

# Messenger

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Faith and the  
natural sciences  
From Catholic priest  
to Adventist pioneer  
Embracing the  
challenge of secularism  
Artificial intelligence  
and the end of the world  
Professor John Walton  
releases a new book!

+ MESSENGER Summaries

## Effective communication Tuning out the noise



## Strategic Priority (6) – Communication

### Aim:

- Examine and evaluate the effectiveness of the organisation's key messages to all its stakeholders.

### Objectives:

- Explore the evolving nature of creative storytelling.
- Harness the power of data, analytics, and appropriate research in message creation.
- Lead in the field of communication in the BUC using the most appropriate media for our stakeholders.



## Effective communication

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,

President of the British Union Conference

*'You silence the roaring waves and the noisy shouts of the nations.'*  
(Psalm 65:7, CEV)

### What is noise?

In communication theory, noise is classed as an influence, influences or barriers that hinder the *effective* transmitting and receiving of messages. Some theorists cite that there are at least four different sources of communication noise: semantic, physical, physiological, and psychological. Other theorists believe that there is cultural, technical and organisational noise which often hinders effective communication.

### Communication

Communication is all about messages. The British Union Conference as a church, charity and corporation must lead in communication effectiveness. Our strategic priority with communication is to explore the way in which our key messages are given to all our stakeholders. For

this to occur, we need to be clear about the messages that we are transmitting as well as our response to the messages that we receive.

Here are some of the questions that we might need to address:

- What are our key messages?
- When should we send these key messages?
- Have we ensured that these messages are transmitted to our stakeholders in the most appropriate way?
- Are we mindful of the semantic noise that can affect our messages?
- Are we sensitive to the cultural noise that can distort our messages?
- Are we using current technologies to send our messages, and are we agile enough as a corporation in our understanding of new and emerging technologies and how they can benefit or hinder the sending and receiving of messages?
- Have we considered that our own organisational noise can drown out our key messages?
- Is our messaging appropriate for our audiences and stakeholders?
- How often do we evaluate our key messages?
- Are our communication channels open to the receiving of messages?

### Jesus

Jesus was the Master Communicator. His key messages were transmitted with clarity and precision. He received messages from His followers and responded to them. The feeding of the five thousand in Matthew 14:13-21 is a great example of the receiving of a message of hunger and providing food. In the same passage, we read that Jesus was 'moved with compassion' and healed many sick people (verse 14, NKJV).

He cut out the noise by being consistent in the delivery of messages, and sometimes His most powerful communication vehicle was silence, as in the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-11.

### Conclusion

While the BUC is examining and evaluating the way in which it communicates, I would encourage each of you reading this article to consider your own delivery of messages. Are you effectively communicating the love of God to others in your lives? What message does your local congregation transmit to its community?

'In the last analysis, *what we are* communicates far more eloquently than anything we say or do.' (Stephen Covey)

# Editorial

by Julian Thompson,  
Editor



Dear reader,

Since January, the *MESSENGER* team has undertaken a transformative journey to reimagine this longstanding publication, which has faithfully served our union since 1902. Our dedicated design team has invested significant effort in crafting a vibrant and contemporary design to resonate with a diverse range of readers. We are grateful for the numerous writers who have joined us on this venture, contributing their talents to produce captivating features covering a wide array of topics and working patiently with us to scope the boundaries, word limits and style of this new format.

With the goal of making *MESSENGER* a more inclusive publication, we have been working towards ensuring that each edition contains something for everyone. As part of this endeavour, we reintroduced the children’s section and strategically positioned it on the centre spread, allowing it to be easily detached from the binding. It brought a smile to our faces when we discovered that the word searches were, in fact, being enjoyed by the ‘young at heart’! Recognising the importance of notices and promotions, we reworked how they are placed in the publication and collated them onto a single page where they can be reviewed at a glance. However, we know there is always room for improvement and further innovation. We remain committed to exploring new possibilities and ways to enhance the *MESSENGER* experience for our valued readers.

Every month, one of the main challenges we encounter is fitting the substantial volume of content we receive into the regular edition. This is a good ‘problem’, because it demonstrates that you, as members, care enough about what’s going on in the church to take the time to write about it. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support and the contributions that make *MESSENGER* a vibrant and engaging platform. In response to this challenge, we are piloting a new concept called *MESSENGER Summaries*. I’d like to thank Darell J. Philip and Precious Chitwa for helping us pull this section together. Please take a look and let us know what you think. Additionally, although I cannot divulge too many details at this stage, I am pleased to share that we are exploring more comprehensive digital solutions to complement our print offerings!



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# Faith and the natural sciences

by Dr Alex Collins Arthur,  
Elder at London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church\*



**The traditional view on creation is rooted in the biblical narrative.**

Recently, I had the privilege of presenting a seminar on creation and evolution for a London-based Christian radio station. As I delved into my research and preparation, it became clear that in the UK the traditional view on creation was rooted in the biblical narrative. Early influential scientists such as Isaac Newton, John Ray, and Robert Boyle not only believed in the biblical account of creation, but also used scientific experiments to help explain it. However, with the advent of Darwinism in the nineteenth century, a shift occurred, distorting conventional thinking and popularising the theory of evolution and its modern extensions.

Until the first half of the nineteenth century, most British universities taught the classical sciences under the theme of 'natural theology'. Scientific education was seen as a branch of religious studies, revealing God's knowledge through the exploration of natural phenomena. This traditional

Creationist view faced a challenge when Charles Darwin, a graduate of the University of Cambridge, embarked on the HMS *Beagle* expedition in the 1830s. His observations of plant and animal species across different regions, along with the discovery of fossils, led him to develop his theory of natural selection, culminating in the publication of *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. Darwin introduced the concept of species transmutation, proposing the evolution of populations over generations through natural selection. This scientific theory has been extended beyond its original scope, impacting various aspects of society, including economic systems and individual attitudes.

The influence of Darwinism has led to the secularisation of science and, consequently, society. It has given rise to theoretical extensions that contradict the biblical narrative of a loving God who created humans in His image. This stark reality raises

concerns about the extent to which British society has transitioned into a society in which the majority embrace Darwinian evolution and are unaware of the traditional biblical view on creation.

Reflecting on this, I am reminded of the Mosaic wisdom found in Deuteronomy chapter 6, urging parents to diligently teach their children in the ways of the Creator. When we neglect this noble task, we run the risk of allowing other value systems to erode the biblical worldview and the knowledge of the One who said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light.

In the song 'Find Us Faithful' by John Mohr and Steve Green, Christianity is likened to running a marathon race. Like the patriarchs and the heroes of Hebrews 11, it is now our turn to keep the flame of truth burning for future generations. As Christianity confronts the challenges of post-modernism and beyond, God is looking to His faithful children to stand for Him, and for us as parents to pass on the legacy of our faith to our children by investing quality time in teaching them the fundamentals of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and sharing personal testimonies of our own conversions. In a world drifting further from its spiritual foundations, let us rise as faithful guardians of God's word, lighting the way for generations to come.

