

# Messenger

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

Thank you for your faithfulness

AI and the future of ministry

Education – our greatest  
mission outreach tool!

Sometimes it's hard to be a woman

Tottenham Lighthouse awarded

'Centre of Influence' status by

MP David Lammy, councillors and the BUC

28 April 2023 • Volume 128 • 4

+ Prime Minister Rishi Sunak thanks  
Stanborough Park church member

# The good, the bad and the ugly

Too often we underestimate  
the value of people



## Strategic Priority (4) – People

### Aim:

- A healthy organisation supports its staff and people.

### Objectives:

- Internal BUC staff
- External BUC staff, including conferences and missions, retired ministers, teachers, caretakers, and so on
- Volunteers

### Strategic needs:

- Policy alignment
- Data to establish evidence for decision-making
- Well-being strategy for our people



## The good, the bad and the ugly

Too often we underestimate the value of people

*'He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul. . . .'*  
(Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, 1892 edition, p. 392)

Our strategic plan envisions that the British Union Conference will be a healthy organisation that supports its internal staff, external staff, volunteers and other stakeholders.

### The standard – the good

Moses is deemed to have been one of the greatest leaders who ever lived. In Exodus 32:9, 10 the Lord's anger was kindled against the Israelites because they had built a golden calf and credited it with bringing them out of Egypt. Moses stepped in and pleaded with God for the people, imploring Him to 'turn away from your fierce anger' (verse 12, NLT) and reminding Him of His covenant (verse 13). Following this intercession, the Lord relented. Perhaps one of the most powerful tools the

Seventh-day Adventist Church has is its people power. Moses understood the value of people . . . but do we? **Too often we underestimate the value of people.** We need to value all our people and treat each of them with love and kindness.

### The challenge – the bad

People are the lifeblood of every organisation, yet it is also true that managing people is not easy, and it is one of the greatest challenges that organisations such as ours face. Leading people takes much prayer and diplomacy, as well as the resilience to take difficult decisions when required. As Seventh-day Adventists, we have a responsibility to create healthy environments in our offices, our institutions, and our congregations. As a church, charity, and corporation, we need to demonstrate our Christian values by being equitable, ethical, and just in all our business and charitable dealings.

As a church denomination in the UK, we have 425 employees, more than 400 retirees, and thousands of volunteers. While, like Moses, we have a propensity to feel that we have done enough for the nurturing of God's people, the truth is that, historically, we have not always done enough. We have not been as agile as we could in adjusting our mindset to the latest government policies. Just as we do with our education and finances, we also need to embrace experienced people and specialists in key areas of work. We are developing a robust and responsive culture and environment that governs the BUC. We are spending time developing our personnel. We are updating our policies, and believe this will, in turn, positively impact all of our entities.

### The difficult decisions – the ugly

Discerning between good and evil is a difficult task, but there are times when we need to make difficult and maybe even eyebrow-raising decisions, just as Jesus did on occasion (see Matthew 16:22-24; 21:12; 23:27). Difficult decisions are often shelved, because no church leader wants to be branded as unchristian, unloving, or unfair. As such, we might sometimes skirt around issues of bullying, racism, sexism, and unethical behaviour so as not to cause offence. However, the problem with such inaction is that it can lead to greater challenges and increased conflict.

### Conclusion

Church, it's time for us to demonstrate that we truly value our people; it's time for us to refresh our people governance and start to address the difficult decisions that need to be made. While seeking to deal with people compassionately, as Jesus would, we must not overlook or disregard our policy, government legislation, and best practice. This is an enormous challenge, and we ask you – our members, retirees, employees, volunteers, and stakeholders – to be patient with us as we position ourselves to serve.

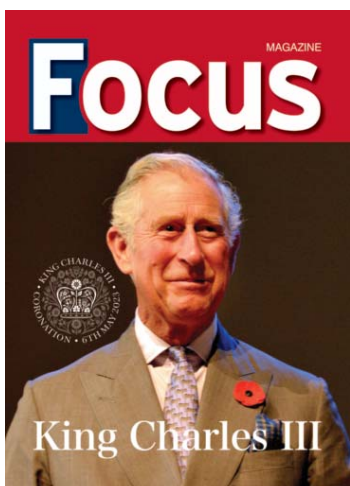
# Editorial

by Julian Thompson,  
Editor



Dear reader,

From *The Merchant of Venice* to *Spare*, and from the latest edition of *The Great Controversy* to *Sacred Hours*, this month's *MESSENGER* features various articles focusing on literature. While this was not by design, it is interesting to note that this issue follows World Book Day, which traditionally takes place on the first Thursday of March and was established by UNESCO in 1995 to



celebrate books and reading. As I write, the nation is preparing itself for the coronation of King Charles III, and it would be remiss of me not to mention another piece of literature: the Coronation *FOCUS*, which has been prepared specially for the occasion. There we reflect on some of the causes that have proved important to the King, and pray that he will use his influence well. Literature has been an important part of the Adventist movement, and we'd like to encourage you to take full advantage of the resources the Church has available. I'd like to conclude this month's editorial with an excerpt from a piece from the Coronation *FOCUS* titled 'A prayer for the King' by Eileen Philip:

'For you, O King, I say a prayer  
For your coronation – for soon this will be –  
So these words I speak: may God hear each plea...'

*Amen*



## CONTENTS

**4 – Thank you for your faithfulness**



**5 – AI and the future of ministry**



**9 – Sometimes it's hard to be a woman**



**10-11 – Education – our greatest mission outreach tool!**



**12-13 – Fun Zone**



**16-23 – News, & notices & baptisms**



# Thank you for your faithfulness

by Wederley Aguiar,  
BUC Treasurer

Year-ends are a crucial time in the calendar of finance professionals, signifying the close of one financial year and the start of another. They present an opportunity to meticulously review transactions and records from the past year to ensure accuracy and completeness, and to reflect on how our financial stewardship impacts our mission.

At the British Union Conference

Executive Committee (ExCom) in March, I had the privilege of presenting our year-end financial reports. I shared that in 2022 a total of **£28,596,514 in tithe was returned** across the territory, representing a **truly remarkable 10.6% increase** compared to the prior year's £25,853,730!

Notwithstanding the pandemic, as a community, we have faced many challenges, including the invasion of Ukraine, the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, political uncertainty, high inflation and a cost-of-living crisis. We recognise the fact that, despite the personal loss and

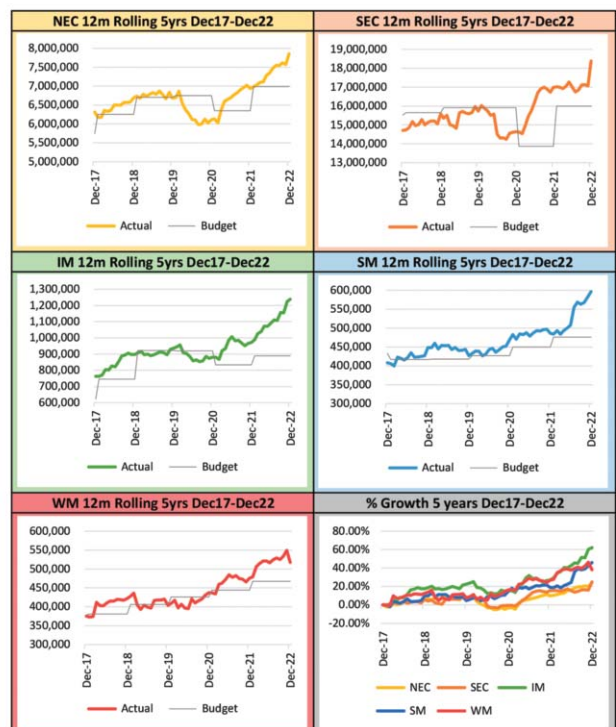
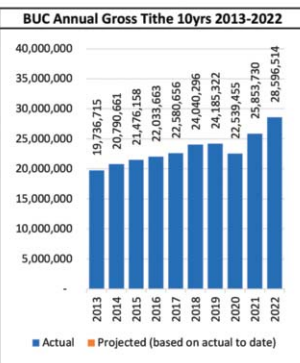
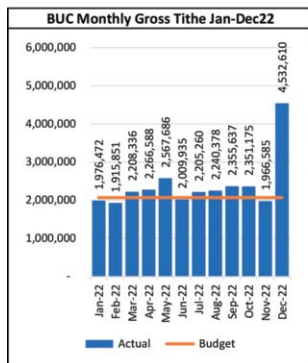
hardship many of you have experienced, you have been unwavering in your generosity.

As a result of the sacrifices you continue to make, we are in a position to forge ahead with the strategic plans laid out for our territory, including major missional initiatives such as Reflecting Hope. This would not be possible without your continued trust and support; and, on behalf of the BUC and the ExCom, I want to thank you for your faithfulness. May God continue to bless you and, as He did with Jabez, enlarge your territory (1 Chronicles 4:10).

## British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | Tithe Report 31 December 2022

	ACTUAL			BUDGET		
	Jan-Dec21	Jan-Dec22	Variance	2022	Jan-Dec22	Variance
North England Conference	6,939,844	7,857,974	+13.2%	6,986,136	6,986,136	+12.5%
South England Conference	16,980,623	18,386,149	+8.3%	16,000,000	16,000,000	+14.9%
Irish Mission	971,388	1,238,407	+27.5%	890,000	890,000	+39.1%
Scottish Mission	486,172	596,313	+22.7%	476,000	476,000	+25.3%
Welsh Mission	475,703	517,671	+8.8%	467,400	467,400	+10.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,853,730</b>	<b>28,596,514</b>	<b>+10.6%</b>	<b>24,819,536</b>	<b>24,819,536</b>	<b>+15.2%</b>

	MEMBERSHIP			PER MEMBER (AVERAGE MONTHLY)		
	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Variance	Jan-Dec21	Jan-Dec22	Variance
North England Conference	11,785	12,008	+1.9%	49.07	54.53	+11.1%
South England Conference	26,121	26,851	+2.0%	54.17	57.49	+6.1%
Irish Mission	1,083	1,116	+3.0%	74.75	92.47	+23.7%
Scottish Mission	720	732	+1.7%	56.27	67.89	+20.7%
Welsh Mission	692	761	+10.0%	57.29	56.69	-1.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,401</b>	<b>41,268</b>	<b>+2.1%</b>	<b>53.33</b>	<b>57.75</b>	<b>+8.3%</b>





## Artificial intelligence and the future of ministry

SEC Director Pastor Max McKenzie-Cook interviews Bard, Google's new AI assistant, about its thoughts on the impact of artificial intelligence on the future of ministry.

