running for four years as a Centre of Influence. I wish every *MESSENGER* reader could visit Dublin and see what's happening there for themselves. With 'Knit and Natter, Stitch and Chatter' sessions, health checks and seminars, counselling sessions, emotional health support, prayer meetings and more – it pictures for me what a serving church looks like. There was a time when the doors of the church were open just on Sabbath, and perhaps an hour midweek for prayer meeting. Every day 15,000+ people pass within 10 metres of the door of the church on foot, in a car, or on a tram. Sure enough, the church in Dublin was a worshipping church. But now – praise God – the dream of a serving church is coming true. See for yourself at: <http://cuislecentre.ie/>.

I pray that the dream, however shaped, comes true not just in Dublin, but in every community across the BUC territory. On page 15, don't miss how this dream was realised in the life of Christianne Best.

If you would like to find out more about one way your church could live the dream of becoming a serving church, take a look at the Adventist Mission website, which explains the idea. In addition, talk with your pastor and your Conference Personal Ministries director; or visit the website, <https://am.adventistmission.org/360-centers>.

¹John Stott – excerpted from *The Living Church* by John Stott, © 2007 John R. W. Stott (publisher: InterVarsity Press, Norton Street, Nottingham NG7 3HR)

²Scripture quotations in this editorial have been taken from the Anglicised English Standard Version of the Holy Bible (ESV-UK)

³Michael Green, *The Message of Matthew* (InterVarsity Press, 2000), page 91

British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Tithe Report - July 2019

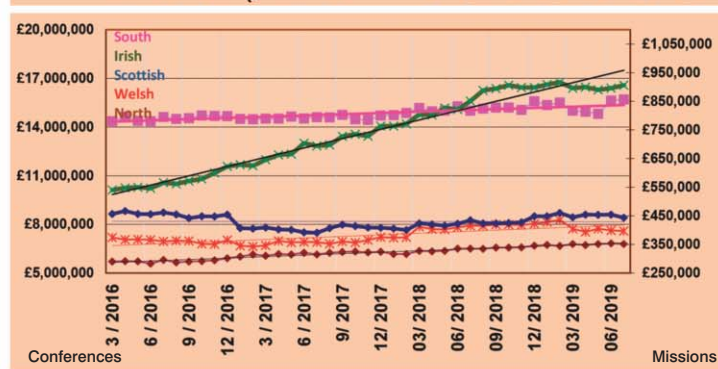
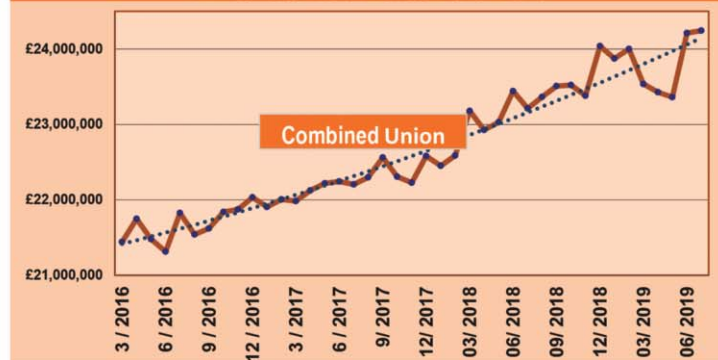
This Month	2019	2018	Inc / -Dec	Variance %
South	£1,213,999	£1,138,346	£75,653	6.6
North	£533,505	£572,440	£-38,936	-6.8
Welsh	£30,888	£33,532	£-2,644	-7.9
Scottish	£35,103	£45,958	£-10,855	-23.6
Irish	£81,173	£70,549	£10,624	15.1
Total	£1,894,668	£1,860,826	£33,842	1.8%

Cumulative to Date	2019	2018	Inc / -Dec	Variance %
South	£8,950,525	£8,824,082	£126,442	1.4%
North	£3,814,954	£3,715,587	£99,367	2.7%
Welsh	£220,870	£246,772	£-25,902	-10.5%
Scottish	£241,585	£246,283	£-4,698	-1.9%
Irish	£512,521	£504,142	£8,379	1.7%
Total	£13,740,455	£13,536,867	£203,588	1.5%

Budgets	Annual	To Date	Variance	%
South	£15,922,044	£9,287,859	£-337,334	-3.6%
North	£6,707,861	£3,912,919	£-97,965	-2.5%
Welsh	£406,000	£236,833	£-15,963	-6.7%
Scottish	£418,000	£243,833	£-2,248	-0.9%
Irish	£922,150	£537,921	£-25,400	-4.7%
Total	£24,376,055	£14,219,365	£-478,911	-3.4%
BUC	£2,182,500	£1,273,125	£100,920.46	7.9%

The summer has passed, and financial processes are up to date again across the Fields. The Conferences are showing positive returns, with the Missions showing the effect of exceptional returns last year, not being sustained into 2019. Following the September South England Conference Session, we thank Fred Shone for his faithful service over the last three years. We welcome Candy Layson into her new role. For the overall 1.5% tithe return increase, I want to thank the Lord and you for your faithfulness.
Earl Ramharacksingh, Treasurer

British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annualised Tithe Trends 2016 - 2019



**'Pride must die in you,
or nothing of heaven can live in you.'**

Andrew Murray

Continued from p. 1

When God sent His Son to be with us – when Jesus closed the gap between humanity and divinity by living among us as a first-century Jewish man for 30-odd years – He was a profound demonstration of incarnational mission. He showed us that we need to lay aside our priorities and our way of being in favour with those to whom we are reaching out. Famously, Jesus spent thirty years preparing for ministry. In doing so He identified with and took time to be part of the community in which His ministry was to take place. Passing Jesus by somewhere in downtown Nazareth, He would have looked like any other person from up north; He would have spoken the same language, worn the same clothes, eaten the same food, sung the same songs, walked the same dusty paths – He was one of them. It always astonishes me that this was – this is – God. Christ's method was to mix and mingle, but it is easy to miss the lengths to which He was prepared to go to do just that.

What has this got to do with working in a charity shop? There is a building currently being refurbished that will soon be home to the Isle of Wight group. In preparation, I have pretty much walked every street in the surrounding area, praying. I have prayed for the people who live there. But I have also been having a discussion with God, telling Him that it is all very well knowing the theory, but how on earth are we going to be able to reach out to this particular community? We are fully aware that we need to seek out the people of peace and the persons of influence: but how are we going to be able to be seen as part of this community, identify with this community and not just be a bunch of people who parachute in every Sabbath morning, and evacuate out every Sabbath afternoon, while essentially not really knowing a single person who lives there?

The island has the reputation of being a beautiful holiday destination, but as you peek beneath the surface you discover that there are many in need. Young adults have little to do, low aspirations and few prospects. There are high rates of suicide and alcoholism, and chronic loneliness. But here's the thing: there is an incredible sense of community, one I have not experienced anywhere else. There are clubs and societies for everything. There are fetes, festivals and innumerable other community events.

It is tempting for churches to think we have to swoop in and be society's saviour, to take on a superior air as if we have all the answers. In the island context, 'we' are not the experts in community; 'they' are. Our job? Well, that is to join in and be a part of the community. We need to be with them, to be a part of them . . . in other words, be incarnational.

