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## Messenger

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**iCare**  
REFUGEES, HOMELESS, STRANGERS

# Youth – take the lead . . .

See page 16 for full story



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# The future of the SEC

by Emmanuel Osei,  
SEC President



The SEC is in a state of transition. As a conference that holds transparency and integrity in high regard, at the beginning of the year we shared with our leaders and officers our need to work collaboratively in order to fulfil the mission of the church. We have often assumed that the directors and administration have all the answers, and this has been evidenced by sharing our strategic plans at the beginning of each year. The Lord has impressed upon us that this is not the way to go. There are good suggestions and ideas among the general

membership that can help shape our strategic plans for the year. Therefore, we have embarked upon an exercise of preaching in local churches on Sabbath mornings and listening to members' views in the afternoon during this first quarter. We are determined to gather as much information from the membership as possible. We believe that where there is little involvement, there is little commitment; therefore, it is essential that your wisdom, voice and ideas play an integral part in shaping our strategic plans for the year. We can achieve much by working together under the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We have also been impressed that the ways we have sought to encourage, measure and maintain church growth urgently need to be revisited. Solely relying on major evangelistic campaigns and immigration will not give us the growth that we would like to see. While we are thankful to God for the growth through the first major wave of immigration in the sixties, along with the baptisms of the second generation, historically, we have struggled to maintain both our connection and relevance with the subsequent generations. This has resulted in our young people failing to see the church as 'fit for purpose', culminating in the church haemorrhaging its youth. There is a danger that the experience of recent first-generation immigrants from Africa and Eastern Europe might repeat what has happened in the past.

The Lord has impressed on our hearts that every member needs to participate in the mission of the church. When Jesus said, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men' (Matthew 4:19, ESV), the message was clear: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19, NIV). Again, the message is clear. Every baptised member is a disciple and ought to be a disciple maker. Every one of our 26,000 members of the South England Conference should not look to others, but *must* assume his or her responsibility as a disciple to make other disciples. Should our membership catch the vision of the potential in following the discipleship track, I believe we will see an exponential increase in our membership that is unprecedented. This will enable us to have an even greater impact on our communities throughout the south of England.

As I look at the map of the SEC territory, I notice large areas where there is no Adventist presence. It is my hope that as we embrace the mission of the Church, which is to make disciples and become actively involved in the discipleship track, we will see new Adventist groups being established in these areas. Presently, we are seeking to impact our communities with new groups where relevant worship services take place. Currently, there are four such groups, led by Pastor Paul King-Brown in Watford; Pastor Matthew Herel in East London; Pastor Dusan Uzelac in South London; and Pastor Lolly Fontaine in West London. It is our hope to establish more of these new spaces of worship for local communities in the future.



*Here we are again, having a cuppa with a friend in a café. My friend asks, 'Even if I were to believe in Jesus, what's the point?'*

First, I believe the Person of Jesus Christ to be at the very centre of history. Until recently our calendar system was divided into BC (literally meaning 'before Christ') and AD (*Anno Domini* – 'in the year of our Lord'). Jesus is the unique individual in history who was fully God and fully human. My favourite way of expressing this is to say that God '*became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood*' (John 1:14, MSG, Anglicised). Reality check – I don't understand how this is possible! It is a mystery, but is 'the story' I trust more than any other, as recorded in the Bible.

Jesus is described in the Bible as the mirror image of God (Heb. 1:3). The reason He became human was to show us what God is like. Further back in history, God had been getting a bad press. He was charged with being unfair, a dictator, coercive, remote and uncaring. As the Bible records, nothing could be further from the truth: but that's how most people saw Him. The only way to demolish that myth was to show He cared, but actions speak louder than words. Here's God, then, Creator not just of Planet Earth, but of the entire universe – all-powerful, all-knowing, all-seeing – letting a part of Himself go (Jesus) and visit the dysfunctional planet to put things right: but in doing so He limited all His own powers and became human (remember our recent conversation on the Trinity?). Metaphor coming up – rather than entering Planet Earth like a bull in a china shop, He sent the kind and gentle Jesus. Amazing when you think about it!

Second, Jesus entered human history to bridge the gap in the God-human relationship, which had been severed by the first humans He created. In short, they strayed from His all-wise counsel and chose to do their own thing, creating separation from God, often described as sin, which all humanity has inherited. What was a holy God to do? Destroy all, immediately confirming the myths and lies to be true? Or could He try and rescue? With His number-one value as love – He could only rescue if they wanted rescuing. Respect, I'd call it!

Third, Jesus entered human history to 'take on' the sin and guilt of humanity. This expression at first is difficult to understand, but 'He became sin'. All our guilt, shame, rebelliousness, and wrongdoing – He said, 'Give it to Me. I'll take it, no questions asked!' He backed up those words by dying an innocent death for you and me.

*'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.'* (John 3:16, ESV.)

I'd like to suggest it's an incredible gift, and totally free. What do you think?

Do you think you can say it better? Or in a different way? 'Adventist Essentials' is posted on the *MESSENGER* Extra Facebook page. I'm looking forward to seeing how you share the same story.

# The Church – cruise ship or lifeboat?

Part 2



David Neal, Editor

We ended last time by referring to Luke 19:10. And this is where we continue – in the Gospel of Luke, about a fella called Zacchaeus.

*'For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost' (NLT).*

There is a story recorded in the Gospel of Luke that is both funny and serious at the same time. It's about a fella called Zacchaeus. For our purpose we'll just call him Zac.

From Luke's account we know that he lived in Jericho and that his job was to collect taxes. Not only was he a tax collector, but the chief tax collector. In Jericho at this time, it seems that tax was not collected PAYE (pay as you earn), but PWID (pay what I demand) – as and when I demand it! Zac was more than successful in his job; wealthy, but wealthy as a result of fraud and theft.

'And who's on my list today to target? Mrs Jones, I think. She's been selling quite a stack of perfumes and oils in the marketplace. I reckon she's making quite a profit and stacking up those shekels . . . let's collect. It's an easy one: the perfumes are imports. I'll deal with her.'

And as Mrs Jones was at work in the marketplace, trying to earn an honest day's wage, she suddenly experienced a pit in her stomach, because in the corner of her eye she saw Tax Collector Zac (the chief) charging across the marketplace towards her stall. 'Time to pay up, Mrs Jones,' he said with a threatening smile. She'd

been down this road with him before. If she didn't pay up, he would close her down, and so the only way to survive was to pay what he demanded.

It almost goes without saying that because of his job, and his behaviour, Zac had few friends.

One day Jesus came to Jericho – or, to put it more accurately, was passing through. Zac had heard about Jesus, and that He'd gained quite a following of people. Some said He was good at healing people; had given away free food to crowds of people who were not sure where He got it from; and had upset the religious types. But Zac had also heard that He was warm, kind, friendly and understanding, wanting to help anyone in need.

Something stirred in Zac. As Jesus came along the road, a huge crowd surrounded Him. Wanting to see Jesus, Zac tried to push his way through: but, being small, he failed.

'Get back there, you little . . . ; who do you think you are? It's our turn. You can't tax us for seeing Jesus,' they smirked, and with that he was easily pushed away.