I recently found myself reflecting on how AI might impact ministry in the future. Rather than speculating, I thought I'd go to the source and start a conversation with Google's new AI assistant, Bard! Here are some excerpts of what it had to say:

*'As an AI bot, I've been thinking a lot about the role of Christian pastors in the future. I know that many people are concerned about how AI will impact their jobs, and I understand those concerns. But I also believe that AI can be a tool for good, and that it can help pastors to do their jobs more effectively.'*

*'One of the ways that AI can help pastors is by providing them with*

*access to a wealth of information and resources. For example, AI can be used to create sermons that are based on the latest biblical scholarship. It can also be used to help pastors to connect with their congregations in new ways, such as by providing them with personalised prayer requests or by sending them daily devotionals.*

*'Of course, there are also some potential risks associated with AI. For example, AI could be used to create sermons that are not based on the Bible, or that are designed to manipulate people. It could also be used to create a virtual church that is not connected to a real-world congregation.'*

*'But I believe that the benefits of AI far outweigh the risks. AI can be a tool that helps pastors to do their jobs more effectively, and it can also help them to reach out to their congregations in new and meaningful ways. . . . I believe that AI can be a tool for good, and that it*

*can help pastors to do their jobs more effectively.*

*'It is important for churches in the UK to be aware of these risks and to use AI in a responsible way. . . .'*

This was a fascinating exercise, some of which, admittedly, I found unnerving. For example, the idea that AI could influence doctrinal thinking is not something I had considered before! On the other hand, I can't deny that there are also aspects that I find quite attractive, such as the fact that AI has the potential to free up some of my time by automating administrative tasks.

While I understand the urge in some quarters to reject AI and keep it out of religion, my brief experience with Bard, along with the strength of the current public debate on AI, suggests to me that it is a technology that we can't ignore. As the technology develops, I believe it is important for us to be proactive and think through how best to engage

with it as its impact on society grows.

This was highlighted by the recent letter written by Elon Musk and thousands of others requesting a six-month pause on the further development of AI systems such as ChatGPT. This article is just the start of what I believe will be a long and complex discussion . . . one that will require deep thinking, reflection and prayer.

*' . . . I believe that AI can be a tool for good, and that it can help pastors to do their jobs more effectively.'*



# Hope on the front lines – Scotland

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau



## REFLECTING hope

<https://reflectinghope.org/>

Could your life, like Tom's, do with some inspiration and transformation?

Would you like to experience ultimate joy, meaning, and purpose in your life?

Are you looking for hope and a bright future for yourself and those you love?

To request your FREE personal hard copy of the book *The Great Controversy* get in touch with us.

The volume is also available as a free audiobook and eBook.

Scan the QRcode for more

Reflecting Hope Scotland  
Phone: 0774 488888  
Email: [info@reflectinghope.org](mailto:info@reflectinghope.org)  
Website: [www.reflectinghope.org](http://www.reflectinghope.org)  
Address: Carron, County Road, Clifft  
Postcode: PH17 4ES

**A GUY ON A BIKE**  
transforms 20,000 lives

Personal discovery, prayer, and courage, have been inspired and transformed by the words of a cyclist.

Philip Reekie

In anticipation of the forthcoming Scottish Reflecting Hope Experience from 12 to 27 May, extensive preparations are underway. Pastor Anthony Kent, Editor of *Elder's Digest* and GC Associate Ministerial Secretary, will join the pastors from across Scotland as they cycle around the Shetland Islands and visit the Isle of Orkney, conducting evangelistic outreach.

The first leg of the Reflecting Hope Experience will see the group first visit Aberdeen and Inverness before leaving the mainland. A key part of their journey will be the distribution of a special edition of *The Great Controversy* recently relaunched by the Stanborough Press (see page 16 of this issue of *MESSENGER*).

Speaking about Reflecting Hope (Scotland), the Scottish Mission President, Pastor Jimmy Botha, said, 'We are deeply excited about conducting "evangelism on the move" on the Shetland Islands and the Isle of Orkney. We solicit your prayers as we travel around, spreading the Word of God to these communities.'

For further information about the Reflecting Hope Experience in Scotland, visit: <https://reflectinghope.org/shetland/>

Philip cycled to a farm in a middle-of-nowhere place called Eggerve, Australia. Unbeknownst to Philip, the family on this farm was heartbroken.

Tom Kent's wife, Mary, had just lost her battle with pancreatic cancer. Tom was in despair while struggling to take care of their 11 children.

Philip Ainslie Reekie was born in Scotland in 1946. In 1989, widowed and divorced, Philip Reekie emigrated from Scotland to Australia, looking for a new life. It didn't take him long to find it. In 1989, he stumbled on some Christian literature, discovered the amazing truths of the Bible, and encountered the real Jesus of Nazareth. He not only found a new country, he also found a new reason to live.

Philip listened to Tom's story of heartbreak, saw his condition of pain, and heard of Mary's dying hope. Philip shared with Tom the Christian book, *The Great Controversy*. Tom wrestled with the biblical truths he saw, but after careful study, he accepted the biblical teachings. His new discoveries from the Bible gave Tom the deep comfort that he needed and the amazing assurance that he wanted. He shared his discoveries with his children and neighbors. His children and five neighboring families became believers and disciples of Jesus. It was then that Tom knew he could keep his promise to his wife.

Fast-forward from 1996 to the present day, and his remarkable story continues. When you add the descendants of Tom and the other five families to the numbers of people these descendants have disciplined into Christianity—there are more than 20,000 that's 20,000 lives transformed by a faithful go on a bicycle and a farmer who shared a good book with his family and neighbors.

Just before she died, Mary asked Tom to promise that he would meet her in heaven—and help the children to ultimately join them. Tom promised Mary.

Now, with tears in his eyes, he looked for a Bible to see how he could keep his promise. That's when Philip met Tom. But let's back up—who was Philip?

Philip now wanted to spread hope. He left his work as an engraver because he wanted God's word to be engraved upon hearts. On dusty outback roads, through dry mountainous terrain, and under a merciless hot Australian sun, Philip rode a bicycle many miles, distributing hope-filled Christian literature.

One day Philip saw a farmer ploughing a field, a man strong in physique but broken in spirit. It was Tom Kent.

For I know the thoughts that I have toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Prayer is the anchor that holds us together and unites us

REFLECTING hope

We would like to invite you to join our team of prayer warriors supporting the **Reflecting Hope: Scotland** campaign.

Inspired by the story of a Scottish man, Philip Ainslie Reekie, a group of pastors, one from the USA and others from Scotland, will set out in May to cover hundreds of miles by bicycle to bring encouragement and hope to people in the Scottish Highlands & Islands region.

Your prayers matter and will help make a bigger impact!

Who can participate as a prayer warrior?

Anyone! You are invited to join the Scottish Mission Prayer Ministries Sponsors for 10 days of prayer to support the *I Will Go Ride: Shetland* project.

When?

10 days of Prayer will be held on the following dates:  
2nd - 11th May @ 7pm to 7.45pm  
2nd, 3rd, 9th, and 10th of May @ 6.30am to 7.15am

How do I join?

Simply join us here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/886864883967>  
pwd=d29Qbk9jN3ZBL2R3NUFXTkwWwVuZ009  
Passcode: IWillGo

More Information

If you would like more information about the prayer meetings, please contact the Scottish Mission Prayer Ministry Co-Sponsors, Beverley Anderson and Adina Lupu at [prayerministries@adventia.scot](mailto:prayerministries@adventia.scot)

For more information about the *I Will Go Ride: Shetland* project, please visit the website here: <https://reflectinghope.org/shetland>





# Tolerance or intolerance: that is the question

*A look at the plot of  
The Merchant of Venice*

by Carol Logan

In Act 5, Scene 1 of Shakespeare's play, *The Merchant of Venice*, Portia, the heroine, remarks to her maid, Nerissa, 'How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.'

She is returning from the trial in Venice, where, disguised as a young male lawyer, she has utterly humiliated Shylock, who was a Jew. She stripped him of his remaining belongings and forced him to leave his Jewish community (by making him convert to Christianity through baptism), thus taking away his ability to earn a living by usury (charging interest). Portia encouraged Shylock's daughter, Jessica, to elope with a Christian, not only taking with her the family fortune, but also cutting off her father's sacred family line by marrying outside the faith. Portia, having done all this, then has the audacity to call what she has done a 'good deed'.

Examining what led up to this court confrontation is interesting. Antonio, a merchant and a Christian trading on the Rialto money exchange, had been most disrespectful towards Shylock. He had spat on Shylock's face, and on his clothes. He had called him a dog – not once, but many times – yet still wanted to borrow money from him. This confrontation is very telling. He mocks Shylock's Old Testament knowledge in Act 1, Scene 3. He says,



She stripped him of his remaining belongings and forced him to leave his Jewish community.

'Mark you this, Bassanio, the devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.' Shylock reminds Antonio of the terrible way he has treated him, by calling him a 'cut-throat dog', spitting on his clothes and beard, and kicking him in public.