*\*Dr Alex Arthur is a senior consultant at a London-based construction practice. He holds a PhD in Construction and Project Management and has various academic publications.*

# Making provision for the future

by Pastor Reinder Bruinsma\*

*'Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt. . . .'*  
(Genesis 41:34-36, NIV)



It is amazing to see how quickly our modern society finds itself in trouble as soon as there is an economic downturn. In the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic we saw that in many countries restaurants and shops could not survive a closure of a few months. Church organisations likewise experience major financial difficulties when there is a drop in the giving patterns of the members due to rises in unemployment and other hardships. Many households live from one pay cheque to the next and cannot meet the rent or loan payments if they face a sudden drop in income. The story of Genesis 41 about the building of reserves should be a lesson for individuals, businesses

and also church organisations.

The Egyptian king had two different dreams that, as Joseph told the king, had the same meaning. The Pharaoh saw how seven fat cows were devoured by seven 'scrawny and very ugly' cows, and then how seven thin heads of grain swallowed seven heads of grain that were 'full and good, growing on a single stalk'. Joseph, who had been used by God before to explain dreams of the king, told the king what the dreams meant. There were going to be seven years of abundant harvests, but these seven years would be followed by seven years of famine that would 'ravage the land'. Joseph concluded his explanation with a piece of sound

advice worthy of a competent and forward-looking leader. He told the king to keep part of the harvest of the 'fat' years in reserve, to tide the nation over during the 'lean' years. The Pharaoh listened and put Joseph in charge of the operation. This may serve as a case study for modern civil and church leaders to demonstrate the necessity of building 'storehouses' and keeping reserves for difficult times that follow, sooner or later.

\*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.



# From Catholic priest to Adventist pioneer

by Antonia Castellino and Mark Castellino



Conrad Frank Castellino was born in Ajmer, India, into a Catholic family from Goa. He attended St Anselm's Catholic School from age 5 to 18. On leaving school he carried out his parents' wishes for him to train as a priest, and joined a teaching order of priests. He worked in various Catholic schools before returning to St Anselm's as a teacher, becoming the head teacher from 1965 to 1967. But he grew disillusioned with the Catholic Church and decided to leave his position and leave India. He emigrated to the UK, where he found work as a teacher in London.

While working at a primary school in East London, he met his future wife, Antonia. He started attending the Adventist Church with her and her family, and was later baptised. They married and moved to Kent.

In April 1988, Frank received an unexpected phone call inviting him to come to Birmingham to open the new church school. The building had been purchased and parents were waiting to enrol their children, but no head teacher could be found to open the school. Frank accepted the call, seeing it as a new challenge.

Antonia had always wanted to teach in an Adventist school, so she also accepted the call. It was, to them, like the Macedonian call which the apostle Paul received: 'Come over into Macedonia and help us.' And, like Paul, they went.

The school was to open in September, which gave them only five months to prepare, while still working full-time at their current jobs. In the state sector, when new schools were to open, the head teacher and school secretary were appointed one year in advance and given that whole year to prepare. While the head teacher took care of the academic preparations, matters concerning infrastructure, furnishings, equipment and so on were taken care of by the relevant council departments. In contrast, Frank and Antonia had to do all this themselves; and, working as a team, they got the job done.

Looking back on that time, they could say it was by God's grace alone that all this was achieved. They worked flat-out to meet the deadline – planning the syllabus for each class, writing policy documents and the school prospectus, ordering supplies, designing the badge, logo and uniform, not to mention dealing with official bodies to get the school registered and recognised as a bona

fide institution. As well as preparing for the opening day in September, Frank had to make sure that everything was in place for the first visit of Her Majesty's school inspectors, which took place a few months later. And, thanks be to God, Harper Bell School passed its inspection with flying colours!

When it was time to move to Birmingham, the family had nowhere to live, so they were given temporary accommodation above the school. What a blessing that their children took all this in their stride. They were as excited as their parents were! They were all going as missionaries – not to some far-off land, but as missionaries all the same – to a place they would never otherwise have gone. They did not choose to go to Birmingham, but the Lord called them to go . . . and they went. And the Lord blessed them as a family. He blessed their work, and He blessed Harper Bell School.

On 19 September 1988, Harper Bell School opened its doors to its first students, thirty-six children in three classes with three teachers: Frank, Antonia, and Mrs Elliott, wife of the Handsworth Church pastor. The numbers grew steadily, until by the end of the third year there were nearly a hundred students in five classes.

From the beginning there was widespread interest in both local and national media. BBC camera men were at the door to film the arrival of the first pupils on day one, and the top educational newspaper, *The Times* Educational Supplement, published a feature article in 1990.

Frank and Antonia served at Harper Bell School until 1991. The work they did established the school on a firm foundation.

Pastor Don McFarlane, the then-BUC President, speaking at a culture weekend day of fellowship, publicly acknowledged Frank's pioneering work when he stated: 'Frank, you are not just a founder of an Adventist school. You are also a pioneer of Adventist education in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.' A pioneer indeed, following in the footsteps of Goodloe Harper Bell – the founder of the first Adventist school in Battle Creek, Michigan, USA, after whom the school was named.



# Embracing the challenge of secularism

by Dr Jeff Couzins

The North England Conference recently celebrated an important milestone of reaching 12,000 members, primarily driven by migration to the UK. However, despite this growth, reaching individuals from the majority culture remains a challenge. Public evangelism in the UK has yielded mixed results, being effective among certain cultural groups but lacking appeal to others, including the majority culture and second/third-generation children of Seventh-day Adventist migrants.

Between 2011 and 2021, an average of 16,000 people per week disconnected from God in the UK, a decline equivalent to losing the entire membership of the NEC and the three missions combined in just one week. This decline can, at least in part, be attributed to the influence of secularism on churches. The UK is now considered a secular or post-Christian society, with religion being viewed as a personal choice, and religious privilege being questioned.

Postmodernists reject the notion of absolute truth, emphasising personal truth and indifference to other opinions. The twenty-first century offers a wide array of beliefs, resembling a spiritual supermarket where individuals choose their preferences. This shift towards individualism presents a significant challenge, as the majority culture may not find the offerings of the church appealing. Practices such as Buddhist meditation and yoga, rooted in

Hinduism and Buddhism, have expanded in recent years. Alternative spiritualities such as crystal healing, life-changing magic, cleansing negative energies, and well-being rituals have also gained popularity. Indeed, a growing number of people classify themselves as spiritual but not religious (SBNR).

In society today, values that prioritise things such as self, free choice, individualism, self-determination, and privacy have taken over from more traditional principles such as trust; and respect for institutional authorities, including governments and churches, has diminished. Effectively communicating the message of Christ in a post-modern culture is a considerable challenge. Some propose prophecy seminars as a means of reaching more people in the UK, but these seminars tend to attract individuals who are curious about the future, acknowledge the authority of the Bible, and are open to attending. Unfortunately, these characteristics are not commonly found within the majority post-modern and post-Christian culture.

Sociologists describe modern Western society as VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous). Within the majority culture, uncertainty prevails, and truth is seen as personal and relative rather than absolute. Objective truths, such as those found in Bible prophecy and doctrines, are often viewed with suspicion because of their association with institutional authority. People prefer egalitarian approaches and flat hierarchies. However, there is still hope.

In this context we must adapt. Let us approach the task of sharing our faith with an encouraging mindset. Instead of forcefully imposing knowledge, let's humbly ask questions that inspire reflection. In

the ever-changing and complex world we live in, people are searching for meaningful relationships, relevance, and spiritual significance. This quest is evident in the growing interest in alternative spiritualities.

