

Messenger

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

Think on these things
Give others first choice
The fine-tuned universe
Waco – lessons learned &
six preventative principles
Identifying God's calling

26 May 2023 • Volume 128 • 5

+ World Refugee Sabbath

Lessons learned?

Education today is a dynamic experience



Strategic Priority (5) – Education

Aim:

- To develop a cohesive and inspirational Adventist education provision, utilising best practice, inclusion & innovation, driving attendance.

Objectives:

- Explore the value proposition of Adventist education in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.
- Utilise current best practice and innovation in our educational institutions.
- Cultivate a growth mentality that drives excellence and raises educational standards and attainment in all our educational institutions.



Lessons learned?

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,

President of the British Union Conference

True education

'True education... is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers' (Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 1).

The BUC Constitution

The running of educational institutions is ingrained in Article 3 of the BUC Constitution.

Historical challenges

The John Loughborough School opened in April 1980 as an independent school. In 1998 it was granted voluntary-aided status by the Government, but on 31 August 2013 it was closed amid much turbulence. On 28 November 1990 the Theodore McCleary Primary School was opened in South London. It closed on 31 August 2006. Both schools were heavily supported by Adventists in London, who sacrificed to offer their children a Christian education. The closure of these two Adventist schools raises the question: what lessons have we learnt from their demise? What data did we harvest to ensure that such situations do not recur?

Current challenges

While most of our schools are rated as 'Good' by Ofsted, some struggle to attain these standards. In addition to challenges regarding the accessibility of our schools, financial constraints, and the need for Adventist teachers; falling student numbers and a lack of confidence in our educational institutions are just some of the hurdles that we face. Operating schools across the UK in 2023 demands creativity and innovation. **The methods of yesteryear are no longer valid in an era when AI can write your essays.** We need our teaching, learning, governance, safeguarding, and leadership to be agile enough to meet the educational challenges of the twenty-first century



BUC education data

The BUC has already set up an Education Commission to address the educational challenges within our territory. There is also a survey that members can complete to provide us with additional data. *If you haven't done so already, please help us by scanning the QR code and completing it or visiting: <https://adventist.uk/departments/education/future-of-adventist-education-in-the-uk/>.*

Questions to ponder.

- How can we be true to our constitution and yet have a sustainable financial model of support for our schools and institutions?
- Is it time for us to develop a new system of supporting our education system to make it more evangelistic?
- Should all our students benefit from the financial provisions that we make for education, or is it only for the children in our schools?
- Should we consider making our schools self-governing?
- Is it time to consider a multi-academy approach?
- How do we best serve the needs of Adventist parents who home-school their children?
- How can we support parents whose children are unable to access mainstream education?

Let us take time to reflect on the past and support our children and young people in their educational journey today. Let's learn lessons from the past and present, and create educational opportunities for the future.

Editorial

by Julian Thompson,
Editor



Dear reader,

On the last weekend of April, I attended the BUC Ministers' Retreat in Leicester alongside a number of pastoral and administrative colleagues from across the Union. It was wonderful catching up with colleagues, many of whom I had not seen since the pandemic, and others I had not seen since graduating from Newbold College of Higher Education. In ministry, even though you are often surrounded by people, it can be a very lonely road. Over the weekend, I was reminded of the importance of developing supportive networks and reaching out to colleagues, even if it's to 'just check in'.

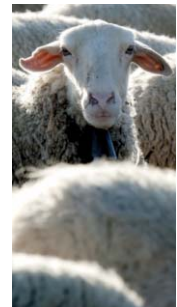
Have you ever received a text or call from someone you hadn't heard from in a while who said they were 'just checking in'? I received one of those calls the other day, and I must admit, it felt nice to be remembered. That call and my experience over the April Bank Holiday weekend got me wondering, *What it would be like if we were a church whose employees and members were known for 'checking in' on each other?* To be clear, what I mean by 'checking in' is not one of those cursory 'Hi, how are you?' greetings that we so often give before moving on to discuss church or other business, or one of those gossipy calls with a pretext. I'm talking about those 'check-ins' where the other's well-being is the only item on the agenda.

I want to end this month's editorial a little differently. I'd like to challenge you, reader, to reach out to someone you've not reached out to in a while and let them know that they have been remembered. It's a small thing to do, but you never know . . . you may just brighten someone's day. After all, are we not called to be light (Matthew 5:14)?



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The fine-tuned universe

by Pastor Wilfred Masih, *Scottish Mission Evangelism Department*



The universe is an incredible, awe-inspiring place, filled with wonders and mysteries that scientists have been studying and trying to understand for centuries. One of the most remarkable discoveries in recent years has been the concept of ‘fine-tuning’ in the universe. ‘Fine-tuning’ refers to the idea that the fundamental constants and physical laws of the universe are perfectly balanced to allow for the emergence of life.

To understand what this means, let’s first take a step back and look at some of the fundamental constants and physical laws that govern our universe. One of the most well-known constants is the speed of light, which is roughly 300,000 kilometres per second. There are many other constants, such as the gravitational constant, the Planck constant, and the cosmological constant, that determine how matter and energy interact in the universe.

The physical laws that govern the behaviour of matter and energy are also incredibly important. These laws include things like the laws of thermodynamics, the laws of motion, and the laws of electromagnetism. Together, the fundamental constants and physical laws create a complex web of interactions that allow the universe to exist.

So, what does all of this have to do with fine-tuning? The idea of fine-tuning is based on the observation that if any of these fundamental

constants or physical laws were even slightly different, the universe as we know it would not exist. For example, if the gravitational constant were just a tiny bit stronger or weaker, stars and planets would not form, and life as we know it would be impossible.

The fact that the universe is fine-tuned in this way has led many scientists and philosophers to conclude that it must have been designed with life in mind. This idea is sometimes called the ‘anthropic principle’, and it suggests that the universe is the way it is because it had to be in order to support life.

Of course, not everyone agrees with this interpretation of fine-tuning. Some scientists argue that the idea of fine-tuning is nothing more than a statistical fluke, and that there may be many other universes with different fundamental constants and physical laws that we simply haven’t observed yet.

Despite these debates, the concept of fine-tuning has led to some fascinating discoveries in cosmology and physics. For example, scientists have discovered that the early universe went through a period of incredibly rapid expansion, known as cosmic inflation, which helps to explain why the universe is so uniform and flat.

In addition, physicists have been able to use the concept of fine-tuning

to develop new theories about the nature of the universe. One such theory is string theory, which suggests that the universe is made up of tiny vibrating strings of energy. String theory is still a highly speculative field, but it has captured the imagination of scientists and laypeople alike with its promise of a unified theory of everything.

So, what does all of this mean for us living in the twenty-first century? For one thing, the concept of fine-tuning can help us to appreciate the incredible complexity and beauty of the universe. It can also inspire us to learn more about science and physics, and to think critically about the world around us. The fine-tuning of the fundamental constants is significantly more plausible given the existence of God than it would be if we were to assume the non-existence of God. Therefore, the fine-tuning of the fundamental constants is compelling evidence that God does exist.

Ultimately, the concept of fine-tuning invites us to think deeply about the mysteries and wonders of the universe, and to appreciate the incredible complexity and beauty of the world we live in.

‘By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible’ (Hebrews 11:3, ESV).

Give others first choice

by Pastor Reinder Bruinsma

“Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.” Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan towards Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD. . . . So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out towards the east.’
Genesis 13:9-11, NIV



After arriving, together with his entourage, at his destination in the land of Canaan, Abram faced a serious obstacle. A drought had caused a famine, and this prompted Abram to journey on to Egypt, where there was enough food. As soon as the situation had improved, the group returned to the borders of Canaan, where they faced a new problem. Abram had become ‘very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold’ (Genesis 13:2, NIV). His nephew, Lot, had also become rather prosperous and possessed large numbers of ‘flocks and herds and tents’ (verse 5, NIV). It proved to be impossible for the two men to stay in close proximity, since the land ‘could not support them while they stayed together’ (verse 6,

NIV). This led to quarrels between the herdsmen of Abram and those of Lot.

Abram proposed a solution. There needed to be some distance between his flocks and those of Lot. He suggested that Lot should have first choice. Lot gladly accepted this proposal, and did not hesitate in choosing the area that was most fertile. No wonder: if given a free choice, one naturally chooses what appears to be most profitable.

But why in the world did Abram not choose first? After all, he was much older than Lot, and age was extremely important in biblical times (as it still is in some cultures today). No one could have questioned his privilege of having first choice. But Abram

demonstrated true greatness of character by allowing Lot to choose first. True leaders today will demonstrate this same kind of greatness. A leadership position can be used to claim certain advantages, but a ‘servant leader’ will allow others to avail themselves of such privileges before it is their turn to do so.

Lord, give us the grace to allow others to have first choice when privileges are handed out.

*Reinder Bruinsma is currently retired, and has been a leader in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for over forty years. He has served as a pastor and as a teacher, but also as the head of institutions and as part of the leadership team at national and international administrative levels of the church.



Think on these things

by Pastor George Kumi,
NEC President



When my children were young, my wife and I encouraged them to make good decisions based on extensive thought, moral and ethical considerations, and, of course, godly principles.