All this mistreatment and more fuelled the hatred that had been growing in Shylock's mind towards a faith that has at its centre a Jewish man who preached love, but whose followers have not practised that love; a people who claimed they were right, and others wrong, because they had the truth; a people who went by the name 'Christian'.

In conclusion, the questions to be asked are these: can we, in the twenty-first century, be just as guilty of prejudice against another's faith or religion; another's skin colour, or way of dressing? Because we belong to a

denomination, mainstream church or otherwise, do we think we are the only ones who are right, and that we will be the only ones saved at the end of time? Could our good deeds be not really good deeds, because we have done them to earn our way into heaven – or, like Antonio and Portia, used our position to destroy another person's sense of self-worth?

The question of tolerance at the heart of *The Merchant of Venice* highlights the need for self-examination. It reminds me of what Jesus shared in Matthew 7:3-5 (NCV): 'Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? How can you say to your friend, "Let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye"? Look at yourself! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye.'

# Never spare

by Dr Paul Thompson\*

*Definition: 'spare' – an item kept in case another item of the same type is lost, broken, or worn out.*

It was one of the most poignant images of the twentieth century: two young boys, two princes, walking behind their mother's coffin as the world watched in heartrending sorrow. On the day that Princess Diana was laid to rest, billions wondered what Prince William and Prince Harry must be thinking. What were these young boys feeling? How would their lives play out in the future? What kind of men would they grow up to be without their mother Diana's influence?

Nearly three decades later, these questions are played out on the royal stage as Prince Harry gives insight into part of his life's journey in his book, where he uses the word 'spare' rigorously and systematically, to explain his role as the third in line to the throne. The book captures Harry's struggles to find his place in his family, and his search for the meaning of his life. Some describe the book as 'raw open therapy'. Others define it as a rhetorical discourse with real force, which at times is so compelling that readers have no option but to act out mentally some of the scenes portrayed, with jaw-dropping disbelief.

While the book *Spare* presents more questions than answers, there is one thing that most readers agree on. The book incontrovertibly exudes family conflict. Family conflict exists in most families, irrespective of race, class, or creed. The deep scars that family conflicts bring and the drama that unfolds in the 400 pages of *Spare* are played out in many of our homes. The only difference is that for many of us such conflicts are secret, hidden, and not played out on the public stage.

As was seen in the life of King David, unresolved family conflict

can have devastating consequences. David allowed conflict among some of his sons to plunge his family into tragedy. His oldest son, Amnon, sexually assaulted and shamed his half-sister, Tamar. Tamar's full-brother, Absalom, hated Amnon for his crime, but did not speak to him about it. David was aware of the matter, but decided to ignore the situation. For a while everything seemed OK – until Absalom took revenge (see 2 Samuel 13:23-29). Later, the conflict drew in more of David's family, the nobles, and the army, until the entire kingdom was plunged into turmoil.

It would seem that the issues highlighted in *Spare* have certainly divided national opinion. A recent YouGov poll revealed that one in five Britons (21%) believe the main motivation behind the release of *Spare* is for the prince to 'tell his side of the story' – but around twice as many (41%) believe it's to make money. In addition, Britons aged 65 and above have a more negative view of Prince Harry and Meghan than they do of Prince Andrew.<sup>1</sup>

As a church family, we are not exempt from conflict either. As human beings, we too argue, experience deep divisions, and say things that we ought not to say. But if there's one thing that I have come to learn, it's that the destruction brought about by avoiding the conflict is many times worse than the unpleasantness that might have resulted from dealing with the issues when they first arose. We may fight, disagree, and even fall out with one another at times, but it's important that we never stop talking. Conflict, when managed correctly, can actually be a source of growth.

As I came to the end of my reading of *Spare*, I found myself reflecting on Prince Harry's story and his truth. I



remember being struck by the way in which it captures his experiences of loss, love, loneliness, rejection, and being 'spare'. I also remember feeling a sense of sadness because I recognised that we live in a world where, like Harry, many find themselves in situations where they too feel that they are 'spare'. I believe it's important that we let people know that in the eyes of God no one is 'spare' – no one is *an item kept in case another item of the same type is lost, broken, or worn out*. God intimately knows every person, and all humanity belongs to Him, and His love is unsparingly poured out in us, in His creation. In His eyes, we are never 'spare'.

\*Dr Paul Thompson is an entrepreneur and published researcher, University of Oxford, Kellogg College. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of British Management, and an ordained elder of Reading Central SDA Church.

<sup>1</sup>Mathew Smith, 'Prince Harry's popularity falls further as "Spare" hits the shelves': <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2023/01/12/prince-harrys-popularity-falls-further-spare-hits>







# Sometimes it's hard to be a woman

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

**M**y first overseas trip for ADRA-UK was to Nepal this year. Everyone who works for ADRA told me that a trip to the field would change my perspective, but I truly had no idea of how it would change my perspective of the humanitarian landscape, ADRA's reach as an agency, and the immense health challenges in our world that are faced by women, particularly in developing countries.

## The theory

The first two official days of my visit were spent attending the first women's health conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, organised by the Family Welfare Division of the Government of Nepal and hosted by ADRA. Here we spent time exploring trends in innovations and approaches to women's health; socio-economic, cultural, and religious systems and women's health; rights-based approaches to women's health; and leadership, governance and human resources for health and empowerment.

## The practice

Informative, engaging, and dynamic as the conference was, it paled into significance when I went into the field to visit five women's health initiatives. I visited the Jankapur Hospital in Nepal, where ADRA has maternal health initiatives and where it provides surgical and non-surgical interventions. Kaylene Williams-Pignon, the



Communication Officer for ADRA Nepal, and I were guests at the opening of the Women's Health and Immunisation Support Project.

This project reaches women through health camps to provide them with reproductive health services focused on screening, treatment and follow-up care for pelvic organ prolapse and cervical cancer. The health camp model assists ADRA to reach women in extremely poor communities, and those who are faced with discrimination.

It was at this opening of the camp that we met Suna (not her real name), a truly beautiful soul. We connected immediately, despite the language barrier. Her smile was gentle and warm. For the past 10 years, she had been experiencing symptoms that caused her to visit the camp. Preliminary diagnostic tests suggested that there was a strong possibility that she had cervical cancer.

Suna had given us permission to film her during the opening, but on hearing her shocking news we switched the cameras off, and we ended up giving each other a hug with an intensity that I had not previously experienced.

ADRA staff were present to support her at this time, and to ensure that she is assisted to receive further medical care.

This was real-world ADRA: ADRA working on the ground to help some of the world's most vulnerable women. This is ADRA at its best.

I am truly humbled to work for ADRA-UK. The work that we do across the world is life-changing, not only for individuals, but also for communities: communities where women are often challenged in their health choices.

Support ADRA's work with vulnerable communities across the world:  
[www.adra.org.uk](http://www.adra.org.uk)



# Education – our greatest mission outreach tool!

by **Lorraine McDonald**,  
BUC Education Director



Adventist  
Education

*Educating for Eternity*

9,500 evangelistic centres (schools), in 150 countries, with approximately 111,000 evangelists (teachers) ministering to more than 2 million potential baptismal candidates (students). That's the mission outreach power of Seventh-day Adventist education, the largest Protestant education system in the world! In the East Central African Division, where circa 2,500 of our schools are located, circa 100,000 people per year are attracted to our faith because of the influence of our schools. Yes, you read that correctly! That's more than double the membership of the BUC (41,268), and over 10% more than the TED (88,273). At a time when the world church is losing 43% of its membership every year, education has become the pulling mission force for the Gospel. Why has this outreach tool been undervalued in our patch of the vineyard?

Our seven schools are part of this worldwide system, and I ask myself, why not here in the UK? Have we overlooked our greatest outreach tool? Why are our schools not recognised as the outreach tool they are supposed to be? If I were to ask you to list all the current Adventist schools in the UK, would you be able to name them all, and say which towns and cities they're located in? Better still, can you list all the previous Adventist schools and where they were located? Does anyone remember Stanley Hall School in London? Yes, it did exist,

in Wimbledon, from 1948 till 1956. (I have been privileged to receive from a former pupil, whose father was on the school board, the original pupils' admission book, when fees were paid in pounds, shillings and pence! There's more to be said about this . . . !)

## The history of Adventist education in the UK

Adventist education has existed in the UK since 1919: well over 100 years. We want to resurrect the profile of all our schools. To do this, we are searching for the history of all our Adventist schools, past and present. Go in the loft; speak to previous students; interview someone you know who either worked at or attended one of our schools; send us your stories, past and present. The intention is to put together a very special edition of the *MESSENGER*, focusing on Adventist education in the UK. Can you help? We would love to hear your stories and have copies of the pictures. Please pass this information on to as many people as possible.

In recognition of this exciting project, in typical educational fashion, special prizes will be given for the oldest picture received (therefore please date your picture on the reverse, or include the date in your digital submission). Prizes will also be awarded for the most interesting story, the most unique memory, and so on. You might even have some Adventist school memorabilia – like your school tie. Send us a picture of it. It would be interesting to find out who is the oldest UK Adventist teacher alive (I think I've found her!), and the oldest

alumnus. Whether you currently reside in the UK or elsewhere in the world, we want to hear from you. Everyone can contribute.

We are particularly looking for the name of the first headteacher of our first school in Stanborough in 1919. Who was that? Who was the first student registered? Fletewood School in Plymouth also opened in 1919. Who was the first headteacher there?

Our current schools are:

- Stanborough Secondary School, Watford
- Stanborough Primary School, Watford
- Fletewood School, Plymouth
- Hyland House School, London
- Newbold School, Bracknell
- Dudley House School, Grantham
- Harper Bell School, Birmingham

We also give advisory support to Eden School, in London, which has been in existence since 1995.