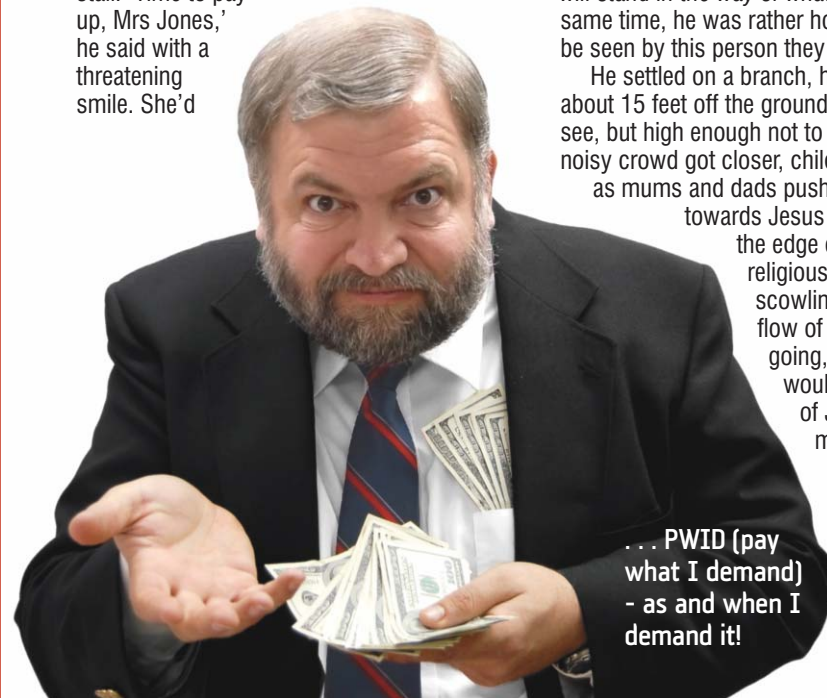
Emotionally and physically slapped down, he persisted in trying to see Jesus. Jumping up and down didn't help. He made another attempt to push through the crowd, and almost got crushed in the process. And then he came up with a bright idea.

He ran on ahead down the road, saw a sycamore tree, and climbed up it. Very pleased with himself, he was. With a grandstand view, he thought to himself, *'I'll show them; no one will stand in the way of what I want.* At the same time, he was rather hoping that he'd not be seen by this person they called Jesus.

He settled on a branch, halfway up the tree, about 15 feet off the ground: close enough to see, but high enough not to be noticed. As the noisy crowd got closer, children were cheering as mums and dads pushed them forwards towards Jesus for a blessing. At the edge of the crowd, the religious spies were scowling. Expecting the flow of the crowd to keep going, Zac thought he would catch a glimpse of Jesus just for a moment or two.

But the crowd came to a stop – just as Jesus was right under the tree! Zac's heart pumped, and a huge pit in his small stomach

. . . PWID (pay what I demand) – as and when I demand it!



got bigger and bigger. He froze – this was not part of the plan. For a few seconds Jesus continued to talk and bless the children. But, just as Zac began to believe the situation was under control, Jesus looked up.

'Hello Zac! What are you doing up there? Want to do tea? You don't live far from here, do you?' Zac scrambled, virtually jumped out of the tree, and ended up right in front of Jesus – no bones broken. Jesus smiled and said, 'Come on – let's go.'

Zac's ego soared. For possibly the first time in his life, his lack of height did not matter. He was so engaged in conversation with Jesus that he didn't even notice the crowd beginning to grumble.

On arrival at his house, it was just Zac and Jesus who went inside, as the crowd waited outside. Tea was simple; a juice and some pitta bread with olives.

'Zac,' said Jesus: 'Things haven't been going so well, have they?'

And at that moment Zac's bubble was burst.

'No,' he said. 'I am lonely, frightened and scared. Everybody . . . everybody hates me, and I don't like it; I feel in so much pain. Do you have any idea what that is like? I just want to be loved, that's all.'

And Jesus listened, and shared with Zac the truth as to what the Kingdom of God is really like – and listened again.

The crowd said: '*He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.*' (Luke 19:7, ESV.)

Zac said: '*Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.*' (Luke 19:8, ESV.)

And Jesus said: '*Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*' (Luke 18:9, 10, ESV.)

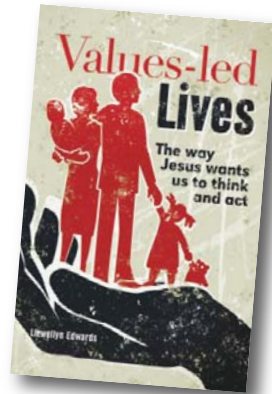
Part 1 of this editorial appeared in *Messenger* 4, 2020, using the metaphors of a 'cruise ship' and a 'lifeboat' to describe the way a church can be. Q for U: Who in Zac's story had a 'cruise ship' mindset?

## Prayer matters

- Pray for a burden to seek and love people as Christ does.
- Pray for help from the Lord to see potential in every living person – people for whom Christ has the highest regard – even the Zacs in your own community.
- Pray for friendships to be built, with words to say and deeds to do that mirror those of Christ.
- Pray for the church – may our needs diminish and His purpose increase.
- Pray for any 'cruise ship' habits to disappear, and for 'lifeboat readiness' to remain constant.
- 'The Church is the only organisation that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members.' Reflect and pray about the implications of that statement.



**In this excerpt of Values-led Lives, Pastor Llew Edwards continues to explain what it means to live, think and act the way Jesus did. He reveals some of the ways in which we might be causing our youth to leave the church.**



people being late to church – said just as a woman with five kids stumbled in . . . late). . . . In another sermon he mentioned that he wished all gay people would just go back in the closet (the last time I attended that church) . . . it was an incredibly hateful thing to say. For a long time I'd started looking outside of Adventism, but my experiences with these two churches pretty much killed any desire to be a part of organised religion. And I haven't

environment, helping women and children, etc. . . . but as far as sitting in the pews each week is concerned, compassion is not a reality. At least not the pews I was sitting in.'

What if we as individuals were disciplined in being values-led? What if compassionate service were the passionate value that motivated our actions? I don't for a moment think we can do this all the time and in every action – we are after all sinners, and our default mode is self-centredness – but what if we aspired to that? What if we were so passionate about it that we were willing to be made accountable in our communities of faith to each other and we sought to inspire each other to compassionate service to others? As Paul put it in Romans 12:10-17 (ESV): 'Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all.'

I wonder how many other young people (and others) in our churches might wish they had the courage to write a similar letter to tell us their true feelings – or is it just easier to walk quietly away?

Our churches must stop the kinds of behaviour that are driving people away and start living the values of the Kingdom we belong to. Does anyone know how to do it? I would like to be a part of that community!

## Part 5: It has got to stop

The stories in the previous excerpt featured in MESSENGER should make our blood boil. This has got to stop!

These incidents are chasing away from Christ the very people we are seeking to win to Him. There is nothing of a sweet savour of life unto life in these stories. We are closing the door of the Kingdom to others and not partaking of the Kingdom ourselves. (Matt. 23:13.)

It is bad enough that we do it to strangers, but we even do it to our own people. A friend recounted to me the circumstances that led to him arriving late at church one day: his wife had suddenly come down with a terrible migraine; one of the children was ill; and the hope of a pleasant Sabbath rest was shattered. That is why he was late for church, but at the door he was greeted with a gruff 'You are late!' My friend told me that had it not been for the 'duties' he had at church that day he would have turned around and gone home.

It has got to stop! I have a copy of a quite lengthy letter that a young person let me read. I share it here as representative of how many of our people feel – people who just can't take it any more and leave.

'I stopped going to church about five years ago. I don't remember exactly. I was living in this little town where my dad had

a house he was trying to sell. He'd been the teacher at the Adventist school and the people there had been incredibly nasty to him and the other teacher. They couldn't fire either teacher (they had no reason to), so they were so nasty that both he and the other teacher relocated. I knew what nasty people they could be, but I kept going to church anyway . . . even though only a handful of people would talk to me. The weirdest part of this story, though, is that they

**'In another sermon he mentioned that he wished all gay people would just go back in the closet (the last time I attended that church) . . .'**

loved to stand up in church during the 'sharing' period and go on and on and on about what a friendly church it was and how glad they were that they were so enlightened (they didn't use that word though, too 'new agey') and didn't have such a dour, unfriendly church. Man, I hate hypocrisy. So I started looking for other Seventh-day Adventist churches; I found one that was racially diverse, wasn't all rich white people, and where the people were really, genuinely friendly . . . but the pastor. One of his sermons was a laundry list of things that bugged him (people wearing hats in the sanctuary,

been. At times I miss the community of being in a church . . . but it's just not worth it to me. The culture and the tradition kept me going; it was something that felt familiar and comfortable . . . until it wasn't comfortable any more.'

