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Messenger

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
in the United Kingdom and Ireland

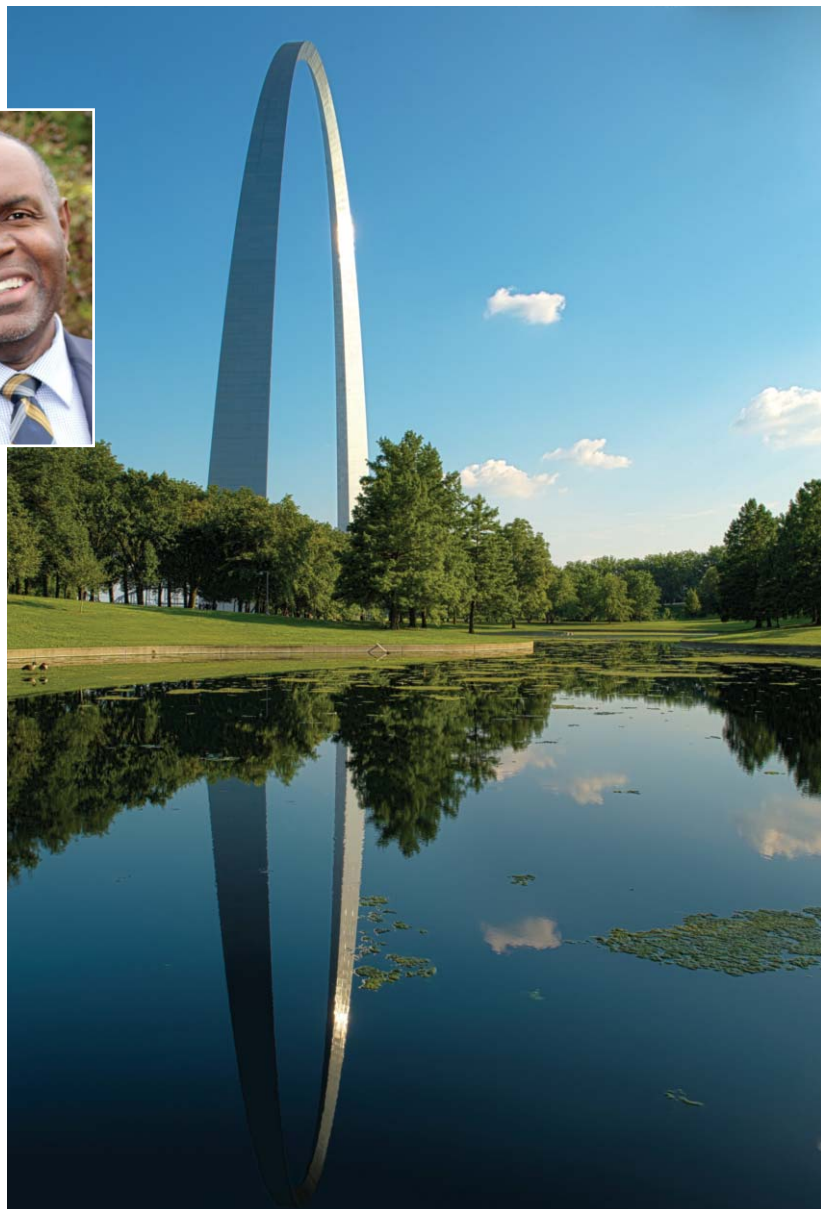
29 July 2022 • Volume 127 • 7

General Conference Session 2022

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Roller coaster

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,
President of the British Union Conference



I had the privilege of attending the 61st General Conference Session in St Louis. It was great to meet with Seventh-day Adventists from all around the world. Many consider this gathering a 'foretaste of heaven', where all nations gather in worship and praise to acknowledge the majesty of the Creator. The diversity of languages, the thought-provoking messages and the colourful fellowship made it an unmissable event. Ellen White often referred to the gathering of the General Conference Session as the voice of God: 'I am encouraged and blessed as I realise that the God of Israel is still guiding His people, and that He will continue to be with them, even to the end' (*Selected Messages*, vol. 2, p. 406).

The delegation witnessed the work of the thirteen divisions and four attached fields around the world. Baptisms, community outreach and evangelistic endeavours provided inspiration for a denomination that boasts nearly 22 million members. For nearly a week, the corporate church was immersed in its business, making important personnel changes, ratifying policies, discussing current issues, and deciding on the way forward for the next few years.

But, while the hustle and bustle of church business was in full swing, there were those who were casualties of the business dealings of our organisation, through unexpected retirements and deselections. These individuals have given years of tireless service. Weekends were given up travelling across the world to preach or conduct seminars. Family life was often neglected in favour of our unwitting membership. Their salaries did not reflect the years of study, and their pensions even less so. It can seem as though, after all their years of hard work, they have been shunted aside in favour of a more fashionable model.

Working for the church demands *sacrifice*. It brings a unique flavour of loneliness and demands a dogged determination to complete the tasks God has called us to accomplish. Indeed, there is no guarantee that any of us will be re-selected by any nominating committee, local through to General Conference. So, how do people who have often felt publicly humiliated by the business side of our church process their feelings; how do they cope; and, more pointedly, how do they survive? How do they handle walking into a church environment and worship with the prying eyes of sometimes all-too-curious spectators? How do they go back to the same church where they know that brother or sister said something to the pastor or committee that now sees them out of favour with the ethos of our church? Furthermore, how does their replacement begin to forge a way forward, when there are obviously divided loyalties in the ranks? How should we cope with these service exit wounds?

I would argue that the above is almost impossible without these three things:

First, if we believe in the sovereignty of God, then we know that it is He who calls us: 'Faithful is He who calls you . . .' (1 Thess. 5:24, NASB). As such, the knowledge that our calling and purpose come not from man, but from God, should always be uppermost in our minds. The God that called Isaiah and asked, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' (Isaiah 6:8, NASB) is the same God who calls each of us to our unique ministry.

Next, ' . . . we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28, NIVUK). While I'm sure that this is not a scripture that will bring immediate comfort in the immediate aftermath of church exit wounds, I do think that it is a passage that we can reflect on as we look for the continued leading of God in our lives, and as new opportunities are granted for service in new ways, in new fields, and eventually in retirement.

Finally, every church leader needs to do some succession planning. None of us will be in office for ever. I am called by God to serve you as the BUC President, and it is a role and responsibility that I treat with the utmost respect. But there will come a time when I have completed my duties, and some committee will deselect me; it will be time for me to move on, do something different, and minister in new ways. Like Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, Jesus and His disciples, each of us in leadership needs to appreciate that we are only here for a season, and we need to train the next generation of leadership. We need to model better management processes for our workers and intentionally equip them to adjust to the inevitability of change. Just imagine what that kind of Christian management initiative would look like.

In the latest edition of *Ministry Magazine*, the outgoing editor, Jerry Page, in his article, 'No limits: the power and joys of unselfish ministry', quotes from page 159 of *The Ministry of Healing*: 'There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his [or her] heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.'

May the roller-coaster ride of service find you grounded in your call, accepting the leading of your Father, God, while providing training opportunities for those who will follow you.



From the editor . . .

Julian Thompson,
Editor

Dear Reader,

This edition of *MESSENGER* focuses on the recent General Conference Session. As I'm sure you've heard, the Seventh-day Adventist Church held its General Conference session from 6 to 11 June 2022 in St Louis, Missouri. For those who may be unfamiliar with the particulars

of a General Conference session, it is essentially the business meeting of the worldwide church that occurs every five years.

While anyone can attend a General Conference session, voice and vote are generally reserved for those nominated as delegates by their unions. As reported in *BUC News*, the British Union was represented by eleven delegates, one of whom shares their reflections in this edition.

For me, one of the highlights of any GC session is the report prepared by the *Office of Archives, Statistics and Research* detailing the progress of the Church's work across the globe. Consider the following:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is established in 212 countries, in 838 languages and dialects, and has a membership of 21,912,161. It has 9,419 schools worldwide, providing education to over 2 million students, and runs 229 hospitals managing more than a million inpatients and more than 18 million outpatients. Indeed, the work being done by the Adventist Church is nothing if not remarkable – yet, as we are often reminded, there's still so much more to be done. If we are honest with ourselves, the scale of the task ahead of us can at times feel daunting; but, as the parable of the wise manager in Luke 16:10 reminds us, if we focus on the quality of our work, in time, scale will come.

I am pleased to present you with the July edition of *MESSENGER*. I trust that within its pages you will find both challenge and hope, and come to know a little more about what God is doing in the British Union and the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.



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Matthew 5:16



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GC Session: not just a meeting, but a window into an unwritten future

by Max McKenzie-Cook

On 6 June 2022, the global gathering of Adventist delegates opened the 61st General Conference Session. Since I was asked to write a reflection piece on the Session, I thought I would focus on the experience as a lifelong Adventist but a first-time delegate.

The Sunday before the Session opened, I was up early, ready to catch the flight that would take me to my eventual destination in America. As I entered the airport, I was on 'Adventist watch'! I remembered stories from previous GC excursions where planes full of Adventists were invited to sing renditions of their favourite songs.

I knew there was a high probability that I would meet other Adventists, and I found myself experiencing a sense of Adventist pride. Knowing that I'd encounter other fellow believers that shared the same values and lived in anticipation of Jesus' soon return gave me a deep sense of belonging.

As I entered the humid city of St Louis, I was privileged to witness our globally diverse membership. Reflecting on how God worked through our pioneers, a small group of Christian outsiders, to spread His message across the globe is awe-inspiring. This made me reflect deeply on my duties as a delegate at Session.