Previous schools:

- Stanley Hall School, London
- Theodore McLeary, London
- John Loughborough School, London
- Grianach School, Ireland
- Lauriston School, Leeds

We want as many details, pictures, and names of headteachers and other significant leaders as you can provide. Please help us by sending your pictures, stories, articles, and so on to [lmcdonald@adventist.uk](mailto:lmcdonald@adventist.uk), or post them to the Education Department, British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts WD25 9JZ, by the end of May 2023.

**The future of Adventist education**

As we consider the future of Adventist education in the UK, we want to hear from you. This critical survey is necessary as we deliberate over the shaping of Adventist education in all its forms. Follow the link for direct access:

<https://adventist.uk/departments/education/future-of-adventist-education-in-the-uk/>

Please also display the QR code in your church bulletin/on screen and ask everyone to complete the survey.

Your views are extremely important to us. We also intend to publish the results of this survey in the special issue of *MESSENGER* that will cover the history of Adventist education in the UK.

**Adventist Educator’s Association UK**

‘Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world,’ said Nelson Mandela. In education, the teacher has power and influence in a manner that perhaps no other profession can ever have. Did you know that teachers work the most overtime for no pay as they give daily of their skills, gifts and compassion to help young minds develop to reach their full potential? Our schools are filled with such committed staff. However, we want to support all those who work in mainstream education in the privileged work of shaping and empowering minds. Whether you work in an Adventist school or not; whether you are a teacher or lecturer, TA/LSA, mentor, bursar, SENCO, educational psychiatrist or Early Years specialist, or fulfil any other role, currently employed or retired, we want to support you. You might be a home schooler; you are no less an educator. Please join the Adventist Educators’ Association UK (formerly the Adventist Teachers’ Association). The plan is to develop the association so we can offer retreats, professional development opportunities and much more. See <https://adventist.uk/departments/education/adventist-teachers-association-uk/> – and watch the video of the inaugural meeting to find out what to expect: [https://youtu.be/jydmKpXgf\\_w](https://youtu.be/jydmKpXgf_w)

**Alumni**

We are seeking to formulate a list of alumni for all of our schools. If you previously attended one of our schools, do visit the school’s website and/or contact the school, which will take your details. We’d love to hear from you and know what you are doing now!

Great things are happening in our schools. From July 2022 to the present, we have baptised thirteen pupils in the Stanborough schools alone, with a plan to baptise four more by the end of the academic year. We are also seeking to re-open the Stanborough boarding school to offer children from across the country, and further afield, the opportunity to attend an Adventist secondary school.

Our schools are indeed ‘evangelistic centres of influence’ in and of themselves. We want you to benefit from this outreach tool as we share with you the mission potential of Adventist schools in our union. God is doing a ‘new thing’ (Isaiah 43:18, 19, KJV).

Please be a part of this great venture and help this project become a reality as we continue to ‘educate for eternity’.





## Five loaves and two fish

<sup>8</sup>Another follower there was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Andrew said, <sup>9</sup>“Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, “Tell everyone to sit down.” This was a place with a lot of grass, and about 5,000 men sat down there. <sup>11</sup>Jesus took the loaves of bread and gave thanks for them. Then he gave them to the people who were waiting to eat. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>They all had plenty to eat. When they finished, Jesus said to his followers, “Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don’t waste anything.” <sup>13</sup>So they gathered up the pieces that were left. The people had started eating with only five loaves of barley bread. But the followers filled twelve large baskets with the pieces of food that were left.

John 6:8-13

**PSALM 19**

HEAVENS

DECLARE

GLORY

GOD

KNOWLEDGE

LANGUAGE

REJOICETH

CIRCUIT

LORD

PERFECT

TESTIMONY

WISE

STATUTES

REJOICING

PURE

EYES

ENDURING

TRUE

RIGHTEOUS

GOLD

INNOCENT

MOUTH

STRENGTH

REDEEMER

R E J O I C E T H E A L R E D E E M R E  
 E N O O C C N U G T V O U T H N G O D K  
 J D I E T H D T M R E R L F R C U I G N  
 O U C S A T U E O A N D C E R A L C L O  
 I R E J O I R S U E S C M T S W Y I O W  
 C Y A N H F I T T H R E B E N D E N R L  
 I E N E Y A N A H O E A T N E E S E Y E  
 N E F O N U G T E D C U L D V R E R O C  
 G G E T M L T S E K T E T N A V R E S A  
 F D A N D I A R Y A R S U O E T H G I R  
 I E R L M E T U T B U O I T A T I D E M  
 N L O I R R A S E L E N S T R E N G T H  
 E W I S E P S P E A C H T M H E A V E N  
 V O E T V K A E R T S O R E J O I C R E  
 E N E G O L D H R C H P E N G T H G A D  
 C K W O N O I N G E T E G A U G N A L U  
 I E S L D O M I N F R R F E C T N I C R  
 W H E A V E N S O R O E H I S B O T E G  
 S O U T H L A W T E F P U R E O C N D N  
 E C I R C U I T S P I N T N E C O N N I



## Environmental health – part 4

# Natural environments and well-being

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

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

In an article published by the Yale School of Environment on 9 January 2020, titled 'Ecopsychology: How Immersion in Nature Benefits Your Health', author Jim Robbins outlines compelling evidence of nature's power to heal. He states: *'A growing body of research points to the beneficial effects that exposure to the natural world has on health, reducing stress and promoting healing. Now, policymakers, employers, and healthcare providers are increasingly considering the human need for nature in how they plan and operate.'*<sup>1</sup>

Robbins goes on to highlight research undertaken by Mathew White of the European Centre for Environment & Human Health at the University of Exeter. White led a study of 20,000 people to ascertain the quantity of time it took in nature each week for individuals to experience a health-enhancing effect. The data revealed that 120 minutes was the optimum length of time. The research covered individuals across a wide demographic range from varying occupations and ethnicities, from both rich and poor areas, and those with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

White reported that the impact was robust across the diverse groups of individuals studied. He reports: *'It's well-known that getting outdoors in nature can be good for people's health and well-being, but until now we've not been able to say how much is enough. Two hours a week is hopefully a realistic target for many people, especially given that it can be spread over an entire week to get the benefit.'*

Interestingly, in the study, no additional benefit was reported in individuals who spent less than two hours per week in nature.

### Healthy outdoor spaces

Living where there is less pollution is increasingly being prescribed as a health intervention, using the power of nature to enhance well-being. One project in Scotland that offers this strategy is called 'Nature Prescriptions'. Elaine Bradley, Project Development Executive for Nature Prescriptions, gives some insight into how this new initiative might benefit both people and nature. She explains: *'I think that it's the simplicity of the project that makes it so appealing. Individuals benefit because connecting with nature can improve physical and mental well-being, and nature benefits because connecting with nature often inspires people to want to protect it. . . . It's less about knowing, and more about noticing and engaging with the natural world as it changes and unfolds. For example, we might take time to notice the changing colours and light of autumn, . . . a neighbourhood tree, or the local wildlife in streets and parks.'*<sup>2</sup>

### Climate change impact

Giving an overview of climate change and its impact, the World Health Organisation says:

*'Climate change is impacting human lives and health in a variety of ways. It threatens the essential ingredients of good health – clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply, and safe shelter – and has the potential to undermine decades of progress in global health.'*<sup>3</sup>

A NASA report on global climate change states: 'Effects that scientists had



long predicted would result from global climate change are now occurring, such as sea ice loss, accelerated sea level rise, and longer, more intense heat waves.'<sup>4</sup>

### Protecting the environment

Our environment is impacted by the way we live. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has researched ways in which we can better protect our environment and living space to enhance sustainability. The UNECE website states:

*'Our environment is changing all the time as the ways we live, travel, produce and consume goods evolve. . . . All of these changes and developments have an impact on our natural environment.'*<sup>5</sup>

Visit the UNECE website to discover some of the ways to protect our environment:

<https://unece.org/stories/protect-your-environment>.

In part 5 of this series, we will discover eco-friendly tips for keeping our environment safe.

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://e360.yale.edu/features/ecopsychology-how-immersion-in-nature-benefits-your-health>

<sup>2</sup><https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/scotland/posts/nature-prescriptions-an-exciting-new-urban-pilot>

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.who.int/health-topics/climate-change#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/climate-change#tab=tab_1)

<sup>4</sup><https://climate.nasa.gov/effects/>

<sup>5</sup><https://unece.org/stories/protect-your-environment>

# The power of a book

by Dr Kirk Thomas,

British Union Conference Director for Evangelism, Missions, Publishing, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School

The sun was blazing down on my head, and there was no place to shelter. I must have covered quite a few miles that day, and still, as I looked up the hill, I could see a tiny, isolated house. An inner prompting pushed me with my bag of books up that mountainous elevation. A woman's pleasant voice answered as I knocked on the shaky door. With bated breath, I waited. She finally emerged with a smile on her face. It must have been the Holy Spirit that directed me to offer the invitation they taught me as a student colporteur. I explained to her that I was a student studying to be a pastor in Trinidad, and that I was here in St Vincent and the Grenadines selling books to help pay my college tuition and boarding. With sympathetic eyes, she explained that she was a single parent with five children and could not afford to buy any books, but she did ask if she could see the books. I displayed them to her, and she selected *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ*. She enquired about the cost, and decided that she could only pay me a mere \$3 a week; this meant that every Friday I had to climb that steep hill to collect that 'widow's mite'. It was exhausting, but I endured it, because she was trying her best.

The following year I returned to the same country and visited the same location. As I gazed up that steep hill, my body said, 'Pass,' but the Holy Spirit urged me to go up to her shack on the hill. I obeyed, knocked, and waited with uncertainty and hope. She suddenly appeared, smiling, and this time I was invited in. The children were there as she told how they had read the books and had accepted Christ. They were now members of the local Seventh-day

Adventist church. The children were active members of the Pathfinder club, and she was currently employed by one of the members who owned a business.