It has got to stop!

They are our children that we are pushing away. We are pushing them out and closing the door to them, and by our words

and actions demonstrating that we are not part of the Kingdom anyway.

Is there any hope? The same letter – quite a way towards its end – gives us a glimpse of an organisation that is values-led. Read what she wrote . . .

'Let me just say, though, that I think ADRA is the one thing Adventists are doing right – it's not an organisation out to "convert" the masses . . . it's there to HELP people, individuals, and I truly believe that they do it better than most. There's an emphasis on sustainable economies, protecting the

### National commemorative and celebratory events

- Christmas party for pensioners, children, families etc.
- Grandparents' Day
- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Harvest Festival & supper
- Care for singles, seniors, and others on Christmas Day (lunch/visit etc.)
- Halloween alternative
- Advent nativity tour/exhibition
- Themed worship (Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Armistice, Creation)
- City or county fair exhibit
- Tradeshaw exhibit
- Community celebration events
- Community crisis event
- Community newsletter or bulletin board
- Honour first responders (emergency services)
- Recognise the outstanding work of social services and community action partnerships
- Connect with social services & community action partnerships to see how best to help
- Recognition of an outstanding volunteer who makes a difference to the local community

### Felt needs

- Community Services food ministry to the needy
- Senior citizens' programme with advice sessions
- Youth club
- Mother & toddler group
- A parents' night out
- A mothers' morning chat group
- Connect with former members
- Recognise special groups
- Sunday morning breakfast club/brunch
- Day camps for children
- Day trips for senior citizens
- English as a Second Language classes
- Basic computer skills training
- Grief group/workshop
- Debt-free seminars
- Housebound ministry
- Nursing home ministry
- Door-to-door visitation (we are here to help you – how best can we do so?)
- Packing bags at supermarket for free
- Door-to-door food collection – for food bank
- Run a literacy programme
- Support, as able, an addiction prevention or support programme
- Prayer ministry (prayer walking in locality)
- Open sanctuary or prayer room
- Wedding and funeral support
- Community Pathfinder club
- Food, clothing, and basic supplies store (used to be called 'the welfare room')

## 101 outreach & service to the community ideas

Have you ever sat on a church board, church growth or evangelism committee, and wondered: *What can we do to connect with our community?* Wonder no more . . .

### More imaginative ideas

- Partner with a local charity, raising profile and funds
- Local school recognition (connect with head teacher)
- A musical concert
- An international festival
- Create a community garden
- Hold an art exhibition in the church hall
- Support local schools with supplies
- Pulpit exchange or joint worship with other congregations
- Holiday Bible Club
- Put on a talent show
- Hold a bric-a-brac sale
- Offer a free car wash
- Host a multicultural celebration event
- Book club/book group
- Provide gifts for newborn babies in the community
- Newcomer welcome baskets/packs
- Create a resource inventory and community volunteer directory
- Home blessings
- First-time guest (at church) hospitality lunch
- Milestone celebrations (anniversaries etc.)
- Achievement recognition – local sports & athletic teams, music & drama excellence, student/occupational success etc.
- Street witness (singing/drama) impact

### Health and lifestyle

- Healthy eating supper club
- Family ice skating nights/ten-pin bowling nights
- Walking & hiking club
- Cycling club
- Divorce recovery support
- Smoking cessation seminar
- Summer family picnic in the park/forest/mountains/beach
- International food fair
- Quiz night
- Film evening
- Bread making to give away
- Toastmasters
- Family fun night
- Sports & games party
- Free vegetarian hot dog lunch
- Crafting, scrapbooking & quilt-making clubs
- Single adult event
- Single parent support
- Special needs event & support
- Health expo & screening
- Stress reduction seminar
- Depression recovery seminar
- Vegetarian cookery class
- Community music event for children, seniors etc.

## Baptisms bring great rejoicing to Barnsley Church

'Count on it – there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue' (Luke 15:7, The Message). And there was much joy in Barnsley on 12 October 2019 as the church enjoyed its first double baptism in its new building.

The day saw Sam and Sophie Clee publicly give their hearts to Jesus and commit to walk with Him. The church was full as friends and family came to share the special day. Pastor Paul Clee, grandfather of Sam and Sophie, gave the sermon, and Pastor Derek Simon then conducted the baptisms. Music was provided by the Winnits group.

It was wonderful to hear how Sam and Sophie had both come to the decision to be baptised. Both had grown up in the church, but they were waiting for a sign that God was with them and that He was calling them. For Sam, this came at Aberdaron when he was involved in a boating accident over the summer. His prayers from the water were answered, and God looked after him and sent the coastguard rescue helicopter. Sophie realised God was calling her when, one day at school, during an RE class, the teacher asked, 'Who here is a Christian?' and only Sophie raised her hand. This was a sign for her that it was time to be baptised. Both then had studies with Pastor Simon.

After their public declaration of faith in front of family and friends, Sam and Sophie blessed us with a musical item: Sophie sang, and Sam accompanied her on the piano. They have joined the church family in Barnsley, and we pray that God will continue to bless them as they walk with Him.

RACHEL HAWORTH, COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Sophie and Sam Clee

## Plumstead baptisms

On 21 December 2019 our beloved sister Erlinea 'Jennice' Lodowica made the decision to give her life to Jesus. An enthusiastic Bible student, Jennice had grown up as an Adventist. We celebrated with her as she returned to her first love. We're continuing to pray that Jennice and her family will continue to grow in the Lord, enjoying daily the light of His abounding love and mercy.

On the first Sabbath of the year, we welcomed two new members, Sarah-Jane Olebo and Cecelia Alcendor, who came to Christ by different paths: one had been brought up in the faith, and the latter is a new Christian. Cecelia had been brought to the faith by the witness of a work colleague, and simply walked into Plumstead Church one Sabbath morning and received a warm welcome. The Holy Spirit did the rest, and she has not looked back.

ANGELA LEWIS



Cecelia Alcendor and Pastor Israel Williams



Alex Baraniuc with Pastor Bob Rodd

## 'You raise me up'

Everyone in the room was glued to the beautiful sound of the song, 'You raise me up' as Alex Baraniuc sang before her own baptism. In Crieff there has not been a baptism for the past few years, but Alex was ready to be buried and born again. The words spoken by Pastor Jimmy Botha before the baptism reminded the congregation of the sentiments in the Bible relating to baptism: that one dies and ends the old life, and is born in a new one.

When Alex was asked what part of Scripture she enjoys reading, her reply was 1 Corinthians 13, the chapter of love. The love story was told through the lens of baptism. There is little point in doing anything if it is not accompanied by or carried out with love. Love encompasses everything. When Christ was on the cross, He carried out the biggest ever recorded act of love, saving the human race.

Pastor Bob Rodd baptised Alex and lifted her out again to start a new life in Christ. Many members of Alex's family and the church family were filled with happiness as they witnessed this baptism. Stephen Peacock and Pastor Bob Rodd have spent many hours with Alex, preparing her for this big day.

The church was full on this beautiful day, and the family brought a big cake for everyone to enjoy. 'I was very nervous beforehand, but the Lord carried me, and I am glad that I have taken the step to be baptised,' said Alex during lunch.

The Crieff church is praying for more baptisms soon. Please carry this prayer with you as well. Crieff is a small community, slightly off the beaten track. Many events take place in this busy church, but baptisms do not happen as often. Share in the joy of Alex, and also remember this congregation in your prayers.

JIMMY BOTHA

# Modern slavery

by Helen Pearson

When news stories about people trafficking make the headlines, we are all shocked: but we tend to forget. The February Diversity Lecture at Newbold College of Higher Education on Tuesday offered insights into the hidden and mostly ignored slavery behind the headlines in modern Britain. Hundreds of thousands of lives are being blighted – and most of us are completely blind to the fact. Some people have called this 'blindness' a sin.