While it is the elections that tend to capture the attention the most at Session, I found myself drawn to the question of how this behemoth of an organisation goes about driving the mission forwards across vast geographical territories while simultaneously negotiating a plethora of needs and viewpoints. The constitutional and *Church Manual* changes are considered by some to be boring: but, from my observations, they seem to represent an attempt to keep in balance (and tension) the idea of a global church while maintaining the flexibility needed to respond to local needs. For example, the voted statements on Ellen White and the Holy Bible initiated much debate, reflecting the nuanced ways we perceive God's expression in space and time.

One question that has often intrigued me relates to the implications of a representative system of governance. In practice, it is very hard for items to be rejected or changed at the GC Session level. Before any item reaches the floor for public discussion, it would have gone through a robust consultative process (that is, eight, nine or ten different committees made up of representatives from all stakeholders).



Consequently, the average member sees the live-streamed discussion and vote, but not the often-lengthy consultative process that preceded it. This may give the inaccurate impression that the GC Session is simply a rubber-stamping exercise that does not allow other voices to be heard. Of course, there is an option to 'refer back' or 'reject' an item; but the fact that the items presented have already passed through a consultative process makes this unlikely. I can see why this might feel frustrating to those who want to see the church move in a different direction.

St Louis forced me to reflect on the impact of the mission. I didn't know before we arrived that St Louis has one of the highest crime rates in any American city. When we arrived, you could see that the architecture of the buildings echoed a once-great city. However, it has succumbed to decay, dilapidation and deprivation. It was clear that many residents were struggling 'to make ends meet'. The GC Session brought into this city more than 2,000 Christians who, with all their heart, believe that one day there will be no more pain, death

or tears and desire to express the love of God through their actions and deeds.

It reminded me that we shouldn't just be waiting for our Lord to return: we should be looking to heal and restore broken people now. As I bring my thoughts to a close, my overall impression of Session is that it not only made me feel proud to be an Adventist, but it also sensitised me to the mighty challenges that stand before us, especially concerning how we position our church for the future of our mission. How do we provide healing and restoration from real pain and suffering as we wait for God? GC Session was more than just a meeting: it was a subtle call to shape the future, especially in our territory.



The 61st General Conference Session – different!

by David Neal

It was delayed twice due to COVID-19; downsized due to COVID-19; hybridised due to COVID-19. This session, 6-11 June 2022, was a unique session. The atmosphere was not the same – because, while the world church met to conduct business, absent were members and ministries to share, resource, encourage and celebrate. Don't get me wrong – we sang, debated, and voted – but traditionally the General Conference Session has had much more than that . . . for it is the time when a vast number of Seventh-day Adventists from around the world gather for fellowship and ministry. It is a reminder that, while they might attend a small congregation in their home town, they belong to a global movement whose reach stretches across almost every ocean and continent.

Missing the exhibition hall

Beyond the goings-on in the main hall where the delegates conduct business, the most exciting feature of the Session is often the exhibition hall, which has, in many ways, served as a real statement of the church's progress and continuing commitment to mission. Ordinarily, the exhibition would be filled with examples of projects, ministries, and resources demonstrating to the world church the truths we still hold, our identity, and that which drives us to finish the work. However, this session, the exhibition hall was empty – and, while a substitute virtual exhibition was available online, I did miss the usual buzz that physical exhibitions and sales stands bring.

Church business

The Session began with a call by veteran preachers Mark Finley, Dwight Nelson and Barry Black to live in expectation of the latter rain and the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Once business got underway, there was a raft of detailed and necessary amendments to the Church Constitution and manual and working policies. The most spirited discussion concerned two statements of affirmation regarding how Adventists understand the role of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy in the life of the church. Both were reaffirmed, but it was clear from the discussion on the floor that some apprehension remained.

While some adopted a 'God says it, I believe it, and that settles it for me' approach to Scripture, others reasoned that, in order for us to understand what the Lord is saying, we must recognise that what we see in the pages



Pastor Ted Wilson, re-elected as GC President

of the Bible is nuanced, requires deep investigation, and must be read within its context. This is perhaps a poor caricature of what is a deep and complex tension.

Similar discussions were had concerning the affirmation of the ministry of Ellen White. How do we appropriately engage, affirm and apply her teachings? What is her relationship to Scripture? Are her writings to be considered as above, below or beside Scripture? While we do, of course, believe that 'the Bible is our only rule of faith and practice', it would appear that now, over a century after her death, some are unsure. Hence the proposal from the General



Pastor Daniel Duda – TED President

Conference leadership for an Ellen White sponsor in every church, tasked with promoting and highlighting teachings from her writings, with the conviction that a wider readership will strengthen the members' faith. While some delegates met the idea with great enthusiasm, others felt much distress. A full report on this discussion can be found via *TED News* under the headline: 'What Actually Happened at GC Session? Voting on Statements on the Holy Bible and Ellen G. White'.



Pastor Robert Csizmadia – TED Executive Secretary



Nenad Jeuranović – TED Treasurer



Pastor Audrey Andersson – GC Vice President

Elections

Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson – President, General Conference

Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson was elected for a third term as President of the General Conference – a statement, perhaps, that the world church continues to appreciate his leadership and stewardship of the church, and is not yet ready to let him go. His Sabbath sermon was



Pastor Daniel Duda with Pastor Ian Sweeney, former BUC president (left) and Pastor Eglan Brooks, BUC President (right)

an appeal to church members to ‘hold fast’ to what they believe, highlighting several challenges they and the church collectively face.

Dr Daniel Duda – President, Trans-European Division

Dr Daniel Duda was elected to serve as President of the Trans-European Division, replacing the outgoing president, Pastor Raafat Kamal, who has served at the Division for over fifteen years (including seven as president). Dr Duda is well known to BUC members, having spoken at camp meetings, conventions and conferences, and having previously served as TED Field Director, Education Director, and Ministerial Director.

Dr Duda brings the combined spiritual gifts of a pastor, theologian and administrator to the presidency. He is renowned for digging deep into the Scriptures and bringing forth fresh insights for life and witness. Dr Duda ably demonstrates his calling and passion with a non-negotiable commitment that discipleship and mission are inseparable.

When asked about his vision for the Trans-European Division, he said: ‘I want our churches to be communities of hope in this difficult time. People need hope. We need to put service, ministry and outreach first. I want to see building relationships as a key priority: developing people and leaders, with increased teamwork in the context of a caring and positive atmosphere. We all have different strengths and gifts; and, in diversity, everyone has a role to play. We are stronger together!’ Duda emphasised, ‘At the TED office, we will continue to use our resources in a transparent way to enhance the mission and outreach of our unions and attached fields.’

Pastor Robert Csizmadia – TED Executive Secretary

Pastor Robert Csizmadia, formerly the President of the Duna Conference of the Hungarian Union Conference, was elected to serve the Trans-European Division (TED) as Executive Secretary for the next three years. He is not only recognised for his administrative gifts and skills, but, as he describes, actually enjoys ‘working with systems and processes to enhance the mission of the church’.

Nenad Jeuranović – TED Treasurer

With a consistent gentle spirit, excellent management skills, and fiscal prudence grounded in stewardship of the Lord’s resources, Nenad Jeuranović, the incumbent

treasurer, was elected to serve the Trans-European Division (TED) for the next three years. Born in Belgrade, Serbia, Jeuranović worked in commerce after graduating from Newbold College. He first worked for the TED in 2005 as Senior Management Accountant, Assistant and Associate Treasurer before becoming TED Treasurer in 2013. Married to Tanya, a registered nurse, Nenad has been vital to directing finances and resources towards mission, including best strategic use and stewardship of the Newbold College of Higher Education campus, a TED institution. ‘In addition to serving the Lord and the church,’ says Jeuranović, ‘my goal is to ensure that current resources are used to maximum efficiency.’

Pastor Audrey Andersson – General Conference Vice President

Seven General Conference (GC) vice presidents were elected during the Tuesday morning business session: among them, Pastor Audrey Andersson. Originally from Ireland, with strong Swedish connections, Andersson studied Theology at Newbold College of Higher Education. After graduating, she worked as a legal editor and ran her own communication company. In 2003, Audrey commenced denominational employment as Executive Secretary for the Swedish Union. Since 2010, she has served as Executive Secretary for the Trans-European Division (TED) and was the first woman to hold this position.

‘I go with mixed feelings,’ reflected Andersson on her election. ‘I am very sad to be leaving the TED; it is where my heart is. It will always be my home.’ As the first European woman to serve in the vice president role, Andersson encouraged women to get involved in mission. ‘Follow your dreams; the church has a place for you!’ Andersson remarked. ‘Follow where He leads, and you will never be disappointed.’ You can watch Audrey’s interview with Vanesa Pizzuto (Associate TED Communication Director) via *TED News*.

Looking ahead

The next General Conference session will take place in the summer of 2025, just three years away. How will the Lord move, shake and mature His church over the next few years? As I bring my reflections to a close, I am reminded of the words of TED Stewardship Director, Pastor Maureen Rock: ‘For the global church to move forwards effectively together, there is a great need for bridge-building. . . . This bridge-building assignment is not a distraction from Global Mission. . . . I believe it to be a unique job of the GC. . . . I am praying for Elder Wilson to be the bridge builder in chief. . . . My hope and prayer for the next three years and beyond is for equality across our church organisation in regard to the acknowledgement of all whom God has called to mission and ministry.’

You never know

by Dennis Johnson

You never know how much someone means
until they're not around anymore;
There is no face to turn to you as you
come in through that door.

No smile of welcome to cheer
and brighten up a bad day;
You never know how much it
means till it's taken away!

No hand to hold while sitting
or walking along together:
It's hard to think positively
when you know it's gone forever.

You never know how hard it
is when you just say 'I love you,'
And a vacant face of incomprehension
just looks back at you!