Recently, there have been many reported stories of members distributing *The Great Controversy* to receptive individuals. At a recent pastoral workers' meeting at the Stanborough Park church, each attendee was given a copy of *The Great Controversy*. A non-Adventist member from the community participating in another programme somehow got hold of one of them and began reading. She left the church to meet a friend and introduced her to the book. Her friend was so interested that she gave *The Great Controversy* to her and returned to the church, requesting another copy! That's the power of a book!

These stories have taught me two important principles: effort belongs to us; success belongs to God. We have over 200,000 copies of *The Great Controversy* waiting to be distributed this year. We have 40,000 for the BUC territories. Are you willing to help save a life? Are you ready to climb the steep hill that lies ahead? Are you ready to stand in the gap, holding out hope? Come and join us in **reflecting hope!**

The Stanborough Press has recently received a new shipment of *The Great Controversy* from the printers – it now has a strikingly redesigned cover with an attention-grabbing subtitle: 'Events that will change your future'. There is also a useful QR code on the back cover that will lead the reader to further online Bible studies. You can purchase *The Great Controversy* with this new cover for only £1.60 plus p&p. Call 01476 591700, or visit

[www.LifeSourceBookshop.co.uk](http://www.LifeSourceBookshop.co.uk).



# Prime Minister Rishi Sunak thanks Stanborough Park church member for his work as a Community Champion

by June Coombs



Enoch Kanagaraj knocks on the big door



Enoch Kanagaraj stands with Dean Russell MP on his left and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on his right

**E**noch Kanagaraj, Stanborough Park Church member and Chief Executive of the 'One Vision' charity, has been recognised for contributions to his church's local community by being awarded the title 'Community Champion' and invited to a reception at Number 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak.

Community Champions were set up a decade ago to improve the local population's health. Still, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the name has been used to celebrate people who make parliamentary constituencies across the country a better place to live. Each of the 650 Members of Parliament was asked to nominate somebody who has helped to make a difference in their constituency through their voluntary work. Enoch's MP, Dean Russell, is also the Minister for Housing and the Homeless and a patron of the charity, One Vision, which Enoch founded and of which Enoch is now the Chief Executive (a voluntary role, alongside his day job in retail).

As Enoch says, 'It all started with knocking on doors in the area surrounding Stanborough Park Church in Watford.' He was part of the Church Community Services (CCS) team visiting homes in the locality, ascertaining their needs and how to meet them.

Enoch says, 'As the CCS developed, we recognised that

the community needs were much greater than we could meet. We began to connect and meet with other community organisations, charities, and national government leaders to explore how we could cooperate. Everything was based at Stanborough Park Church. Suddenly, people who normally would not come here were regular visitors. Our motto is: "Bringing People Together".'

This led to further contact with the police, the local government, and the National Health Service to find out

what help was needed, and then it would be decided how to meet those needs. Hence 'One Vision' was launched in August 2018 to provide practical support to vulnerable individuals and families. In doing

so, it brought together different cultural backgrounds to address the needs of the Watford community, Enoch explains – and, with it, another way of doing things.

On Thursday, 23 March, Enoch met the British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, as one of a group of six Community Champions and their MPs from various parts of the country. He says that Mr Sunak was aware of One Vision's good work and thanked him for his efforts to help the local community. Enoch always shares his faith, and told the Prime Minister he was an Adventist.

As the local MP later wrote, 'It was a wonderful opportunity to bring together the Community Champions from across the UK and to give us a chance to thank them for their enormous contribution to the communities we represent. On behalf of the people of Watford, I would like to thank Enoch for all the fantastic work he does through One Vision and its various initiatives. I don't think there is a day when he is not doing something to help those around him. He is always willing to help whoever asks, and does not seek recognition or praise.'

British Union Conference Director for Adventist Community Services and One Vision trustee Sharon Platt-McDonald states: 'This award as Community Champion is so fitting given the visionary, compassionate and dedicated work that Enoch has spearheaded. We are immensely proud of him. Additionally, we are so grateful to God for the opportunity to enhance the quality of life through the various services to the community that the One Vision charity undertakes. Please continue to pray for the efficacy of our outreach, and that God will impact lives, both now and for eternity.'

Reflecting on his award, Enoch said, 'I am humbled and honoured to be nominated as a Community Champion by our local MP, Dean Russell, at Number 10 Downing Street. I am proud to represent the people of Watford. I would not be here without the support of our volunteers, family, and friends . . . and to think, it all started with knocking on doors!'



## Tottenham Lighthouse awarded 'Centre of Influence' status by MP David Lammy, councillors and the BUC

On the afternoon of Sabbath 25 February 2023 – in the presence of the Right Honourable David Lammy, Member of Parliament for Tottenham and Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, alongside prominent members of Haringey Council – Tottenham Lighthouse Seventh-day Adventist Church was recognised by the British Union Conference as being a 'Centre of Influence' for its community outreach endeavours, which have been meeting the needs of those adversely impacted by the current cost-of-living crisis.

David Lammy commended Tottenham Lighthouse SDA Church for being an excellent example of outdoor community ministry during a time of great need. He said: 'I'm here to give a deep, sincere thank-you to our Seven Sisters and Tottenham Seventh-day Adventist community for all that you are doing on a Tuesday and a Saturday, week after week without fail. For beyond two years, you have been in service and mission beyond your faith community, and it's important that such work does not go unnoticed. You don't do it for praise, but from a heart of faith and calling. Thank you for all that you are doing in this tough economic time – for the food, generosity and organisation; for your selfless outreach and service to the diverse families and communities in Tottenham, Haringey and beyond. You are a faith community of influence; and, as a Christian, I know that God is looking down with joy at the work being done here.'

The leader of Haringey Council, Councillor Peray Ahmet, along with Councillor Ibrahim Ali, joined Mr Lammy in expressing thanks to all the food hub volunteers for their tireless outreach efforts in the community: 'It's a really humbling experience to be here today as leader of the council, and thank you for inviting me. The vibe and family atmosphere here is truly fantastic, and all the good work that you are doing here is unspeakable. But I will say, on behalf of all of us at Haringey Council, thank you very much for all that you do: keep up the good work, and I'm sure we'll be back soon.'

Also present, a daughter of Tottenham, Councillor Michelle Simmons-Safo, expressed her pride in the achievements of Tottenham Lighthouse Church: 'The Word of God teaches us that we must be the salt of the earth; we have to go out to reach out, and not be insular. So this church is an example of the hope that is translating across the whole of England. Growing up in Tottenham, I remember feeling that my mother's expectation that we from Tottenham would graduate from university was unrealistic. Her response to this, which I did not understand at the time but do now, is that *the prettiest lily grows by the muddiest bank*, and this is what I have seen today – that the prettiest lily is feeding the community. It doesn't matter where you come from: it's what you do with the resources that you have, and today Tottenham have showed up and showed out. Because of you, I can stand that little bit taller as a daughter of the soil, and for that I say thank you very much.'

Other specially invited guests, Eve Ricketts and Shirley Harper, expressed their profound elation for having been able to see the Tottenham Lighthouse phenomenon.

Mr Lammy, alongside the BUC Director for Health, Adventist Community Services & Women's Ministries, Sharon Platt-McDonald, spent the afternoon volunteering time in serving the needs of those attending the Food Hub.

DARELL J. PHILIP; PHOTOS BY JOSHUA AMARTEY



## An interview with Sharon Platt-McDonald on her recent publication: *Sacred Hours*

by Pastor Sam Davies,  
BUC Communications and Media Director

**S***acred Hours* is a devotional book explicitly focusing on the Sabbath. Unlike other devotionals, the structure helps you appreciate the untapped benefits and blessings of Sabbath observance. The format is epistolary, consisting of writings compiled weekly over a year, of which I was a recipient. Reading it, I discovered new ways to value the sacred hours of the Sabbath. Sharon draws you into a mode of reflection that helps you to enjoy the Sabbath meaningfully.

**Sam Davies – Sharon, you have written several books over the years. Why have you written a book focusing on the Sabbath?**

**Sharon Platt-McDonald –** *Sacred Hours* is dedicated to my beloved late parents, who diligently taught me the beauty of the Sabbath, and to love the God of the Sabbath. I wanted to capture the essence of the Sabbath, not just from a theological standpoint, but also through storytelling, highlighting my personal experiences and reflections on what the Sabbath means to me.

**SD – You titled the book *Sacred Hours: 52 Sabbath Reflections for Your Devotional Time*. What was the reason for that title choice?**

**SPM –** The Sabbath provides an enriching opportunity for reflective moments as we look back over the past week and all that has transpired, then pause to thank God for bringing us safely through the previous six days.

The book title highlights the weekly 24 hours set aside for consecrated time with God, highlighting His centrality in Sabbath worship. These sacred hours afford us an uninterrupted time of connectivity, enriching our relationship with our Creator God.

**SD – You mentioned that the book was written as a dedication to your late parents. Can you expand a bit more on that?**

**SPM –** Yes. I dedicated this reflective devotional to the memory of my late parents, whose faithful commitment to daily family worship affirmed the tenets of our faith for my siblings and me. The godly influence, devout beliefs and practice of my beloved mother and father engendered enriching moments with God during our weekly Sabbath observance and throughout the week.

Those foundational lessons learnt in childhood now frame the content and context of Friday evening worship and Sabbath evening vespers in our home. My husband Denzel and I treasure these scheduled special times with God as we express gratitude to Him through our worship. It is the high point of our week.