That community stuff I mentioned – well, part of that is seen in the tremendous spirit of volunteerism on the island. I quickly realised that to be a part of this community I also needed to become a volunteer, so I attempted to sign up to help at the local foodbank. I was told they would put me on the waiting list. Six

months later, I am still on that waiting list!

In about March this year I found myself a few doors down from where the new church building is going to be, selling other people's castoffs. There are times when I wonder to myself, *What on earth am I doing here?* The shop has no heating and the door is always open, and in March and April it got so cold, and I am now so old, that I had to wear thermals. I await the real winter months with some trepidation. Sometimes I have been in the shop for hours, barely seen anyone and taken £2. At other times, I have to deal with people trying to knock an item marked for £1 down to 50p – in a charity shop!

But often, one of the highlights is when a 5-year-old boy, accompanied by his mum, runs into the shop to show me his toy of choice for that day. There are two women I see occasionally who love to moan about the demise of the area and who've promised to come in and have a hot beverage when we open up the new building. A few weeks back, I got passed on an official vote of thanks from the Rotary Club for the work I had done for them in the shop. Honestly, I was a little embarrassed, as I felt I had barely earned their gratitude; but I was touched.

Just last week, the person who has the morning shift in the shop was handing over to me when he said that he'd heard I was thinking of joining the Rotary. He spent the next 15 minutes gently persuading me to sign up. All the while, there was an internal dialogue happening. Do I have time, can I put the right amount of effort in, am I over-committing? Are they just asking me because the Rotary Club, an organisation that exists to raise money for good causes, are desperate to recruit people and will take anybody?

Then I thought about it and realised this. For them to ask a minister of a religion, a pastor in a denomination of which they had barely heard – for them to ask a person that frankly they still don't know what to make of: the non-alcoholic, non-smoking, non-swearing, non-tea-drinking, moving-towards-veganism me – for them to invite me to be part of them is, I think, quite something.

To tell any of these stories feels a bit premature. They are certainly not the



Top of our agenda must simply be that we love people . . .



spectacular tales normally heard. But I guess they can convey some simple and humble attempts to incarnate into the community: attempts that involve not just wearing the same clothes and talking the same language, but, in our context on the island, caring about the same things and being a part of what members of the community are doing to positively affect their neighbourhood.

Our motivations need to be clear. Of course we would like to see the whole community come to faith. However, if we enter into the community with that sole aim, it will be spotted a mile off and we will come across as duplicitous. Top of our agenda must simply be that we love people, we love our community and so we love our neighbours; which, I am sure someone said, is important.

The other day I went cycling with a local cycling club on the island and I was riding along with the person leading the ride as he told me about the group. He said to me, 'For some reason we seem to attract the weirdos and oddballs.' I said, 'Weirdos and oddballs! Well, I guess I'm gonna fit right in.'



Dr Ranko Stefanovic

Revelation: A balanced approach

The following article is the first of a series sharing Professor Ranko Stefanovic's presentation on the book of Revelation at the recent Stanborough Press Open Day. We have kept some of the unique characteristics of his oral presentation intact. We hope you will be as blessed by it as we have been.

Good morning, brothers and sisters. I feel very honoured and privileged to be with you for the Stanborough Press Open Day. Today you have to be blind not to see what is going on in this world. So I just want to share with you a few insights from the book of Revelation. And I want to express my gratitude to all the people who have been involved in organising this special meeting, because I am a book lover. And that is the reason why I feel it a very special privilege to be part of this event where books are involved. One day, when we get to the Kingdom of God, we'll see how God has used the written word to gather millions and millions of people into His Kingdom.

The best commentary on the book of Revelation is what I'm just holding in my hands (a Bible). The main content of Revelation consists of events to happen throughout history and the time of the end. This is what we tried to explain in the Sabbath School quarterly. **First of all, it is very clearly indicated in the opening verse of this book: that the book of Revelation is given and intended to tell us about what the future will bring and what the future will look like. But the main problem with regard to those things is that the book of Revelation never tells us exactly when those events will take place.**

But the second thing that the book of Revelation never tells us about is how exactly the final events will take place. That's why the final events will come as a surprise to all of us, but particularly to those who 'know' everything about how the events will take place! And I'm afraid that many of us will wait for the final events to take place as the Jews were waiting for the Messiah, and the Messiah was among them. So we have to be careful with regard to that. And, brothers and sisters, we have many, many questions about all of these things, and I want to tell you something. I probably have many more questions than you. And we will have to live with some of those questions until the very time that Jesus comes, when, finally, we will understand.

Then why do we need this book? We don't know exactly when or how the final events will take place. We don't know, regardless of those dreams that people have. Our prophet, whom God has given for His people today, she is also telling us: 'We don't understand. We don't know. And we will never know until the time when it happens.' Then why do we have to study this

book? You see, the book of Revelation is not intended to be a Christian horoscope – that when you open that book you finally know everything. As I tell you, we know just a little bit. Then why do we have to study this book?

No book of the Bible – including the book of Revelation – is given to us to satisfy our curiosity about the future and the main things we want to know about what will happen in this world. It is not given – including Daniel 2 – to accomplish that as its primary purpose. Then why do we have this book?

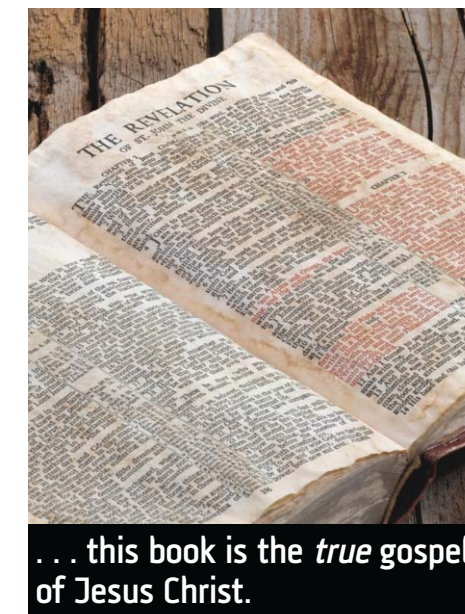
If you have your Bibles, I'd like to invite you to read Revelation 1:1. We have to understand that this book is about Jesus. Hallelujah! It's not about certain persons from a certain city there in Italy in the south. It's the Lord I'm talking about: this is someone who is primary, and this is exactly what we read in the opening statement of this book. How does the book of Revelation begin? *The revelation of Jesus Christ*. Or, if you want to read it from the perspective of the author of the book of Revelation, the *real* author was Jesus Christ.

There was a person who saw all those things in vision, and he put them down in writing. Actually, he began his book with these words: 'The book that I'm writing is intended to be the revelation of Jesus Christ.' Of course, in the Greek language the word for *revelation* is the word *apokalypsis*, from which the word *apocalypse* comes. So, if you read it as it really is, this is *the apocalypse of Jesus Christ*.

The book of Revelation, according to what we read here, has a special focus. It is out of this opening statement that we get the title of the last book of the Bible: the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

What is the function of the title of any book that we read? If I want to learn about the history of the UK, for instance, and I go to the book store because I want to buy a book to learn about that, what is the title that I'm looking for? Of course, *Introduction to Biology!* If I find a book with that title, what shall I find in that book? I shall find precisely that subject matter to which the title pertains.