If you're lucky you may get
a smile, or just as likely not -
You never know how much you
care when you see that she forgot!

Will it always hurt this much?
Will your heart always break inside?
When you have to shed such
sad tears and give away all pride.

You would have thought or hoped
that by now it would easier be;
You never knew that the happy
chap broken could be thee.

Every day you go along just
hoping for the best -
Will it be a pleasant time,
or just as bad as the rest?

You never know what to expect
as you walk in through the door;
You hope that you will find
her better than she was before!

Helping her with dinner is
the best that you can do:
Everything else is done by others;
nothing left for you.

How pleased you are when the
plate is cleared and all the food gone:
You never knew how much
it meant to be relied upon.

No matter how long you stay,
you're going to have to leave,
Trying your best to leave a
smile before you begin to grieve.

You say, 'I'll come tomorrow'
and 'I will see you soon again.'
How hard it is to try to hide the pain!

Slowly you walk the corridor
to where you meet the staff,
And try to hide the hurt inside
with a really hollow laugh.

You never know if they understand
or if they've ever had to face
The personal experience of the
ones who visit that place!

You find out things you never
knew, never expected to face,
And the only thing that gets you
through is relying on God's grace.





Creating a culture of evangelism – part 1

by **Dr Kirk M. Thomas,**

Evangelism, Missions, Publishing, Personal Ministries & Sabbath School Director of the British Union Conference

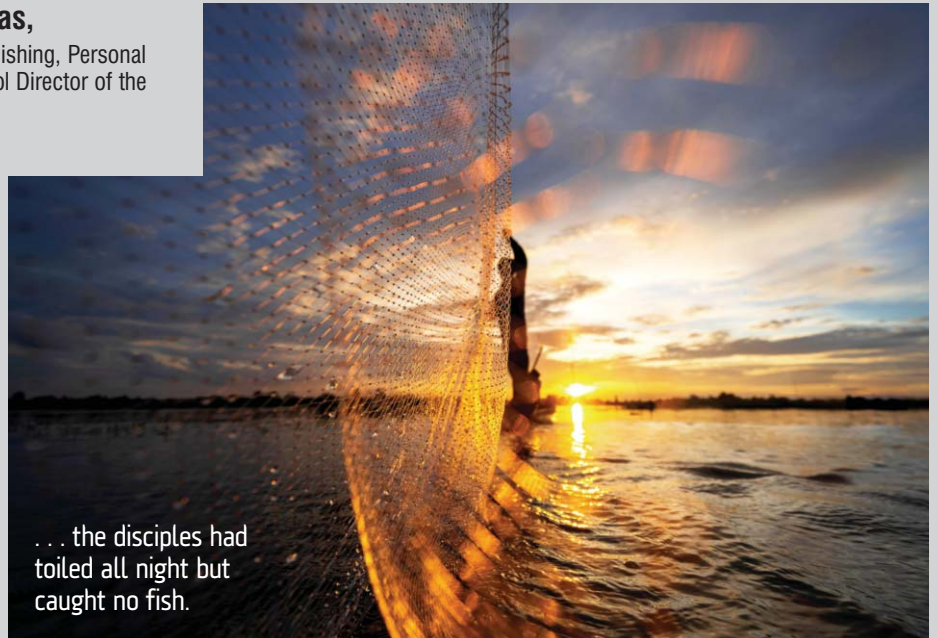
Speaking of culture, Bernard Shaw said, 'The university will always exist as a community of persons pursuing culture, talking culture, thinking culture, above all criticising culture.' I hope that quotation brings a smile to your face as we look to identify and assimilate ideas and practices that can help turn our churches into soul-winning hubs of grace.

Culture has been defined as 'all the ways of life including arts, beliefs and institutions of a population that are passed down from generation to generation'. It has been called 'the way of life for an entire society'. It includes codes of manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, and art. Furthermore, 'culture' (from the Latin *cultura*, which stems from the word *colere*, 'to cultivate') generally refers to patterns of human activity and the symbolic structures that give such activities significance and importance. The term 'cultures', on the other hand, can be 'understood as systems of symbols and meanings that even their creators contest, that lack fixed boundaries, that are constantly in flux, and that interact and compete with one another'. In this article, I would like to focus on culture and its significance in developing a missionary mentality in God's church.

The first step in creating a culture of evangelism in your congregation is to pray and be willing to move from the comfortable to the uncomfortable. Let me illustrate this by reminding you of the plight of the potential disciples in Luke 5:5, where the disciples had toiled all night but caught no fish. Note carefully that they had 'toiled' where they were comfortable, at a place, time and depth where they were sure the fish would be. The 'stars had aligned' for a catch – but nothing was caught. The lesson we find here is that, to catch fish, the disciples had to move with Jesus to the uncomfortable; only then could their wildest expectations become a reality. Too many of us are comfortable with a routine, mundane, lifeless reality void of the Holy Spirit. It's time to *get uncomfortable*.

Secondly, creating a culture of evangelism begins with the influential few, not the many. It does not take the entire congregation to effect change: a few can influence the majority to transform the culture. An example of this occurred in 2012. Having been elected as Personal Ministries Director of the South England Conference, I had a vision of starting a School of Evangelism, Mission and Leadership to make training available and accessible to every member within the Conference. The vision was shared with the administration and directors; and, while the administration supported it completely, others adopted a 'let's wait and see' posture. We started with six cohorts (subject areas); but by September 2018, when I joined the BUC, the number of cohorts had increased to fifteen! Almost anyone who wanted to share their faith could have found a course of study that suited their giftedness. More than one thousand five hundred graduated, some for the first time in their lives. These graduates returned to their churches equipped and invigorated to effect change and work for the Lord.

Among the many blessings I received while running the school, there are two of particular significance that I would like to bring to your attention:



... the disciples had toiled all night but caught no fish.

Firstly, at least three graduates, Helen DeCoteau-Grant, Mandy Fishley and Joseph, returned to assist the teachers. In the case of Helen, she took over and led the Bible Worker Cohort.

Secondly, several students who came to the School of Evangelism received the call to ministry and have since enrolled at Newbold College. With permission, I will share a few of those names with you: Tremon Jackson, who travelled from Wales to London every month and now pastors the Gloucester district of churches; Jacqueline Otokpa, the current Women's Ministries Director of the SEC; Divinia Reynolds, a published author, Bible worker, innovator, and part of the BUC Evangelism team; and Adriana Fodor, the current Welsh Mission Personal Ministries Director. Adriana has replicated the School of Evangelism, Mission and Leadership in Wales, and eight students graduated just a few weeks ago. The baptismal candidates with whom these former students are studying have signed up for the next one. Another serial graduate of the school is Elder Judy Clements OBE, now the Children's Ministries Director of the South England Conference. Other attendees include Jesse Samuel, an intern with the Croydon district of churches, and Sindi Mabena, now at Brixton Church, assisting Dr Richard Daly. I can mention so many more, but space will not permit.

I would like to conclude by suggesting that when we start with God's vision for His people we can maintain focus, direction, and purpose in ministry. In John 12:32, Jesus said, 'And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself' (NASB). If there's one thing that can kill the culture of evangelism, it's the presenting of oneself as the only one who can do it. We must recognise that God is large and is in charge of His work. We are never alone in His work. Remember, leadership is hardship; change may be gradual, but it must start somewhere. Why not let it begin with us? Why not let it begin with you? Are you comfortable in your spiritual life; in your church? Are you willing to become uncomfortable? Do you think God is calling you to do more? When was the last time you did a spiritual inventory of your life and church? Are you desperate for a change? As we contemplate developing a culture of evangelism, take note of this commonly cited piece of advice – if we sow a thought, we reap an act; if we sow an act, we reap a habit; if we sow a habit, we reap character; if we sow character, we reap a destiny.



by Sharon Platt-McDonald Director for Health, Adventist Community Services & Women's Ministries

Combating antimicrobial resistance

In the last issue of 'Health' we focused on antimicrobial resistance – its causes, impact and some possible solutions currently being researched. This issue highlights some lifestyle interventions for boosting immunity and reducing the risk of antimicrobial resistance occurring.

In an article titled 'Natural products as platforms to overcome antibiotic resistance', Sean Rossiter et al. set out a proposal to combat antimicrobial resistance. The article, published by the American Chemical Society (ACS Publications), states the following:

'Natural products have served as powerful therapeutics against pathogenic bacteria since the golden age of antibiotics of the mid-twentieth century. Because combinatorial approaches have not yielded effective drugs, we propose that the development of new antibiotics around proven natural scaffolds is the best short-term solution to the rising crisis of antibiotic resistance.'¹

Other research is being undertaken on lifestyle changes that are proving beneficial for a healthy and robust immune system. An online article by *bodyecology.com* highlights the importance of prevention and suggests natural ways to boost immunity and fight antibiotic resistance. The opening sentence reads:

'With flu season and air travel at their peak during the holidays, prevention is key for a healthy immune system – especially with the increasing concern over antibiotic resistance, which is a growing public health threat.'² The article lists the following advisory steps:

- **Avoid sugar** – Refined sugar, stripped of minerals and fibre, weakens the immune system and feeds opportunistic microorganisms in the body. Instead, sweeten foods with natural sugars. Ongoing research suggests stevia as a safer natural alternative.³
- **Eat fermented foods with each meal.** Fermented foods contain beneficial probiotic microbes which support immunity, especially during times of high stress. The recommendation is to include probiotic foods over probiotic supplements. Probiotic foods include

coconut water kefir and cultured vegetables.