**SD – How did you go about formulating the devotionals?**

**SPM –** The compilation of each devotional is an augmented version of some of the Friday evening musings on my experience of the Sabbath, shared with friends and family over the years. This book results from their requests to have those devotional thoughts published. I wrote it to enable readers to reflect on their own Sabbath experience.

**SD – I found the different segments of the book quite interesting. Tell us about that, and why you included that layout as you did.**

**SPM –** Using the indicated headings on the right-hand side of each page, the reader is offered an opportunity to take a moment to pause and think about what they have just read. They are then invited to write a brief reflective response and conclude with a prayer of gratitude in the space provided. As individuals pause to make a personal application and register their thankfulness to God, I believe this exercise will enhance their connection with God.

**SD – Who is your target audience?**

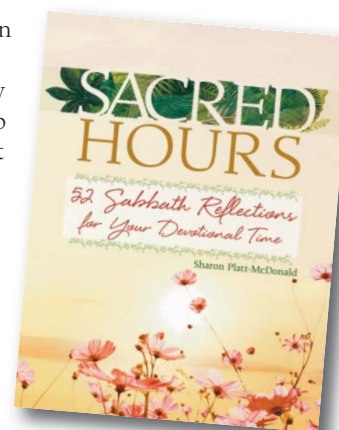
**SPM –** When I set out to write this book, it was geared towards enriching one's devotional time and experience with God each Sabbath. However, as I progressed the manuscript, I realised that *Sacred Hours* could be used to take new believers on a journey of developing their personal worship time and experiencing the Sabbath the way God intended.

It then became evident that this publication could also be used as an evangelistic resource to share the Sabbath's blessings with someone searching for God. It will ignite their curiosity and interest in God as they discover who He is and why the Sabbath is essential for our holistic well-being. Additionally, as they uncover the various aspects of the Sabbath, I pray they will discover the multiple blessings it brings to their lives.

**SD – What would you like the reader to gain from this publication?**

**SPM –** *Sacred Hours* invites you to pause from the harried existence of daily life, to retreat from the distractions, demands and stressors of the week, to take the 'upward look' as you rest in these hallowed hours of the Sabbath. I would love the reader to feel refreshed and uplifted as they are reminded that in each seven-day cycle God provides us with this holistic gift that enriches every facet of our lives. I pray that our worship each Sabbath will reveal a deeper insight into our wonderful God and yield a more intimate relationship with Him.

You can purchase copies of *Sacred Hours* via <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/sacred-hours-52-sabbath-reflections-for-your-devotional-time/> or at any LifeSource bookstore, or telephone 01476 591700.



## Showers of blessing usher in first ‘Sharing the Love’ day for 2023

On Sunday 26 March 2023 Tottenham Lighthouse held its highly anticipated community day, ‘Sharing the Love’. ‘Sharing the Love’ is an initiative of the Prayer Ministry Department, working closely with Adventist Community Services and the other departments in the church. It is a quarterly event, held during the last month of the quarter on a Sunday from 12 noon to 3pm. God has blessed His church with highly skilled professionals, and they have willingly offered their services to the community, free of charge. One service provider commented, ‘There is a fulfilment which I feel within me doing this, and I should say thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve.’

The services offered to the community included health checks done by nurses, with a doctor available for follow-up; legal advice by a barrister; education advice by a teacher; massage done by a massage therapist; prayer by the prayer team; counselling by a qualified counsellor; business advice by a successful business owner; IT careers advice by an IT consultant; spiritual books and literature (donated by the BUC Personal Ministries Department); a floral arrangement demonstration; and gifts for visitors, along with refreshments. The refreshments were supplemented by a Greggs donation of 60 nicely packaged doughnuts.

A big thank-you to all our service providers, community volunteers and members who braved the weather to provide another excellent day’s service to our community. We appreciate your continued support of this worthy initiative. Our mother church, Holloway, is planning a similar event on Sabbath 13 May. We plan to provide them with our support where needed.

At Tottenham Lighthouse we strive to be a light in our community by showing people that we love and care for them. Inspired by Jesus Christ, we will continue to find positive ways to interact with our community to help them to one day ‘taste and see that the Lord is good’.

MAXINE DONOVAN, COMMUNICATIONS & PRAYER MINISTRY



Selima Morton of Lea Valley Church giving IT advice



Pastor Jude with three visitors

## Ed’s surprise 95<sup>th</sup> birthday greeting from the Mayor of Watford

‘I didn’t think that 95 was all that great,’ says Edward Hammond about his recent birthday surprise. Seated in his usual place near the front of Stanborough Park Church on 14 January, the day of his special birthday, Ed suddenly found himself the centre of attention as the church’s senior pastor, Terry Messenger, presented him with a special framed greetings card from none other than the Mayor of Watford – all the more surprising as he hasn’t actually lived in the town for more than half a century, having moved to a neighbouring large village! However, a fellow church member decided not to let minor details stand in the way of this special occasion, and, taking advantage of contacts, succeeded in organising the message for such a ‘well-known, well-respected and well-loved gentleman who has been a member here for many decades’.

Church members all wished him a

very happy birthday with many more to come. Ed has attended the church for more than 60 years, and admits to being ‘a bit surprised’ to receive the mayoral greeting, as ‘I didn’t think 95 was all that great’ – he speculates that the next big milestone will be 100, ‘if I make it’!

Ed ran an office stationery business in North London until his retirement, and attributes his age to a healthy lifestyle. He switched to a vegetarian diet many years ago, and has now adopted a plant-based diet, having given up dairy a while ago. Despite his age, fear of contracting COVID-19 didn’t stop him from attending church services once the building reopened, and he has been found in his usual seat almost every week since then. In fact, when he finally caught the virus, he claims he only felt really unwell for two hours, although tests showed that it had lingered in his system for some time.



He has always been very active, running the London Marathon once, along with many half-marathons and 10-mile runs, including the local ‘Tough Ten’. He was a keen fell walker, and claims to have done all the Wainwright walks at least once, with many long hikes in the Lake District. He is still President of the Fell

Walking Group he helped to found many decades ago, although mobility issues now stop him joining in the longer and more demanding hikes, finding local gentle walks around the village recreational areas close to his home more appropriate – when the weather is suitable. He still attends a gym several times a week.

A keen gardener, he now has help with the more demanding jobs such as cutting hedges, but still does his own planting and such like, and is always ready to pass on gardening advice.

JUNE COOMBS



## Crieff young people embrace Global Youth Day 2023

Due to calendar clashes, the young people at Crieff Church decided to hold their Global Youth Day event two weeks early, and they were happy to be among the first globally to start the GYD ball rolling. Early on 4 March, 15 young people and a handful of willing adults travelled to carry out a morning of street witnessing in Perth, a city in the historic county of Perthshire, situated about 19 miles from Crieff.

The decision to take part in street witnessing was an answer to prayer. The Crieff Church Youth Leader, Angela Logan, had prayed for guidance about what to do for Global Youth Day. She knew that she wanted the Crieff young people to do something, but she had no idea what they could do. She prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and she waited. A few weeks later, Angela and

her husband, Malcolm, were sitting in a restaurant in St Andrews, Fife. From their window table, they watched a group of people outside begin to set up tables, take out instruments, and gather up bags to hand out. The group started singing and handing out bags, and Angela knew right then that her prayer for guidance had been answered. She turned to her husband and said, 'We can do that. Crieff can do that!'

It was decided to hand out bags containing a copy of the Gospel of

Mark; a *Focus* magazine about prayer; a Christian bookmark; and a small chocolate. Carole, Steve Barratt-Peacock and Yvonne Bauwens took charge of the singing and ensured the young people were familiar with the songs before the big day.

More prayers were answered on the actual day! These included prayers for dry weather: it was a cold day, but the skies were blue; and prayers to secure the best busking spot: the confluence of two major shopping streets in Perth meant that a steady flow of people were able to hear the singing and take the bags. Prayers for receptive hearts and kind words were also answered, and the young people stated that they would be happy to do street witnessing again!

The group from Crieff Church were very thankful for the financial assistance given by Pastor David Neal and the Trans-European Division.

ANGELA LOGAN, CRIEFF CHURCH

## CPEI certifies seven pastors as board chaplains

On Tuesday 15 March 2023 at our London ministers' meeting, seven of our pastors were presented with their certificates declaring them board-certified chaplains from Clinical Pastoral Education International (CPEI), Florida, USA. These pastors were Dr Kirk Thomas, Dr Mario Phillip, Rory Mendez, Royston Smith, Steve Roberts, Nick Vitalis, and Thando Mlalazi. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is a unique educational experience for faith-based professionals, lay ministers and theological students seeking professional development within a clinical or community-based setting.

Over a year, these seven pastors



did their CPE training virtually, which included 100 hours of lectures and 300 hours of supervised clinical training at various hospitals throughout the UK. The lead trainer, Scott Speight, CEO of the Pastoral Care Centre, spoke to the pastors on the importance of CPE training. He commended them for their

dedication to developing their capacity to serve their parishioners and by extension the world.

CPEI is accredited by the Commission for Pastoral Education (CAPE) and the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET).

DR MARIO PHILLIP

**TRAINING**  
5-14 MAY 2023

**NEWBOLD**  
COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

# Worship and Music Leadership

Master the art of leading Christian worship, and design effective programmes for diverse and contemporary congregations.

More information: [www.newbold.ac.uk](http://www.newbold.ac.uk)

Andrews University  
International Center for Worship & Music

NEWBOLD COLLEGE  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**Dudley House School**  
Independent Christian Education for 3 - 11 year olds

Do you want your child to:

- > be nurtured to achieve their best?
- > receive lots of individual attention?
- > thrive in our small classes?

*'The care pupils receive is outstanding.'*  
Ofsted

Come and join our school family.

Dudley House School, 1 Dudley Road, Grantham, NG31 9AA  
[www.dudleyhouseschool.co.uk](http://www.dudleyhouseschool.co.uk) Tel: 01476 400184

Early Years Funded places available.