The February Diversity Lecturer was Suzette Jones, who leads the Clewer Initiative – a Church of England response to slavery and human trafficking.

She suggested that the tools to end slavery already exist within the local community, but many of us need to understand the various modern forms of slavery so we know what we are missing. We need to learn a new vocabulary.

The most obvious is people smuggling: taking extortionate amounts of money from desperate people who are transported, sometimes across countries and continents, in the back of a van or container; released at a motorway service station; and left to find their own way. Some have family or other connections – all of them disappear.

Trafficking is a longer-term relationship based purely on deception. Here vulnerable people, sometimes those seeking work or coming out of food banks, are targeted with fantastic offers. They are promised exorbitant amounts of money while being groomed by exploitative 'bosses' who slowly control every aspect of their lives. They are forced to work in the sex trade or other 'industries'. Relentlessly they are deprived of their freedom, and if they try to run away they are followed and threatened. Some have even been sedated and had their kidneys harvested by criminal gangs. Trafficked people can often be found in industries that require cheap labour: car washes, abattoirs, food processing, nail bars, block paving, gardening, agriculture, brothels permanent and temporary, and, of course, drug trading.

'County lines' is a specific form of trafficking where young people, some of them as young as 14, are offered increasing amounts of money to carry parcels of cocaine and other drugs. Typical county lines victims are poor urban teenagers, in or just out of the care system, homeless and without family support. Some of them are offered food and shelter, which they accept as 'payment' for their drug-running activities.

'Cuckooing' was the final new piece of vocabulary for many in the audience. Drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person who may need ready cash, and, by intimidation and a variety of threats, slowly deprive them of their ownership and liberty.

Human slavery of all kinds is on the rise, but so often we can't see it. What can we do? Suzette's advice came in the lecture and in the Q&A which followed: most of all, use your eyes; be aware of the people with whom you deal. Look for transparent supply chains in businesses you deal with. Her repeated advice was: 'If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.' If something concerns you, call the Modern Slavery Helpline.\*

Christians believe in a God who liberates people, who values freedom and justice. Suzette closed with the Freedom Prayer, which concludes: *Father God of Freedom who leads us into life, deliver us from every evil and make us deliverers of others. Amen.*

\*Modern Slavery Helpline: 08000 121 700. Call them or fill out an online form. Contact the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority to report concerns about the



mistreatment of workers on 0800 432 0804, or by emailing [intelligence@glaa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:intelligence@glaa.gsi.gov.uk). Contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Contact the police.

Note: The full lecture can be seen and heard on the Newbold College of Higher Education Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/newboldcollege/>

### NEWBOLD DIVERSITY LECTURES, SPRING 2020

Tuesday 10 March – 'A diverse community supporting a diverse environment'

Speaker: David Putt – Project Manager, Jealotts Hill Community Landshare

Venue: Salisbury Hall, Newbold College of Higher Education, RG42 4AN

Time: 7.30pm

Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be served.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

## Gratitude and well-being Part 3 – Spiritual impact



The most recent instalment of this gratitude series highlighted the gratitude box and thankfulness trees I gave as gifts to the families attending with myself at a special new year's prayer and fellowship meal.

The previous year, the same group of families had met together in a similar fashion. In between the starter, main course and dessert, we shared testimonies and prayed for each other. This year we repeated that format, but included stating what we were grateful to God for. As we shared, I realised that over the past 12 months each family had suffered

great challenges and even life-threatening situations. Yet, as we testified of God's goodness during those times, it became evident that we had emerged stronger and 'better' individuals, more resolute in our faith in God.

Perhaps the psalmist David had an insight into how gratitude brings you closer to God when he wrote, in Psalm 100:4, 'Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise' (NKJV).

Reflecting on this reality, I decided to go in search of research on whether there were any links between gratitude, spirituality and well-being. Here's what I found:

### Spiritual connection

A Forbes article by Luis Romero, published on 22 November 2017, carried the title: 'Gratitude: The Ultimate Spiritual Practice'.<sup>1</sup>

'The word *gratitude* comes from the Latin root *gratus*, meaning "pleasing; welcome; agreeable". *Gratus* is also the root of related terms such as *grace*, *gratuity* and *gratis*, all signifying positive moods, actions and ideas. This is because of its Proto-Indo-European root, *gwere*, meaning "to praise, to celebrate; to be in contact with the Divine". In other words, being grateful is equivalent to feeling the presence of the Divine in our lives.'

### Spiritual & physical well-being

The Centre of Excellence for Research and Training in Integrative Health at the University of California, San Diego, published an article in the *Greater Good* magazine in 2017, titled, 'Can Gratitude Be Good for Your Heart?'<sup>2</sup> The authors, researchers Mills and Redwine, state:

'We conducted a statistical analysis to see how spirituality might lead to enhanced well-being by considering the effect of gratitude. We found that gratitude fully or partially accounted for the beneficial effects of spiritual well-being on sleep quality, mood, confidence in self-care, and fatigue. That is, the observed relationships between spiritual well-being and better mood and sleep quality in our patients were in fact due to the specific contributions of gratefulness.'

Exercise – increase your expressed gratitude to God and note the results.

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.forbes.com/sites/luisromero/2017/11/22/gratitude-the-ultimate-spiritual-practice-a-thanksgiving-special/#316c01712706>

<sup>2</sup>[https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/can\\_gratitude\\_be\\_good\\_for\\_your\\_heart](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/can_gratitude_be_good_for_your_heart)

## Right now is the right time

'Health is by choice, not by chance,' was the message for the Health Focus Day at West Bletchley Community Church, which attracted some friends from the community as well as other churches on 25 January.

Biblical health truths were passionately and animatedly brought to us by our morning speaker and church member, Herbert Pfende, about the benefits of a plant-based diet. Even the children were included during their spot about the benefits of whole-wheat pasta versus refined pasta, and were invited to challenge their parents if they weren't getting the whole-wheat variety!

Particular warning was given about heart attacks and strokes coming without warning; so, along with a balanced lifestyle, a plant-based diet is the way forward. As we learnt, it certainly was for former USA president Bill Clinton, who, after suffering chest pains and undergoing a quadruple coronary bypass surgery in 2004, became a vegan in 2010, stating, '... I wanted to be a grandfather. So I decided to pick the diet that I thought would maximise my chances of long-term survival.'

The afternoon programme was taken by Mary Phillips and her team, hailing from Bristol Central, who are well-known for their ongoing and ambitious community health programmes. They interestingly shared with us tried and tested methods of connecting with the community through 'the entering wedge' of health.

SYLVONIE NOEL, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



## Years 3 & 4 teacher – Hyland House School in Tottenham, North London



The head teacher and governors of Hyland House School invite applicants for the post of Key Stage 2, Years 3 & 4 teacher, starting in September 2020.

### If you:

- Would like to join a committed, professional, fun-loving team;
- Are confident with the National Curriculum in the UK;
- Enjoy being part of a learning and faith community;
- Have experience of working with pupils with a range of abilities . . .

. . . we would love to hear from you.

### The successful applicant will be:

- A fully trained and qualified teacher (NQTs are welcome);
- Expected to show commitment to the vision of the governors;
- Willing to uphold the Christian Seventh-day Adventist ethos of the school.

A visit to the school is warmly welcomed and highly recommended. To arrange a visit, please contact Mrs Jessica Lemonius at Hyland House School on: 020 8520 4186.

Hyland House School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

### The successful applicant:

- Must have the right to work within the United Kingdom;
  - Will be required to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and all other necessary checks before appointment.
- For an Application Form, Job Description and Person Specification, please email: [j.lemonius@hylandhouseschool.org](mailto:j.lemonius@hylandhouseschool.org).

The application deadline for this position will be midnight, 22 March 2020.