You know the point I am making. **The Bible is telling us what we are supposed to find in this book. If the title of the last book of the Bible is 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ', what are we supposed to find in this book? That the focus of this book is to tell us something about Jesus Christ that cannot be found in any other book of the Bible.** If



. . . this book is the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

something was covered, and we removed the cover, that's exactly what the word *apocalypse* means – it means 'to uncover, to unveil'. There was some kind of mystery that covered some aspects of Jesus and His ministry, and the purpose of this book is actually to remove the cover, to uncover, to tell us something about Jesus Christ that we do not find anywhere else – and what is that?

Please allow me to make a statement – what I have discovered for myself – that this book is the *true* gospel of Jesus Christ. Usually, when I make this statement, everybody gets surprised. Why? Because when we use the word 'gospel', what comes to our minds? Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – but not Revelation. Not the book of Revelation.

I want to assure you, however, that the book of Revelation deals with the same topic as the four gospels. It deals with the same Jesus Christ: however, it does so from a different perspective of His existence and ministry.

Let me just remind you that the four gospels are telling us about God, who left His divine position in heaven. He became as one of us and He came down to this earth. He lived as a human being for about 30 years. Then He began His ministry for about three and a half years. Then He died. Then He was resurrected. Finally, He ascended into heaven. What is He doing there in heaven? Oh, I know that, as Seventh-day Adventists, each one of you can come here and actually you can tell this story. Praise God for that!

But my point is: so there He is doing His intercessory ministry in heavenly places. As Hebrews 4:16 says, it is because of that that we can always, always, boldly, boldly, with full freedom, come to the throne of grace and receive help in the time of our need – because of our heavenly High Priest.

To be continued.

Dr Ranko Stefanovic is Professor of New Testament at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Lift Him up!

The month of October has been designated by Christians worldwide as Clergy Appreciation Month. The General Conference has set the second Saturday of the month (12 October) this year for this well-deserved tribute to our pastors. Information about this day may catch some of us unprepared: not a problem, as there are a couple of weeks still to follow in October. As our tribute we share Pastor Emmanuel Osei's sermon at the South England Conference Session ordination service.

Hebrews 6:9-12, NKJV: *'But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.'*

The pastor of a church is in a precarious position; he can't please everyone! It has been said:

- If he is young, he lacks experience; if his hair is grey, he's too old for the young people.
- If he has several children, he has too many; if he has no children, he's setting a bad example.
- If he preaches from his notes, he has canned sermons and is too dry; if he doesn't use notes, he has not studied and is not deep.
- If he suggests changes for the improvement of the church, he is a dictator; if he makes no suggestions, he is a figurehead.
- If he uses too many illustrations, he neglects the Bible; if he doesn't use enough illustrations, he isn't clear.
- If he condemns wrong, he is cranky; if he doesn't preach against sin, he's a compromiser.
- If he preaches the truth, he's offensive; if he doesn't preach the truth, he's a hypocrite.
- If he fails to please somebody, he's hurting the church and ought to leave; if he tries to please everyone, he is a fool.
- If he preaches about money, he's a money grabber; if he doesn't preach spiritual giving, he is failing to develop the people.
- If he drives an old car, he shames his congregation; if he drives a new car, he is setting his affection on earthly things.
- If he preaches all the time, the people get tired of hearing one man; if he invites guest speakers, he is shirking his responsibility.
- If he receives a large salary, he's mercenary; if he receives only a small salary, well – it proves he isn't worth much anyway.

Many years ago, I sat in class at Newbold College together with my fellow students. Our lecturer was the late Dr Borge Schantz. Schantz was a missiologist who spent several years working among the Luo and Kisii tribes in Kenya; he also worked in West Africa, particularly in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Gambia. I recall him telling us that the day would soon come when God would bring missionaries from those parts of the world to come and serve in England. Today, as I look at the composition of our ministerial worker force, Dr Schantz's words have come to pass.

Britain has become a mission field. God has called you to minister at such a time as this in this mission field.

God has called each one of you to the Gospel ministry. I know each of you personally. I know you are gifted in many ways. Please remember this: God did not call you to the Gospel ministry because of your gift as a good preacher. God did not call you to the Gospel ministry because of your gift as a teacher of His word. God did not call you to the Gospel ministry because of your gift as an administrator. Indeed, God did not call you to the Gospel ministry because of your gift as a good pastor. But God has called you to the Gospel ministry in order to save you! This is God's ultimate goal: that all of us be saved in His kingdom.

I am inspired by the life of perhaps one of the greatest missionaries. Those raised in an

English village with William Carey (1761-1834) probably thought he wouldn't accomplish much, but today he's known as the father of modern missions. Born to parents who were weavers, he became a not-too-successful teacher and cobbler while teaching himself Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. After many years he realised his dream of becoming a missionary to India: but he faced hardship, including his child's death, his wife's mental health problems, and for many years the lack of response from those he served.

What kept him serving amid difficulties as he translated the entire Bible into six languages and parts of it into twenty-nine others? 'I can plod,' he said. 'I can persevere in any definite pursuit.' He committed to serving God

Dr Emmanuel Osei



no matter what trials he encountered.

This is the first lesson we can learn – ministry is hard work.

If you are going to be successful in ministry, you have to be ready and willing to work hard. There will be times when you will work in a particular district and there will be little or no response. This can be discouraging, and you might even experience burnout. It is at times like this that many decide to resign from ministry. But Hebrews 6:10 (NIV) says, 'God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.' God has a way of coming through for us. . . . As a minister in the South England Conference, we expect you to train and equip your members for service. This might be discouraging after you have spent hours prayerfully preparing your material and only a few members turn up and benefit from your ministry. Work with the few anyhow! After you have planned and come out, expecting to see your members show up and join you as you go into the community to do ministry, and only a few members turn up – please don't sink into depression. Work with them anyhow! Remember, 'God . . . will not forget your work.'

The second lesson to learn is this: Hebrews 6:12 (NIV) says, 'We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.' Sadly, today, there are some lazy ministers. There are those who consistently come late or do not even show up to meetings. There are those ministers who shirk their responsibilities and make all kinds of silly excuses instead of doing the work of ministry. The administration and the church members don't know the time you go to bed at night. They don't know the time you get up in the morning. They don't know what you spend your time doing during the day. As ordained ministers, you are in charge of your time and nobody stands over your shoulders watching you every move. The temptation to become lazy will always be there, but the text admonishes us not to become lazy, but to show the same diligence to



Helen Pearson

Showing up for intergenerational communication

'How do human beings make space for God in their lives?' was the key question at the heart of the September Diversity Lecture – the first of the 2019 Autumn Semester – at Newbold College of Higher Education on 10 September.

The speaker asking that question was the youngest ever Diversity Lecturer – Scottish anthropologist, Jenni Logan. 'Anthropologists,' she said, 'sit on the boundary – engaged enough to be able to *know* and far away enough to *observe*.' Jenni's professional interest has been in the life journeys of religious people and how they 'make faith'.

The study she described in this lecture focused on a group of older Seventh-day Adventists who had been employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in a variety of different capacities: pastors and their spouses, teachers, aid workers, administrators, secretaries. In a series of intensive interviews she had explored their views on faith, on life in the church, and, inevitably, on changes in faith from the perspective of old age.