- **Focus on healthy fats and fat-soluble vitamins.** Naturally derived healthy fats are often accompanied by fat-soluble vitamins that feed the immune system, keeping it healthy and strong. Vitamins A, D, and K2 work together to support a resilient immune system. Fat-soluble vitamin K2 may also work as a natural antibiotic.
- **Relax more, laugh often and cultivate a positive mind.** Stress inhibits our ability to relax and negatively impacts the immune system. Laughter, indeed, is the best medicine. Research suggests that happiness improves health by helping to increase resistance to respiratory infection and enhancing recovery time. A positive outlook boosts immunity.⁴

Good health!

¹Natural Products as Platforms to Overcome Antibiotic Resistance | *Chemical Reviews* (acs.org) ²4 Natural Ways to Boost Immunity and Fight Antibiotic Resistance (bodyecology.com) ³Stevia: Health benefits, facts, and safety (medicalnewstoday.com) ⁴Find Meaning, and Boost Your Immunity | *Psychology Today*



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Facing the Storm



Are you experiencing the storms of life? Do you need encouragement and help to face them? Pastor Richard Daly's new book, *Facing the Storm*, helps you to do exactly that. The official book launch took place at the Brixton church on 19 June to much fanfare and delight. Pastor Daly is an experienced pastor, the author of multiple books, and the former communication director of the British Union Conference, and he has wise scriptural counsel for any storm you might face. Here's an extract from the book:

'Your life does not need to be defined by your hardships, and you do not have to live a defeated life. Despite what you may have faced, are facing right now, or will face in the future, you can have peace of mind, improved health and a continual flow of energy. In short, whatever you go through, your life can be full of joy and satisfaction.'

To order Pastor Daly's book, call **01476 591700** Monday to Thursday, 8am-5pm, or visit www.lifesourcebookshop.co.uk.

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Photo credit: Mel Jennings

The Newbold team near the top of Ben Nevis – left to right: Rafa Jimenez, Bjorn Karlman, Johannie Gungadoo, Mel Jennings, Keren Milanovic, Ruth Evans and Victoria Stanborough

Don't do this in shorts – Newbold School team climbs UK's three highest peaks by Bjorn Karlman

I'm not going to lie: I hate hiking. I'm not the kind of person that climbs mountains for fun. But when I heard about the Three Peaks Challenge that a team of Newbold School teachers, parents and friends were embarking upon as a fundraiser for the school, I was intrigued. When invited to join, I signed up, telling myself it was for a good cause and not bothering to get all the details. It was just as well that I didn't have all the facts, because I may not have signed up had I realised the endurance test that awaited!

In a nutshell, the Three Peaks Challenge involves climbing three British peaks (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon) back-to-back in 24 hours. The adventure (officially known as the National Three Peaks Challenge) covers a total ascent of 3,064m over 23 miles. Our intrepid team of seven included four staff members (Johannie Gungadoo, Mel Jennings, Keren Milanovic, Victoria Stanborough), two parents (team leader and experienced navigator Rafa Jimenez and myself) and one additional friend of the school (Ruth Evans, another skilled wilderness navigator).

We started the ascent of Scotland's 1,345-metre Ben Nevis (the highest mountain in the UK) early Monday morning on 30 May 2022. It took us a good four hours to reach the mountain's snowy peak, and, due to the blizzard conditions and near-zero visibility, I couldn't wait to get back down. Fortunately, we made it back to the bottom, where the amazing Darren Johnston, a Newbold School parent who had kindly volunteered to be our driver for the trip, was waiting to take us six hours away to Scafell Pike (the highest peak in England).

Having almost frozen on Ben Nevis, I'll admit that I was dreading Scafell Pike! Not only is its 978-metre peak challenging, but by the time we got to the foot of the mountain it was almost sunset, which meant that we would be doing a large part of the ascent and all of the descent in the dark by torchlight. Nevertheless, we were all up for the next leg of the challenge. The team spirit shown over the six-hour climb and descent was amazing. Through stories, words of encouragement, and jokes about my shorts, the Newbold School team really bonded as we did all we could to stay safe while hiking through the night.

By the time we got to our third mountain, Snowdon, the 1,085-metre mountain in Wales, it was clear that we would exceed the 24-hour challenge time, but none of us was too concerned. We had come too far to turn back, so we each put one foot in front of the other and traversed the very windy Snowdon summit in about three hours before

turning around for our final descent. We all made it back in one piece!

We participated in the Three Peaks Challenge to raise money for Newbold School's *Forest School Programme*. My daughter (currently in Year 2 at Newbold School) loves the outdoorsy, sustainability-focused education she gets through the *Forest School Programme*; this is what kept me going through each stage of the experience. If you want to join me in supporting Newbold School, I thank you in advance for giving through our Three Peaks Challenge fund:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/newboldschoolmountainclimb>

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Area 8 Impact Day brings smiles to Cambridge

by Sané Nhliziyo

Area 8 consists of 22 churches around the south of England. Its various youth groups are currently led by the area's Youth Federation president, Steven George, vice president, Sané Nhliziyo, and secretary, Mel Fajardo.

They came together to plan the Impact Outreach Day that took place on 19 March 2022 for Global Youth Day. Their aim for this day was to reach out to the local residents and minister to them in practical ways such as singing, giving out free hugs, giving out care packages and doing fun, creative activities with them.

It was hoped that this would help individuals to learn more about God's love and kindness, especially in a world where compassion is becoming increasingly scarce.

The location chosen was Cambridge, and on Sabbath morning the youth gathered in the soup kitchen of Cambridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, received their T-shirts, and, after some icebreakers and a devotional, divided into their mission teams.

Soon, the buzzing town centre was filled with young, bold youths in bright orange T-shirts. Any nerves and hesitation soon gave way to confidence as smiles appeared on the faces of onlookers and passers-by. While some played the guitar and sang, others engaged members of the public with a huge canvas with the question, 'What makes you hopeful?' on it, and yet others spread themselves around the town centre holding 'Free hugs' signs and sharing water and care packages. This, however, was not all! At the Brook House Care Home, other youths blessed the residents with songs of praise and worship; and, at the park, painting and other arts & crafts had been set up, drawing the

attention of children whose parents were delighted to learn that everything was being provided free of charge!

In the afternoon, the youth groups returned to Cambridge Church feeling inspired and with a sense of accomplishment. The day was wrapped up with a word from Area 8 Youth Sponsor, Pastor Jerry: through his sermon, he reminded everyone that nothing can limit us from being God's disciples today.

I'd like to leave you with the words of some of those who participated on the day:

'My experience on Global Youth Day was amazing! I really enjoyed making people smile and giving them hugs. It made me feel happy because I know that it made someone's day. My favourite part was when we played games in the morning because I learnt more about people around me (and it was fun).' – Skye

'I was part of a very enthusiastic group which was passionate about the welfare of the elderly. It was refreshing to see the residents listening and to hear them share how the hymns we sang brought back so many memories for them. I was touched, and I hope that this could be something that can be continued. When we got back to church, the testimonies were so inspiring. I just thank God for this opportunity.' – Roda

'It was a nice experience because we got to see people smile, and there was an older lady who seemed to find meanings behind the songs we were singing; it was nice to see everyone coming together and having everyone bring their friends together.' – Lisa

'It was uplifting to see how everyone put a smile on people's faces. Being able to give even the little and simple things has made me appreciate how often we forget God's grace in front of us. It was a day of many reminders and encouragements! Praise God!' – Dom

May we all continue to plant good seeds and positively impact our local communities.



ACTS of service

Making ministry meaningful

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

Director for Health, Adventist Community Services & Women's Ministries



Gary Chapman's best-selling book series, *The Five Love Languages*, outlines five ways of expressing and receiving love effectively, demonstrating a commitment to a relationship. One of the love languages he lists is 'acts of service', which involves practical actions that help show the receiver that they are loved and valued. It is also an expression of the heart of the giver and how they interpret love.

We see this principle mirrored in the book of Acts, where the early church makes the Gospel meaningful by demonstrating love in relevant and practical ways. Acts 4:32-35 states: 'Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need' (NKJV).

In 2022, what would this look like in the face of the current cost-of-living crisis? God inspired me to develop the acronym ACTS to express love and share the good news of the Gospel in tangible ways that respond to current world events.

This initiative is being introduced as part of my departmental outreach for Adventist Community Services, Health Ministries and Women's Ministries.

Here is what ACTS stands for:

- A – Attention: What do you see around you? Pay attention to the obvious needs.
- C – Compassion: What compassionate action can you take to address those needs?
- T – Teamwork: What organised approach can you undertake as a united team?
- S – Solutions: Implementing effective and efficient responses to meet the needs.



Attention

Undertake an inventory of the needs of your membership and community. Whom do you see struggling with day-to-day living? Who has housing challenges, and who cannot pay essential bills, eat adequately, clothe themselves, or provide for their families?

Identify resources, organisations, support groups, and so on that are skilled in dealing with humanitarian support for the visible and expressed needs that come to your attention. You can then refer those in need of assistance and offer personal help as you are able.

Our BUC Adventist Community Services Department has produced a publication titled: *Voices – Urban Pain, Urban Promise*, which focuses on paying attention to the needs around us. It can be found via lifeforcebookshop.co.uk.

Compassion

In noting the above needs, what is your response? Are you impacted by what you see?

Compassion is defined as a 'deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it' (*Free Online Dictionary*). Matthew 9:36 records Jesus being 'moved with compassion' (NKJV) for the multitude around Him, seeing their varying needs. He then ministered to those areas of deficit. As Ellen White counsels: 'It should be written upon the conscience as with a pen of iron upon a rock, that he who disregards

mercy, compassion, and righteousness, he who neglects the poor, who ignores the needs of suffering humanity, who is not kind and courteous, is so conducting himself that God cannot cooperate with him in the development of character' (*Counsels for the Church*, p. 283).