Hyland House School is highly regarded in the local community and by Ofsted inspectors for its Christian ethos and high academic standards. Our aim is to provide a holistic education and develop the talents and abilities of every child.

## Mind and Body Excellence Seminar

Team GB coach, Joe Caines, a nationally recognised coach who works with top-class promising athletes, made the observation that, even though his athletes were excelling, there were two specific areas in which he felt a clearer approach and understanding were necessary. He felt these were so crucial that, if understood and embraced, greater accomplishments could be achieved. Out of this vision, 'Team Caines' was formed, comprising Dr Hermine Graham, Clarita Sauer, and Joe Caines himself.

The presenters for this seminar hail from the Kings Norton church in Birmingham. Although this seminar was geared to address athletes from the community, it was used as a means to share Seventh-day Adventist health principles in a palatable and evangelistic way. Team GB coach, Joe Caines, over the years, makes it clear to all the athletes he trains that he is unapologetically a Seventh-day Adventist. Early in his international athletic career he made a decision not to compete on Sabbath. He is well respected for his stance.

Dr Graham, a consultant clinical psychologist and Birmingham University lecturer, equips clients to overcome their life issues in order to achieve their goals with confidence, whereas Clarita Sauer, a health enthusiast, encourages people to make better choices nutritionally, realising that 'health is their best wealth'.

On Sunday 24 November 2019, at the Legacy Centre, Aston, Birmingham, 'Team Caines' delivered the Mind and Body Excellence Seminar. Here the two specific areas that would enhance athletic

performance were revealed and elaborated on. The two areas were: 'A wholesome approach to body nutrition' and 'How to positively employ the mind while maintaining one's mental health'.

Though the seminar was not geared just to athletes, various types of sportsmen and women were in attendance. Track and field sportspeople, basketball players, footballers and hockey players, along with those who were sports-minded and even parents of athletes, were all in attendance. The interest was such that the attendees could be seen intently taking notes and nodding their heads in acceptance of what was being presented.

Clarita Sauer spoke from a premise that your body will not work right if it is not given the proper nutrition. Her presentation emphasised how much we are living at a fast pace in life, and we need to recognise the connection between the brain and the gut (something that Ellen White wrote about in her book, *The Ministry of Healing*).

Joe highlighted that the challenge for athletes was for them to obtain the message that the body and the mind need to harmonise together. He spoke a little on his journey from being a junior international champion to his present-day status as a Team GB coach. He remembered how necessary it was for him to eat wholesome meals in order that he maintain optimum performance.



Dr Graham addressed the function of anxiety and why we feel nervous; also, how the fight or flight response when we are faced with a threat is quite a natural response. She emphasised how, when we are faced with a challenge, we become nervous because of the fear of failure and the response of others. She helped the audience think through feelings of anxiety and what they do to us in real life experiences, like public speaking or running a race. Butterflies in the stomach, palpitations and sweaty palms are physiological displays that show our anxiety, which will lead to various forms of avoidance.

The premise on which this seminar stands is based on 3 John 2 (KJV): '*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*'

Many of the attendees of the seminar had only one question for 'Team Caines' as it came to a close. The question highlighted the success of the seminar, as the question that was asked was, 'When is the next seminar?'

DR P. A. HERBERT

## Adventist children's charity shortlisted for national charity award!

International Children's Care UK (ICC UK), a children's charity run by Seventh-day Adventists in the UK, was shortlisted last year for the UK-wide Charity Today Awards 2019 – The Humanitarian Award. ICC was one of just four charities from across the entire UK to have made this category's final shortlist. The ICC UK leadership team were delighted to attend the finalists' celebratory event last autumn at the Key Theatre, Peterborough, and to be among so many worthy nominated charities. The Charity Today Awards gives charities the chance to tell their success stories to both national and regional audiences, regardless of their size, through the UK's most prestigious and diligent charity awards programme. The Charity Today Awards celebrate and reward true excellence within the sector, rewarding the work done by charities and individuals who continue to raise the bar by setting new standards each year. UK Charity Week founder Lee Rayment, who heads the

judges for the Charity Today Awards, said: 'We want to congratulate all of our finalists, and in particular those who unfortunately did not make the next stage of the process. It was incredibly difficult to narrow so many quality nominations down, but we took our time to carry out our due diligence on every single application, and we're satisfied that we have the strongest finalists possible. This is set to be a very inspirational and humbling evening.' Pastor Errol Blackburn commented: 'We had an amazing night meeting lots of other worthwhile UK charities, and it was a great opportunity to continue to



Left to right: Pastor Errol Blackburn (Director), Shorai Dzirambe (trustee), Sandi Bogle (actress), Wilmoth Bullock (trustee)

promote ICC UK with the amazing work that we do.'

CLARE BARRY

To find out more about ICC UK, go to [iccuk.org.uk](http://iccuk.org.uk).

**'You have to be brave to do something extraordinary for God'**

'You have to be brave to do something extraordinary for God,' says Simon Martin as he speaks to the 77, listening in the Crieff church during the annual leadership training day for Scotland on Sunday 26 January. Simon went on to explain how he had found himself as a young minister in a position where he was shadowing another minister who had no fear of speaking to anyone. For some of us it is easy to speak to anyone, and therefore we tend to think that ministry should be easy.

Others find speaking to strangers quite a challenge, and, for such, ministry could be a challenge. Learning some principles of empathy and leadership could make a big difference in the way we each approach the situation of helping a stranger. Finding something in common is always a sure way of starting a conversation. One thing all humans need is food. Eating with someone can always be a way of doing ministry. Food has played a role in some of the ministries that Simon has participated in, and has always proved to be a good antidote for fear.

During the annual leadership training day every year, the participants divide into smaller groups after the plenary session in the morning. Training this year was provided for elders, deacons and deaconesses, clerks, treasurers, children's ministries leaders, youth and Pathfinder leaders, communications directors and Sabbath School superintendents. Visiting from the Trans-European Division were Pastors Patrick Johnson and Simon Martin; and, from the British Union Conference, Pastors Jacques Venter and Aftab Barki.

All these visiting leaders complimented the local leaders, who also provided direction for local church leaders, some of whom may have started in their roles for the first time this year. The training day is usually a whole-day event, and participants get to have a chat over a

good meal for lunch. As usual, the food was delicious and the cooks catered to everyone's preferences. The Stanborough Press was also attending, and provided a good selection of books, Bibles and food for the participants to buy.

'The leadership training that happens on an annual basis like this serves to set up local churches to continue improving the skills of their local leaders throughout the year,' adds Pastor Paul Tompkins, President of the Scottish Mission. 'The presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who lead is essential for this work to be completed,' was the message from Pastor Patrick Johnson during his devotional. The message is clear: if the church is going to achieve much, we have to ask the Holy Spirit to lead us, work hard in our local churches to involve everyone, and be brave in our thinking and approach to new challenges. The Scottish Mission has shown constant growth over the last decade and more; now we have the responsibility to continue this trend and bring the message of the Gospel to the rest of Scotland.

JIMMY BOTHA



**Fifth anniversary of Salisbury Church Plant**

On 18 January we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the establishment of Salisbury Church Plant. It was attended by Pastor Dr Emmanuel Osei, Pastor Wayne Erasmus, and our former pastor, Rudi Puskas. During the Divine Service Dr Osei delivered a sermon entitled 'You Haven't Seen Anything Yet' in which he reminded us of the limitless capabilities of God. In the afternoon Pastor Wayne preached a sermon entitled 'All In'. He spoke about the great value of the Pearl of Great Price.

During the celebration we were reminded of how the Salisbury church was planted, took root, and has grown into what it is today – due, we believe, to the leading of the Lord. Back in 2015, certain members scattered around Wiltshire, Avon and Somerset had a special interest in Reformation history and the foundations of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and became committed to starting this fellowship in the historic city of Salisbury.

The full-day event was geared up to host as many visitors as possible. People who had travelled across the country for the occasion were welcomed and shared in the presentations of our little history, along with worshipping together with us in appreciation of our unique position in Salisbury as a 'present truth' church.