She compared retirees to teenagers coming to terms with themselves. Old age is a time 'for reformulating yourself, for self-evaluation', she said. She observed how her interviewees were changing as they aged, and how they negotiated new physical and mental experiences. She described the process of 'self-actualisation' – how they were putting together the pieces of their lives past, present and future to make meaning.

Their challenge is intensified if there is loss of memory. In that case, community – in this case, the church – becomes more important than ever. 'As you lose yourself, you rely on the community to give you back a sense of who you think you are and who you were,' she said.

One of the most significant adjustments is the business of coming to terms with your own death. For many retired Seventh-day Adventists who had believed all their lives in the imminent return of Jesus, growing old was 'not meant to happen.' 'Making sense of the environment in which you find yourself now is a challenge,' she said.

the very end. Remember, it is the Lord Himself that has called you to ministry. Yes, you work for the South England Conference, but ultimately you are answerable to Him. So love the members; go and visit them when they are in hospital. Pray with them in their homes. Weep with them when they are bereaved. You are not a hireling, but you are a faithful shepherd. Here within the South England Conference, we desire excellence in pastoral ministry. During William Carey's later years, he reflected on how God consistently supplied his needs. 'He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him.' May God also empower us to serve Him day by day.

The final lesson I want to share with you is this: you are not ordinary pastor; you are a Seventh-day Adventist pastor.

You have not been called to preach fanciful theories or philosophies of

men. You have been called to preach a message of hope in a hopeless world. You are called to preach health and healing in a world that is sick and helpless. You are called to preach a message of love in a world of hate and wickedness. So when you stand in the pulpit, Sabbath after Sabbath, and preach, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgement has come' – let your congregation know that they should not be afraid of the judgement if they know the Judge. Lift up the name of Jesus! When you stand up and preach, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen' – let your congregation know that God still has His people in these apostate churches. For the text says: 'Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins.' Lift up the name of Jesus! When you stand up and preach about the mark of the beast, let your congregation know that the Lord wishes to place His seal in

So how did her interviewees think of God as they aged? Some saw God as a business manager or director; some as a God of justice; others as a teacher, a friend or a creative person. People reveal a lot about their picture of God in their accounts of 'the ways they engage with God and with each other', she said. Jenni described this as a random rather than a systematic process, which must make space for humanity. 'People make sense of God with as much mess as there is in other parts of life.'

At every Diversity Lecture someone says, 'The Q&A was the best part.' This one was no exception. People asked questions about methodology and confidentiality in a small community. Jenni said that people had had the chance to 'curate what they didn't want shared'.

There was a substantial discussion of pastoral identity and the difficulties of pastors being human with anyone except other pastors. Jenni had found that some ageing pastors have difficulty in coming to terms with who they are when they are no longer employed professionals.

When asked about her own response to her interviewees, she stressed the need for 'the freedom to be human' in the church. She emphasised the importance of the work of establishing a trusting relationship, especially for inter-generational listening, and particularly when there are different views. 'People that I disagree with are worth turning up for and listening to,' she said. When asked about how her research had affected her own perspectives on working for the church, Jenni was clear: 'This is a community I want to show up for!'

The full lecture, but not the Q&A, can be watched at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXGpQbZy_MU.

the foreheads of His people. Lift up the name of Jesus! Let your messages be Christ-centred; for Jesus said: 'If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto Myself.' So lift Him up!

As the plane approached Miami airport, the light bulb on the dashboard which indicated that the landing gear had been deployed failed to light up.

They flew in circles over the swamps of the Everglades while the cockpit crew checked to see if the light bulb was defective, or if the landing gear truly had not deployed.

When the flight engineer tried to remove the signal light bulb assembly, it wouldn't budge, so the other members of the crew joined in and tried to help him. As they struggled with the light bulb assembly, none of them noticed that the aircraft was losing altitude.

As a result the plane flew right



Photo: Asun Oliveira

into the swamp, killing 101 people on board.

All was lost because the crew fiddled with a cheap light bulb and took their eyes off what mattered most.

My colleagues: in pastoral ministry, you'll be tempted to choose what seems urgent over what seems important.

As you try to keep your eye on the ball, this dilemma will constantly threaten your focus: 'How do I choose what is best over what is merely good? Or the long-term perspective over the short-term one?'

You must not lose focus; your task is too important.

The writer of Hebrews tells us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, because He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Lift Him up.

Information about Pastor Appreciation Sabbath can be found at: <https://eldersdigest.org/pastorsday>



Adventist youth and new opportunities for faith affirmation

The Irish Mission 'Outpost Youth Project' – an initiative by and for youth

Dublin, like most major cities in Western Europe, is a multicultural, multiethnic, and increasingly secular place. Most Adventists are first-generation immigrants and worship in culturally diverse congregations. This is mainly due to circumstance, as options for same-culture worship are limited. Furthermore, worship and outreach are still very much indebted to the traditional heritage of the members' countries of origin. Even though this situation is considered adequate by the majority of adult church attendees, it seemingly threatens to destabilise young people in the church, leaving many second-generation millennial and Generation Z young adults relatively disinterested in church life, with some of them on the brink of leaving the church altogether. When asked, many youth are of the opinion that church is somewhat 'out of touch with reality', and this makes it challenging for them to identify with, belong to, and have ownership of it.

How have immigration and plurality impacted religious expression among young people in Ireland? A recent study assessed the challenges and possibilities for spiritual and religious development among youth in Ireland and found the following: even though the majority of young people identify themselves as Christian, this is in name only, as one in three young people are going through a crisis of faith; the generation feels that there is an increasing conflict between progressive values and Christian morality – even so, seventy-one percent of young practising Christians in Ireland want to find a way to follow Jesus that connects to the world they live in, and this is to be achieved through a more personal and active faith life.¹ In other words, plurality and cultural interchange have resulted in more

openness and opportunities for faith among young people in Ireland.

The 'Outpost Youth Project' in Ireland

Millennials and Generation Z are not anti-religion; they are open to explore the possibilities presented by the faith paradigm. But for this encounter to be deemed beneficial by the youth, religion in general, and Adventist Christianity in particular, needs to adapt, reset, and rethink the rules of engagement. A new environment needs to be created where the church becomes countercultural, unusual, and even 'weird'² in its mission. Moreover, while remaining true to its message, it needs to find creative ways to enable the youth in taking ownership of the process to change the world here and now, while preparing for the one to come.

To this effect, the administration of the Irish Mission facilitated the launching of a new youth programme which aims to be different and effective in reaching the youth. The Outpost (the name may still change) was first launched on 20 October 2018; after persistent strategising and prayerful planning, it relaunched on Sabbath, 14 September this year under the leadership of three young people. Here they are, and this is their vision:



'I'm Aaron O'Brien and I am 20 years old. I was born and raised in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I just finished my

A-levels and I am taking a gap year before my studies next year, so I decided to work for the Irish Mission as the Youth Outpost leader in this gap year and I am very excited about this fantastic

opportunity. I love playing the guitar and participating in outdoor activities. I recently spent my summer working as the worship director for Camp Lawroweld, which is located in the town of Weld, Maine, in the United States of America. I was also an instructor for rock wall climbing, archery, BMX, mountain biking and navigated motorboats for the water sports. It was the best summer of my life! I grew closer to God and made new friends. I thank Him every day for all He has done for me!