Teamwork

In this step, we move from having ideas and deliberating on them to organising a coordinated response. No one person can provide for the needs of every individual. In Acts 4:32-35 we see a coordinated church approach to meeting needs, similar to what we know as total membership involvement. A united approach works best when all participants buy into the vision and individuals' specific skills are utilised in the process.

During the pandemic, we saw evidence of excellent teamwork in the responsive outreach of churches providing love through relevant acts of service, such as the provision of food, essential household items, literature and counselling support. This met individuals' physiological, psychological, spiritual, relational and social needs.

Solutions

To help mitigate the harmful repercussions of these and other such challenges, the implementation of relevant and effective solutions for challenging life issues is essential. Solutions will vary according to the needs of your members and community. As we prepare for the impending challenges ahead, it is vital that we note and forecast their trajectories. To do this is to act strategically, and not in a reactionary manner. We see the wisdom of Bible characters such as Joseph, who prepared for the famine, so there was grain in Egypt to feed its inhabitants and surrounding nations when the famine eventually came (Genesis 41).

In light of the cost-of-living crisis and the global projection of a possible food shortage, one solution is to identify adequate storage facilities for our surplus to have sufficient reserves for the future. This enables us to support others in need better. An article titled *Effective Ways to Prepare for Food Shortages*, available at www.foodstoragemoms.com, gives some helpful tips.

Current ACTS

The recent SEC Women's Ministries Day of Fellowship held at Holloway Seventh-day Adventist Church, where they shared food, household items, literature and prayers with the community, was a beautiful example of acts of service. How does your church express love to its membership and surrounding community? Perhaps the next time you read the newspaper or listen to the news, engage your attention, compassion, team, and solutions to formulate a loving response to the needs around you. This is love in action. This is making ministry meaningful. This is ACTS of service.

Cardiff Church Hosts Welsh Mission Triennial Session

by Pastor Sam Davies, BUC Communication Secretary

Delegates from eighteen churches across the seven hundred-strong Welsh Mission (WM) met at the Cardiff Adventist church for their Triennial Session on Sunday 26 June. The department sponsors, president, executive secretary, and treasurer presented reports to the delegation with time allowed for questions, a Nominating Committee report and the introduction of a new strategic plan.

For the next triennium, the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists seek to be revived and empowered disciple-makers as they incorporate the existing GROW AND iCOR initiatives used between 2019 and 2021 into their new strategy.

The important business of the day began with spiritual empowerment from the British Union Conference (BUC) President, Pastor Eglan Brooks, who challenged his audience with a message titled 'Who Are Ya?' Using the symbolism of the well-known football chant, he observed that while the phrase can sometimes be used to infer shame and poor performance, it also has the power to help us reflect on who we are as a mission. He said, 'Paul's opening statement in 2 Corinthians 3:1 focuses on the issue of false teachers introducing themselves with letters of recommendation, clarifying who these preachers were, their character and qualifications.' He further added that 'our world is seeking a favourable statement concerning the character qualifications and values of the Seventh-day Adventists.'

Who are ya?

Our world needs to understand who exactly we are. Who are you, with your unique beliefs and doctrines? They really want to see a man or a woman who perfectly reflects the character of Christ.

The President's Report

This report was presented by the former WM president, Emanuel Bran, who, having served for

most of the triennium, was appointed as North England Conference (NEC) Executive Secretary last September. His report focused on the vision to 'Seek and Serve to Make God Known' and the adoption of a strategy to combine the GROW principle of evangelism with the ten iCOR values. Even though the pandemic hampered their original plans, they were still able to adopt new ways of doing mission. He was grateful to all of the pastors who agreed not to be furloughed and worked throughout the pandemic, noting that the WM has continued to experience growth under the various administrative leaders.

Secretariat Report

Pastor Jacques Venter, BUC Associate Executive Secretary and Executive Secretary for the Welsh Mission, delivered a report detailing the Mission's membership, various congregations and staffing. There was an increase in membership from 663 in 2019 to 727 at the end of the first quarter of 2022; a 2.2% increase in membership through baptism, with a further 4.8% increase through membership transfers from other places. Venter noted that the effect of migration continues to impact the congregations of the Mission, as in previous triennia.

Financial Report

BUC Treasurer, Wederly Aguiar reported that the Welsh Mission is in a healthy financial position. He advised that this determination

was based on two critical financial health ratios: the working capital and liquidity ratios.

Aguiar explained that the working capital ratio is a measure of the Welsh Mission's ability to meet its day-to-day obligations on an ongoing basis. He noted that the Welsh Mission's working capital was significantly above the recommended measurement of 100%, where a mission's assets meet its liabilities.

In addition, Aguiar noted that for 2021 the liquidity ratio, which measures the Mission's ability to meet all its liabilities at a given time, was above the recommended level at 206%, indicating a very healthy financial position. Wederly commended the members for their faithfulness, adding that the work of the Treasury Department isn't carried out by one person alone, but with teams. He quoted Psalm 106:1 (NIV): 'Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever,' adding, 'Of course, we thank God for the Welsh Mission's financial health.'

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, which met earlier in the year, recommended names for sponsors of departments and Mission Executive Committee members to the delegates. After some discussion, the delegates voted and approved the names. The sponsors for the next triennium are:

- Children's Ministries – Eileen McKenzie

- Communication – Timothy Mertens (Lead)
- Christine Leach (Support)
- Support team built from WM local churches
- Community Services – Pastor Jovan Adamovic
- Education – Referred to the incoming WM Executive Committee
- Family Ministries – Eileen and Kenroy McKenzie
- Health Ministries – Glenville Daniel
- Pathfinders & Adventurers – Jonathan Nyengani
- Personal Ministries – Pastor Adriana Fodor
- Stewardship – Crystal Knight
- Trust Services – Referred to the incoming WM Executive Committee
- Women's Ministries – Samantha Fessal
- Youth Ministries – Pastor Jeremy Johnson
- Prayer Ministries – Pauline Allcock (Lead)
- Ademar Quint Camara (Support)

The final business of the day was the presentation of the strategic plan to delegates. The plan included four strategic aims:

- To be REVIVED members, congregations, pastors, and facilities;
- To be EMPOWERED members and pastors;
- To be DISCIPLE-MAKERS; and
- To conduct an AUDIT OF MEMBERSHIP RECORDS.

The WM Session concluded with a closing thought from BUC Executive Secretary Pastor John Surridge; a commitment of the sponsors and Executive Committee members by Welsh Mission President, Pastor Graham Allcock (elected at the BUC Session last October); and a prayer.





Southall Community Clean-up Day

'I Will Go' was the headliner for Southall's outreach programme on Sunday 29 May, when Pastor Tsehaye and Southall Church and Pathfinder Club members prepared to take to the streets.

While the street clean-up team were setting their station in front of Southall Church, a passer-by attracted by the logo on their T-shirts approached and asked, 'What does "I Will Go" mean?'



Pastor Tsehaye Berhanu said, 'It means we are willing to go out into the community to help in any area of its material, social or spiritual needs.'

The man's eyes opened wide, and, smiling, he said, 'This is really good; that's what it is needed nowadays.' That man left for his morning shift knowing that there are people who care about their community.

Having started with a fellowship breakfast, the Southall members went out into the highways and the byways, with tracts in one hand and litter pickers in the other, to do their bit for God and the environment He called us to take care of. As they went, they met the residents, community members and business owners and sought to bring hope to those God put in their way.

So, church, be inspired: just say, 'I Will Go.'

SOUTHALL COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Barnet builds community

On 12 June, Barnet Seventh-day Adventist Church took the initiative for their community event to follow the SEC theme, 'Make Disciples and Build Communities'. This was Barnet's first community services event at their new premises. More than 30 members of the community supported the event, as well as several other members from other Adventist churches. The children had so much fun painting their faces, and various homemade cakes and meals were served. A selection of free health, Christian, and other books and magazines were available to take home.

The most coveted prize of the day was a large hamper filled with goodies. Many new friendships were made, and it was an excellent opportunity for members to raise funds for future church projects.

Some visitors completed surveys, which will provide insight into future community plans. This event was a great success, and Barnet Church is now looking forward to planning future community-focused health initiatives.

JOAN MABB



Stoke Newington SDA Church community street party

On Sunday, 5 June, all roads led to Yoakley Road for Stoke Newington Seventh-day Adventist Church's Community Jubilee Street Party. Intending to bring the community together, especially after a rocky two years due to the pandemic, we invited our neighbours and local business owners to attend the event. The event was jointly planned by Latiqua Bartley, our Community Services leader, and Caroline Banjo, our Children's Ministries leader, with help from volunteers.

A bouncy castle, rodeo bull, face painting and arts and crafts were just a few of

the fun-filled activities prepared for the children, and for the young at heart we held a 'Great British Quiz' with an array of prizes for the winners. We were privileged to receive help from a local neighbour, who graciously designed and made royal regalia from scratch! We wanted everyone to feel like royalty because, in Christ, we are!

A highlight of the day was the delicious food made and prepared by church and community members. Many people expressed how enjoyable the array of food was, with a little something for everyone – not to mention the decadent cakes and sweet treats that were available too!

As the day drew to a close, it was clear we had indeed brought the community together. By the grace of God, we received much positive feedback, with people expressing how happy they were to have us as a church and for hosting this inclusive event; some have even asked to help at the next one!

We are truly grateful to God for answered prayers, including the holding back of the day's forecast downpour! We pray that He grants 'Stokey Church', as we call ourselves, the guidance, resources, and wisdom to continue working in and with our local community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Tyler Corea



Stoke-on-Trent celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Bouncy castles, games, quizzes and even street bingo attracted a large crowd to the Stoke-on-Trent Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration on Friday 3 June.