We must acknowledge that our actions as believers, including worship and evangelism, are influenced by our cultural expressions of faith. Recognising this, we understand that traditional approaches, with authority figures and hierarchical structures, may not resonate with the egalitarian majority culture.

When it comes to sharing public messages, we face the challenge of the faith-culture barrier. While some have made adjustments to their content and presentation styles, they still encounter this challenge. To captivate people's interest, they need to feel a genuine connection to what is being offered. Throughout history, this hurdle has been known as the 'stained glass barrier'.

While public evangelism has shown success among certain cultures, it often falls short with many in today's society. However, we can achieve positive outcomes by developing outreach methods that truly connect. Addressing these challenges requires us to adapt our approaches and embrace new methods that touch people's hearts.

Let's remember that the Bible encourages us to be winsome and to accept the truth. Criticism should never hinder our progress; for, as we continue forwards, new and effective methods will undoubtedly emerge. The journey to reach hearts and souls is an exciting one, filled with possibilities and opportunities for growth. Together, let's embrace these challenges with enthusiasm, knowing that our efforts will make a difference in the lives of those we seek to touch with the message of love and hope.



# Artificial intelligence and the end of the world

by Dr Daryl Gungadoo, in 'conversation' with OpenAI's ChatGPT & Google's Bard

## Introduction

In 1953, renowned children's author Roald Dahl, famous for works like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Matilda*, penned a short story titled *The Great Automatic Grammatizator*. Remarkably, this narrative appeared to predict the emergence of generative AI (such as ChatGPT), one of the most rapidly expanding consumer applications to date. Many of you are likely familiar with ChatGPT. While such tools currently spew out misinformation confidently, there is a real concern that the internet will be spammed with AI-generated articles by the millions, marginalising truth even further.

Dahl's story effectively captures the anxieties voiced by contemporary authors and artists regarding the growing prevalence of generative AI and the diminishing value of their creative work.

In an attempt to demystify where we are now and where we're going with AI, let's explore the technology and the relevance it has to our church.

## Definition

In brief, artificial intelligence is a type of software that attempts to simulate human thinking. Rather than executing a list of instructions, the software runs with a purpose.

For it to work, large amounts of labelled training data need to be ingested, then analysed for correlations and patterns, which in turn help make predictions/decisions. AI requires specialised

hardware and software (such as Python, R, Java, Julia & C++).

## Differentiation from humans

It is important to first define human intelligence, before understanding how it differs from AI. While AI can become quite smart in certain areas, it can never replace God-created human intelligence, because, frankly, we don't quite understand human intelligence ourselves.

God created each of us with a predominance in one or two of these eight kinds of human intelligences or learning preferences (see Howard Gardner's *Theory of Multiple Intelligences* for more info):

- Visual/spatial (best engaged with charts, graphs, pictures, colour-coded categories, photos, videos, virtual reality)
- Aural/audio (music, rhymes)
- Reading/writing (books, articles, research papers)
- Kinaesthetic/physical/tactile (drawing, performing, hands-on experiments, augmented reality)
- Social/verbal/linguistic (role-plays, group activities, group discussions)
- Logical/analytical (problem-solving, charts, diagrams, facts, reasoning)
- Solo (individual learning, independently accessible resources, personal journals)
- Natural/nature (hands-on experiments, outdoors, use of nature in explanations)

Back in the early 1950s, Alan Turing, a young British polymath, suggested that humans use information as well as reason in order to solve problems and make decisions. One of his papers published in 1950, 'Computing Machinery and Intelligence' (<https://redirect.cs.umbc.edu/courses/471/papers/turing.pdf>), discusses how to build theoretically

intelligent machines and how to test their intelligence.

Then, five years later, at Dartmouth College (New England, USA), the proof of concept was initiated, and it brought together top researchers from various fields to discuss AI.

Expectations from 1957 were high, predicting that by the mid-1970s there would be computers with the general intelligence of an average human.

We are in 2023, and our human brain and its intelligence are still mostly a mystery, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by our Creator God (Psalm 139:14).

While a computer software programme can simulate some of the God-given learning styles and reasoning processes, AI software focuses on also trying to emulate cognitive skills such as reasoning, learning and self-correction, with varying degrees of success. It is better at some learning styles (such as logical/analytical); it's moderate at others (visual/spatial) and it does poorly at others (such as solo or social).

While God did infuse in humanity the desire to create and invent, it seems that replicating the thinking process of a human brain is unattainable, and I can only be in awe at the power, knowledge and creativity of God when we start to figure out how the brain works and try to emulate it in software.

## Categories of AI

Artificial intelligence can be categorised by functionality (as suggested by Arend Hintze):

**Reactive machines** – no memory, task-specific. Usually designed for narrow purposes and cannot easily be used for other situations. Example: Google's AlphaGO or IBM's Deep Blue (running a chess app, it cannot



use past experiences to inform future ones, but rather it analyses possible moves, and chooses the most strategic moves).

**Limited memory** – these AI systems use past experiences to inform future decisions. Example: self-driving cars; observations inform actions happening in the not-so-distant future, such as a car changing lanes. These observations are not stored permanently.

**Theory of mind** – this is a psychology term that refers to the understanding that others have their own beliefs, desires and intentions that impact the decisions they make. When applied to AI, it means that the system would have the social ‘intelligence’ to understand emotions. This type of AI will be able to infer human intentions and predict behaviour, a necessary skill for AI systems to become integral members of human teams. This type of AI does not exist yet.

**Self-awareness** – these are machines that are so highly developed and skilled at imitating the human brain that they develop self-awareness. They can form memories of the past, and make predictions; they can learn and become more intelligent based on their experiences. AI from science fiction falls into this category, and does not exist yet.

AI can also be categorised by *capability*, and there are three types:

- **Artificial narrow intelligence (ANI)**, also referred to as **weak/specialised AI**, is designed for specific tasks. These programs are goal-oriented, and can perform a single task extremely well, even better than humans. Industrial robots, virtual personal assistants (Apple’s Siri, Amazon’s Alexa or Microsoft’s Cortana) or some supercomputers like IBM’s Watson, self-driving cars, Google Maps, autocorrect, and chatbots (like ChatGPT & Bard) are classified as weak AI. They are trained by using supervised machine learning (limited memory machines fall into this category).
- **Artificial general intelligence (AGI)**, also referred to as **strong AI**, is software that can emulate the cognitive abilities of the human brain. When presented

with an unfamiliar task, AGI can apply knowledge from one domain to another and find a solution autonomously. AGI programmes are trained by using unsupervised or reinforcement machine learning. The Fujitsu-built K Supercomputer is perhaps the closest we have come to AGI thus far, and is expected to be more common around 2040.

- **Artificial super intelligence (ASI)**, also referred as **super AI**, surpasses human intelligence and ability. While this may be theoretically appealing, there are a multitude of unknown consequences. . . . This type of AI does not exist yet. Some people expect ASI and the ‘singularity’ to coincide in time and technology.

#### Data

There are four ingredients for AI innovation: data, algorithms, hardware, and human talent. Data is a core factor for AI applications to function, and it employs machine learning (an iterative learning method) to improve the capabilities of AI through ingesting a vast amount of training data, in order for AI applications such as speech recognition, natural language learning, predictive analysis, machine vision, and so on, to work well.