As the Youth Outpost leader, my vision is to create an environment in the Irish Mission that would help bring young people to Jesus: an environment of Christian love and acceptance, a haven of shared understanding, a platform of support where young voices can be heard and where we all can grow and flourish in our relationship with Him. Not a particular place, but rather a particular space, a time set aside when we gather together to strengthen those friendships within the youth of the church, and to form new ones; but, foremost in all of this, to share the Word of God to all around us – to be an Outpost for the Kingdom as we await His return.'



'My name is Marc Neal and I am a student studying Music and Worship in Coventry, England; I am 21 years old. I spend most of

my time playing drums, listening to music, or going out with friends. In the future, I am hoping to become a music teacher, mainly teaching drums or piano back in Ireland.

I am honoured to have the role as the worship leader for the Outpost and I am excited to see the journey it is about to embark on. My vision as worship leader is

to see the youth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church have a strengthened relationship with God and to create a space where they can worship freely and fully.



'Hi, my name is André Vieira; I grew up in Brazil and now I live in Northern Ireland with my wife and our two beautiful

children, Grace and Reuben. While in Brazil I studied web design, and I have worked in that area for more than 12 years now. I came to live in Dublin in 2012 to learn English and have had many challenges and blessings along the way. I have had various jobs while living here, from handing out newspapers to working in Subway, and now, in my current job, design once again. However, I have always had a strong desire to work for God, to tell others of His Word and great love for each one of us. I'm also the youth leader in my church, Banbridge, and part of the youth team for the Irish Mission.

It is a joy and blessing to be part of the Outpost team as a counsellor and mentor to the youth. God has a wonderful purpose for each one of us, and over the next year I pray He uses me to guide and show our young people His amazing love. I want to create a place where they can come and feel surrounded by God's grace and experience His unconditional love, no matter who they are or where they're from. May God bless our team as we go forwards and do His great work.'

To sum it up, the 'Outpost Youth Project' was started to address the spiritual needs of the youth within the church by creating a space of expression where young people can run and take ownership of church worship, Sabbath events, and outreach programmes. Also,



the project seeks to answer the spiritual needs of youth outside the church community by

providing both mentorship and peer modelling of a spirituality which is relevant and alive; it also endeavours to operate as an open forum for expressing doubt and asking faith-related questions without fear of judgement and retribution.

Another objective of this project is to positively impact the youth community in Dublin and beyond, by actively partnering in and/or organising initiatives which tackle the societal and felt needs of Irish youth; moreover, to provide an alternative to the social city-scene through forging meaningful and lasting friendships, and through designing programmes

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not well known in Ireland, but this situation could present more opportunities than handicaps; it is often easier to work and witness within an environment of ignorance than in one where there is prejudice. Even though it seems that Irish society is becoming increasingly secular, I side with those proposing that it isn't the absolutism of secularism that we witness here, but rather the prevalence of plurality; and plurality makes room for every voice to have its say. This is why the Outpost could find an audience to promote and exemplify authentic compassion and the dignity of belief in God in a manner relevant and meaningful to today's youth.


which offer guidance and advice on issues young people are concerned with, such as sexuality, relationships, career choice and development, dealing with depression, money matters, and so on.

¹Barna Report, 2017, *Finding Faith in Ireland: The Shifting Spiritual Landscape of Teens & Young Adults in the Republic of Ireland*
²The 'weirdness' I refer to is the countercultural, peculiar, unique, transformative brand of Christianity as found in first-century Christianity.

IN CONCERT

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Seventh-day Adventist Church

1 Albert Street Mansfield Woodhouse

NG19 8BQ

Wednesday 16th October 2019 7:00 p.m.

Admission free. Offering to be taken.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Fletewood School centenary celebrations – 1919-2019

Fletewood School, an Adventist primary school in Devon, celebrated their 100-year anniversary together with Plymouth church members as they opened their doors from Friday to Sunday (13-15 September).

From a simple beginning in a rented room the school has flourished through the decades and withstood the tests of time, closing only shortly for World War II. Mrs Joyce Hill (former teacher) stated in a document entitled 'A History of the Church School in Plymouth, Devon': 'One factor has remained constant – that factor has been the desire of the Plymouth church to give its youth a Christian education.'

In July 1919, with no school building or teachers, the parents stepped out in faith and informed the state schools that their children would not be returning in September. On Monday 15 September 1919, Miss Middleton began to teach 18 Adventist pupils in a rented conference hall with makeshift desks, no books and no blackboards. However, by the end of term the school had moved to 19 Greenbank Avenue and was much better equipped.

In 1929 the Plymouth church and school moved to Fletewood House, where it is today. The building survived World War II undamaged, and in 1949 the school reopened with only nine students, but within three years there were 53 students enrolled with a long waiting list for future students.



Mrs Grey giving her head teacher's report Mrs Martin leading out in assembly songs



Friday night saw everyone meeting in the church for vespers. Pastor Clifford Herman led the evening programme and began with a quick 'getting to know you' session. Throughout the programme Mrs Rachel Grey, current head teacher of Fletewood School, and Mrs Ann Martin,

former nursery (class 1) teacher for 34 years, led out with classic assembly songs. These were introduced by Mr and Mrs Martin in 1982 and well loved by pupils past and present.

Past pupils took to the microphone to share their experiences of the school: first Meghan Herman (2013-18), then Jennie Hall (1994-2000), Rachel Grey, née Martin (1989), and finally Norman Bunker (1956-61). Mr Bunker and his sister, Linda, both now living in North America, timed their visit to the UK especially to attend the centenary celebration and joined in the whole weekend.

Mr John Martin, former head teacher from 1982 until 2016, commented that 'meeting so many past pupils and parents and catching up on life stories and successes' was one of the highlights of the weekend for him: as also were 'hearing that a past pupil was joining his brother at Oxford, and sharing that one of our pupils who joined our fencing club when she attended Fletewood is competing in the Olympics in Japan next year, fencing for Jamaica'.

Everyone was thrilled when Pastor Herman presented a video of Mrs Joan Frost, one of the first students at the school, who attended in 1929. Now aged 95, she was unable to travel, but shared some of her memories of life in the school. She commented that, as she had grown up watching the naval personnel walking to church every Sunday morning in their uniform, she was excited also to wear a uniform of her own. She even remembered the small playground at the back of the school, and that they had to walk to Central Park every Wednesday for PE, like the students still do today.

Mrs Gina Abbequaye (BUC Education Director) closed the evening programme with thoughts from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and shared the story of the teacher with a jar. First, he puts in stones and asks the class if it's full; they say yes, but he continues to put in pebbles, sand and water until the glass is actually full. She commented that a good Christian education is the initial stones, creating a sound foundation and relationship with God.

On Sabbath morning the church was full as Pastor Herman led everyone in a quiz covering the history of the school. He went on to explain the history of the Adventist Church, which led to the need for Adventist schools.

Mr Earl Ramharacksingh (BUC Treasurer and longstanding friend and trustee of Fletewood School) shared a message about Daniel and his captivity in Babylon, which was home to the most extensive educational institute in the Bible.

Before the close of the service Pastor Herman prayed a prayer of dedication for the current staff members. After the service everyone gathered in the school playground for a street-party-style picnic.