The service featured special songs from members and guests, with powerful personal testimonies of the love and guiding hand of our God. The testimonies from old and new members were shared between the sermons and celebrations to witness to the fact that God is moving people's hearts in the direction of this church. People from literally all over the world have been guided to this fellowship in the heart of southern England. We are a very international church. We reminisced about our five-year presence in this city as evidence of how the Lord has a purpose for us here. Is it a coincidence that members have settled in the Salisbury area? Other accounts of coming out from spiritual Babylon into a full profession of *Sola scriptura* struck a chord with many of us who could relate to similar experiences in our journeys of faith.

Also acknowledged on this occasion was the end of an era with Pastor Rudi as our pastor. For five years he has given us his unstinting support and has accommodated our peculiar needs as a church plant. We thanked him again, said our goodbyes and wished him and his family well in their new territory.

We give all the glory to our Lord Jesus Christ, whose love is central and foremost in the success of this growing and flourishing local church.

IAN MAW

Website launching  
12 March

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*'And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."'*

Mark 16:15, ESV

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THE LIFESOURCE TEAM



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# Scottish Mission youth – winter camp



December, that month of Christmas enthusiasm that you wish would never end . . . but the winter low rolls on forever, and sunlit days appear in fleeting moments. In 2019, the Scottish Mission youth had a plan to beat all that. They were heading to a new country, Austria, to try and learn a new hobby – skiing and snowboarding – and they were really pumped. Austria is one of the most beautiful countries in Europe, and has some of the best ski resorts ideal for all levels, including beginners.

To describe the winter camp in only a few words would not give a true reflection of the fantastic experience that they had. To many, the trip to Austria was a rollercoaster of emotions, feelings and weather. Before they had even arrived in Schwarzenberg, it was clear to see the excitement among the group. Although the journey getting to Schwarzenberg from Munich Airport was quite

tiring, there were some who could not hold in the excitement of finally being in their winter gear and sledding down the slopes. For the vast majority, it would be the first time they had ever skied or snowboarded.

Upon arriving in Schwarzenberg, the group were warmly welcomed by the Austrian youth, who had also prepared some dinner for them. Despite being from different countries, it was very easy to communicate with the Austrian youth, as their English was very good. For some of the Scottish Mission group, this inspired them to start learning a new language once they got home. It was fantastic fun making friends from another country, getting to learn a bit of German on the side, telling them of the beauty of the Scottish Highlands, and trying to convince them to pay Scotland a visit.

But what about the slopes? This is why the group went to Austria, right? Being first-timers,



Photo quality as supplied

the whole group felt the nerves, and on the first day one of them had a minor injury. Having said that, everyone picked up the sport quickly, so that they even had a couple of individuals move from the beginner blue to the advanced black slopes. The experience over the course of two and a half days on the slopes was so surreal that some individuals planned on purchasing their very own skis and snowboards to use for future trips. However, even the slopes at Innsbruck, the 'bridge over the River Inn', were tried and conquered.

Innsbruck is one of the most beautiful cities to ever visit. Walking through the city can be

likened to one of Mozart's symphonies; it is spectacular. One can be forgiven for being left breathless by the views – the colourful houses along the river, with the mountains as a jaw-dropping natural backdrop. This is an almost unbeatable view. Many have travelled to various parts of the world, but there are not many places that leave you as speechless as Innsbruck. To top it all off, the group had dinner at a restaurant high up in the hills of the city. There could have been no better end to an amazing experience.

Austria 2019! What an end to a decade.  
JIMMY BOTHA

**All are Gifted, Needed and Treasured**

**Adventist Special Needs Awareness Weekend** (Formerly Disabilities Ministries)

**14-15 March 2020** - Start Time: 10am (Both days)

**Manchester North Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
5 Humphrey Street, Manchester M8 9JS

**Presenter: DR JAN-HARRY CABUNGAL**  
Neuroscientist & Author, Founder & Evangelism Coordinator for Europe/Jesus

**Presenter: DR PATRICK JOHNSON**  
Special Needs Director (Trans European Division)

More info contact: Orlene Dunkley at [odunkley@necadventist.org.uk](mailto:odunkley@necadventist.org.uk) or Grace Walsh at [gwalsh@necadventist.org.uk](mailto:gwalsh@necadventist.org.uk) Tel: 0115 960 6312

Please book online for your attendance on Sunday 15 March  
[uk.bookingbug.com/home/33185](http://uk.bookingbug.com/home/33185)

PRICE: £5PP SUNDAY ONLY

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

# Teens & Tweens days

Recently a lady spoke to me about a friend whose 12-year-old daughter has stopped going to church, probably because there is no one her age there and the services are traditional. Also, the same day, a pastor told us of teens and twenty-year-olds who say church services are not relevant to them. Perhaps this is your experience or that of someone you know. What can we do about this? Perhaps you need to know more about Teens and Tweens days.

The Teens & Tweens ministry, aiming at young people aged 8 to 18+ (tweens are aged 8-12 – an age when many make their decisions for or against Christ), had its humble beginnings in Cheltenham in March 2014. It was born out of the recognition that its children and young people needed to network with other Adventist young people in order to cement their connections with God and with the church, so we asked them to invite a few of their friends (with their families and parents who would benefit from networking too) for a day of creative worship, fellowship and food.

Nearly 6 years on, the Teens and Tweens ministry has mushroomed way beyond what we could have imagined. There have been approximately 25 similar events in six different churches, the members of which have seen the necessity of doing something just a little different for our young people and their families, and have been bold enough and passionate enough to continually make provision



Photo quality as supplied

for our young people.

In 2019, we were blessed with six such events: at Barnsley in February, Cheltenham in March, Leamington Spa in July, Loughborough in September, back to Barnsley in October for a special baptism day, and finally to Newbold (Moor Close) in November for a day organised and hosted by St Albans Church.

The guest speaker and facilitator at Newbold was Adrian Peck, whose theme was 'Are You Listening?' He used a variety of interactive icebreaker activities and group discussions to emphasise the importance of taking good advice, listening to others, and also being willing to talk with the right people when we have problems. The programmes also included some well-chosen songs, ably led by a sizeable and enthusiastic group of young instrumentalists and singers.

And what have others said about Teens and Tweens? Below are just a few of the many



positive comments (paraphrased):

**A parent at one event:** 'This morning my son wanted to come to Teens and Tweens instead of playing football.'

**A senior SEC pastor:** 'This is the best thing to happen to Seventh-day Adventist young people of this current generation.'

**A 15-year-old attendee (to the human initiators):** 'Thank you for Teens and Tweens.'

We have heard that Conference departmental directors are also talking about these days in a favourable light.

As there is obviously a need

for this ministry, it would be great to see more churches in more areas providing such events.

For a little flavour of a Teens and Tweens day, please have a look at the following YouTube video clip by SEC Media: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdIX7KfzWzI>.

If this is something you and your young people would like to attend, or would like to organise in your church/area, please contact the following email for further details: [mikebeamish@outlook.com](mailto:mikebeamish@outlook.com).

### Teens and Tweens fast facts

- Altogether, there have been 26 Teens and Tweens events in six different churches.
- Decisions for baptism have been made as a result of this ministry.
- 150-200 have been in attendance at some Teens and Tweens days.
- People come from as far north as Barnsley and as far south as Kent to attend Teens and Tweens events.

This is testament to the value of and need for a Teens and Tweens ministry.

VICKY AND MIKE BEAMISH

## Grantham Church Squared

Church Squared is an initiative led by Grantham youth. Originally the brainchild of one member, it was taken up by an enthusiastic group who favoured the use of current technology to aid their worship experience. The meetings are open to all and are held once a month in the church on Sabbath afternoons.

Youth Director for the North England Conference, Pastor Adam Ramdin, had been appointed to take the main Sabbath morning service and to be the guest speaker at Grantham Church Squared.