As a Seventh-day Adventist, I believe that every decision we make as people looking for a soon-coming King should be immersed in prayer. That would ensure that they are based on godly principles.

During the past one and a half years in this role, I have spent more

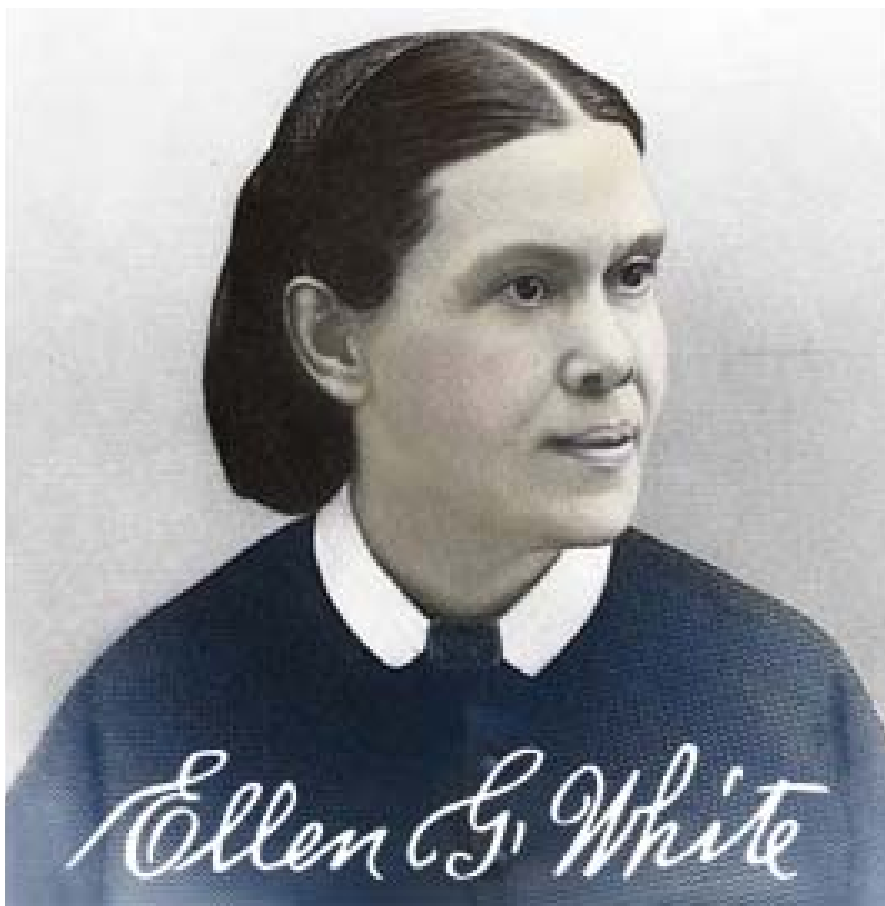
time on my knees than ever before. I have witnessed (and experienced) the by-product of historical decisions that catapulted our conference into a very public legal arena. I have witnessed (and explored) a culture where each person believes that they are right in their own eyes. I have witnessed (and encountered) toxic environments that are unsuitable for Christian growth.

Friends, Jesus told us that 'by this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another' (John 13:35, NKJV). Our

preaching, teaching and evangelism mean absolutely nothing if we do not seek to make decisions which are viewed through the lens of godly principles, well-thought-through, based on ethical and moral considerations, and in line with the policy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

As Ellen White says, 'We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honour, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices' (*True Revival*, p. 10).

This is a sobering message, but a poignant one for all of us who profess to be followers of our Master. Let's take time to 'think on these things' (Philippians 4:8).



Waco – have we learned the lessons?

Will we ever learn from the past? Are there any lingering signs in our community of faith which show that we continue to struggle to grow and mature in Christ? Following Anchored: a service of remembrance, reflection, resilience and reassurance, which took place on 19 April 2023 at Newbold Church, leaders from the British Union Conference shared their reflections:



Pastor John Surridge,
Executive Secretary, British Union Conference

‘Hearing from people whose families were directly impacted by the Waco tragedy was deeply moving for those who attended the “Anchored” programme at Newbold College. The first-hand accounts of telephone calls and correspondence with loved ones brought home the reality of what happened thirty years ago, and the ongoing pain experienced by the bereaved. It also underlined the importance of taking measures to prevent such an occurrence in the future. Theologians and lectures presented simple guides to biblical interpretation, including the importance of context and the distinction between general prophecy and the apocalyptic. If taught correctly, these could help many Christians avoid the deceptions – deliberate or unwitting – which are even more prevalent today than they were in the time of David Koresh.’

**Pastor Sam Davies and Lubica Mueller contributed to this article on behalf of the TED/BUC/NICHE and MESSENGER news pool for the Waco commemoration (photos: Asun Olivan).*



Pastor Eglan Brooks,
President, British Union Conference

‘As a church, we need to learn lessons from the Waco tragedy. We need to provide a safe environment for our members and the people who interact with us. As a result of encountering us, people’s lives should flourish. Help us to be a caring, personal, and compassionate church, and a church protected by the presence of Jesus in our lives.’



Pastor Don McFarlane,
President, British Union Conference, 2010-2015

‘We remember with sadness and compassion those who lost their lives at Waco and the grieving families they left behind. At the same time, we must not lose sight of the salient reminder of the danger of extreme Adventist theology and the spin-off of false hopes and conspiracy theories. The event reminded me personally of the need to stay on the plain path that has been made by responsible Bible study and the consensus of many.’

ANCHORED
A SERVICE OF REFLECTION, REMEMBRANCE, RESILIENCE AND REASSURANCE
WACO-30 YEARS ON
THE EVENT IS A JOINT INITIATIVE BY THE BUC, NEWBOLD COLLEGE AND THE TED
DATE: 19TH APRIL - LOCATION: NEWBOLD CHURCH - STARTS AT 12:30 WITH LUNCH - PROGRAMME BEGINS AT 14:00
For more info contact: kguthrie@adventist.uk
REGISTER AT: www.eventbrite.com/e/anchored-tickets-580027426647

ATTENDEES NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE EVENT AS IT IS BEING CATERED.

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Seventh-day Adventist Church
NEWBOLD COLLEGE

The advertisement used to invite people to the service on 19 April



Waco – six preventative principles

An interview with Dr Ivan Milanov,

Senior Lecturer in Old Testament Studies at Newbold College of Higher Education

Following ‘Anchored: a service of remembrance, reflection, resilience and reassurance’, which took place on 19 April 2023 at Newbold Church, Dr Ivan Milanov, Senior Lecturer in Old Testament Studies at Newbold College of Higher Education, was interviewed; and, in addition to sharing his reflections on the day, he gave six preventative principles.

The most impressive part of the commemoration service on 19 April at Newbold College Church for me was the panel discussion. The participants (Mrs Dimplets Taylor, Dr Albert Waite and Mr Vilroy McBean) were relatives and/or friends of individuals that had joined David Koresh’s group and who perished.

The discussion offered a first-hand insight into the personalities and mindset of the people who had decided to follow Koresh to Waco: dedicated and idealistic Christians searching for a deeper experience with God. They were kind, caring and talented individuals in art, music, and academia.

It might sound odd to someone, but **Koresh and his recruiters manipulated these individuals by using the qualities of their character and talents, not their weaknesses, as the prime vehicle of manipulation.** But their only weakness was the inability to critically evaluate the

nonsense message and deviant personality of David Koresh.

It seems to me that, despite being dedicated and intelligent Christians, these nice people decided to link their excitement with Koresh’s ideas at the expense of their evaluative powers. In short, they trusted Koresh as they would trust God.

The panel discussion taught me that prevention, embodied in providing quality teaching and spiritual support on a daily basis, is the best prevention that the pastors, elders and teachers in the church could produce for the congregation and community at large.

Let me share, if you will permit, six principles, preventative keys:

1. For today’s generation who know nothing about Waco, I would advise, ‘Do not trust anyone as you trust God!’ No one, regardless of their kindness, intelligence and talents, deserves our trust as we trust God. More particularly, **do not commit hermeneutical idolatry.** What I mean is, do not allow anyone except the Holy Spirit to be the final interpreter of the Scriptures for you.
2. **Never ever rely only on one source** (for example, a preacher, book, or article) to inform your faith and practice. Even the Bible consists of more than one book, written by many human writers.
3. **Read and interpret the Bible in its totality:** avoid the proof-text method of interpretation and overemphasising one text or passage at the expense of everything else in the Scriptures.
4. Do not listen only to the message of the person who preaches or teaches, but **look carefully at their personal life and practice:** you will

recognise them according to their fruits (see Matthew 7:15-23).

Regardless of their skilful preaching, the deviating mindset and evil practice of these manipulators, Koresh included, should have been a clear warning to anyone that they must leave the meeting or group and never come back. Do not join a group or follow a leader unless you are entirely convinced by the Spirit, confirmed by the Scriptures, in the correctness of their message and their practical life.