Feeding biased, incomplete or erroneous data to the system will invariably result in erroneous outputs. As a matter of fact, in the first quarter of 2023, we witnessed ‘hallucinations’ in OpenAI’s ChatGPT programme when it ‘sometimes wrote plausible-sounding but incorrect or nonsensical answers’. My advice in the usage of LLM (large language model) generative pre-trained AI is to invariably take the results with a grain of salt, and remember that the output is only as good as the dataset it was trained on, let alone many other factors like algorithmic bias.

#### AI tomorrow

Let us remember that artificial intelligence algorithms are still just algorithms. Modern AI advancements, such as neural networks, have derived inspiration from the architecture of the human brain, but are not capable of thinking like humans. They are simply a

complex set of commands for a computer to follow and do not work like the human brain.

Scientist Adam Zewe from MIT, in a paper published in May 2023 (<https://neurosciencenews.com/ai-judge-rules-23238/>), highlighted the shortfall of today’s AI in replicating human decisions, attributed mainly to the data that the models are trained on (in the context of ‘rule violation’ detection). The researchers suggest improving dataset transparency, matching the training context to the deployment context (similar to the calibration certification of a speed camera, which can be requested by the culprit in the case of a speeding ticket). The implementation of such a framework of regulations and laws would go a long way to defuse much of the perplexity and unease that the general public might have regarding the dissemination of AI in our current and future lives.

While artificial general intelligence (AGI) is predicted to become popular around the 2040s, artificial super intelligence (ASI) is nowhere close to being created with today’s technology.

Considering the eventuality that ASI might be achieved in the future (perhaps as early as the 2050s), the best thing to do is to prepare for it through regulation and laws. Current AI or the possibility of a future ASI would be dictated by its goal(s) and objective(s). Some tech-philosophers draw a parallel between ASI and the creation of our own man-made god, and, subsequently, the ‘singularity’. Creating an ASI based on the summation of all human knowledge through time would be unequivocally biased. Humanity, at any one time, from the Flood to now, has been more wicked than good: hence the biblical concept of a remnant, the redeemed being a minority. So the bias would therefore be more towards evil than good. Some people fear that a crisis might occur if ASI’s goals are not the same as those of humanity, causing ASI to surpass human barriers and ‘take over the world’.

However, my eschatological reading of my Bible suggests a different ‘end’ of the world, one where ‘every eye shall Him coming on the clouds’. I look forward to that glorious ending and new beginning. . . . Don’t you?

# Remembering WACO – family members speak

After the Thirtieth Anniversary Commemoration Service held at Newbold College of Higher Education on Wednesday 19 April, family members Vilroy McBean and Dimplets Taylor shared their memories of the tragedy with TED Associate Communications and Media Director Vanesa Pizzuto.

*Our thanks to Vilroy McBean and Dimplets Taylor for sharing their moving and heart-breaking experiences.*

## Vilroy McBean *How does your story connect with the WACO tragedy?*

My brother, John Mark McBean, joined up with the group in

Waco, Texas. Subsequently, he passed in the fire on 19 April 1993.

In the summer of 1990 he came to me to say he was leaving school and going to the United States to do music. He loved to play the guitar and sing. So, he framed the move to the US as if he were going over there on a musical journey. The next week I heard that he was in Waco. Unbelievably, I had no communication with him after that. I know that other family members communicated, but I did not have the opportunity.

My older sister was also there in Waco. She spent a few years back in the UK, and at that time I didn't know that John was connected with Waco, or with David Koresh. While she was staying with me, I noticed that she was acting strange. She was actually working for me, and yet never seemed to have any money. I knew I was paying her exceptionally well, so I could not understand what the problem was. That's when I picked up that something was not right and went to John, as he was studying theology, to request him to talk with her. Little did I realise that he too was involved with Koresh and may have been the instigator. The sect was taking money from my family!

At the time of the fire, my sister was in California. The sect had punished her because she'd talked back at them, and she was subsequently banished to California.



And because she was not there, she was saved. The 'punishment' saved her!

## *What do you feel we can learn as a community?*

For me it goes back to the Scriptures, which we must study for ourselves. You must study and have your own connection. There are always going to be false prophets; we are never going to be far from this problem until Christ comes back. So how can we

## Dimplets Taylor

### *Do you have any thoughts you would like to share?*

I am from Manchester, where too many Waco victims came from. Thirty years later, the pain is no less. We as a family were very close to Brother Henry, who lost everyone in his family. That deep hole remains.

The only comfort we got from the tragedy was when Sister Henry sent a message, through my sister-in-law, saying, 'I would love to have escaped too. But I could not leave my children behind, because I felt like I was the one who had helped them get here, and I cannot leave them. They still believe this is where they should be, because they are young.'

### *You mention a family member who did manage to escape?*

Yes, my sister-in-law. She was tired of them beating her kids when they were naughty, because she had never done that, and in the compound she had to watch them discipline her kids – discipline taken away from her hands. She also realised that her husband wasn't going to join her in Texas (he'd changed his mind through the power of the Holy Spirit). So, she decided that, no matter what, she was going to try and escape. I know that she was terribly afraid of creepy crawlies, but creep on the floor she did (where there were bugs and snakes and things like that), and she did not care. She was heading for safety with her children.

When she got out of the compound and reached the main road, she broke down and told everything to a man, and asked him to take them to safety. So he covered them up in the back of his pick-up truck, and drove them to the British Embassy. There they charged them £30 for new passports (they needed new ones, because the sect had taken all forms of identification) and sent them back home to England without charge. They did not know, but the Waco tragedy happened that same year.

Brother Henry remarried and is now living in Jamaica. He's looking forward to the coming of Christ, because he's so sure that he will see his family again. We continue to pray and talk together, and we look forward to that great hope. The Bible tells us there will be no sadness or sorrow in heaven; God will wipe away all our tears. We look forward to that!

tell them apart? Only the Holy Spirit will lead you.

### *Arguably, the people at Waco believed they were led by the Spirit. So, how can one truly know?*

So, this is where we have got to really discern . . . to have the gift of discernment to know what is real and what is unreal. . . .

The more I think about it, the more I think that as a church we need to be able to answer questions about our faith. Many are coming to faith and the church without a good foundation. I grew up in the 1960s, and my foundation was morning and evening devotions (a short Bible reading and prayer), and Friday devotions to open Sabbath. I find that many families do not have that now. I also feel that our church is more concerned about the number of people baptised than it is about retention and helping both new and long-standing members on their discipleship journey.



# How God found me

by Eileen G. Philip



TESTIMONY

Having grown up in the Virgin Islands with my grandmother, my mother faced financial difficulties and decided to return there with her five children. We embarked on a fourteen-day journey by boat from Southampton to the Virgin Islands. At the age of five, I was the youngest among my siblings. Life in Tortola was joyful, and I loved going to school. The children were fascinated by my English accent, and I basked in the sunny and vibrant atmosphere. It was a stark contrast to London.