Sunday saw the school open from 1 until 4, with presentations throughout the building showing the school through the ages. All the past pupils and parents had a great time reliving their childhood years, spotting themselves in photographs dug out from the archives. Mr Martin skilfully revived old computers to working order from 30+ years ago. Many other relics from the past were on display, including old registration books noting that the students were sent home due to tiredness from the night's air raids.

Of course, after each day's events, no one could go home without first singing the school theme song, 'Side by Side', and joining hands together. Mr Martin commented that, while 'reliving the memories of the last 37 years, I realised just how much fun it had been teaching at Fletewood. It was more like playing rather than working, trying to develop more and more elaborate scenarios and games to encourage the children to learn while enjoying being at school!'

As a church and school community we would like to thank the past and present teachers and staff of the school for their continued hard work and dedication to the discovery of excellence in every child. We hope and pray that the school continues to flourish for many years to come, and that God's guidance will continue to be felt within the school.

JENNIE HALL

"Parents know instinctively that their greatest position in life is on their –knees." Pastor Fredrick Russell

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FATHERS PRAYER CONFERENCE weekend

Theme: 'I Cry Out, Day & Night'

SAT 16 NOV 2019 with Pastor Fredrick Russell

LONDON IRISH CENTRE
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9.15am Registration and Refreshments
10.00am Praise & Worship
10.30am Prayer School with Pastor Ayo Adesina
11.45am I Cry Out, Day and Night
1.00pm Light lunch
2.00pm "Consecration"
5.00pm Close

Sun 17th Nov - Mothers and Fathers Prayer Breakfast
Hyland House School - Holcombe Road, London N17 9AD

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"I've learned that in the awesome responsibility of rearing kids that the only thing that holds our family together is prayer" Ms Brenda Russell

Mums In Action proudly presents

MOTHERS PRAYER CONFERENCE weekend

Theme: 'I Cry Out, Day & Night'

SAT 16 NOV 2019 with Ms Brenda Russell

LONDON IRISH CENTRE
50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB

9.15am Registration and Refreshments
10.00am Praise & Worship
10.30am Prayer School with Pastor Ayo Adesina
11.45am I Cry Out, Day and Night
1.00pm Light lunch
2.00pm "Consecration"
5.00pm Close

Sun 17th Nov - Mothers and Fathers Prayer Breakfast -
Hyland House School - Holcombe Road, London N17 9AD

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BUC Esther Institute of Excellence programme impacting lives

'... that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace'
(Psalm 144:12, KJV).

How wonderful it would be if all our girls and young ladies exemplified the sentiments of Psalm 144:12 as they blossom into godly women of grace, strength and purpose. This is the aim of our BUC Women's Ministries signature mentoring programme: **The Esther Institute of Excellence for Girls and Young Ladies – Raising Godly and Courageous Daughters for Such a Time as This.** Based on the life of Queen Esther, the programme brings twenty-first-century lessons for our girls, young ladies, parents and mentors.

Programme rationale:
This programme has been developed out of the need to focus more on the support and development of our young females both in our churches and communities. It is crucial for us to spend dedicated time and effort in the nurture of our girls to enable them to blossom as young ladies of excellence to the glory of God's name.

Mission statement:
'To nurture girls and young ladies in their holistic development and to deepen their connection with God as they become purposeful and productive in all aspects of their lives.'

Programme content:
The Esther Institute of Excellence (EIE) programme comprises in-class attendance, course materials, reflective learning, practical sessions, exhibitions and conferences. In 2018, Part 1 of the programme commenced with a four-part curriculum training series which included the following segments:

- Faith & Growing Godly Girls (part 1)
- Courage & Growing Godly Girls (part 2)
- Wisdom & Growing Godly Girls (part 3)
- Prayer and Fasting & Growing Godly Girls (part 4)

Following the successful completion of the EIE curriculum training part 1, we ran part 2 of the curriculum at the day conference on 28 July 2019, which included coaching and practical aspects as follows:

- Life Seasons – Embracing change and challenges and growing through transition
- Inner Beauty – Growing godly, gracious & gifted girls
- Outer Beauty – Practical sessions: poise, speech, social etiquette, natural cosmetics, hair and skin care
- Bride-in-waiting – Practical/literal: preparing to be a bride (preparation for marriage and role as a wife)
- Bride-in-waiting – Spiritual application: preparing as the Bride of Christ for His soon return

Part 2 of the curriculum was undertaken at the Mercure Hotel, Watford, where girls, young ladies, mothers and Women's Ministries leaders attended an Esther Institute Conference and Interactive Exhibition Experience. Queen Esther's connection to God and courageous and wise behaviour (demonstrated in Esther 4:15-17 and Chapters 5-7) and life lessons on effective communication, role modelling and godly counsel were presented for today's young ladies. The conference also included an extensive interactive exhibition with displays that brought practical lessons and both reflective and experiential learning. This aspect of the day engendered much discussion

and positive evaluations. In the subsequent messages we received, several young ladies reported that they were sharing the information with their school, college and university colleagues, some of whom have expressed interest in attending with them at future Esther Institute training events.

We are pleased that Women's Ministries leaders who have attended the Esther Institute over the past two years are now replicating key aspects of the training in their Women's Ministries groups and through the nurture of younger women and girls, both in their church and community settings.

Please pray for the continued success of this programme as we support parents in raising godly, courageous, productive and well-balanced girls and young ladies for these times.



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Church Without Walls baptises four

Four people were baptised at the first ever Church Without Walls prayer retreat, which took place at the Park Hill Hotel in Milton Keynes from 2 to 4 August.

The Spirit-filled weekend started in earnest on Friday evening after check-in and registrations. The main speaker and evangelist, Pastor Simba Muhau, and other speakers immediately took the attendees on a mountaintop spiritual journey. The passionate and prayerful singing, which was led by the praise team and the musicians, always created a spiritual atmosphere.

Attendees heard some amazing testimonies from the time Church Without Walls was started just over a year ago. They also witnessed prayers being answered when the baptism was nearly stopped by the staff on duty but God intervened.

While presenting our new friends and welcoming them into the world church of Seventh-day Adventists, Pastor Calvin Mazengwe Edwards emphasised the importance of friendship evangelism. He said that, from his experience, friendship evangelism is an effective way of reaching out to the community, and that is why Church Without Walls was started: to reach out to those who can't attend the conventional church within worship places. Some of the baptised were reached this way. Once these have been reached, nurtured through Bible studies and baptised, then they can be integrated into the local churches they prefer.

The whole weekend was concluded by a Spirit-filled anointing service which was led by Pastors Mario Phillip (Willesden Church), Calvin Mazengwe Edwards (Harlow South) and Pastor Simba Muhau.

This was the first time Church Without Walls members met. It was a joyous occasion when they finally got to meet the people whose voices they hear every morning on the line.

This community prayer conference line started one year ago and has over 200 members that meet every morning to pray. It has become a place of refuge, healing, comfort and fellowship. Indeed, God has



answered prayers in amazing ways.

How to join the Church Without Walls prayer conference:
Please dial in 03303902113.
Access code: 206594#.
The line opens around 5.50am and we start at 6am.

Church Without Walls truly has no walls, as everyone is welcome to join and experience the power of the living God.

ELDER THABANI BHEBE, CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS CHAIRMAN



NEC lay preachers' graduation

Part of Pastor George Kumi's Ministerial portfolio is the responsibility to see that our lay preachers are equipped adequately with the skills for preaching, as on a week-to-week basis many of them impart the Word to our waiting congregations. For this course he enlisted pastors who were ready, willing and able to teach aspects of preaching to those who enlisted on the lay preachers' course.