5. **Do not make an important decision in a hurry.** Koresh and his recruiters urged people to commit themselves to Koresh’s message and join them by using the car-salesman tactics: the deal expires soon; you’d better accept it now, before it is too late.
6. Last, but not least, pray and **follow God’s guidance.** The previous advice works the best if you practise all mentioned points simultaneously.

The following advice is precious: ‘If prophets or those who divine by dreams appear among you and promise you omens or portents, and the omens or the portents declared by them take place, and they say, “Let us follow other gods” (whom you have not known) “and let us serve them,” you must not heed the words of those prophets or those who divine by dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you indeed love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul. The LORD your God you shall follow, him alone you shall fear, his commandments you shall keep, his voice you shall obey, him you shall serve, and to him you shall hold fast’ (Deuteronomy 13:1-4).

What is World Refugee Sabbath?

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau



Each year the Adventist community comes together to mark World Refugee Day with a special Sabbath programme and activities.

This year, World Refugee Sabbath is on **18 June 2023**. It is a Sabbath when we open our hearts to refugees across the world; when we honour and celebrate their resilience while learning, praying, and acting to assist them in their need.

While the word 'refugee' is not found in many Bible translations, God's heart for the foreigner, stranger, and sojourner is clear – as is His call for His followers to consider their needs and take action on their behalf.

'He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving

them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt' (Deuteronomy 10:18, 19, NIV).

We cannot look away from the global refugee crisis. Refugees are not statistics – they are mothers, fathers, and children whose lives have been turned upside down by persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations.

We are witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record, so an understanding of the scale and

global impact of the refugee crisis is important as we consider our response on a personal and global level.

Here are some resources for your local church to join in the recognition of World Refugee Day, and ways for church members to get involved in helping in the global refugee crisis: <https://adra.org/worldrefugeesabbath#:~:text=What%20is%20World%20Refugee%20Sabbath%3F&text=Each%20year%20the%20Adventist%20community,is%20on%20June%2018%2C%202023>

Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for the world's refugees.

We give You thanks for their courage and resilience. We know that many have experienced trauma and loss.

Loving God, bring them healing.

As they endure and persist,

loving God, bring them strength.

In the face of uncertainty and doubt,

loving God, bring them hope.

For those rebuilding new lives in foreign lands,

loving God, bring them joy.

We think of the countries from which they come.

Loving God, bring them peace.

Lord God, may we love as You love.

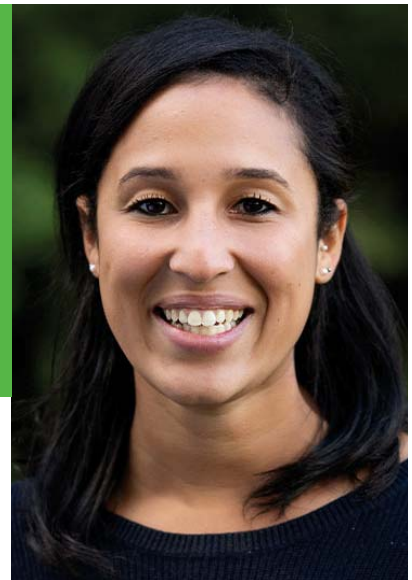
May we not be wearied by the sorrow, tragedy, and loss around us, but may we rather become vehicles of Your peace. May we work with You to sow healing, hope, joy, and strength so that we may be a light to our refugee brothers and sisters.

Amen.



Identifying God's calling

by Felicity Brodrick,
Newbold College of Higher Education



Reflecting on a recent workshop with renowned preacher, pastor and lecturer, Dr Joel Gregory, Newbold College Digital Content and Marketing Coordinator Felicity Brodrick asks, 'Have you felt God's calling?'

On Tuesday 7 March 2023, at Newbold College of Higher Education, Dr Joel Gregory led a workshop hosted by the North England Conference (NEC) on the subject of preaching. Dr Gregory holds the George W. Truett Endowed Chair of Preaching and Evangelism at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas. He is also the Director of Truett Seminary's Kyle Lake Centre for Effective Preaching.

What was particularly striking about his workshop was the way in which he explored the matters of identity and God's calling. Many wonder about God's calling: has He called us? What should we be looking out for? Where are the signs? Reflecting on the book of Jeremiah before an audience of Theology students and ministers from across the BUC, Dr Gregory, with a glimmer in his eyes, urged everyone to ponder a profound realisation that **'the foundation of your being is the knowledge that God has called you. There is nothing deeper than this. And you are most true to yourself when you are fulfilling God's purpose for your life.'** He shared that 'God calls you not in spite of, but *because of* your identity, your family, your locality and . . . your history. It is not a mistake when God calls you.'

Lessons from Jeremiah

A calling is not a mistake or coincidence; it's a purposeful alignment with who and where you are in life at the present moment. As

Dr Gregory explained, God's call comes in the specific context of who you are as an individual, not someone else. He drew from the book of Jeremiah, referencing Jeremiah 1:4, where the prophet says, 'The word of the LORD came unto me' (KJV). This knowledge, according to Dr Gregory, is what sustains us in ministry. Nothing determined Jeremiah's path except the deep certainty that the word of the Lord had come to him, which became his guiding force.

Throughout the workshop, Dr Gregory shared various inspirational stories of God's calling. . . .

Charles H. Spurgeon, a well-known nineteenth-century Baptist preacher, once received an invitation to minister at a church but initially believed that the invitation must have been intended for another Spurgeon who, in his eyes, was more worthy – such as his brother, James Spurgeon. However, the church subsequently confirmed that Charles was indeed the intended recipient. According to some accounts, a sermon that he delivered at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London (1887) drew a crowd of more than 23,000, which, if accurate, would make it one of the then-largest Protestant gatherings in history! Charles Spurgeon demonstrated a willingness to embrace unexpected opportunities and to serve, even when feeling inadequate. **When we are called, we must trust in the Lord's guidance and have faith in the abilities He has given us.**

An American preacher, Gardner C. Taylor, was called by God from rural southern Louisiana to the metropolitan city of New York, where he preached to the Concord Baptist Church of Christ. Dr Gregory shared how Gardner C. Taylor was able to use his experience of coming from a small town yet working in a large city to connect with both worlds: 'I had one foot in the culture, and the other foot out of the culture – so I could speak to it.' Taylor's story illustrates the importance of putting our faith in the path that God has called us to take, even if it takes us to unexpected places. As Dr Gregory emphasised, **God takes our present circumstances into account when He calls us, and we should trust the process and have faith that everything will unfold at the right time.**

Identifying the call to ministry

When asked how someone can specifically identify their calling into ministry, Dr Gregory suggested that a calling has 'subjective inwardness and objective outwardness' about it. While a calling is certainly inward, personal, and subjective, people outside of you can sense this in you. There is an inward conviction that is affirmed by the community of faith around you. 'If nobody sees it in you, you need to go back to square one,' he added. The concept of answering may not be one-dimensional. If you feel called, speak with members of your community and tell your story.



From left to right: Pastor Jonathan Holder, Dr Joel Gregory and Dr Steve Currow



This may be followed by agreement or ignite a spark of affirmation. Recognising and answering this calling is a significant moment in your life. Share it, but be open to listening and gauging the response from those you confide in.

Dr Gregory also shared a word of caution, noting that, as one considers answering the call to ministry, we recognise that an admired pastoral personality is not always the same as being a devoted follower of Christ. 'If you don't guard your centre, then you will not have a character that supports your calling. That doesn't mean that if you lose it at some period in your life you cannot rebuild it – but it needs to be a sober warning that you must have a character that fits your calling,' he said. It is important to have people of accountability in your life who will come to you in times of need to help you spiritually re-centre. 'The people who have helped me the most . . . immediately wounded me the deepest. But . . . they had the grace of confrontation.'

The importance of reflection

Answering the Lord's call doesn't start and end when you decide to take this journey. It becomes a part of you, and can serve as your point of grounding as you meander through this life of service. When asked what his ultimate lesson in ministry has been so far, Dr Gregory revealed that, for him, it is reflection on the mistakes and weaknesses more than the triumphs and victories. With

clear reflection, there must be a strong essence of confession, repentance, restitution: 'I think reflection . . . is important to a degree. If you go beyond this, it could lead to a morass of subjectivity and depression. So, I've learned by reflection up to a point. Then you must stop. If you just engage in only reflection and self-assessment, it can lead to despair.'

Summary

Dr Joel Gregory's thoughts on God's calling teach us several valuable lessons. Firstly, it's important to understand yourself and have confidence that God is calling you as you are and where you are in life. Secondly, it can be helpful to seek feedback from those around you to see if they sense God's calling in your life. Thirdly, we need to trust in God's plan and believe that He will guide us as we navigate the journey of answering His calling. This requires patience, faith, and a willingness to trust in His wisdom and timing. Lastly, seeking guidance from God, surrounding yourself with support, and relying on His love and grace are essential aspects of the journey. By following these principles, we can confidently and faithfully

pursue the path that God has set before us.

Reflecting on the day, Pastor Jonathan Holder (NEC), the visiting lecturer in Homiletics at Newbold College of Higher Education and the facilitator of the 'On Preaching' workshop, said: 'Dr Gregory reminded us that God calls us where we are. It was so encouraging to have it reinforced that, despite whatever inadequacies we may feel, we have been called by God to this time, and He will supply whatever we need.'