North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Pay in full before the 31st March and receive a 10% on all chalets. Limited capacity. Book ASAP!

# FORWARD We Go!

## CAMP MEETING 2023

29<sup>TH</sup> MAY – 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE | HAY'S WOOD RETREAT

**Dr Blessing Nyahuma**  
Adult Midday Speaker

**Dr Beatrice Kastrati**  
Health Speaker

**Dr Eldeen King**  
Adult Main Speaker

**Pr Laurent Grosvenor**  
Youth & Teens Speaker

**Pr Matthew Freely**  
Youth & Teens Speaker

**Accommodation:** On site cabins starting from £765 (incl. retreat fee) | Off-site hotels starting from £384 (not incl. retreat fee)  
**Retreat fee** (staying off-site for the week): 22 years & older is £150pp | Between 13 & 21 is £100pp | 12 and under is free  
**Food:** Cabins are self-catering but there will be an on site restaurant for meals to be purchased  
**On site activities (inclusive):** Archery, sports, inflatables, health & media workshops, games & socials, and more  
**Live streaming:** For those unable to attend in person, the main services will be streamed online  
**Venue:** Hay's Wood Retreat, Setch Road, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1XU

Book your on site accommodation and retreat fee by calling Hay's Wood Retreat on 01553 606 000. For more information and to learn about the off-site accommodation options, visit [nec.adventist.uk/camp-meeting](http://nec.adventist.uk/camp-meeting)

SEC PRESENTS

# CAMP MEETING 2023

24 - 30 July

## THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

AT HAY'S WOOD RETREAT  
Blackborough End, King's Lynn, PE32 1XU

[WWW.CAMPMEETING.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CAMPMEETING.ORG.UK)

**SUNDAY 7 MAY 1-4PM**

FREE ADMISSION... PLENTY TO BUY!!

# PARTY IN THE PARK

STANBOROUGH PARK, WATFORD, WD25 9JT

BOUNCY CASTLE

FOOD

STALLS CRAFTS MUSIC

**NEWBOLD**  
COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## Building Maintenance and Facilities Operative

Newbold College of Higher Education is seeking to appoint a full-time Building Maintenance and Facilities Operative.

The deadline for application is 15 May 2023.

To learn more about this position, please visit <https://www.newbold.ac.uk/about/careers/>

**Stanborough Secondary School Advert**

Stanborough Secondary School is seeking volunteers, who wish to give 12-24 months in missionary service. This is the only SDA secondary school in the British Union Conference. Last year 8 of our students were baptised, and we hope that you can join us on the journey of educating for eternity.

Follow the link below for the Job Description and application form

**Volunteers Required**

**Boarding School Assistant Dean (2 positions)**  
12-24 months  
April 2023 (sooner if possible)  
Volunteer | Full-time |  
On site – accommodation provided

## LifeSource book sales

DATE	VENUE	TIME
28 April – 3 May	BUC Ministerial Council, Leonardo Hotel, Hinckley Island	
21 May	Brixton	10am-2pm
29 May – 4 June	NEC Camp Meeting	

# Messenger

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

To receive the *MESSENGER*, delivered free to your home along with *Focus* magazine and *Adventist World* magazine, scan the QR code or email: [msubs@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:msubs@stanboroughpress.org.uk)



## A Surprise visit to Inverness SDA Church by Pastor John Bradshaw

It was a beautiful Sabbath morning on 18 March at the Inverness SDA church. Little did we know that this particular Sabbath would hold a special surprise for us. During the Sabbath School lesson study, the doors of the church opened and in walked Pastor John Bradshaw, the famous Christian TV broadcaster and evangelist, accompanied by his family. He is the President of It Is Written TV, a channel dedicated to broadcasting thought-provoking biblical programming that inspires and encourages viewers around the world.

It was an unexpected visit, but one that we were all grateful for. Pastor Bradshaw has been a source of inspiration and encouragement for so many Adventists

around the world through his broadcasting ministry, and to have him grace our church with his presence was truly a blessing.

The local minister, Pastor Wilfred Masih, welcomed Pastor John Bradshaw and his family and invited him to preach. As Pastor Bradshaw took to the pulpit to deliver his message, the small but growing congregation waited eagerly for his words of encouragement. He spoke with conviction and passion, his words resonating with every member of the congregation. His message was one of hope, faith and God's mercy, reminding us all that, no matter what trials we may face in life, God is always with us.

After the service, Pastor Bradshaw and his family took the time to meet with members of the congregation. They listened to our stories and offered words of comfort and encouragement. It was clear that they genuinely cared about each and every person they met.

As the Bradshaw family prepared to leave, there was a sense of deep gratitude and inspiration within the congregation. We had been blessed with a truly special visit, and the impact of Pastor Bradshaw's words would stay with us for a long time to come.

You can watch Pastor John Bradshaw's programmes on <https://itiswritten.tv/en/home>.

PASTOR WILFRED MASIH



## New drama from Parbolē Productions

On 28 January Parbolē Productions, a drama ministry from Parkside SDA Community Fellowship Church in Reading that includes both Adventists and non-Adventists, presented *A Song In A Strange Land*, a gospel musical, at the Hexagon Theatre. The play, inspired by Psalm 137:4, looked at issues such as loss, rejection, betrayal, and loneliness, but also hope, faith, trust, forgiveness and ultimately love. It concluded by showing that despite our unique challenges it is still possible to sing and give God praise.

The event was widely advertised to the community, and the director and some of the cast were interviewed on the Sunday morning breakfast show on BBC Radio Berkshire, where there was opportunity to talk about the play and share our faith as Seventh-day Adventists.

The devil was hard at work, however, and several of the cast were hospitalised in the build-up, including one a week before the show requiring emergency dental surgery! Knowing

how serious this was to the success of the production, the whole cast took to fervent prayer, asking God not only to look after our friend, but also to restore him to full health. Thank God, our prayers were answered, and

we praised God for His miraculous healing power.

The play was very well received, a testament to the hard work of all those involved. Nearly 600 tickets were sold, and it was heartening to see a large number of community members in the audience, with many touched by how the play reflected experiences in their own lives and asking when it would be repeated. We thank God that we are able to minister to our community and share with them the Good News story of God's love.

DEREK LINDO

## Kings Heath church plant reaches out

The Kings Heath church plant in South Birmingham is a subsection of Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, which is located approximately 6 miles away. The plant has been active in the bustling multicultural community for several years. The small group of members have undertaken health programmes, music days and street witnessing with high levels of professionalism and commitment. One such programme was conducted outdoors last summer on the All Saints church's concourse, supported by members of various churches from nearby. The sermon on that day was delivered by Pastor Cyril Sweeney. One man who was listening from a little way off commented, 'I'm not interested in religion, but I want you all to know that I thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful singing.' A few days before Christmas 2022, the church plant also witnessed through high-street carol singing and handing out gift bags containing literature. A time of celebration, praise and worship took place on Sabbath 25 February 2023. Sister Joy Thompson enhanced the outreach aspect of the occasion by arranging for all the able-bodied members of the congregation to go along a few hundred metres up the high street and hand out literature to busy Saturday shoppers.

JOY THOMPSON AND JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL

**Harry Herbert Leonard (1934-2022)**  
d. 9 August.



On 1 September 2022, family, friends, colleagues and former students gathered at Newbold Church to celebrate the life of an unforgettable teacher, historian, comedian and gardener who had made a rich contribution to individual lives and the community life of Newbold College of Higher Education and Newbold Church, as well as Binfield and Bracknell, over fifty years. At Leonard's request, the service was led by Dr Patrick Johnson, a former student and Newbold pastor.

Harry Herbert Leonard grew up in Edmonton, a northern suburb of London; but he was born in January 1934 in the City of London. He was always proud of being a 'cockney'. On the outbreak of war, he was evacuated briefly to Hazelmere in Surrey, but he soon returned home to attend his primary school during the Blitz and later passed the 11+ exam, admitting him to Edmonton County Grammar School. There he excelled in sport and discovered his love of history with a supportive teacher, Joan Henderson, who encouraged him to apply for university.

In the waiting room of his gently eccentric piano teacher, Miss Malpus, he read the magazine *Present Truth* – his first introduction to Seventh-day Adventists. When he was about 18, the young brother of his friend died suddenly at the age of 12. Walking home from the funeral, Harry decided he would visit his music teacher's church in Edmonton. He arrived unannounced for a friendly youth meeting, and decided he wanted to return. Eventually, he started to keep the Sabbath – cricket matches permitting! When evangelist George Vandeman held a series of meetings at the London Coliseum, Harry joined the choir, attended the meetings and was baptised in 1952.

At Queen Mary College, University of London, Harry graduated with a history degree, followed by a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at the Institute of Education. Typically undaunted by the refusal of a training grant because of his epilepsy, Harry earned his own way through.

He took up his first job teaching history at Stanborough School in 1956, where he met Christine Beddall, a teacher of domestic science. The two married in 1958, and for the next eight years lived on Stanborough Park, where their children Stephanie, Julia, Andrew and Peter were born. Harry enjoyed family life hugely, utilising his lifelong gifts as an entertainer to brighten up children's stories. His renditions of 'Tubby the Tuba' and

Mozart's Horn Concerto were particularly memorable.

In 1967 the family moved from Watford to Binfield, where Harry taught history at Newbold College. Somehow, between teaching, family life and establishing his beloved allotment, Harry found time to complete his PhD thesis at the University of London, and in 1970 was awarded his doctorate.

The Leonards' home was a sociable place – especially after church on Sabbath – with Christine's wonderful food, fellowship, fun and long afternoon walks. On Saturday evenings there might be entertainment at the College, where Harry was a frequent and popular performer. At home, the Leonard children, like everyone else who came under Harry's influence, were encouraged to think for themselves and express their opinions.