Pastor Richard Brooks – as the lead anchoring pastor, coordinating the running of the course and relating to Pastor Kumi – worked with his team, Pastors Appiah, Bruce, Herbert, Majaducon, Nicholson, Macintosh, and Palmer, to set a high standard as they taught various aspects of preaching to the students.

As the students attended each class, they gleaned information on subjects such as 'How to Organise a Sermon', 'How to Select a Theme', 'How to Choose and Interpret a Text', and many others.

The students took the course seriously, and this was demonstrated by how they compiled and preached their various examination sermons. What must not be overlooked was the encouraging way they gave their classmates feedback about the sermons they preached.

Their efforts were recognised through a graduation service held on 10 August 2019 at the Yardley church. This was a joyful celebration where Pastor Steve Palmer, the host pastor, declared before the church, in his immutable but amusing style: 'I love preaching.'

Ann-Marie Herbert blessed the awaiting congregation with a melodious meditative, using the powerful song, 'Were It Not For Grace'. Dr Patrick Herbert followed and preached the graduation sermon, entitled, 'Who Is He?' – a sermon embodying some of the techniques and styles taught within the class – after which Pastor George Kumi led the way in conferring the graduation certificates on the successful students.

Finally, Ellen White reminds those who accept the responsibility to preach:

'We are never to forget that Christ teaches through His servants. There may be conversions without the instrumentality of a sermon. Where persons are so situated that they are deprived of every means of grace, they are wrought upon by the Spirit of God and convinced of the truth through reading the word; but God's appointed means of saving souls is through "the foolishness of preaching." ' *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 300.

P.A. HERBERT



What a miracle!

On Saturday 31 August, Blackburn Church witnessed five people give their lives to God: the youngest at 13 and the oldest at 74, they revealed how God can touch our hearts at any stage of our lives. With floods of joyous tears, they happily made their way to the baptismal pool, ready to follow the example Christ gave while on this earth.

Each individual, with their own testimony, revealed just how God works, and that He is still working.

All new believers discovered the truth about God in various ways. Some of the sources that led them on this journey included family and friends, literature and research through the internet, which included scrolling through YouTube. Through the promptings of the Holy Spirit they were convinced that there is only one true God – the God of heaven and earth. They were also convinced that the true day of worship that God instituted and blessed is the seventh-day Sabbath; and, to some, this has been the major reason for accepting re-birth through baptism and entry into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The various testimonies also strengthened the faith of the Blackburn congregation – that God uses anybody and any medium to reach out to souls that are yearning for truth. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

TEMWA BANDA



High day for seniors of GBK Church, Wolverhampton

On 9 June 2019, an extra special day for the seniors of GBK (Great Brickkiln Street Church, Wolverhampton), a banquet was held in their honour, hosted by Dr Patrick Herbert and Verona Roberts, on behalf of GBK. Around 80 seniors came together for this special occasion, organised by the Women's Ministry, Health Ministry, Community Services and Hospitality team. Wolverhampton Central Church gladly allowed this venture to be held in their building.

The programme included reflections on the past times and thoughts of loved ones; celebrations of the present; and hopes and aspirations for the future.

Adrian Roberts presented a look on life through poetry and rhyme. In an engaging way he embodied songs, tales, mannerisms and illustrated Caribbean sayings that made the audience laugh and reflect on their journey. Often in his presentation, the seniors could be heard responding, 'It's true!'

National songs by various artists were presented, along with quizzes and games. The three-course meal was savoured and washed down with special non-alcoholic wine. An enjoyable time was had by all.

VERONA ROBERTS

Community Engagement Day

The Leeds Community Services Department are passionate about extending the mission of Jesus into their local community. They capitalised on an opportunity provided by the annual Little London Community Day held on Saturday 13 July 2019.

This event brought together several groups from the neighbourhood to showcase talents, foods and various activities. It also attracted distinguished individuals such as the newly elected lord mayor – Councillor Eileen Taylor – and local MP, Hilary Benn. From their stall the Community Services Department were able to offer basic health checks (weight and blood pressure), food items, health books and other wholesome literature. Approximately 60 people visited the stall. This enabled the department to engage with local representatives and to share what the church can do to help our local community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES TEAM
(LITTLE LONDON IS A DISTRICT OF LEEDS – ED.)



Hilary Benn MP, enjoying a blood pressure test

Christianne Jacent Best (1969-2019) d. 31 July.

Christianne Jacent Best was born on 1 September 1969 in the London Borough of Croydon to Mr Webby Jamel and Ms Denise Kane.

Christianne lived her early years between her family in the USA and her siblings in England. Her siblings are Jerry, Claire, Pam, Billy, Cecelia, Simon, Lisa, Junior, Deborah, Sarah and Joseph.

Married to Arnold Best, an elder of the Fishermead, Milton Keynes church, she had four beautiful children: Amber



Nicole, Arianne Amia, Adam Arnold and Jaya Elyse. Christianne was exceptionally close to all her children and loved them all very deeply.

Christianne attended Selhurst High School for Girls, where she completed her secondary education. Her leadership qualities were identified early when she became Head Girl in her final year at school.

As a young child Christianne had a curiosity for God and often found her way into churches just to sit and listen. The desire to know God never left her, and at the age of 18 she was baptised and became a member of the Croydon church.

ADRA in the Bahamas

An update on the work of ADRA after Hurricane Dorian (22/9/2019)

ADRA-UK, as part of the ADRA network, is providing humanitarian assistance for some of the 70,000 people recently affected by Hurricane Dorian, which ripped through the Bahamas early in September. That assistance not only includes practical support, but they are seeking to raise over \$500,000 (£430,000). Disasters come at a high price, and even in places such as the Bahamas, which is known as a luxury holiday destination, behind the tourist attractions and five-star hotels, high-end shopping malls and sporting activities, there are many people who live on the islands who will never be able to afford even a taste of the bounties that the Bahamas has to offer.

The Abaco islands were most affected by the worst storm that the Bahamas has faced. Erin Ailworth, writing in *The Wall Street Journal* on 22 September, stated that 'on Great Abaco rubble stretches as far as the eye can see. Some 1.5 billion pounds of debris is strewn across Marsh Harbour alone.'¹ Apart from the 53 people known to have died, 1,300-plus are still missing, with little hope now of finding them alive.

So, what is ADRA, as the humanitarian agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, doing to alleviate the suffering?

Currently, they have distributed 9,000 hot meals and will be giving out 500 meals each day in central Grand Bahamas, and have now established a second feeding bank in the eastern part of the island, serving 200 meals a day. Food supplies, water and hygiene kits are being distributed, and ADRA has also started a psychosocial and emotional intervention programme in the Bahamas Academy Shelter.

ADRA has also started registering families for a cash voucher programme through the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and has also assessed schools in Abaco and will provide building materials and school supplies in the near future.

ADRA needs your help to help those suffering in the Bahamas. Please give generously to this cause and mark your donation as 'Hurricane Dorian'. For further information, please visit our website, www.adra.org.uk.