If, like Jeremiah, you have felt the call of God and would like to pursue it, we at Newbold College would love to hear from you. We have a range of courses and modules that will equip you with supportive tools that will help you deepen your faith and thrive in your calling. To find out more, visit us at: www.newbold.ac.uk.

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Involved? Inspired? Imagine...

You serve God and the church with a purpose but could this lead to more? Are you called to ministry? Explore God's calling for your life in our workshop.

THINK NEWBOLD

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Dr Stephen Currow: scurrow@newbold.ac.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

THE BEATITUDES — MATTHEW 5

MULTITUDES
DISCIPLES
TAUGHT
POOR IN SPIRIT
HEAVEN
MOURN
COMFORTED

MEEK
INHERIT
RIGHTEOUSNESS
FILLED
MERCIFUL
MERCY
PURE

SEE GOD
PEACEMAKERS
CHILDREN
PERSECUTED
EXCEEDING GLAD
GREAT REWARD
HEAVEN

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A N D I S P S I N G M H D E L L I F A T



Taken from *Hidden Words: Book 1*, by Helen Johnson. To purchase your copy, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/hidden-words/>

Sweet Potato Burgers



DINNER



I love sweet potato, and I just created this recipe that makes it into a great burger. I also added a little Jamaican seasoning to put a little sunshine in the recipe! This can be served in a burger bun with fries. It can also be served with salad in a wrap/roti.

- 1 Combine **all ingredients** together and mix well.
- 2 Use 2 tbsp of the mixture to form each burger (use a medium cookie cutter to help you).
- 3 Place burgers on greased baking tray.
- 4 Bake for 25-30 minutes at 180°C (350°F; gas mark 4).
- 5 Turn burgers over halfway through cooking time.
- 6 Allow to cool and then serve.



Shopping list

- Sweet potato** – 1 medium (approx. 1 cup), boiled and mashed
- Wheatgerm** – 1½ cups
- Instant oats** – 1 cup
- Salt** – ¼ tsp
- Mixed herbs** – ½ tsp
- All-purpose seasoning** (season-all) – 1-2 tsp
- Garlic** – 1 clove (minced)
- Onion** – 1 small, finely chopped
- Almond milk** – 1 cup
- Bragg Aminos** or **soy sauce** – 2 tbsp

Environmental health – part 5

Eco-friendly tips for a safer environment

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

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

In this final instalment of our mini-series on environmental health, we examine some research-based eco-friendly tips for keeping our environment safe.

The threat

In startling headlines, UNICEF US posted the following on their website: 'One million animal species and the health and safety of future generations are at stake.' The sobering comment appeared in an article captioned: 'Eco Green Tips for a Safe Environment', published on 11 April 2019.¹ It presents a warning and calls for prompt action to avert pending disastrous outcomes. It cautions that 'all experts agree the time to clean up the environment is now.'

The health of ecosystems we and all other species depend upon is deteriorating more rapidly than ever, warns a new report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).² 'Threatened are the foundation of global economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life.'

The solution

Through the five 'R's for improving sustainability and a greener environment, UNICEF advise: **Reduce** – buy fewer products, conserve water and energy, and generate less waste; **Reuse** – replacing disposable items with reusable versions can drastically cut household rubbish volume; **Recycle** – many towns with recycling ordinances make recycling easy; **Refuse** – remember to say 'no' to plastic items – for example, use your own cutlery for take-aways, refuse plastic bags for shopping at the checkout, and bring your own bag; **Rot** – compost fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, grass, plant clippings and dry leaves, or use them for organic waste initiatives.

Sustainability

UNICEF advise that 'international laws and sound environmental policies are needed to protect the planet, but we have a vital role to play, too. Nearly every decision we make is an opportunity to make a healthy choice for the planet.'

UNICEF also issue a plea for each of us to do our part to help achieve this by making the following 'simple adjustments': (1) **Get educated** about pressing environmental issues to enable better and healthier choices. (2) **Limit waste** – reducing non-biodegradable waste is especially important. (3) **Limit atmospheric emissions** – for example, reducing flights to limit your carbon footprint; car-pooling; and shopping locally to avoid extra shipment.



(4) **Conserve water and energy** – for example, turning off taps when brushing your teeth, and taking shorter showers. (5) **Avoid toxic chemicals** – look out for product listing of harmful agents such as oxybenzone, sodium lauryl sulfate, formaldehyde, triclosan, parabens, and chlorine bleach. Switch to eco-friendly brands. (6) **Travel responsibly** – when travelling for work or holiday, choose more sustainable transportation options and carry reusable items.

(7) **Advocate for change** – promoting sustainability in your personal and professional networks can make a difference.

Another item to note is that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) feature seventeen aspects of well-being and sustainability that seek to preserve the planet for children and future generations by addressing climate change, energy use, land and water management and consumption.

For more eco-friendly tips on sustainable living, visit:

<http://www.globalstewards.org/ecotips.htm>
<https://justenergy.com/blog/simple-things-you-can-do-to-make-an-impact-top-ten-tips/>
<https://www.goodenergy.co.uk/blog/the-ultimate-20-step-guide-to-eco-friendly-living/>

Good health!

¹www.unicefusa.org/stories/eco-green-tips-safe-environment ²www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/ ³<https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/guide-sustainable-living> ⁴<https://justenergy.com/blog/the-top-9-environmentally-friendly-tips-to-save-the-planet/>

Thirty years after Waco, the Church and families remember

It was thirty years ago, on 19 April 1993, that television screens displayed live images of a fire near Waco, Texas which are now embedded in history. While the memory of Waco for most is remembered as a CNN story flashing on a television screen as a live news alert from afar, for some Seventh-day Adventist members and their families, Waco was close-up, personal, devastating, life-changing and life-ending.

The story of what happened and why are well rehearsed, but at Newbold Church on the campus of Newbold College of Higher Education (NCHE), on 19 April 2023, 'Anchored: a service of remembrance, reflection, resilience and reassurance' took place, jointly organised by leaders of NCHE, the British Union Conference (BUC), and the Trans-European Division (TED).

The purpose of *Anchored* was to offer a quiet space for reflection in the company of friends; a place to pray, to sing, and to hear the story again – and perhaps, for some, from a new perspective; and, with a mixture of both humility and confidence, to listen again to the Word of God. To those gathered – church leaders, members, family and friends – the aim was to share and understand the Kingdom of God together in the most gentle and gracious way, and to provide continuing comfort to those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

The service included excellent and inspiring music led by Ken Burton and Tessera, and readings of Scripture from Matthew (the Beatitudes), Hebrews ('This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast' – Hebrews 6:19, NKJV), and Galatians ('Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ' – Galatians 6:2, NIV), all surrounded by two key homilies given by Pastors Ian Sweeney, preaching on Jesus as our only hope, and Jonathan Holder, explaining that our faith is anchored in Jesus and Him alone.

At the heart of the proceedings were a series of live and video interviews, with the live interviews being led by Sky News anchor Gillian Joseph. Through video, Pastors Jeff Brown and Eric Lowe, ministering in Manchester and Nottingham in 1993, whose members left England to join the Waco commune, shared their stories; and members of a panel included Dr Albert Waite, who sought to mentor and dissuade then-Newbold College student Clifford Sellors from being drawn in by the Waco Branch Davidians; Vilroy McBean, brother of then-Newbold College student John McBean; and Dimplets Taylor, a close friend of the Henry family – most of whom lost their lives. Taylor also nearly lost her sister-in-law, Yvette, who escaping from the compound by crawling across the field at night.



From left to right: Gillian Joseph, Dimplets Taylor, Dr Albert Waite and Vilroy McBean

At the end of these interviews, a minute of silence was held, with a visual roll call of UK victims who died at Waco.

Daniel Duda (TED President) expressed his condolences and shared the fact that remembering is important because 'it helps us comfort those who need to be comforted and helps us to see those who need our embrace, our gentle touch, our understanding and support.' He continued by advising that we 'need to be careful of which story we believe, because the narrative is going to shape our destiny'. Ending his words on a note of hope, he shared, 'We are here as a community to put our arms around each other, respect individual choices, and see each other to the Kingdom . . . and in this we are all together.'

The day included a series of presentations by scholars and theologians who have lived and worked within the British Union Conference. Each spoke on the importance of a balanced understanding of Scripture and its key teachings. Pastor Ivana Mendez (Lecturer in Biblical Languages at NCHE) shared 'Principles of Biblical Interpretation'; Dr Laurence Turner (Principal Lecturer Emeritus at NCHE) shared 'Prophetic Understanding of the Old Testament'; Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia (Principal Lecturer Emeritus at NCHE) presented a lecture on Hebrews, confirming the all-sufficiency of Christ's ministry, superseding the Old Testament sanctuary; and Dr Gina Miller (Sabbath School Ministries Director, North England Conference) spoke on the assurance of salvation.



Cathy Boldeau and Pastor David Neal provided the opening remarks



TED President, Dr Daniel Duda

These lectures, the homilies, the interviews, and the music will be available in the near future on the TED YouTube channel.