As Councillor Gurmeet Singh opened the event, he thanked the church for organising the celebration and promised to attend future events. The weather was lovely; children played basketball and football in the church car park, while parents enjoyed the music and games. But no celebration is complete without food, and people were not disappointed as the kitchen staff ensured everyone was satisfied with a selection of British and Caribbean cuisine. God blessed the day mightily as residents joined together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Many thanked the church for reaching out and expressed their happiness at being able to speak to each other after such a long period of being shut in. The day was a great success, and in their feedback one resident wrote:

'To all concerned in all the work you put into making this a great day not only for the children, but also for the grown-ups: I wish there were a reward or a big pay-day for you all, as you well deserve it. You all gave me faith that there are still good people in this cruel world. Bless you all.'

Many expressed an interest in the church. One family were so impressed by the Spirit that they, along with their three children, have started attending Sabbath services and taking Bible studies; furthermore, they are preparing to dedicate their six-month-old baby boy.

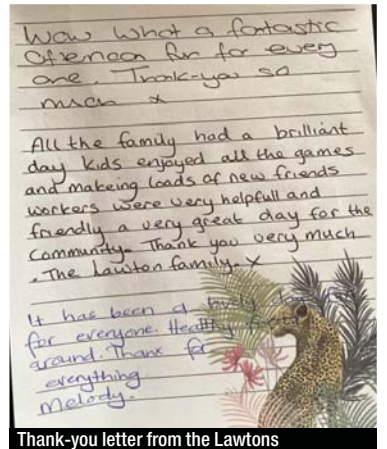
God allowed us to achieve that which would usually be achieved through a two-week outreach series in one day. It reinforces the idea that, through friendship, hearts can be reached and people can be saved through the love of Christ. We give thanks to God for His grace.

Please pray for our community as we listen to the voice of Christ and look forward to His soon coming.

PASTOR CARLTON DOUGLAS



Gloria, Frank and Angela



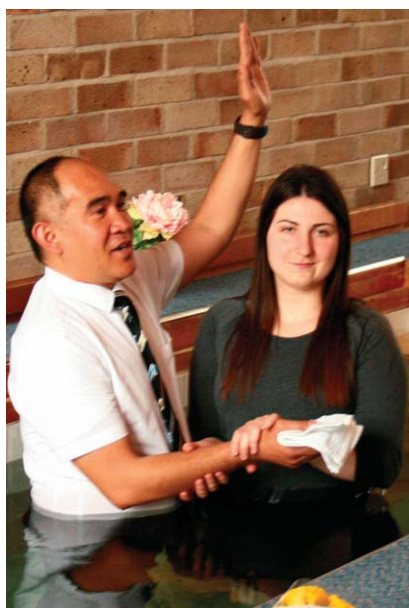
Thank-you letter from the Lawtons

Weston-super-Mare baptism

On Sabbath 23 April, Weston-super-Mare church members were delighted to witness the baptism of Andreea Adriana Grigoras.

Andreea had been born into an Adventist family and grown up in the church but stopped attending at sixteen; however, in her twenties, she recognised her need to recommit herself to Jesus Christ. Our resident pastor, Rio Espulgar, conducted the baptism.

CYNTHIA SOUTHCOTT,
COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Welcome to the family, Mark

The best news for any communication secretary to report on is a baptism; the build-up and the day itself are full of excitement! 'Have you got this or that?' 'Have you chosen your hymns?' and 'Make sure you've got dry clothes to change into' are but a few of the 101 questions that preparing for such an occasion brings.

Finally, 11 September 2021 had arrived. Mark Lewis, his wife Shirilee and their daughter Maria, who were both baptised at Bournemouth Church some three years earlier, had driven down from their new home in the Highlands of Scotland for this memorable day.

Mark's story began about four years ago. He would drop Shirilee and Maria off at Westgate School, where Winchester Church met every Sabbath morning. Mark didn't realise that God had a plan for his life, and would go into the city to have coffee and read the newspaper, returning later to pick up the girls after church finished.

In previous writings for *MESSENGER*, I mentioned that Winchester would organise 'Cafe Church' three or four times a year, and it was on one of these Sabbaths that God convinced Mark to come and meet us all. Mark never missed a Sabbath after that.

He would join in with all sorts of readings, acting for Cafe Church and anything else he could help with. He began making friends with church members and thoroughly enjoyed Sabbath morning services. When the time came for Mark to retire, the family decided to move to Scotland to be closer to their son, his wife and their first granddaughter – now they have two! So, as you can imagine, we were all happily surprised when the news broke that Mark had called Pastor Laszlo Liebhardt asking to be baptised.

For the baptism, our head elder, Keith, and his wife, Lorna Nightingale, opened up their beautiful garden; we've had a few in their garden now! It was a glorious day, warm and sunny. We all took a picnic lunch with us, and it was a nice and relaxed atmosphere. We chatted, listened to the birds, and had some welcome sun on our faces. We sang some of Mark's favourite songs and listened to some words of wisdom from Pastor Barry Alen and Pastor Laszlo.

When it was time for Mark to step into the pool, take his place at the foot of the cross and give himself to our wonderful Saviour and Redeemer, the sun shone down and it was as though we could hear the heavenly choir singing!

Mark gave an emotional testimony and told us how he had come to the realisation that Jesus is indeed Lord of all. Oh! Yes, there were tears all around; I don't think there was a dry eye in the garden. Welcome to the family, Mark. May our God and heavenly Father be with you every day for the rest of your life. May He bless you and keep you safe until the day when He comes to take us all home to be with Him forever.

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY, WINCHESTER CHURCH



Dudley House excels in international writing competition!

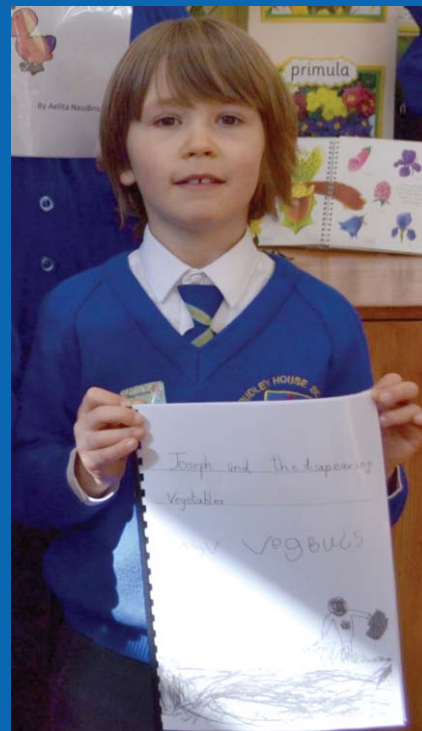
by Jenny Johnson, headteacher

World Book Day may seem like a distant memory now, but not for Dudley House School pupils, who recently discovered that they had been awarded a selection of books for the school. The picture book titled *Joseph and the Disappearing Vegetables* that Joshua, Uriah, and Florence wrote and illustrated together during the World Book Day celebrations has been awarded runner-up in the Young Creators Category of the International ReadingZone annual competition.

The competition judge, Sarah McIntyre, the author of a wide selection of children's books, said, 'This story by Joshua, Uriah and Florence is genius, right from the title and concept to the way the words roll along. I love the double mention of the "delicious, juicy vegetables" – it's funny, and the repetition makes it so obvious that something really bad is going to happen. And this is rubbed in further with the mention of "yummy, scrummy vegetables". I like the spooky picture of the robber in the dark, rocky cave, and I laughed out loud when everything was patched up quickly and they had vegetable soup. Nice pattern work around the back-cover blurb, too!'

All pupils at Dudley House entered the competition writing individually or in groups. Caroline, the editor of ReadingZone, remarked, 'These are all strong efforts, and we would like to congratulate all your children on making a picture book – something that needs planning, imagination and a good layout with pictures, too. Your children have each succeeded in creating lovely stories with lively, colourful illustrations.'

The Dudley House community are exceptionally proud of their pupils' achievements and the well-deserved recognition their hard work has received. The pupils are amazed that a real-life author has read their work – and, of course, they can't wait for their new book prize to land in their library!



Joshua Puckering

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dudleyhouseschool>
Website: <https://dudleyhouseschool.co.uk/>

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or email headteacher@dudleyhouseschool.co.uk,
and come to see the school for yourself!



Front row, left to right: Rianna, Katherine, Carolyn, Jaelyn, John, Diya, Shania, Sonali.
Back row, left to right: Johnwin, Pastor Monikam, Pastor Campbell, Pastor Daniel, Elder Johnson, Elder Sanjay, Elder Prasanna, Arnav.

Baptismal service at Manchester Southern Asia Church

On 4 June 2022, Manchester Southern Asia Church experienced the joy of baptising ten young souls – Arnav Bazroy, Carolyn Kanaka, Katherine Kanaka, Sonali Khandavalli, Jaelyn Mathew, John Mathew, Rianna Murmu, Diya Soren, Johnwin Sundarraj and Shania Vepuri. After intensive study with Pastor Daniel, all willingly and prayerfully gave their hearts to Jesus Christ. Their personal testimonies, shared the evening before their baptism, showed the working of the Holy Spirit.

The service was officiated by Pastor Ebenezer Daniel, the local

church pastor. The church is grateful to Pastor Blondell Campbell, pastor of the Manchester South church, as well as the elders, the diaconate team and all who provided support and encouragement.

The occasion was graciously attended by a host of friends and extended families from around the UK and abroad.

May these services encourage all to re-dedicate their lives to Christ as we await our Lord's soon return. Please continue to pray for these young souls and all those contemplating giving their lives to Jesus.