In 1972 my mother fell seriously ill, and the doctors could do nothing to help her. They told my nineteen-year-old sister, the eldest among us, to prepare for the worst. Despite her illness, my mother was a woman of faith. She prayed and talked to God regularly. One day, as I eavesdropped behind the curtains of our house, I heard her pray for six more months to finish building a house for us. Miraculously, her prayer was answered – she passed away in 2008. My sister, working as a secretary at a bank, managed to secure a loan to send our mother back to London for treatment. Although she lacked the necessary credentials, the bank manager granted the loan. Thanks to successful treatment and God's mercy, my mother lived for an additional thirty-six years. We attribute it all to God's grace.

I remained with my grandmother while my thirteen-year-old sister accompanied our mother to London. Every Sunday, I went to church with

my grandmother, although I didn't fully understand the services. I held on to my belief in a caring God, as I had seen His care for my mother. A few years later, my grandmother told me that my mother planned to send for me. Excited, I spoke to my mother on the phone, asking her about England and the place we would live. She described it as a large estate with a swing park, a slide, a roundabout, and a secure gate accessible only to residents. It sounded wonderful to me.

However, upon arriving in England, I experienced a deep sense of sadness. The vibrant colours and warm smiles I was used to were replaced by a different reality. The estate was not as grand as I had imagined. Nevertheless, I knew the value of hard work and resolved to make the best of my circumstances. I worked hard, earned qualifications, and secured good jobs. While I didn't regularly attend church, I maintained my belief in God. I had a close circle of friends with whom I enjoyed socialising and partying. However, something strange started happening to me. My interest in that lifestyle began to diminish. I felt a growing sense of peace and an unexplainable pull towards something more meaningful. I found solace in reading my Bible and longed for more time with it. Despite still attending parties, I felt like I was going through the motions. God was drawing me closer, although I didn't fully understand it at the time.

One day, I unexpectedly poured

all the alcoholic drinks down the kitchen sink. It was as if an inner voice told me that if they weren't good for me, they weren't good for others either. A profound sense of peace washed over me. From that point on, I actively sought God, and He drew closer to me. I hungered for a deeper knowledge of Him. Gospel music intrigued me, but I felt too embarrassed to ask others about it. God knew my heart's desire, and one day I won a Gospel CD in a competition. The artists on the CD were from the same church my mother had attended, which I had started visiting in search of biblical truth.

My journey of seeking God intertwined with His pursuit of me. I could no longer say no; by faith, I said yes to His love. On 24 October 1998, I gave my heart to the Lord in baptism. It was the most significant day of my life, filled with joy and celebration. God never condemned me, but loved me through all my flaws. Just as the father welcomed the prodigal son, He welcomed me with open arms into His loving embrace. During this time, my friend also experienced the Holy Spirit's drawing and embraced baptism three months before me. Another friend, Kaz, said yes to Jesus the following January. Although Kaz passed away in 2013, I find comfort in knowing that she died in the Lord. God can transform anyone and anything. He has given me a new rhythm and a new tune in life. This is my testimony, filled with hallelujahs and amens.

# Patient princess

by J. Easthope

*'God is the one who makes us patient and cheerful. I pray that he will help you live at peace with each other, as you follow Christ.'* (Romans 15:5, CEV)

Jasmine had spent most of the last week working on her project. The teacher had asked the class to construct a model of the ancient structure of their choice. Jasmine had known straight away which building she would choose – a castle!

'Guess what I get to do for my homework, Mummy? I am going to build my very own castle! It will be square with tall turrets. I can't wait!'

Mummy helped Jasmine collect the boxes and cylinders for the structure, and they bought lots of coloured cardboard, cellophane, glue, and embellishments from the craft store.

First, Jasmine spent time on the internet researching castles . . . but her little sister Vivi kept sneaking up and pushing the keys on the keyboard! Jasmine just quietly requested, 'Vivi, please don't do that,' and called out to Mummy to help move Vivi away.

Next, Jasmine drew a picture to illustrate what her castle would look like, and labelled all the parts . . . but Vivi took the rubber and walked off with it! Jasmine had to spend time searching for another one to make corrections to her drawing.

Then, she wrote a list of all the things she would need to make her building. Halfway through the list, Vivi pulled the paper and it tore. Jasmine handed her a piece of paper to play with, and then she neatly wrote her list all over again.

After that, Jasmine spent every afternoon carefully constructing the moat, walls, parapets and turrets. Vivi watched all of this and got more and more excited. Jasmine patiently handed her some scraps of cardboard to play with. When Vivi ran off with the glue, she caught up with her and knelt down beside her and pointed out,

'Vivi, I know you want to make your own castle; I will help you when I have finished mine, but I need the glue right now.'

When the castle was finally completed, they put it on the floor in Jasmine's room and closed the door. The next morning, while Jasmine was at school, there was a crunch . . . crunch . . . bang! 'Waaah!'

Mummy rushed up the stairs. There was a large, red lump, looking more and more like an egg, on Vivi's forehead. Mummy quickly took her down into the kitchen and placed an ice pack on the lump, hugging her baby girl tightly. 'What happened, Vivi?'

'Bed,' Vivi said, and pointed to her head.

'But what were you doing in Jasmine's room, Vivi?'

'Castle,' was all Vivi could say. 'Castle.' And there on the floor was one very flat castle . . . a sparkly, flattened mess!

Mummy put some thought into how to tell Jasmine when she came home from school. There was no easy way to tell her, so Mummy just came out with it: 'I am sorry, Jasmine; there was an accident and Vivi fell over . . .'

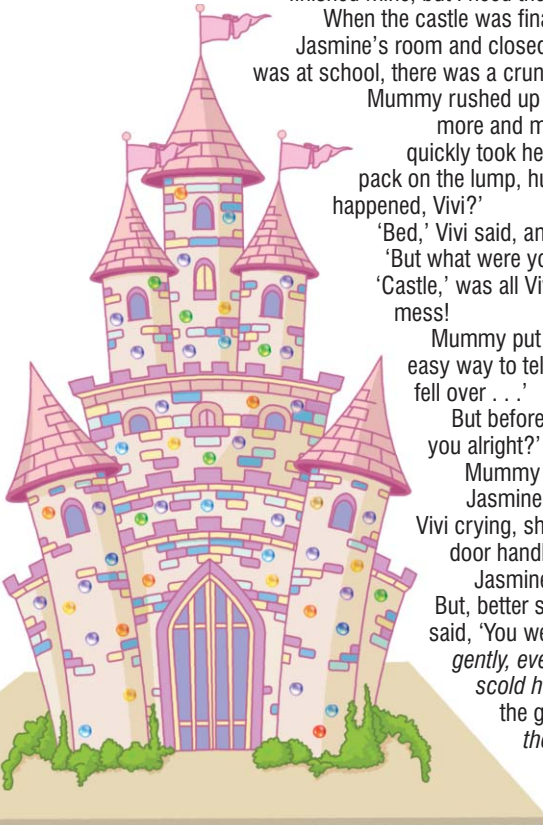
But before she could finish her sentence Jasmine was hugging Vivi and looking at her head. 'Oh Vivi, are you alright?' she said.

Mummy continued: 'Jasmine, she fell over onto your castle . . .'

Jasmine looked horrified and hurried up to her room. Then both girls were in tears. When Jasmine saw Vivi crying, she said, 'It's alright, Vivi; I know you didn't mean it. I guess you must have learned how to use door handles today!'