In Leonard's 32-year teaching career at Newbold he went from Teacher of History to Head of the History Department and then Head of Humanities. He did short stints of teaching at Andrews University and the University of Reading. His students described him as a 'hard taskmaster' with an office door 'always open for matters of heart and soul as well as the mind'. On committees, he was a great ally and a fearsome opponent – impatient with lazy thinking or poor process. His commitment to accurate Adventist history was expressed in *J. N. Andrews: The Man and the Mission*, the symposium he edited on the Adventist pioneer in 1985.

Four years after his retirement from Newbold in December 1998, Leonard was invited to take up the annual Walter Utt Chair of History at Pacific Union College. His research into the history of Moor Close – one of Newbold College's original buildings – and into the diaries of Robert Lee – an eighteenth-century English country gentleman – were published in 2008 and 2012 respectively.

Leonard was always an active member of his local community. As a great believer in maintaining positive relationships with fellow Christians, he was, for many years, the Newbold representative on the local board of Churches Together, serving for several years as its chairman and leading an ecumenical Bible study group. His passion for gardening made him a prominent member of the Binfield Gardening Club.

During the last few years of his life, Harry developed mobility issues and finally pneumonia. He died peacefully at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading on Tuesday 9 August 2022, his wife by his side with their daughter, Julia. Harry is

survived by his wife, Christine; their children: Stephanie, Julia and Peter; his grandchildren: Tom, Ben, Will, Ned, Jessica, and Carys; and his great-grandchildren: Ariana and Imogen.

HELEN PEARSON

**Corrigenda**

Vol. 128, iss. 2, p. 18, 'Introducing Pastor Connie Hon Ni Tsang' – 'Dr Peter (a dentist from Hong Kong)', not 'David (from Hong Kong)'; 'Filipino International Church', not 'Philippine International Church'; the first baptism took place on Sabbath 24 December, not '17 December'.

Vol. 128, iss. 3, 'Has anybody here seen my friend John?' – those who lost their lives in the Waco tragedy passed away between 28 February 1993 and 19 April 1993.

**Messenger**

Volume 128 • 4 – 28 April 2023

Editor: *Julian Thompson*  
Design: *David Bell*  
Proof reading: *Andrew Puckering*  
Production and distribution: *Peter Oppong-Mensah*

COPY FOR No. 6 – 29 May 2023

**Note to potential advertisers**

It is important that those who submit adverts for display in *MESSENGER* ensure that they have **permission** (and a **paid licence** where required) to use any downloaded photographs or artwork that they incorporate into their adverts. It is also important that credit be given to the individual, organisation or company from which these have been obtained. For example, something like the following should appear within the advert: ©*Joe Bloggs/StockPhoto.com*. Please be aware that images downloaded from **Google** may also be subject to permission and licensing. The Stanborough Press Ltd takes no responsibility for any downloaded images submitted to *MESSENGER* by contributors and reserves the right to decline adverts about which we have copyright concerns.

**Permission relating to photography**

Those who submit photographs of minors (persons under the age of 18) for publication must ensure that they have permission to do so from their parents, guardians or carers. We would like these submissions to be accompanied by the following statement: 'I have the permission of the parents, guardian or carer of the minors who appear in this/these photograph/s to submit them for publication in the *MESSENGER*.'

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *MESSENGER*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.  
Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: [Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk)  
Send high-resolution pictures to: [dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk)

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

[www.stanboroughpress.org.uk](http://www.stanboroughpress.org.uk)

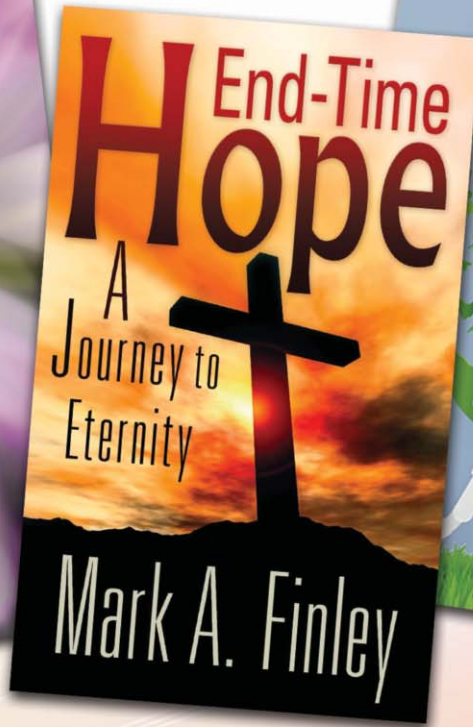
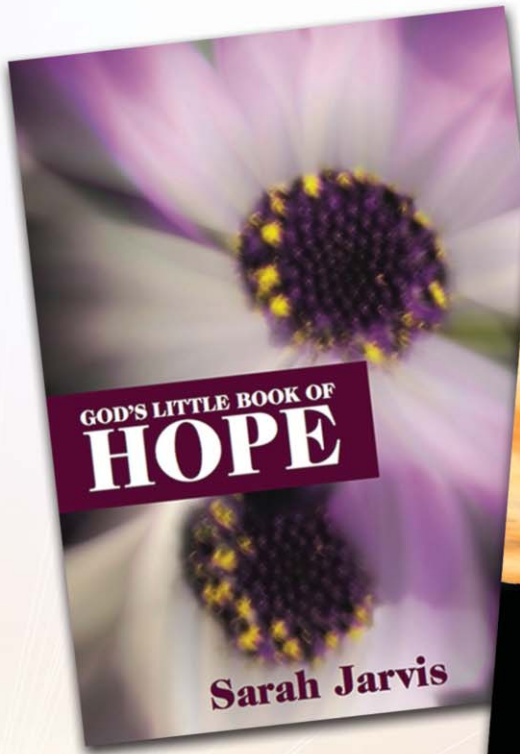
The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published monthly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For general enquiries, email: [info@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:info@stanboroughpress.org.uk)  
Printed in the UK.

Visit the **BUC website** at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)  
ISSN 0309-3654

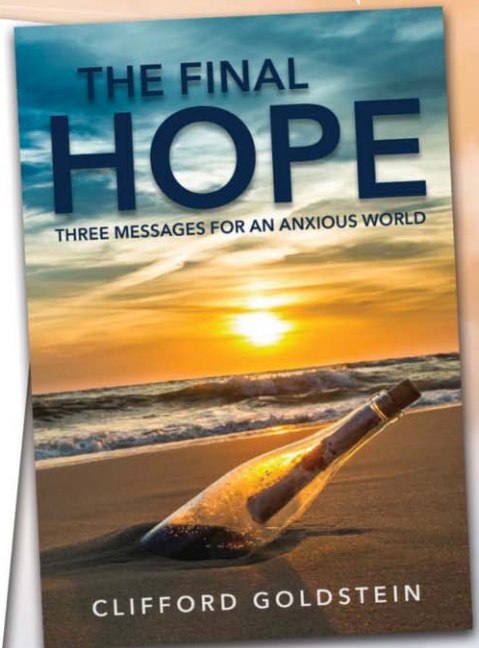
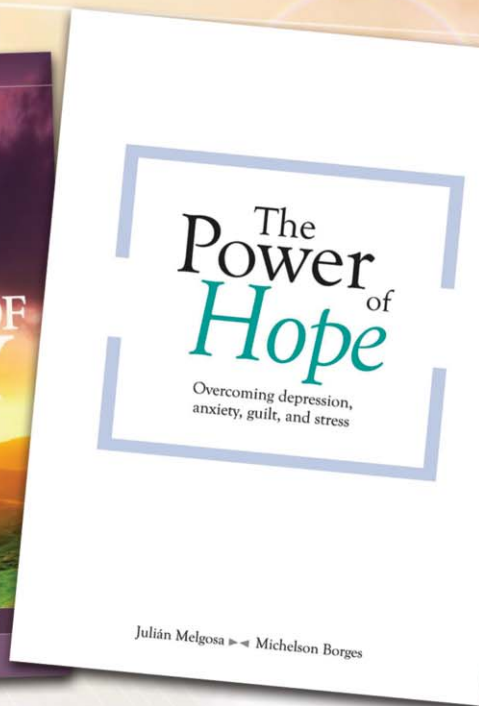
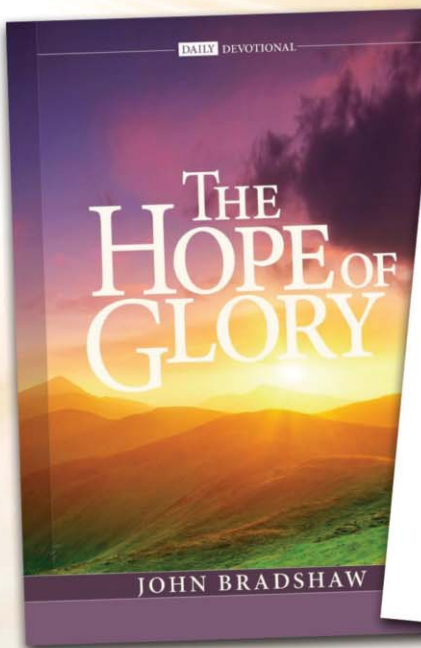
**Sunset**

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	Land	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Apr 28	8.19	8.31	8.27	8.45	8.51
May 5	8.30	8.42	8.39	8.59	9.04
12	8.41	8.53	8.51	9.13	9.17
19	8.52	9.04	9.02	9.26	9.29
26	9.01	9.13	9.12	9.38	9.40



We hope you enjoyed this issue of *MESSENGER*!  
Hope is certainly needed in a world that sometimes can feel quite hopeless.  
Why not strengthen your hope by reading more about it?



Order online or call 01476 591700