SUSHMA MORAPUDI & ASHA KANDANE
CHURCH COMMUNICATION

Northampton District baptises seven

On Sabbath 11 June 2022, the Northampton Central church witnessed an afternoon of spiritual refreshment and joy as the three churches in the district came together to receive seven precious souls into membership by baptism.

The district pastor led the service, Pardon Chenjerai, whose two sons, Daniel and Joshua, were among the baptismal candidates.

The visiting preacher, Simba Muhau, gave a short sermon titled 'I am going to the party'. He noted that God is worried about souls, and that we too need to be broken by the things that break the heart of God.

The special service was witnessed by various friends and family members, with visitors coming from as far afield as Bradford, Huddersfield, Wellingborough, Birmingham, and Huntingdon. To God be the glory.

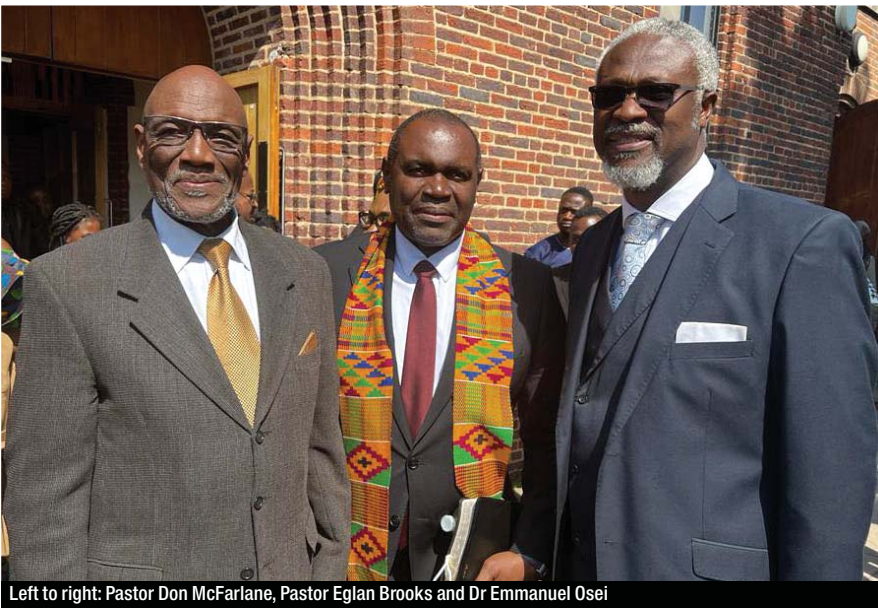
DAYO FALADE FOR THE COMMUNICATION TEAM



The baptismal group



Dr Emmanuel Osei cuts the ribbon



Left to right: Pastor Don McFarlane, Pastor Eglan Brooks and Dr Emmanuel Osei

London Ghana dedicates church building

On 30 April 2022, having paid off a debt of £3.9 million two years ahead of the contracted mortgage repayment period of 15 years, London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated the goodness of the Lord by dedicating its church building.

The programme was conducted by Pastor Eglan Brooks (BUC President), Dr Emmanuel Osei (SEC President) and Pastor Don McFarlane (former BUC and SEC president).

Delivering a special message, Pastor Brooks praised the church for supporting the Union's programmes and encouraged members to ensure Christ is represented well within the community.

Preaching a sermon titled 'Remember', Pastor McFarlane emphasised that the mission of the church is to propagate the good news of salvation to all humanity. He warned that everything that draws the church's attention away from this should be considered 'scaffolding', a distraction to God's divine mandate.

Before dedicating the building, Pastor Osei thanked the members of London Ghana Church for giving so faithfully, and later burned a piece of paper to symbolise the fact that this Adventist church is now debt-free. After the prayer of dedication, he cut a ribbon to reopen the church officially.

We celebrate what God has done for His church, and for His adding to the ever-increasing portfolio of church estates within the British Isles.

JAPHETH OBESE-AMANKWAH

Preston ordination

In Preston Seventh-day Adventist Church, 21 May was a blessed day. Eleven people were ordained: nine deaconesses, one deacon, and our youngest elder to date.

Pastor Roman Smejkal delivered the sermon and oversaw the ordination service. He and Elder Anita touched on the fact that, when giving service to God, it is the heart that matters most.

As the certificates were handed out, Pastor Roman reminded the newly ordained officers that their certificates were there to serve as a reminder that the church stands behind them, supporting them so that they can, in turn, provide support to the wider church family.

We congratulate our newly ordained officers, and pray that they will continue to be a blessing to all with whom they come into contact.

Please visit our YouTube channel to view the service: [@prestonsdachurch](#).

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, PRESTON CHURCH





A big day in Zion!

The South England Conference Women's Emphasis Day was a Spirit-filled and inspiring event hosted by Holloway Seventh-day Adventist Church on 11 June.

The Sabbath School, the prayers offered, and the singing were very encouraging and uplifting.

The congregation heard eloquent reflections on 'Heroines of Faithfulness' in the Bible, a theme that was carried into the main sermon by guest speaker Dr Nadine Collins.

Dr Collins spoke on three Bible heroines: Rahab, the Samaritan woman at the well, and Mary Magdalene. We learned that we too can celebrate victory through faith and trust in God's providence. If He could do it for the women of yesteryear, He is more than able to do it for the women of today.

Among the day's highlights was the afternoon outreach programme led by Jacqueline Otokpa, SEC Women's Ministries Director, and Sister Cresha. The message of God's love was taken to the streets as Sister Hyacinth Gayle and other members from Holloway Community Ministries prayed with people in the community, invited them to church, sang songs, and handed out food baskets and Bible literature. It was a thrill to see so many souls touched, and their smiles and expressions of gratitude inspired us.

As much as it was a day for women, the men in the congregation were equally blessed. Elder John Locker commended Jacqueline Otokpa and her team, saying, 'It was a big day in Zion!'

MAININI BERITA MURUZA

Baby dedication at Grantham

The saints at Grantham rejoiced on the afternoon of Sabbath 4 June to see the baby dedication of little Hannah Ruth Seymour, daughter of Matthew and Natasha Seymour. Pastor Solon Kyriacou of Grantham Church officiated at the service, which was well attended by church friends and members of the family, who joined Matthew and Natasha in pledging to raise Hannah in the love of Christ. There were a few faces present that we hadn't seen since before the lockdown, so there were many happy reunions on this joyful occasion. Afterwards, all were invited to enjoy some celebratory refreshments in the church hall.

ANDREW PUCKERING



Matt, Tash and Hannah



Stanborough Secondary School Headteacher

The Trustees of Stanborough Secondary School are seeking to appoint an inspirational and highly committed Seventh-day Adventist headteacher to secure the highest standard of self-evaluation and quality assurance throughout the school community. The headteacher will:

- Establish and sustain the school's Seventh-day Adventist Christian ethos and strategic direction together with the governing board and through consultation with the school community.
- Establish and oversee systems, processes and policies so the school can operate effectively.
- Identify problems and barriers to school effectiveness, and develop strategies for school improvement that are realistic, timely and suited to the school's context.
- Make sure these school-improvement strategies are effectively implemented.
- Monitor progress towards achieving the school's aims and objectives.
- Allocate financial resources appropriately, efficiently and effectively.

About you

To join us as Headteacher you will need, as a minimum, to:

- Be a spiritual leader as well as corporate parent;
- Demonstrate a clear vision and understanding of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and implement the church's worldwide concept of Seventh-day Adventist education;
- Exhibit excellent leadership skills and the ability to motivate and inspire others as they strive to improve outcomes for all children;
- Require high expectations of self and others;
- Have a commitment to professional development;
- Have the ability to devise and develop new initiatives and ensure that the impact is fully evaluated;
- Portray a positive attitude and excellent communication skills;
- Present a firm commitment to further enhancing links with our parents, church and the wider community.

You can find a complete list of responsibilities and a full person specification in the job application pack.

Location: Watford, England

Seniority level: Executive

Employment type: Full-time, permanent

Hours: 37.5 hours per week

Start date: 1 September 2022, or at the latest by January 2023

Salary: TBC

Benefits: Employer Group Pension Scheme
Income and Life Insurance (conditions apply)
Learning and Development financial support

About application

Deadline for applications is **Friday 29 July 2022, 4pm**.

Download the Application Pack and Application Form at <https://adventist.uk/who-we-are/jobs/job/go/-/stanborough-secondary-school-headteacher-2/>.

All completed applications should be returned to Kerrine Guthrie at kguthrie@adventist.uk, who can also be emailed for further information.

Stanborough Secondary School is an equal opportunities employer. We value diversity and commit to equal opportunities for all employees and applicants.