Jasmine spent the next week reconstructing her castle. It was even better the second time around! But, better still, Mummy started calling Jasmine 'My Patient Princess'. When Jasmine asked why, Mummy said, 'You were patient when Vivi touched the keyboard while you were trying to type; *you spoke to her gently, even though she was slowing you down.* You were patient when Vivi tore the paper: *you didn't scold her and lose your temper; you just wrote your list again.* You were patient when Vivi ran off with the glue, and *didn't get annoyed.* But, most of all, when she fell and crushed your castle, *your first thought was about whether Vivi was hurt, rather than about the castle she'd accidentally destroyed.*'

After all, what was really more important – a precious little sister, or a cardboard castle?



Taken from *Unforgettable Stories – 20 stories for teaching children values.*  
To purchase your copy, follow this link: <https://lifeforcebookshop.co.uk/product/unforgettable-stories/>



## Jesus makes a blind man to see!

<sup>22</sup>Jesus and his followers came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch the man. <sup>23</sup>So Jesus held the blind man's hand and led him out of the village. Then he spit on the man's eyes. He laid his hands on him and asked, "Can you see now?" <sup>24</sup>The man looked up and said, "Yes, I see people. They look like trees walking around." <sup>25</sup>Again Jesus laid his hands on the man's eyes, and the man opened them wide. His eyes were healed, and he was able to see everything clearly.

Mark 8:22-25

# Are you anxious?

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

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

The latest UK anxiety statistics are sobering facts: according to Champion Health,<sup>1</sup> from a sample size of 4,170 individuals, 60% of them were experiencing anxiety. Additionally, in England, 6 out of every 100 people will be diagnosed with generalised anxiety disorder in any given week (Mind); in the UK, over 8 million individuals are currently experiencing an anxiety disorder (Mental Health UK); shockingly, fewer than 50% of people diagnosed with generalised anxiety disorder seek or receive treatment (Mental Health Foundation); and an estimated 822,000 workers are affected by work-related stress, depression, or anxiety on an annual basis (Health and Safety Executive).



## Anxiety explained

Mental Health UK explains: 'It's normal to feel anxious sometimes. It's how we respond to feeling threatened, under pressure or stressed: for example, if we have an exam, job interview or doctor's appointment. Anxiety isn't necessarily a bad thing. It can spur us on, help us stay alert, make us aware of risks, and motivate us to solve problems. However, anxiety can be a problem if it affects your ability to live your life. If your anxiety is ongoing, intense, hard to control or out of proportion to your situation, it can be a sign of a mental health problem.'<sup>2</sup>

## Solutions:

### Spiritual support

The Bible offers numerous verses that bring comfort to troubled minds. One particular passage that I find comforting is Proverbs 12:25. In the New Living Translation, it states, 'Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.' The potency of this text became evident to me recently when our family faced a series of distressing events and difficulties from 15 to 21 May 2023. During this challenging time, we found solace in the uplifting words found in Bible verses and the dedicated prayers offered by intercessors.

### Emotional support and counselling

Many agencies provide support for individuals struggling with anxiety. Access <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/get-help> for more information. Christian counselling is another source of significant help that many people have found beneficial. Cornerstone Counselling Service is one example: <https://www.cscounselling.org.uk/>.

### Practical support

The Mental Health Foundation<sup>3</sup> lists the following interventions that help individuals cope with anxiety:

- **Focus on your breathing.** Breathing exercises can help to calm a racing mind.
- **Get moving.** Exercise has a positive impact on our mental well-being. Read more at: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/a-z-topics/physical-activity-and-mental-health>.
- **Keep a diary.** Writing down our feelings helps us to identify what may be triggering our anxiety.



- **Challenge your thoughts.** Ask yourself – is what you're worrying about likely to happen? Are you being realistic? Have you had some similar prior thoughts which have not turned into reality? These questions can prevent anxious thoughts from overwhelming you.
- **Get support for money worries.** Organisations such as Citizens' Advice or StepChange can signpost you to relevant practical help for financial concerns.
- **Spend time in nature.** Natural environments can help us feel calmer and less stressed. Periods of an hour or more outdoors yield greater benefits.
- **Connect with people and talk about how you feel.** Spend time with trusted friends who encourage you. Connect with people through activities that create engagement and support.
- **Try to get some good quality sleep.** Keep a note of your sleep pattern, and try to establish a healthy routine to improve your sleep.
- **Try to eat a healthy diet.** Feeling anxious might cause some people to revert to junk food or 'comfort eating', which has a negative impact on health. A nutritious diet aids mental well-being.

## Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://championhealth.co.uk/insights/anxiety-statistics/>  
<sup>2</sup><https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/explore-mental-health/a-z-topics/anxiety>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week/what-can-we-do-cope-feelings-anxiety>



## Reflecting Hope campaign features on BBC Shetland prime time radio show!

The Scottish Mission launched its first ever series of evangelistic meetings in Shetland on 19 and 20 May. A small group of pastors under the leadership of Anthony Kent have been on the island, seeking to raise awareness in various innovative ways, including a series of commemorative bicycle rides around the island in memory of Philip Reekie, a Scottish bicycle-riding bookseller whose efforts resulted in generations of transformed lives in Australia more than 120 years ago.

As the week drew to a close and the start of the evangelistic meetings came closer, the pastors pondered how to raise awareness even more. Pastor Wilfred Masih, one of the team, suddenly stated, *'I'm going to call the BBC. If you don't ask, you won't receive.'*

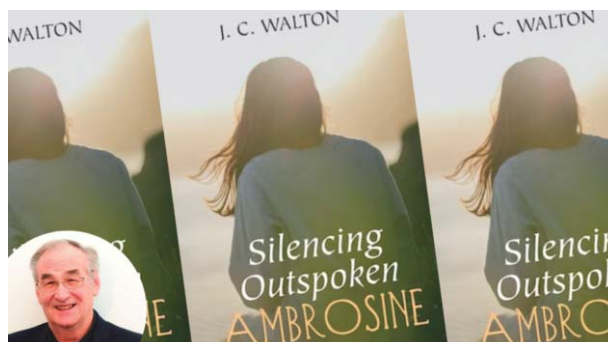
The other team members immediately encouraged him to do that; and Pastor Wilfred found the phone number and initiated the call. To everybody's astonishment, Adam, the presenter of the evening Shetland programme, invited him to the BBC studio immediately. The BBC radio office was just around the corner, and, ten minutes later, Anthony Kent and Wilfred Masih sat in front of microphones answering the presenter's questions.

The interview went well, and the presenters said they would try to air the story in the Shetland section of the BBC Scotland news programme, which airs at 5.30pm every evening.

*'At 5.30pm, we all sat gathered around the table at home, waiting for this interview,'* says Pastor Jimmy Botha. *'At the end of the half-hour programme, they introduced the section promoting upcoming events, and there was a ten-second clip in which the presenter announced our event.'* They did not play any part of the interview. Instead, the announcement said, *'The General Conference Ministerial Association will be holding religious meetings in the Isleburgh Community Centre on Friday evening at 6.30pm and Saturday morning at 11am.'*

*'That was it!'* says Pastor Jimmy, as he chuckled. *'We were so excited about the interview, but the radio programme producers had run out of time. The Lord really works in mysterious ways.'*

The whole team were excited for the meetings, as a few of the people indicated that they would come. These meetings are a central focus of a larger *'Reflecting Hope Scotland'* evangelistic campaign targeted at the north and north-east of Scotland, including Aberdeen and Inverness.