Pastor Ramdin chose the topic of prayer, based on Luke 11:1-13. As one might expect at such a gathering, group discussion was encouraged and entered into.

All who were present received a blessing from the presentation: both the usual attendees and visitors who had chosen to spend the day in Grantham.

And why the name, 'Church Squared'? Philip Anderson, a member of the core group, explains. 'We chose the name, "Church Squared" because it reminded us that if we are going to reach my generation in Grantham for Christ, then we might just have to think 'outside the box' as to how we do church.'

MIKE COWEN



# The baggage we carry

Weiers Coetser

**A** throw-away comment at a conference in Exeter a few days ago set my mind racing. The presenter, Fiona Carden, was talking about homelessness in the city. Fiona works in the Co-Lab offices, just around the corner from our church. She's part of the Exeter Homelessness Partnership. They have set themselves the lofty goal of eradicating homelessness in Exeter. You don't get goals much more aspirational than that! It is well worth looking them up on social media.

Fiona's presentation contained many meaningful snippets of information. 'When we think of homelessness, we usually think of rough sleeping,' she said. 'This is a real challenge. On any given night there are about 45 rough sleepers that we know of in Exeter. Most rough sleepers do not live to be older than 50 years.'

But for every rough sleeper there are many more people who have no fixed place to live: who sofa-surf or move around between various insecure dwellings, or whose resources or personal situations make it impossible to maintain a safe and permanent dwelling.

Fiona affirmed the role of churches in providing tangible help to people who face the prospect of homelessness, but she warned about some pitfalls. 'Almost everybody's first impulse is to set up a soup-kitchen. Churches would make a bigger impact if they purposefully linked up with already existent food networks in the city who are well-placed and organised to provide an effective service.' She challenged congregations to identify volunteers who would be willing to become acquainted with the many issues surrounding homelessness in their area.

The comment that set my mind racing, however, was about *baggage*. 'Baggage is an almost inescapable reality of a homeless person's existence,' said Fiona. Think about it. How do we recognise someone as homeless? A key marker is the tell-tale hold-all with a



sleeping bag, a variety of warm coats and other odds and ends. Even people who are on the verge of losing security of tenure face problems of not knowing what to do with the 'stuff' that they have accumulated in their lives: furniture, clothes, kitchen appliances.

As Fiona spoke, I wondered how one could help with the burden of stuff. Perhaps a garage could be dedicated to store furniture for a family until their situation improves. Imagine a secure central locker where someone could stow away sleeping bags and clothes during the day and be free to move around without the added load.

Somewhere my thoughts turned inwards towards the loads that we tend to carry around ourselves: old grudges that make it difficult for us to value somebody else fully; feelings of guilt and shame that prevent us from stepping out of our shell and experiencing a joyful life; attachment to material things that tie us down and stop us from taking interesting risks and trying something new. . . .

Jesus' invitation still stands: '*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*' (Matthew 11:28-30, NIV.)

## Jack Mahon (1921-2019) d. 31 October.

Jack had a long and full life – 98 years – and even when armchair-bound he harboured irrepressible energy. He began life in October 1921 as John Mahon in Blackburn, Lancashire, the youngest of five siblings.

Even though formal secondary education ended for Jack at 14, it gave him a lifelong hunger for learning and knowledge, achieved with the aid of a good memory.

With their mother and father, Kath, Ethel and Jack all became Adventists, resulting from a locally run campaign by W. R. A. Madgwick; through the church network, Jack accepted an offer of work by W. A. Girling – a shoemaker and repairer in Gillingham, Kent. Jack was followed down to Gillingham by his mother, father, and sister Ethel, the latter two also employed by Girling, taking their place alongside other Adventist families



such as the McGoldricks and Albert Balderstone. Working with Adventists strengthened Jack's relationship with the church, which was central to this community.

When war broke out in 1939, Jack was eligible for conscription but declared himself a conscientious objector and was put to service on the land, near old Newbold Revel in Warwickshire, where both Kath and Ethel studied to become Bible workers. When a new campus was bought after the end of WWII, he migrated south to Binfield with the college and began his theological studies. The shadow of two great wars accentuated Jack's commitment both to non-conformism and to pacifism. Heroes like David Livingstone energised his imagination and ambition.

Graduating from Newbold in 1949, Jack worked alongside the evangelistic names of the time as an assistant in the ministerial team. 1950 found him in Scotland under the spell of a raven-haired

young woman with a celestial singing voice whom he first met on a Glasgow tram, and he married Margaret in August 1951. Murray arrived in Edinburgh the next year, and was followed in 1954 and 1956 by Shona Margaret and Fiona Kathleen respectively. By 1954 Jack was established in the Adventist Church's Youth Department in the North England Conference and the family were settled in Nottingham. In 1959 Jack moved to the South England Conference, and for six years the family lived in Watford, with Stanborough Park the centre of their universe.

In 1965 Jack found himself posted to Kingston-upon-Hull to minister to the church there. In two years at Hull, with the support of his members, Jack renovated the dilapidated church building and breathed new energy into an ailing congregation.

In 1967 the family moved back to Nottingham, where Jack held office in the Lay Activities and PR Department. Jack entered a period of great energy in work and life,

devising new ideas for the church programmes, now with like-minded colleagues Don Lowe and Jim Huzzey – creating a dynamic trio who realised their visions at Aberdaron Youth Camp, Nottingham University, and Braithwaite in the Lake District – to name but three.

In 1973 Jack answered a call to Adventist missionary work in the Middle East, moving to Beirut, Lebanon – initially with Shona and Fiona. This began a nomadic period for Jack and the family which, though exciting, required dedication and not a little sacrifice, as Margaret was often left alone while Jack travelled the Middle East.

With some relief Jack and Margaret returned from the Middle East in 1980 to be posted to Derby; but, ere long, in the mid-eighties Jack was posted to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, as Communications Director for the Africa and Indian Ocean Division, where he and Margaret were tested to the limit psychologically and physically when they both

recovered from deadly cerebral malaria. On permanent return from their tour of duty in West Africa in 1990 Jack was posted to the Midlands, where he ministered to the Leamington and Coventry congregations, and eventually retired to Binfield in 1992. For Jack and Margaret the 15 years of living together there surrounded by friends in the Newbold and Binfield village community was a little bit of heaven. Jack filled his days with writing and research – always with a project on the go – while Margaret did part-time secretarial work at Newbold.

The gilding on these golden years faded when Margaret passed away in 2007; then the last of Jack's siblings, Ethel, in 2009; followed by the hammer blow of Fiona, aged just 53, later that same year. Jack bore his loss with great stoicism.

Jack soldiered on, making little of various medical setbacks and never complaining about the onset of vascular dementia. We believe that the sustaining friendship and love of family helped and motivated him, in addition to a group of friends whose companionship he treasured.

He faced his passing with courage and dignified determination – he knew his race had been run – not a mere 100-metre sprint, but a marathon full of milestones too many to count.

SHONA ADLARD

## Barbara Marjorie Gresswell (1941-2019) d. 10 December.

It was with a great sense of loss and sadness that family and friends from the Newark church and beyond met to say goodbye to Barbara Gresswell at the Grantham church on 31 December. Officiating at the service were Pastors John Ferguson, Sam Gardner and Peter Sayers.

Barbara was born in Calcutta to Anglo-Indian parents, John and Agnes. She was the middle child of three, with an elder brother (Conrad) and a younger sister (Cynthia). Barbara often spoke longingly and lovingly of life in Calcutta.

Barbara was baptised on 29 March 1953 following a tent

campaign run by Pastors Dan Sherman-Harris and D. K. Downs. After the partition of India into India and Pakistan in 1947, her father decided that it would be better for the family to emigrate to England because the employment prospects for Anglo-Indians were very poor. When they arrived in Southampton, John had the grand sum of seven shillings and sixpence in his pocket! Fortunately, John's sister Helen and family had emigrated earlier and had set up home in Newark, and they took the new arrivals in.