About Stanborough Secondary School

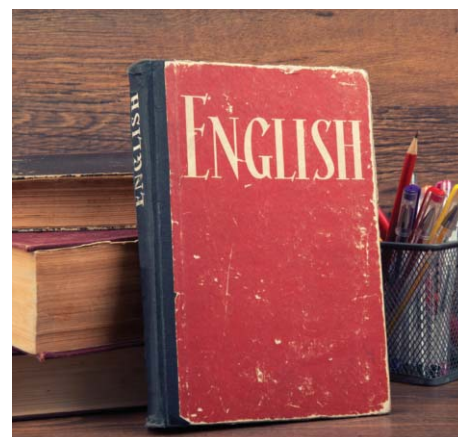
Stanborough Secondary School is a co-educational independent Seventh-day Adventist school set in 40 acres of beautiful grounds. The school's motto is 'The Lord is the Master of our School.' At Stanborough Secondary School we can offer the following:

- Supportive, positive and enthusiastic staff
- Very supportive parents
- Excellent professional learning opportunities
- A school community where every child is encouraged to succeed
- Wonderful learners who are eager to learn
- A supportive leadership team and governing body
- Well-being support for all staff, including access to our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)

It is highly recommended for applicants to arrange a viewing of the school no later than 14 July 2022. Please do this by contacting Kerrine Guthrie on 01923 672 251 or by emailing kguthrie@adventist.uk.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to all necessary pre-employment checks, including an enhanced DBS check; Prohibition check; Childcare Disqualification check (where applicable); qualifications (where applicable); medical fitness; identity; and right to work. **All applicants will be required to provide two suitable references and a letter of recommendation from their pastor.**

For the application pack and form, visit: www.adventist.uk/who-we-are/jobs/job/go/-/stanborough-secondary-school-headteacher-2/



Ancient words: thee/thy/thine/thou

You've probably seen these words a lot in the King James Version of the Holy Bible, and might be tempted to dismiss them as merely antiquated forms of the word 'you' – but did you know they're actually a lost part of our language that nearly every other language still has?

Once upon a time, English used to have a distinction between singular and plural forms of the second person, just as the Romance and Germanic languages do today. 'Thee' (and its associated words 'thy', 'thine', and 'thou'), just as the French 'tu', was used for referring to one person, or, informally, to somebody inferior in rank or someone you were related to or close friends with; 'you', on the other hand, just as the French 'vous', was for more than one person, or, formally, for people of a superior rank or a stranger you wished to be polite to. Thus, in the King James Version, in teaching us to call God our Father, we read of Jesus using the more familiar word 'thy', as in 'Hallowed be thy name' (Matthew 6:9); Moses, on the other hand, speaking to the thousands of Israelites on the borders of the promised land, predicts they will turn aside 'from the way which I have commanded you' (Deuteronomy 31:29, KJV).

English lost this distinction as people migrated to the cities, where they encountered strangers on a daily basis, whom they wouldn't wish to offend, and so would use the more respectful 'you' all the time, to the point when if they did use 'thee' it was often seen no longer as familiar, but as insulting – outside Scripture, its day-to-day use was retained only among plain-talking, no-nonsense, brotherly communities such as Quakers and Yorkshiremen. This had the effect of making English more egalitarian than French, as everyone was now addressed in the same way, as of equal rank, status, or familiarity.

There's a lesson here for Christians, I think – what kind of language are we using when we speak with each other? Just as distinctions of class and status were broken down in the English language, so too may we be familiar even with our enemies, and show respect to all, for all are equal in the sight of God.


ANDREW PUCKERING

SEC Men Ministry presents

REAL MEN REAL TALK

REAL MEN EMBRACING GOD'S PRESENCE

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zoom LET'S TALK EVERY MONDAY TIME: 7:30PM - 9:30PM GMT

[FACEBOOK.COM/SECMENSMINISTRY](https://www.facebook.com/SECMENSMINISTRY)

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Pastor Jack Sequeira (1932-2022) d. 26 March.

Jack Sequeira was born on 25 September 1932, in Nairobi, Kenya, to parents from Goa, India. Sequeira lived a long and fruitful life. He suffered a stroke and fell asleep in the Lord on



26 March 2022 at a hospital in Portland, Oregon.

Sequeira served the Seventh-day Adventist Church in many capacities in England, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and the United States.

After graduating from Newbold College, he trained students in the colporteur work for the South England Conference. After



Angie and Jamie

Hutton baptism

Hutton Church held its second ever on-site baptism on 11 June 2022! It was indeed a joyous occasion to witness the baptism of Jamie Lindsay and his wife, Angiela Marcela Duque Lindsay. Their family, who could not attend in person, were watching online. We were graced with wonderful music from Brother Mfon and his family from Harlow Church. We at Hutton Church are delighted to welcome these new members into our fold.

VIVIAN JERE

European Youth Congress AYC – 22 Lahti, Finland

Join hundreds of youth from two divisions (TED & EUD) in Lahti, Finland, for an amazing congress taking place from 2 to 6 August 2022.

Download the UK version **APPLICATION FORM** with the prices and accommodation options, including hotel rooms, single or shared, from the BUC Youth website: www.youth.adventistchurch.org.uk.

NOTE: In the GreenStar Hotel only twin/double rooms are now available. In Kauppahoteli only twin/double rooms and a few single rooms are now available!

Email your application to: renatela@adventist.uk and/or kjohns@adventist.uk.
BE QUICK! SPACES ARE LIMITED!

Congress information at a glance:

Dates: 2-6 August, 2022

Location: Lahti, Finland

Speakers: David Asscherick & Daniel Bosqued

Congress costs: Includes fee, food & nearby classroom accommodation

Travel: participants will need to book their own flights to the nearest airport, Helsinki-Vantaa.

EUROPEAN ADVENTIST YOUTH CONGRESS

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With David Asscherick, Daniel Bosqued & more

Lahti, Finland 2-6 August 2022 aycongress.org

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studying at Andrews University, he served in Uganda as Education, Missionary Volunteer, and Home Missionary Secretary in 1965. He was then called to Kenya to teach at Kamagambo Teacher Training College near Kisii and Maxwell Secondary School in Nairobi (1966-68). He returned to Uganda as Education and Missionary Volunteer Secretary (1969) and then as Principal of Bugema Adventist College (1971-72).

Being included in Idi Amin's notorious Exodus, when 80,000 Asians were deported from Uganda, Sequeira and his family had to leave everything in their home and stay in Beirut, Lebanon, the headquarters of the Afro-Mideast Division. Later, Sequeira was assigned to Ethiopia (1973-77), then back to Kenya as a chaplain for the Adventist students in government universities (1978-82).

In 1982 the family moved to the US to fulfil General Conference requirements related to their refugee status and Uganda experience. Jack served as a district pastor for the Idaho Conference until 1987, before accepting a call to pastor the Walla Walla City church in the Upper Columbia Conference. From 1991 to 2001, he served the Potomac Conference as pastor of the Capital Memorial church in Washington, DC.

Sequeira was known worldwide for his infectious smile and biblical preaching from the Word of God, especially the book of Romans and righteousness by faith. He firmly believed in salvation by faith, and was used by the Lord to bring many to a better understanding of our Creator God.

He is survived by his wife, Jean; daughter, Jenny; son, Chris, and his wife, Nnette; and by their children: Jazmine, Parker, Shasta, and Luis.

The family held a memorial service in May at Gladstone Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oregon, which was attended by more than 200 friends. The service can be seen on YouTube by searching for 'Jack Sequeira Memorial'.

BUC COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT (ADAPTED)

Oliver Brown (1938-2022) d. 13 May.

Oliver Brown – a Doncasterian giant of faith, and one of Doncaster Church's founding members – was born on 1 May 1938. He fell asleep at Doncaster Royal Infirmary on 12 May 2022, just a few days after celebrating his 84th birthday. His death has left a huge hole in the life of Doncaster Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Pastor Ian Sweeney, Field Secretary at the Trans-European Division, who knew Oliver and his family from his early ministerial appointments in Leeds and Sheffield, conducted the funeral service on 22 June 2022. Pastor Sweeney reminded us that everyone is precious in the eyes of the Lord, and that Oliver's death is but a sleep until the resurrection morning.

Oliver was born in Jamaica and hailed from Portland, a parish located on Jamaica's northeast coast, and migrated to the UK in 1960 to work in the construction industry. On his arrival in the UK, he settled in Doncaster and worked in the building sector, specialising in scaffolding, before his recent retirement.

Oliver's legacy is one of spiritual vision. His single-mindedness proved a blessing when it came to starting the Doncaster church. His vision, along with that of his colleagues, Zilpha Hadden and the late Dorothy Osborne, led to the purchase of the land on which the current church sits. They fundraised through various means, such as organising concerts and soliciting donations. The church was officially opened in 2001.

Oliver was a longstanding head deacon who served under many pastors, including John Hines,

Ron Edwards, Des Rafferty, Victor Marshall, Lloyd Lambert, Derek Simon and Carlton Douglas. His love and service to humankind were second to none. He loved gardening, and was known for his delicious pumpkin soup, prepared according to a secret recipe.

Oliver was the second born in a family of four boys. He is survived by his wife, four children, thirteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. To echo Pastor Sweeney's words, we look forward to meeting him again on that great resurrection morning.

DR MANDELA THYOKA

Messenger

Volume 127 • 7 – 29 July 2022

Editor: Julian Thompson
Editorial secretary: Sarah Jarvis
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering
Production and distribution: Peter Oppong-Mensah

COPY FOR No. 8 – 1 August 2022

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Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk

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

www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published monthly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.

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

Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Naft	Edin	Beif
July 29	8.54	9.06	9.04	9.26	9.30
Aug 5	8.42	8.54	8.51	9.12	9.17
12	8.29	8.41	8.38	8.57	9.02
19	8.15	8.27	8.23	8.40	8.47
26	8.00	8.13	8.07	8.23	8.30



TEENS AND TWEENS
 (& TWENTIES WHO KEEP COMING BACK)
IN A FIELD
SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER
11.00AM – 7PM
CHELTENHAM
 St Marks & Hesters Way Community Centre
 Brooklyn Rd, Cheltenham
 GL51 8DS



PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY
 11.00am Arrive, meet and chat
 11.30am Interactive programme with live worship music
 1.00pm Lunch and chat
 2.30pm Walk
 5.00pm Evening worship programme
 6.00pm Tea and tidy up
 7.00pm Close of day

YOU NEED TO BRING
 Chairs and/or blankets
 Bible – if you have one
 Food and drink for the whole day
 Friends
 Comfortable clothing for the day

Presenter & Theme: TBC
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