## Professor John Walton, a long-standing member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Scotland, has recently released his new book, called *Silencing Outspoken Ambrosine*.

Professor John Walton works at one of the most highly rated universities in the UK, the University of St Andrews, as Research Professor of Chemistry, and is recognised as a world expert on free radicals and chemical timing methods. He has written hundreds of specialised science papers, articles and textbooks on free radical chemistry and radicals, and has given many talks on this theme in the UK and overseas. Of note was the interesting presentation on Intelligent Design he gave to the national meeting of the Norwegian arm of Mensa, which is a non-profit organisation open to individuals with high IQs that aims to identify, understand, and support intelligence; encourage research into intelligence; and create and seek both social and intellectual experiences for its members.

In 2021, Matador Publishing published another one of John Walton's books, titled *Compact Time: A Short History of Life on Earth*, where he examines the methods by which the scientific consensus settled on long time spans for the Earth and gives a thorough review of radiocarbon dating and the many lines of evidence that suggest a young age for the Earth and for fossils. Professor Walton recognises that the scholarly books he has written in defence of the Creation account in Genesis will probably only reach a small number of readers. He says, *'At university, it is very difficult to induce secular students to even listen to conservative Christian beliefs, let alone convince them they are true.'* He continues, *'To illustrate His message and make it memorable, Jesus told many stories, including parables where the characters and setting are clearly imaginary, such as the story of the rich man and Lazarus. I thought, therefore, that I would follow Jesus' example and tell a story that packages key Creationist beliefs in an interesting and exciting way.'*

The result is this new book, *Silencing Outspoken Ambrosine*, published by Wipf and Stock and now available to buy on Amazon.

Professor Walton says the book is intended to encourage students who hold Christian beliefs to resist materialistic peer pressure and to equip them to defend their faith. It is also intended as a pre-evangelism tool to reach those with secular beliefs taken from modern culture who would never enter a church. The book's exciting story introduces them to Christian beliefs and shows these to be rational and evidence-based.

**Get your copy on Amazon today:**

<https://amzn.eu/d/9YLCszq>



## 'Small Church, Big Impact#2'

The chances are that you, at times, have wistfully eyed a slice of cake, a jampacked car, the figures on a bank statement, or countless other things and wished they were larger! The concept that 'bigger is better' has seeped into the consciousness of many of us in a society preoccupied with 'success' that we often measure on the basis of huge numbers. But at the 'Small Church, Big Impact#2' conference from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 April 2023, attendees learned why, when it comes to churches, 'bigger' is not necessarily 'better'. The event took place at Hay's Wood Retreat in King's Lynn, Norfolk, where those present 'revised' their thoughts and were 'reinvigorated' and 'affirmed' regarding the difference small congregations can make to their communities.

The event was organised as a collaboration between the South England Conference (SEC) Diversity and Church Growth Departments, whose director, Pastor Wayne Erasmus, explained that 60% of church congregations across the SEC and British Union are 'small' (made up of fewer than 100 people). The vision of 'Small Church, Big Impact#2' was to 'challenge the narrative that these churches are failing'. Here is a taste of various thought-provoking presentations, activities and interactions that took place over the weekend, as together we imagined what a blessing small churches could be.

SEC Diversity Director, Pastor Max McKenzie, described the church as 'a gift God has given to the world'. He shared a moving account of experiencing this while growing up in tough times in an area where crime and illegal drugs were endemic. Then he saw no better future for himself, but the church showed him a different world, where we are 'all in one community under God', and the possibility that he could live a different life.

How can we be more welcoming? Pastor Wayne summed this up simply and poignantly in his presentation on the parable of the Good Samaritan. He

highlighted the theme of human prejudices, and also the example of Jesus, who 'disrupted' social conventions by embracing Samaritans, who were considered outcasts. Our task was 'living from the embrace of God, who has forgiven so much'.

Kärt Lazić, a creative thinker, musician and Newbold College of Higher Education lecturer, further explored what it



means to be an outsider through the story of the 'sinful woman' in Luke 7:36-50. Among other things, she invited us attendees to reflect on the perception that some people 'fit' in our churches while others are 'irksome', 'exotic' or totally 'invisible', so we ignore their voices. Together with her husband, Dr Tihimor Lazić – worship leader, musician and Newbold lecturer – she led attendees in innovative worship sessions that facilitated reflection on God's gracious desire to embrace us all in His Kingdom, including a theme song debuted at the retreat, titled 'The steadfast arms of Christ' and composed by Peter Manners-Smith.

DIVINIA REYNOLDS





## Bristol Central collaborates with NHS hospital

The Bristol Central community health team and the Adventist Youth Department joint effort was evident at a recent community event held at the Learning and Research Centre on Saturday 11 March. The free health event was organised by Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust, which extended invitations to several community groups. The main organisers, Sharon and Monira, were both delighted when Mary suggested that the church would love to have a stall where they could offer free healthy choices of fresh juices and smoothie samples to the public.

The event started at 11 am, with lots of planned health-related presentations and activities. It was well attended, as people braved the cold weather to get a time slot for their free health checks. These included blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and liver tests, to name a few.

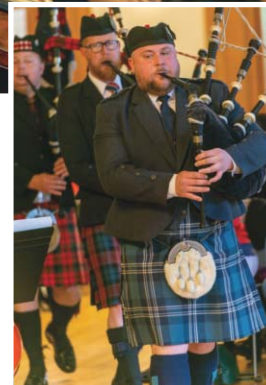
The newly appointed pastor, Curtis Samuel, was delighted to see the church in action, and commended the efforts of the two departments for their hard work and dedication. A stall holder was awarded fifty pounds for a local charity, and Bristol Central have since donated the cheque to ADRA-UK. Organisations such as the Blood Bank, Dementia and Primary Care, and Caafi Health offered to collaborate with us in future health emphasis days. We thank God for His faithfulness.

MARY PHILIP

## East London School of Music shines in Hackney's coronation classical concert

Dignitaries and leaders of Hackney Council were led by Scottish bagpipers, closely followed by the Dagenham Eagles Pathfinders Drum Corps, in a parade from the Town Hall Square to the Assembly Hall for a classical concert led by the East London School of Music on Bank Holiday Monday, 8 May, in recognition of the coronation of King Charles III.

Invited guests were welcomed into the Council's Assembly Hall by the Madam Speaker of Hackney,



Councillor Humaira Garasia, followed by speeches from the Mayor of Hackney, Philip Glanville, and the Royal Family representative for the London Borough of Hackney, Deputy Lieutenant Stephen Howlett, who shared a special message from Buckingham Palace from none other than the newly crowned king himself: 'Both my wife and I are enormously grateful to all the communities, families, neighbours and friends who are coming together across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth to mark our coronation. We greatly appreciate everyone's efforts to organise such celebrations, and very much hope that they will be enjoyable and happy occasions. As we look towards the future, we feel deeply touched and sustained by the heartfelt good wishes and support of so many kind people around the country. Charles and Camilla, King and Queen.'