While invitations were extended to the many UK-based surviving relatives, only a few were able to attend.

So, what impression did 'Anchored' leave on those who attended?

- **Brit McCourt** (Newbold College Church): 'I found the programme beautiful and respectful – it was a fitting memorial. I liked the music, the tributes, the prayers – overall, it was an exquisite programme. You could feel Christian love and compassion rather than condemnation throughout the service. Thank you.'
- **Pastor Jonathan Holder** (NCHE visiting lecturer, Homiletics): 'The event "Remembering Waco" was a real pleasure to be at and to be a part of. Although it commemorated something awful, it was good to be reminded of both the history and impact of what happened at Waco, and to know that the people who died over there have not been forgotten.'
- **Pastor Eglan Brooks** (President, British Union Conference): 'We have spent this day remembering our loved ones whom we have lost – remembering their stories, remembering their experiences, remembering the joy they brought into our lives, and remembering the tragedy of their loss. We will never forget them.'
- **Paul Lee** (Director of Music, South England Conference): 'We are reminded by the experience of some countries and organisations trying to right discrepancies of the past that truths are very often hard to face when they are attached to shame. The Waco tragedy took the lives of a number of people I knew personally. Thirty years on, the memory has not made it any easier to accept. Seeing surviving family members on the anniversary of the tragedy made it even more pertinent in that the names of those lost were recognised by the church from which they came, maybe for the first time. The human side of this has finally come to the fore, and for me there will be some comfort in knowing that those who perished will be remembered as family, loved ones, and friends.'
- **Pastor Don McFarlane** (President, British Union Conference, 2010-2015): 'Congratulations to the BUC, Newbold College, and the TED for the event to mark the 30th anniversary of the Waco inferno that claimed the lives of many Adventists and former Adventists. Not only was the event an inspiring worship experience, but its cathartic element for those also present who had lost loved ones and friends to Waco was palpable.'

At the end of the service, the British Union Conference President, Pastor Eglan Brooks, gave the benediction.

'Father, we pray for the families, and the memories that this moment has rekindled. May such memories serve to simply remind us that You have Your hands of protection around us. Father, bring us Your comfort even at this time.

'We thank the individuals who planned this programme.



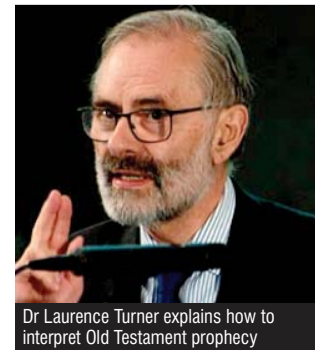
Singers Paul Lee and Paul Boldeau (members of the music group, Tessera) brought consolation through a number of hymns and songs



The BUC President, Pastor Eglan Brooks, expressed his condolences and offered the benedictory prayer



Pastor Jonathan Holder



Dr Laurence Turner explains how to interpret Old Testament prophecy

We thank the people who opened their hearts and shared their precious memories. We thank the individuals who performed so ably. We thank You for the leadership of this division, Newbold College, the British Union Conference, the conferences and missions.

'As a church, help us to learn lessons. Help us not to be so judgemental. Help us to provide a safe environment for our members, and people who interact with us, so they too can flourish as a result of Your presence. Help us to be a caring, personal and compassionate church, and a church protected by Your presence in our lives.

Now, in the words of Acts 20:32, I commit all of us to God and to the word of His grace, which can build us up, and give us an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

'Finally, Lord, when You decide to put an end to this sin-broken world, and You burst through those clouds in the sky, may we, Your servants, and our families, along with those we have laboured for, have an eternal home in heaven!

'This is our prayer in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.'

Anchored, a service of remembrance, reflection, resilience and reassurance, was covered by the 30th Waco Anniversary Commemoration news team: Pastor Sam Davies (BUC News), Lubica Mueller (Newbold College), Pastor David Neal (TED Communications & Media), Asun Olivan (NCHE photography), Pastor James Botha (photography), Kevin Thomas (photography), Vanesa Pizzuto (Associate TED Communications & Media) and Pastor Julian Thompson (BUC MESSENGER).

The Pathfinder and Adventurer Bible Experience:

Every choice you make is connected to the great controversy

On Sabbath 11 March 2023 the BUC 2023 Adventurer and Pathfinder Bible Experience was hosted in the NEC within the city of Leeds.

Pathfinder Bible Experience

Held within the Leeds City Docks Convention Centre, the inspection was the first course of proceedings to take place, led by A. C. Helderberg and the TLT team – an example of the excellent youthful training employed through the Pathfinder Department. More than 1,500 Pathfinders and Adventurers, supporters, and Adventist brethren gathered in fellowship from across the conferences and missions to support the BUC Bible Experience event. Participants came prepared to challenge and test their knowledge of the Gospel of John. The event attraction supported participation in person and remotely, as many have been blessed by the programme and the joy it has brought through each round of the 2023 Bible Experience journey.

Leaders of the church organisation came from far and wide to support the event hands-on, sharing their passion and desire towards youth ministries. These included the BUC Executive Secretary, Pastor J. Surridge; the BUC Education Director, Lorraine McDonald; the NEC Executive Secretary, Pastor E. Bran; the NEC Executive Treasurer, M. Agvei-Asare; a previous NEC executive secretary, Pastor A. Hush; the SEC Pathfinder Director, Pastor C. Herman; and the Scottish Mission Pathfinder Director, Pastor N. Ndlovu, along with many other directors from across the conferences and missions.

The opening ceremonies began with an impressive entrance by the NEC Pathfinder Drill & Drum Corps under the leadership of Camille, Joel and Kimberley, followed by an enthusiastic and resounding welcome from the British Union Conference Youth Director, Pastor K. Johns.

Brother A. Johns and Proclaim, a combination of youth from Doncaster, Leeds and Bradford, led the fellowship into worship, with resounding ripples of joy, songs of praise, and thanksgiving. Smiles seen throughout the audience were captured with delight as the sounds of praise echoed through the auditorium, an evident indication that all were here to give praise and thanks in worshipping God.

As the excitement built, awaiting the test, a special message of encouragement was given by NEC Pathfinder Director Pastor I. Mwasumbi, reminding the Pathfinders to trust in God, with reference to Philippians 4:13, which states that we can do all things through Christ.

While all the participants waited, Pastor K. Johns gave his final address, noting orders for the test. The Union-level test began, and Pathfinders gathered together, working in teams, pushing their memories to the limits to produce every answer they could claim to memory. As teams recalled verse after verse from the Gospel of John, the tremendous level of work that all participants had put



in became clear. Sounds of excitement and joy could be heard, and teams answered each question and realised

how it felt to get the right answers. A huge sigh of relief swept across the auditorium as the test came to an end. Conference directors, club staff, and supporting parents alike watched in awe, impressed with the focus on display, and a rousing 'Amen!' could be heard through the auditorium.

The relief, sweat, and tears of joy could be seen across the faces of the Pathfinders. All that was left was for the results to be shared with each team to see if they had made it through to the next level.

Following the collation of the test results, an earnest appeal by the BUC Education Director touched on the importance of Adventist education, referring to the value of Seventh-day Adventist schools, Seventh-day Adventist teachers in mainstream education, local church education, and home-schooling communities.

This was followed by a message of hope and joy from the newly appointed headteacher of Stanborough Secondary School, based in Watford, Hertfordshire, where she focused on how the school is being redeveloped, and on how both its academic achievements and the way it develops our children spiritually make it the place for us to send our children.

The final message of the hour was delivered by the previous NEC youth and Pathfinder director and executive secretary, Pastor A. Hush, entitled 'Every choice you make is connected to the great controversy'. Initially touching on the themes of the story of Daniel and Jesus in Gethsemane, it contained a message to the youth that God is in control, along with examples of how God leads you in times of uncertainty and brings you through if you are willing to give your life to Him as His servant.

A unique but special item delivered by Bradford Central led into the final act, the PBE closing ceremony, as the Drill & Drum Corps closed the first event.

While the audience continued to celebrate, filled with joy, the event had to move on to the next stage swiftly. With safeguarding a high priority, security and maintenance being led by AC Kevin James, Clyde Facey and the team, all attendees were ushered respectfully on to the next event for the day.

Adventurer Bible Experience

What a blessed day so far – but the Adventurers were waiting in the wings as they geared up to fulfil the second part of the programme. With a swift change of locations, the Adventurer Bible Experience, led by ACs Faith Moyo and Sureen Rayavarapu, settled into Leeds Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement and eagerness as the youngest of our church congregation prepared to test their knowledge of the Gospel of John.

The Drill & Drum Corps started proceedings as all stood to attention, and the Adventurers, fascinated by the scenes before them, watched in awe. After a hearty welcome, the Adventurers were blessed with praise and worship led by AC Iris Johns and the Leeds Adventurers. The smiles and singing filled the sanctuary with purpose and energy.

All staff were on board as the quiz began, with graders and runners managed by AC Hyacinth Facey and Wendy Watson-Teague. The test began, led by Pathfinder Directors Pastor I. Mwasumbi, Pastor N. Ndlovu, and K.

Simtaji. A host of emotions ran through the atmosphere as the Adventurers took their spot in answering the challenging questions.