CATHY BOLDEAU

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/opening-the-door-to-hell-itself-bahamas-confronts-life-after-hurricane-dorian-11569176306>



home to cater for. With a unique way of approaching challenges, she was never intimidated by size. Several guests have many countless moving stories of support they received from Christianne.

We of Fishermead, Milton Keynes Church and especially the beneficiaries of LIA will miss her tremendously, and will ensure that her legacy continues.

Christianne was laid to rest on Wednesday 11 September 2019 in Watford.

Rest on, Christianne, until we meet in the clouds!

COMPILED BY THE LIA TEAM AND EDITED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY OF MILTON KEYNES

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Nolt	Edin	Belf
Oct 11	6.17	6.29	6.19	6.23	6.36
18	6.02	6.14	6.03	6.06	6.19
25	5.48	6.00	5.48	5.49	6.03
Nov 1	4.34	4.46	4.34	4.33	4.48

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Hull Pathfinder Rally impacts city

As the drum corps set the beat, the colour party entered the Bonus Arena in Hull to begin the opening process of the BUC Pathfinder Rally. A crowd of over 3,000 simmered with excitement. World Pathfinder Day 2019 was underway in Great Britain.

The children and their guardians came in uniform prepared for a big day out. The younger children brought their teddy bears while the older Pathfinders had their smartphones at the ready to record the day and express their excitement to friends in distant places.

The song service was not designed merely to keep the crowd occupied, but was one of the spiritual highlights of the event. One of the North England Conference's own, Joshua Elliott from Nottingham, was the appointed worship leader, who immediately took the young people back to the recent TED Camporee, as the opening beats of their theme song filled the arena.

Outside, the health expo team set up tents and banners to check people's health and offer comfort and advice. One visitor, wheelchair-bound, demonstrated that she could exercise effectively. A young man, vegan for a year, came asking for advice about extra recipes to help him have a more varied diet, while another lady, in for a larger check-up, found herself asking if she could attend the big event back in the arena. The lady was later spotted in the arena as part of the congregation.

Meanwhile, back in the hall, children performed sketches illustrating the theme of the day, 'Created with Purpose', while Adventurers and Pathfinders, largely from Newcastle and South Shields, sang as a choir accompanied by a keyboard and violins.

Pastor Roger Wade, Director of Church Ministries at the Mid-America Union, resident in Lincoln, Nebraska near the start of the near-legendary Route 66, had been invited to drive up the M62 to preach and encourage. A long-time Pathfinder, our speaker kept to his assigned theme. Following up on the idea that home is important, each attendee was reminded that 'home' is not just the place we live in, nor the family that we are part of, but includes our school home, our church home and our neighbourhood home. Pathfinders and Adventurers should stay close to home so that they might influence their home for God's purposes. Pastor Wade concluded with, 'You are an extraordinary



Pathfinder and Adventurer. God has something special for you.'

A guest, Pastor Mo Timbo from the 'Potter's House' church in Hull, who was due to lead 3,500 Pathfinders and Adventurers through the streets of Hull, took up the theme of 'role models'. Pastor Timbo is known for his campaign in standing against knife crime. He recognises that many young people lack good role models because the old role models no longer exist for young people.

Pastor Timbo leads the #NoMoreKnives team as they tour the schools of Hull, East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire alongside the Humberside police, teaching children about the dangers and consequences of carrying knives.

The march, led by the two drum corps, took the children to a large central square, where short speeches were given. Pathfinders and Adventurers were to be seen as far as the eye could see. On the large monument base young men and women from Hull mingled freely with Adventists in and out of uniform. Pastor Timbo called, 'No more knives,' and the crowd shouted back three times, 'No more knives.' The message was well and truly heard.

Our young people had heard of the impact of knife crime; they had joined together and witnessed to their peers, announcing that they would not choose to use knives in self defence; and they had witnessed to the city of Hull that Christians do not need knives to defend themselves.

As the crowd returned to the arena, passers-by were given books and commented on this massive invasion of their city. People in the region watched on evening television as Christians spoke up for good, strong family values. World Pathfinder Day had been marked in style as Pathfinders and Adventurers recognised that they indeed had been created with a purpose.

PETER JEYNES

Farewell message to Kevin Johns

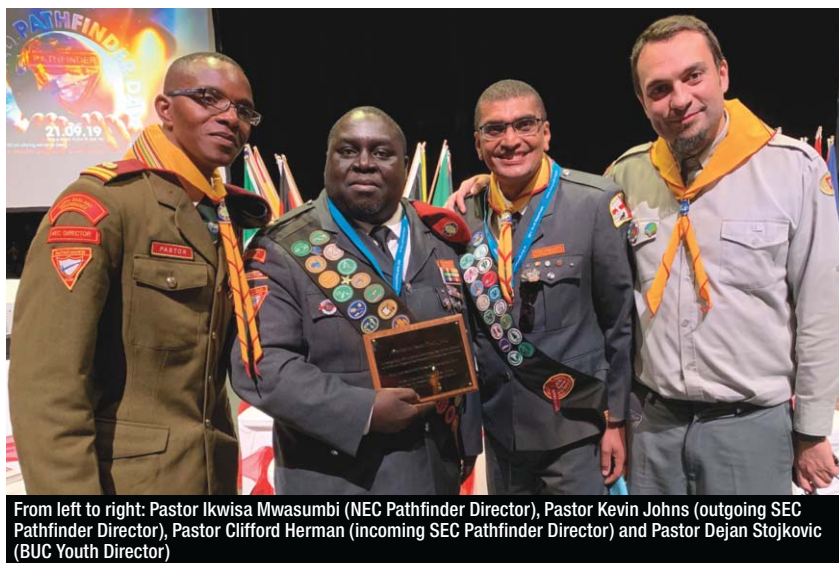
At the 63rd South England Conference Session, Pastor Sweeney told the assembled delegates that sometimes, at Session, changes occur; and, as in a relay race, the baton is passed from one person to the next runner on the team.

In this case, the Pathfinder Department baton has been passed from Pastor Kevin Johns to Pastor Clifford Herman.

On behalf of the British Union Youth Ministries team, Pastor Dejan Stojkovic would like to thank Pastor Johns and his family for his dedicated service at the SEC over the past two terms. His ministry has helped many to develop and grow, and has benefited a great number of Pathfinders not only in his Conference, but also in the other regions. At the World Pathfinder Day in Hull on 21 September, Pastor Dejan presented Pastor Johns with a plaque on behalf of the BUC Pathfinder team to commemorate his years of service. We wish him many blessings in whatever God has in store for him next – and may he also be a blessing to others in his new role.

We welcome Pastor Clifford Herman, who has previously served in Scotland and most recently in Area 1, at the Plymouth and Liskeard churches. We look forward to working with him as he ministers to the Pathfinders in the SEC, and as we plan projects together in the wider BUC region.

We are also happy to welcome back Pastors Anthony Fuller and Juan



From left to right: Pastor Ikwsa Mwasumbi (NEC Pathfinder Director), Pastor Kevin Johns (outgoing SEC Pathfinder Director), Pastor Clifford Herman (incoming SEC Pathfinder Director) and Pastor Dejan Stojkovic (BUC Youth Director)

Carlos Patrick in the Youth and Teens roles respectively. We encourage them to build on their previous four years in office and will also be here to support them in their region, and hopefully they will also continue in their support of the wider work.

NATALIE DAVISON