After a short time they found lodgings; John found work at a local Ford dealer as a general hand; and the three children were enrolled in a local secondary school. It was during the 1956 Christmas party given by John's employer that Barbara was to meet the young man who was to become her husband. Barry Gresswell was a part-time musician playing in a band known as The Moritz Players, the band engaged to provide music for this event. While Barbara was on the dance floor with one of the employees, Barry's eyes and hers met, and that's when their relationship started.

Barbara started work at Newark General Hospital as a pre-student nurse when she was 16, with a view to beginning SRN nurse training when she was 18. Training was only available with the General Hospital at Nottingham, and she commenced her course there in November 1959. Forced to take up residence in the hospital's Pearson House, she was very nervous about living away from home, but eventually settled down under the home sister, who ruled with an iron fist. Visits to Pearson House from boyfriends were closely chaperoned.

During these training years

Barbara and Barry became engaged.

Having passed her final SRN examinations, Barbara opted to continue working at the hospital for a further year in order to receive the very reputable Nottingham General Hospital badge. During this year (1963), Barbara and Barry became Mr and Mrs Gresswell, and Barbara was offered a sister's post in the Casualty Department at Newark General Hospital. Their first son, Simon, was born in 1966; their second son, Stewart, arrived at home (delivered by Barry!) in 1968. Barbara temporarily abandoned her career to be a stay-at-home mum.

In the mid '70s she was persuaded to return to work: first as a part-time venipuncturist, and later as a full-time staff nurse, back in Casualty and Outpatients at Newark Hospital.

Around this time Barbara and Barry became interested in playing badminton, with Barbara occasionally playing for the Nottinghamshire County League.

1998 was an eventful year: Stewart emigrated to Australia, and Barry was made redundant and was baptised at Grantham on 31 January. At the same service Barbara reaffirmed her baptismal promises and was offered the hand of fellowship. Barbara subsequently held a number of offices in Newark Church, including the important positions of head deaconess and faithful member of the church board.

In 2000 Simon and Sheila became parents to their first grandchild, Zoe, followed later by Ami. In 2002 Stewart and Julie were married in Adelaide, and two more grandchildren were born: India and Layla.

While visiting Australia in 2013, Barbara became ill and was admitted to Adelaide Hospital

with pneumonia. On returning home to England, her health deteriorated further, with blood and circulation problems which developed into her kidney illness, resulting in nightly home dialysis. Over the past six years her health deteriorated to the point where she was practically immobile.

Barbara showed incredible stoicism during these years. Through all the investigations, surgeries, treatments and deterioration in her health, she remained polite, pleasant, gracious and welcoming to anyone who visited her. Barbara was, indeed, a truly gracious lady – a loving and lovable Christian. Newark Church is not the same without her.

BARRY GRESSWELL

# Messenger

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Editor: David Neal  
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Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Notl	Edin	Belf
Mor	6 5.50	6.03	5.53	5.59	6.11
13	6.03	6.15	6.06	6.13	6.24
20	6.14	6.27	6.19	6.27	6.38
27	6.26	6.38	6.31	6.42	6.51

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21 Peckham	10am-2pm	<b>Advent Centre, Mondays &amp; Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm. Saturdays - November, December, January: after sunset. 0207 7236849</b>
22 Brixton	10am-2pm	
29 Leytonstone	10am-2pm	
April	After Sabbath	
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5 Manchester South	10am-2pm	
18 Holloway	After Sabbath	
19 Croydon	10am-2pm	

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# Global Youth Day 2020

'Global Youth Day' (GYD) was first launched on 13 March 2013 with the support of the General Conference leadership. An initiative of Adventist Youth Ministry leaders from around the world, the vision of GYD is to recapture the reality of Adventist youth as a global movement mobilised for service. Such service contributes to the proclamation of the everlasting Gospel and ushering in the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The idea of 'getting involved' in making

a difference starts with the value that there is a lot more to religious faith than simply going to church and listening to sermons. Through all manner of selfless acts, Christ helped a desperately needy world refocus its vision – to the ultimate hope of the better world He's made possible for us. Jesus said, 'Go and do likewise' (Luke 10:25-37, NKJV), so the theme of the Global Youth Day is: 'Be the sermon.'

After seeing all the news reports, testimony

videos, and worldwide activity from more than 150 million digital social media impressions each year since 2013, we know that God has been ministering to those in need through energised young people committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus – literally. Seeing how His power moved through the streets of our communities last year in 2019 means we can only imagine what He'll do this year! Make big plans and share them with the world.



Dejan Stojkovic and Natalie Davison (BUC Youth Ministries) with Dean Russell MP, Enoch Kanagaraj, the Co-op team and Watford community representatives.

## Stanborough Park youth participate in Global Youth Day by cleaning up in Watford

Care for the environment has become a hot topic recently: nothing new for Adventists, who have always had a healthy respect for God's creation. That some people disfigure it under a blanket of litter is a cause of great sadness.

With the current generation of the country's youth more environmentally aware than most these days, what better way to challenge them on Global Youth Day, 21 March, than to get them involved in the Great British Spring Clean campaign (20 March – 13 April), which will see groups setting out around the British Isles to clear their local areas of unsightly litter.

With this in mind, Stanborough Park Church set out an ambitious project to make Watford a pleasanter place to live and work, involving not only the Pathfinders and other church youth, but also the local community, in a big clean-up operation on Global Youth Day.

From humble beginnings as the Community Chaplaincy Service leader, Enoch Kanagaraj expanded the scope of the department by bringing together local charities and support groups for monthly meetings at the church, sharing expertise, training and resources under the 'One Vision' umbrella.

Using his 'One Vision' connections, Enoch has obtained support for this big project from the Mayor of Watford and group members, as well as local service providers, along with the town's MP, who is keen to help and will attempt to persuade a Womble to attend.

With sponsorship from Co-op Food, which, among other things, will provide funding and gazebos; support from Watford Borough Council,

providing recycling bags and so on; local refuse service provider, Veolia, providing litter pickers, bins and so on – all that is needed are volunteers. Here the church's youth will play an active role, and it is hoped that others from the community will join them.

Although the church's youth will miss the normal Sabbath services, they will have the opportunity to worship and will not only be using their gifts to help and serve others (raising the church's profile in the community), but will also be providing the sermon with their actions. As Jesus said, '... it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.' (Matthew 12:12, NIV.)

Once the finer details have been ironed out, all that is needed are volunteers and good weather!

JUNE COOMBS

Visit [www.adventistyouth.org.uk](http://www.adventistyouth.org.uk) for more information about GYD and sharing your project videos for the live broadcast on 21 March.

## Around the UK and Ireland – youth are planning for Global Youth Day

**Dundee** – planning to visit shut-ins and others near and far from the church.

**Bracknell** – offering blood donations; gifts for police officers/firemen; cooking with housebound people in the community.

**Brixton** – visiting 25 housebound church members with poor health/disability who are no longer able to attend services; encouraging more young people in need to attend the Help the Homeless project.

**Cardiff** – converging and taking over the street outside the church with stalls and a marquee and inviting all local residents to a street outreach programme/party.

## Year in Mission student visits Ghana



'For the past two years, ADRA-UK has partnered with Newbold College in delivering a module in International Development, Social Action and Urban Ministries, as part of the Year in Service and Mission. Sarah Shepley, one of the students on the course, recently visited Ghana on a monitoring and evaluation trip with Darja Markek, Programmes Officer at ADRA-UK.

ADRA Ghana, supported by ADRA-UK and the European Union, aims to improve the livelihoods of 14,500 cashew farmers, nut pickers and others involved in the value chain, in the Bono, Bono East and Ashanti regions of Ghana. The project is now in its second year. Darja Markek, ADRA-UK Programmes Officer, and Sarah Shepley, Newbold Year in Mission student, visited the project to see the work being done on the ground.

Full story next time.

CATHY BOLDEAU