As participants awaited the challenge, silence swept the audience, and teams took a moment to wait for the test to begin. Joyfully excited teams started to answer questions that they had been studying for so many weeks in advance and set about putting the test to the task.

The quiz moved through swiftly, and the excitement built, with the acknowledgement of the excellent results being demonstrated providing a positive atmosphere. As the quiz came to an end, the results were quickly obtained for release.

Following the quiz, Pastor I. Liburd delivered a touching message for the Adventurers entitled 'Water Waters', giving them encouragement to put their ultimate trust in God through all things. As the message expanded on the themes from the morning service (the story of Daniel, and Jesus in Gethsemane) with the story of the disciples with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee, it was a further reminder that God will carry you through. He urged the Adventurers to have faith, irrespective of the uncertainties that life throws at everyone. God provides the only way; through Him, all things are possible as we remain faithful to Him. In a heart-warming appeal, a host of Adventurers came forward in thanks to give their lives to Jesus Christ and undertake further Bible study. Resounding rejoicing erupted as more than forty Adventurers chose to stand and give their lives to Christ.

While the results were being prepared, everyone rejoiced in the scenes before them, seeing our youngest giving their hearts to Jesus. Furthermore, as the results were given, cheers, rejoicing, and shouts of praise were heard all around as each team celebrated its achievements – a realisation of those moving on to the TED and NAD Grand Finals.

Reflection

In reflection, Pastor Kevin Johns gave his testimony of the journey so far, stating: '*... I am truly blessed to have witnessed this incredible journey, and am so proud of all the participants and support across the Union. We continually pray that, by God's grace, what has been committed to memory throughout this journey will not be forgotten, and that its impact will continue to change lives and the character of all our young people for the future.*'

Sharing his view on the beautiful experience, Pastor I. Mwasumbi said: '*God is so gracious and good. I am so proud of all the participating teams who have worked so hard to get thus far. The joy and happiness as Pathfinders and Adventurers alike jumped for joy in delight for achieving their grades of excellence are what we want to see. Most important are a more profound knowledge of God's words and a commitment to God. ...*'

As the day's events came to a close, the memories, gems, and experience clearly demonstrated that the Bible Experience has brought so much enjoyment in 2023. A revival is taking place, and our youth are being equipped with the truth to stand in this world with a passion and increased zeal in being messengers for Christ through His Word.

Next stop: TED Athens, Greece or NAD Tampa, Florida for the Division level.

Commonwealth chaplain Pastor Obi receives Spirit of Birmingham Award

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, with its medley of unforgettable performances, came to its impressive climax on 8 August 2022. More than 1.5 million spectators watched the various athletes compete. With 280 events in 20 sports, and with more than 5,000 athletes participating, there was another team of individuals who gave an extraordinary service that assisted in ensuring that the spectators' needs and even the athletes' needs were met.

This group was referred to as 'the army of 14,000 volunteers'. Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma (known by many as Pastor Obi) was one such volunteer. He has numerous strings to his bow, from pastor, to university chaplain, to police chaplain, to teacher and much more. For this event, his title was Commonwealth Games Chaplain, and from the onset of the selection process he was hand-picked as part

of the group of volunteers that would ultimately select the volunteers for this great event. From 25,000, he himself, being a part of those involved in the interview process, along with a small team, whittled that extensive number down to 14,000 volunteers.

Being based at the Commonwealth Games Village, Birmingham University, he was available to both athletes and spectators to assist in aiding their spiritual, mental and physical needs while attending the games. Pastor Obi states that one particular highlight for him was supporting both the winners and the losers who competed in the Commonwealth Games (praying for them before they competed, and also praying for them afterwards; celebrating with the winners, and commiserating with those whose event did not go the way they hoped). Pastor Obi recounts with excitement how the athletes came together for worship in the chaplaincy marquee.



By way of affirming and publicly appreciating the work of the 14,000 volunteers, a small group from this number, referred to as the Commonwealth Games Collectives, were given the Spirit of Birmingham Award. Pastor Obi was in that group. This took place on Monday 6 March 2023 at a red-carpet event (the Pride of Birmingham Awards Night) held at the Great Hall, Birmingham University, attended by celebrities and community members.

Reflecting on his experience, he said, 'I would do it all over again. This time I would encourage more Seventh-day Adventists to get involved. This is an aspect of my ministry I will never forget, as I was able to minister to athletes and community members in fresh and meaningful ways.'

DR P. A. HERBERT, NEC MINISTERIAL FIELD SECRETARY, AREA 5

Seventh-day Adventist representation at parliamentary launch event

On Monday 27 March 2023 the All-Party Ethnicity, Transplantation and Transfusion Group

launch event met at the parliamentary venue, Portcullis House, Westminster. The event focused on how the lack of donor participation adversely affects people from African, Caribbean and Asian backgrounds. It also raised awareness of health inequalities faced by these groups, and the importance of advocating for equitable access of treatment for individuals in these communities. Presiding over the inaugural occasion was Sarah Olney MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Ethnicity Transplantation and Transfusion. BUC Health Ministries Director, Sharon Platt-McDonald, was one of the invitees, representing the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its involvement in bringing awareness of organ donation to diverse community groups, highlighting faith and cultural implications.

Pioneering work

An Adventist member was at the heart of pioneering UK work on organ donation. Cynthia Davis from the Peckham Adventist church, a registered nurse specialising in nephrology, was a leading member of the African Caribbean Organ Donation Awareness Programme (ACODAP) headed by Gurch Randhawa PhD, Professor of Diversity in Public Health, and Director of Health Research at the University of Bedfordshire. Davis was instrumental in bringing awareness to churches in regard to kidney disease and the ethnicity and faith barriers that negatively impacted people from African, Asian and Caribbean backgrounds in terms of timely access to services and subsequent



Orin Lewis, OBE – Chair of NBTA (left), Jay Blade, TV host – *The Repair Shop* show, celebrity advocate for donations (right)

life-saving treatment. At the inaugural launch on 27 March, the work of ACODAP was praised for its groundbreaking research and for the essential data its pilot project produced to inform interventions for progressive work.

Ongoing research and collaboration

Collaboration is important, so SEC Health Ministries Director Edith Samambwa is continuing the work of including faith groups and cultural perspectives in research projects around organ donation. Working with NHS agencies developing interventions on living kidney donations, Samambwa is currently working with the Royal Free NHS London on projects engaging BAME groups.

Please continue to keep health ministries and community services in your prayers.

BUC HEALTH, WOMEN'S MINISTRIES & ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

AWR 360 mobile phone evangelism at Chelmsley Wood

On 25 February many gathered for training on mobile phone evangelism. The location for the training was Chelmsley Wood Seventh-day Adventist Church, where curious members were intrigued to find out how we could share Jesus more effectively using what was already in our hands.

Dr Patrick Herbert, who stood in for Pastor Ebenezer Daniel, gave a synopsis of the General Conference's Christ4Europe Initiative, which has been embraced by the BUC and NEC in line with their strategic plan. The NEC has framed this initiative as 'Forward We Go' in line with the BUC initiative, 'Reflecting Hope'.



The training was delivered by Elder Gideon Pesler and Elder Michael Garkov.

The training began with Elder Pesler's sermon, which reinforced our own commission to go and make disciples. The sermon itself proved to be a welcome reminder that, although discipleship is a process, it still remains the main purpose of evangelism.

Chelmsley Wood Seventh-day Adventist Church is a welcoming beacon of warmth and love. The church building more than met my accessibility needs as a visitor in a wheelchair.

The training was very practical, with a thorough explanation of what would be required of each team. What is needed to become a mobile phone evangelist is very simple. You need a passion for souls, a good internet connection, a laptop/desktop computer and a good mobile phone.

I want to thank Elder Gideon Pesler for being so engaging and practical in his delivery of this vital piece of training, and for being willing to be used by God to inspire us to use what is already in our hands.

SHERENA HARPER

Have you ever considered running a department fair?

Tell me if this scenario sounds familiar: you have been nominated to lead a department. You say yes enthusiastically. However, there's a slight caveat – you are either stuck with team members who don't contribute, or – worse – you have no team!

The concept of having a departmental fair was developed by Laura Jeffers. It works the same as a jobs fair, careers fair or students fair. It's a fair where different departments give a brief introduction of what their department is responsible for, basically painting a picture for anyone to see how they could contribute. Members are then encouraged to visit any of the departments to find out more details – and, if they are interested, they could sign up.

When interviewed about her experience, Laura advised that 'with anything that has never been done before there are major challenges. Getting the departments on board and developing "role descriptions" was the hardest.' She also emphasised the need to be 'flexible in accommodating departments that wanted to take part at the last minute and switch up the plans tailored to the audience'. Laura was thankful to



God for a successful programme, and expressed a desire for others to adopt a similar model: 'I saw that God used my creative mind and willing heart to create something that can be replicated again: not just in Preston, but hopefully in other churches too.'

Before the concept of a department fair was introduced, I had never heard of this being carried out. It helped department leaders to really zero in on the role their departments play in the entire ecosystem of the church, as well as ensuring that they had an effective team.

There are some of us who may feel as though they have been pulled into a department just to 'fill a position' and may not feel as though they can make any meaningful contribution.

We'd like to draw your attention to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, which states that each of us has a part to play. There is no harm in indicating to your pastor or the department head that you feel strongly about helping/volunteering in a specific department.

God has blessed us all with our own individual talents, gifts and desires that help move the Gospel forwards. Our prayer is that we all can contribute meaningfully to total member involvement.

If you would like any more details on how to organise or plan a department fair in your church, feel free to contact Laura at prestonsdachurch@gmail.com with the subject as 'department fair'.

PRESTON CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

KEEPING IT REAL

Aberdaron Family Camp
21st - 30th July 2023
Glan-Yr-Afon, Aberdaron, Pwllheli LL53 8BT

Seventh-day Adventist Church
NEC Family Ministries Department
Tel: 0155 9600312 Email: branch@necadventist.org.uk
@necadventist

To book, scan this QR code!

Extra 20% off using coupon code **REALFM** until 29th April

Reflecting Hope

REFLECTINGHOPE.ORG

Formal Notice – May South England Conference Quadrennial Session

In accordance with the SEC Constitution article 5 (a) notice is hereby given that a regular session of the South England Conference will be held at the University of Essex, Colchester, CO4 3SQ from Thursday 7 September until Sunday 10 September 2023. Registration of delegates will take place from 11am on Thursday and the business sessions are due to commence at 2pm.

All enquiries should be made to the SEC Secretariat (session@secadventist.org.uk).

Pastor Douglas McCormac
(SEC Executive Secretary)

Be Lifted – A Support Group for the Widowed in the UK

Join Be Lifted, an online support group for widows and widowers. Our supportive community provides emotional comfort and healing for widows and widowers.

www.be-lifted.org

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

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SATURDAY 8TH JULY 2023
9.30AM - 12.30PM
CITY GATES CONFERENCE CENTRE
29-31 CLEMENTS ROAD, SPOND, W11 1BH

SUMMER FETE EXTRAVAGANZA
SUNDAY 9TH JULY 2023
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- Sabbath Service
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British Union Conference
In Collaboration with, and hosted by, The South England Conference.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES EMPHASIS DAY 2023
DATE: 10 JUNE 2023 | TIME: 10AM

PRAYER, PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

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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.

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LifeSource book sales

DATE	VENUE	TIME
29 May – 4 June	NEC Camp Meeting	
11 June	Ilford Central	10am-2pm
25 June	Manchester South	10am-2pm

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

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Jasmine Enti, Kehinde Ajao, Elder Carol Horne (Director), Veronica Wilson-Hart, Elder Carol Henry-Linton, Levi Daley, Brinnel Robothom, Daniel Joseph, Taiyo Ajao

Highams Park Community Pathfinder induction service and Global Youth Day celebration

On Sabbath 18 March the Highams Park Community Pathfinder Club – under the leadership of Elder Carol Horne, assisted by Sister Veronica Wilson-Hart – conducted an induction service for Daniel Joseph (Guide); Levi Daley (Companion); and Kenny Ajao and Taiyo Ajao (Counsellors).

To add to the occasion, the platform was decorated to depict a camping scene, with an erected tent and other camping gear on display. The table to be used for the induction service was also attractively decorated.

The Pathfinders and their leaders, led by the colour guard, entered to the music of 'Onward, Christian Soldiers'.

Following the opening prayer by Kenny, the aim, motto and pledge were recited; and, as the Pathfinders' song was sung, former Pathfinders, including adults, joined in.

Once the induction programme had concluded, the Pathfinders were ready to fulfil their Global Youth Day outreach initiative, which was to offer a potted plant and book to the mothers living around our church to celebrate Mother's Day . . . so, accompanied by their leaders, they went knocking from door to door.

The response was positive, and by God's grace we plan to build on the connections made. *CAROL HENRY-LINTON*



Youth born again at Manchester Southern Asia Church!

Sabbath 18 February 2023 was a special Sabbath for Manchester Southern Asia Seventh-day Adventist Church and Longsight Seventh-day Adventist Church as six young people from both churches affirmed their decision to follow our Saviour, Jesus Christ, through baptism. There was an aroma of divine jubilation in the air as the candidates pledged their devotion to upholding the church's fundamental beliefs and its ethos.

The service was officiated by Pastor Paul Vasanth Kumar of MSAC, along with other local ministers. Also in attendance were Pastor Ian Sweeney from the Trans-European Division and Pastor Julian Kastrati from the North England Conference. Pastor Ebenezer Daniel and Pastor Julian Kastrati conducted the baptism.

We would like to sincerely thank Pastor Campbell of Manchester South Seventh-day Adventist Church, the elders, the diaconate and the media ministry teams, as well as the church community, for all their support. Let's continue to uphold the newly baptised members in our prayers.

SULAN AYYANKI, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, MANCHESTER SOUTHERN ASIA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

First quarter 2023 baptism at South West London Ghana SDA Church

At the end of the first quarter 2023, the South West London Ghana church conducted its first baptism of the year when seven souls committed their lives to the Lord. Under the leadership of the head pastor, Lewis Quaye, and class facilitator, Elder Frank Joe Amankwa, members of the study class receive all-year-round Bible studies, out of which seven candidates made the decision to be baptised to the glory of God. The candidates ranged from young people to adults and friends of members.

In South West we celebrate every baptism and together support and honour the

commitment of candidates, but nothing can match the celebration that took place and will continue to take place in heaven for these seven souls who have joined God's family. As this is only in the first quarter, the Personal Ministries Department, under the leadership of Brother Oscar Antwi Boasiako, look forward to leading more souls to Jesus Christ in 2023. May the name of the Lord be glorified. Amen.

ELDER ENOCH FRIMPONG



Louisa Elizabeth Jeffery (1983-2023) d. 4 January.

It is with great sadness that we announce the premature death of Dr Louisa Elizabeth Jeffery on 4 January 2023.



Louisa was the daughter of Brian and Stella Jeffery, and the identical twin sister of Hannah Jeffery. Louisa grew up in the Exeter church in Devon, where she was dedicated and baptised and regularly took part in the services and activities of the church. Her musical talents were a great asset. Louisa moved away from Devon to study Biochemistry at the University of Bath, graduating in 2007 with a First-Class Honours Master's degree, and then went on to study for her PhD at the University of Birmingham, which was supervised by Professor Karim Raza.

Louisa's research explored the beneficial regulatory impact of the sunshine vitamin, vitamin D, on immune cells, and she made leading observations in her field. After being awarded her PhD in 2011, she continued to work in the field of medical research at the University of Birmingham until her passing. Louisa loved problem solving, and looked with awe at the complexity of cells in living organisms, which spoke to her of God's creative power. Louisa wanted to use her knowledge in cell and disease biology to make a real difference to patients. Her final position was in clinical trials research, concentrating on brain cancer.

Louisa and her sister attended the Halesowen Central Seventh-day Adventist church in Birmingham, where Louisa was an elder for 10 years and the principal pianist for many years. Louisa was also well known across the NEC for her dedication to the Health Ministries, Community Services and Personal Ministries work of the church, and to ADRA. She took what she did for God very seriously, and encouraged members to use their talents in the church and to reach out to the community. She was instrumental in establishing the church premises as a collection point for the Black Country Foodbank. She also enjoyed participating in musical activities that reached out to the community. Louisa used her creativity to organise special programmes for occasions such as prayer days, harvest festivals and Christmas. Her love for the members extended from the youngest to the oldest. Her wisdom and spiritual guidance were much appreciated by ministers and laity alike.

Louisa's funeral service was held on 1 February at the Halesowen Advent Centre, followed by the committal at Waseley Hills Crematorium. The service, although an occasion of immense grief as we said goodbye to one so dear, was one of celebration and of hope . . . celebration for the many accomplishments that Louisa had made through her short life, and for the beautiful Christian woman she was.

We would like to thank the Halesowen Central church for their support with hosting the funeral, and give special thanks to Emerita Chitiyo for her help with organising the

refreshments for the reception. We are also thankful to everyone who sent cards and messages of sympathy. All were greatly appreciated, and thanks to those of you who, in memory of our precious Louisa, gave donations to ADRA and the Brain Tumour Charity.

STELLA AND HANNAH JEFFERY

Douglas Moray Stewart (1938-2023) d. 9 February.



Moray's Christian faith was a predominant motivating force throughout his entire life. Moray was born into and brought up in the Church of Scotland, and was always a regular church attender. When he met Janet Brooker, she invited him to accompany her to her church. In 1965 Moray began Bible studies with a Bible worker, Doris Clarke, and was baptised at the New Gallery Centre.

The family moved from Harrow to Chatham Seventh-day Adventist Church, which became an integral part of Moray's heart and home. He served as a deacon and treasurer, and taught the youth Sabbath School class.

Moray had been in the army, was a Queen's scout, and had a great love of the countryside. He planned and led afternoon hikes and camping trips at Oxwich Bay, where he taught skills such as rope bridge building. He had a great love of music; he loved singing in a group, or as part of a choir, and playing his guitar. Moray will also be remembered for his sheer joy and enthusiasm to join in at socials, ready for fun and games.

We cannot leave stories of Chatham Church without mentioning 'Moray the Gopher' - 'Moray, go for this; Moray, go for that.' By 1985 Chatham Church had been demolished, and a group of fifty people from Maranatha came to Chatham to re-build the church, which they did in two weeks. Moray had taken two weeks' annual leave from work, and his task was to keep the builders supplied with materials. He drove a large pickup truck from place to place, and he made an enormous contribution to the completion of that church on schedule. The head builder was a great big guy from Arkansas with a booming voice who would shout, 'Moray, go for this!' 'Moray, go for that!'

You can imagine what a heart-wrenching move it was when, in 1993, the family moved up north and settled into the church at Sutton-in-Ashfield. However, Moray, being Moray, soon settled in and picked up the roles he had so ably fulfilled at Chatham. He set up a book stall in the Idlewells shopping centre, and fortnightly he and his team would, in a gentle and friendly manner, share the love of Jesus with others.

Another much-loved legacy which so clearly depicts Moray's character was his establishment of international days, when each person would dress in their national costume and perform an item to illustrate their culture. This, of course, was after a lavish bring-&-share lunch of dishes from their home countries. It was immense fun, as

well as a way of learning and understanding each other and growing together as a church family.

Moray will be remembered most for his winsome friendliness; he loved people, and was always interested in them. He could be relied on to speak with anyone who came through these doors and make them feel comfortable and at home.

Moray loved God, and he loved people. He was a great friend to everyone, and was characterised by a kind heart and a willingness to help wherever he could. We say, 'Goodbye, Moray. You will be sorely missed by your immediate family - Janet, Sharon, and Vanessa - but you will also leave a large hole in the hearts of your church family. We will miss you greatly, but you have earned your sleep. We will see you again when Jesus comes.'

SUE ANSCOMBE, MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE ELDER

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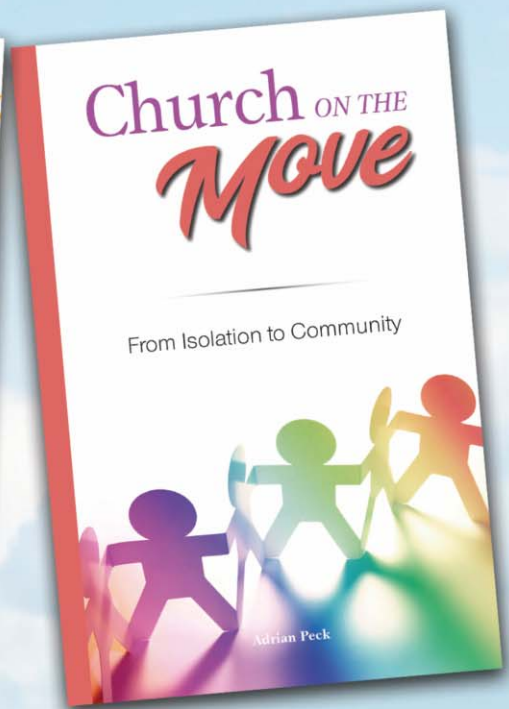
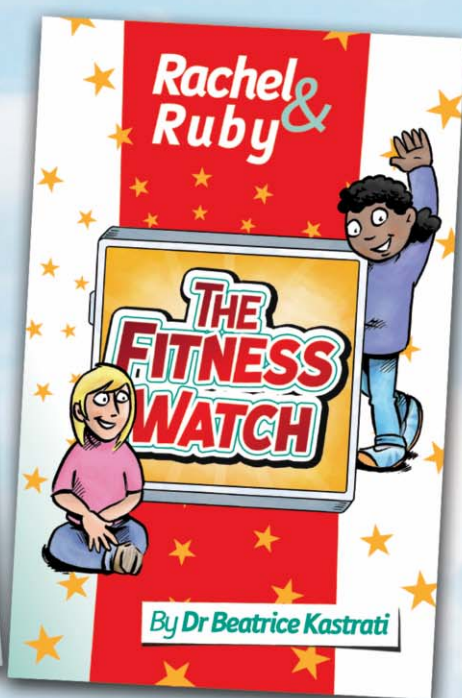
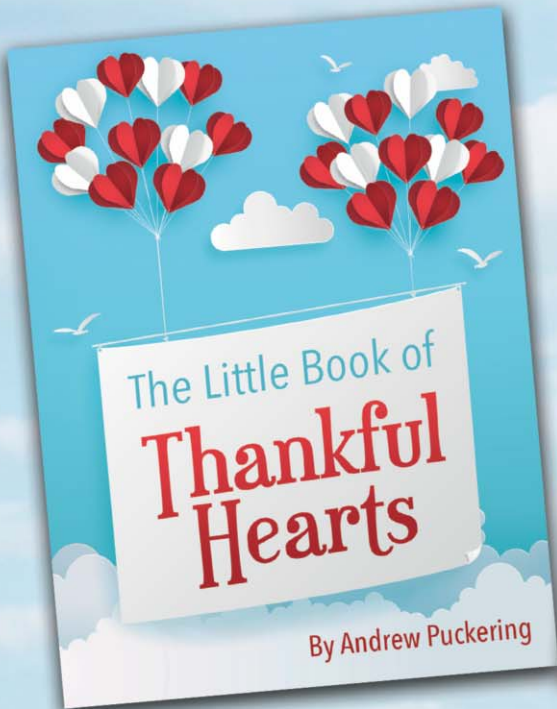
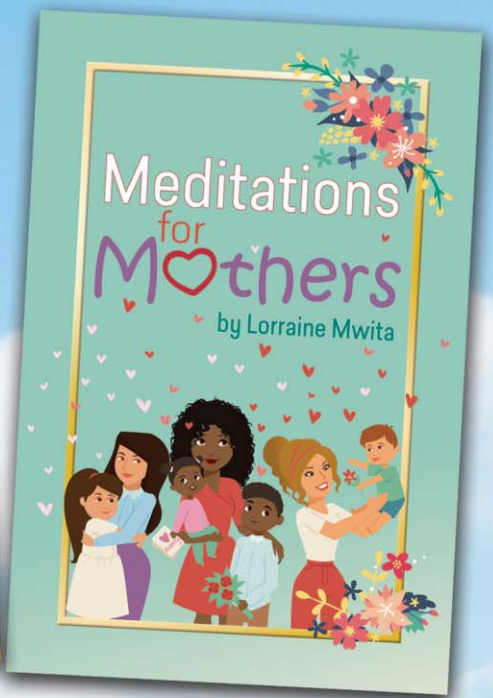
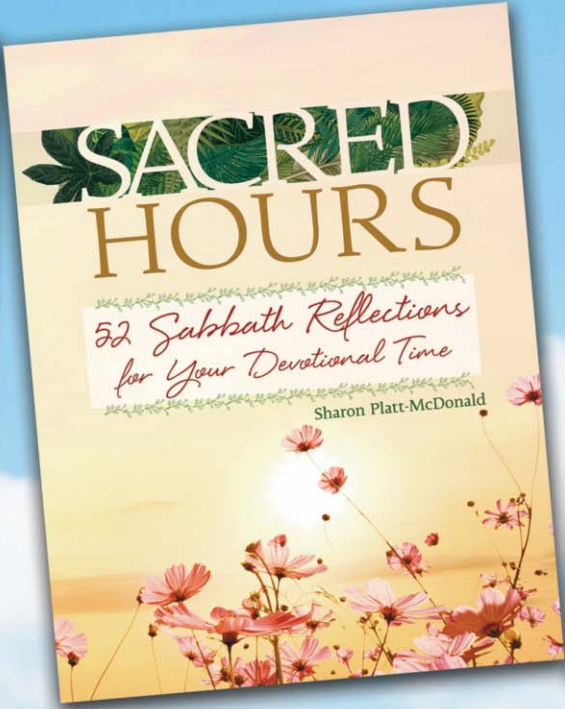
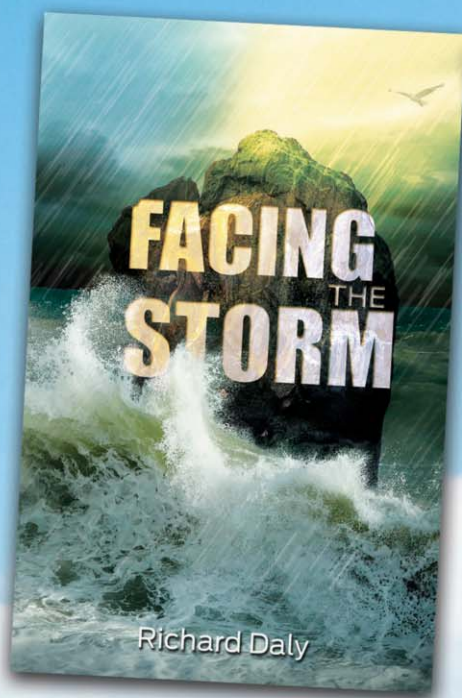
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9	9.16	9.28	9.28	9.56	9.57
16	9.20	9.32	9.33	10.01	10.02
23	9.22	9.34	9.35	10.03	10.04



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