Following the Palace message was a classical concert courtesy of HACS Philharmonic and East London School of Music Orchestra, which also included a reading of the poem, *A Prayer for the King*, by Eileen G. Philip, which was read by an Adventist Radio London presenter, Claudia Welsh. As East London School of Music Director, Fiona D. Pacquette, introduced the final piece, 'I Vow to Thee, My Country', she confessed that it had been unrehearsed. At the end of the piece, the musicians humbly took in the standing ovation and loud applause which filled the hall. The Deputy Mayor of Hackney, Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, expressed her delight at the breadth of talent on display during the classical concert: 'It is great that so many young people are able to make their own history and bring diversity to mark this occasion. The performances were exquisite and breathtaking. I was taken back by how emotional I was, hearing each piece played by the orchestra. It was deeply moving. The level of talent is outstanding, and I am really proud to see a composer as young as 16 (Matthew Umole) being part of this rich musical ensemble.'

Among those playing in the orchestra was the BUC Director for Health, Women's Ministries and Community Services, Sharon Platt-McDonald, herself a trained classical musician from the Trinity and Royal College of Music, who said: 'It made me think of what heaven will be like if the music such as was played today is this rich.'

DARELL J. PHILIP, AREA 6C COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
PHOTOS: THEO GUTHRIE



**Bristol Central Church and East Trees Surgery in partnership to tackle health issues**

Bristol Central SDA Church and East Trees Surgery have formed a longstanding partnership in promoting health and community initiatives. The collaboration had begun with an Open Day event in 2016 and continued with health expos, race events, and presentations. The success of these activities led to the recent invitation for the church team to participate in another open day at the surgery. The team showcased vegan food, smoothies, and healthy lifestyle information, receiving positive feedback. The management change at the surgery caused a pause in their collaboration, but now, six years later, they have the opportunity to return and even provide lunch for the medical staff. The ongoing partnership aims to bring health, hope, and healing to the community.

*SUBMITTED BY MARY PHILIP, COMMUNITY/HEALTH MINISTRIES*



**A festival of sound to remember!**

Croydon Church's Winter Festival of Sound embraced the theme of 'Good News' and aimed to bring Christ back into Christmas. The event featured various musical performances, including the Croydon SDA Gospel Choir and talented youth vocal groups. The concert provided a worship experience, combining music with narration to tell the story of Jesus from creation to redemption and hope in the Second Coming. The audience actively participated in singing congregational hymns, and Pastor Royston Smith shared a message of hope before closing with prayer. The event raised funds for the Selhurst Food Bank & Community Kitchen, and the recording is available on the church's YouTube channel.

*SUBMITTED BY JULIA GERVAIS, MUSIC DEPARTMENT, CROYDON SDA CHURCH*

**Doncaster food bank Sundays**

When Pastor Alan Hush arrived in Doncaster, the idea of starting a food bank in the church became a reality. They found that with just five people and good communication skills they could make it happen. The council offered practical advice and referrals, while the

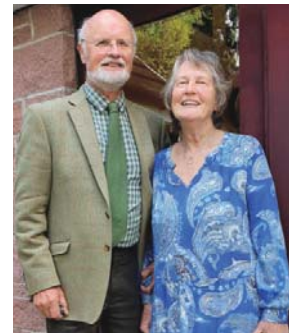


Neighbourly app and drive days provided food donations. The local council also made generous contributions. Opening on Sundays, the food bank became a hub for church and community interaction. The team comprised various individuals who made it a fun and collaborative effort. This initiative opened doors for further community support services, all guided by the Holy Spirit.

*SUBMITTED BY JOHN KEELING, COMMUNITY SERVICES LEADER*

**Pastor Bob and Mrs Moyra Rodd celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**

Former Scottish Mission president Pastor Bob and former teacher Mrs Moyra Rodd celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 23 August 2022 in Crieff, Perthshire. They met during their time studying at



Newbold College and were married in 1962. A special lunch was held in their honour, and many friends gathered to celebrate their special day with them. Bob and Moyra currently live in Crieff and, rather uniquely, they also had their honeymoon in Crieff 60 years before! Since retirement, both Bob and Moyra have continued to lead full and involved lives pursuing their own interests, as well as continuing to be active and treasured members of the Crieff church. Bob and Moyra have two daughters. Helen is Professor of Paediatric Dentistry at Sheffield University, and Lamorna is Head of Faculty at a large secondary school in Hungerford, Berkshire.

*SUBMITTED BY ANGELA LOGAN, CRIEFF CHURCH*



**Grantham art competition & craft fair**

A photo and art competition on the theme of 'God's Wonderful World' culminated in an exhibition of work at the end of October. There were fifty-six entries in total, and the winners were chosen by visitors to the exhibition and craft fair, which took place in the school hall of Grantham Church.

Various craft and garden items provided by church members were also sold, and home-baked cakes with refreshments were enjoyed, to raise funds for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-UK). Over £200 was raised towards their 2022 target.

The winners of the competition were Timothy Davidans in the children's category, Esme Sutton in the art category, and Sofija Cowen in the photography category.

*SUBMITTED BY ELISABETH CARNELL, ADRA AGENT, GRANTHAM*



**Leicester city witness**

For Global Youth Day, members from three Leicester Adventist churches braved the rain to bless their city with singing, praying, and demonstrations of drumming and drilling skills by the Pathfinders. Supported by the AMEN choir from Birmingham, they captivated passing citizens who stopped to join in, dance, and receive literature. The Leicester PAEB drum corps made a grand entrance, leading the Pathfinders in an impressive display of marching and drilling. Grateful for the opportunity to share God’s love, participants expressed a desire to repeat the experience. The event showcased the power of love to change the world.

*SUBMITTED BY PASTOR MICHAEL BAKER*

**Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church says farewell to Pastor Joojo!**

After six years of dedicated service, Pastor Joojo Bonnie bade farewell to Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church. A thanksgiving service celebrated his impactful ministry, with attendees dressed in Ghanaian colours. Pastor Bonnie’s achievements included community marches against violence, a mission trip to Rwanda, collaborative online evangelistic campaigns, and baptisms. Members shared laughter and tears, recalling memorable moments and imitating Pastor Bonnie’s unique expressions. Youth leaders expressed gratitude for his care. Pastor Bonnie expressed gratitude and encouraged future reunion. Pastor Vaughn Thorpe succeeded him.

*SUBMITTED BY DARELL J. PHILIP, PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT, HACKNEY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH*



**Adventists participate in ‘Prayer24brum’ – a multi-faith prayer event**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church participated in the annual Prayer24brum event for the first time in Birmingham. Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma facilitated the church’s involvement through his connections with multi-faith groups. The event, hosted at St Chad’s Cathedral on 20 January 2023, focused on the theme ‘Do good, seek justice’. Participants engaged in an hour of



prayer and praise, with prayers led by Pastor Iheoma and other church members. Students from Birmingham University also contributed with a poem and musical performance. The event strengthened the church’s connection with the Christian community in Birmingham, and future involvement is anticipated.

*SUBMITTED BY FEDERICA REID, NEC PRAYER SPONSOR*

**BUC Ministerial Director visits Stratford Church**

On Sabbath 8 April 2023, Stratford SDA Church welcomed Pastor Samuel Ouadjo and his wife for their Easter weekend service. Pastor Ouadjo emphasised the true gravity of Christ’s



crucifixion and the challenges He faced with His disciples. He warned against allowing personal differences to hinder the mission of the church, drawing parallels with the disciples’ varying agendas. After lunch, the congregation prayed for Pastor Ouadjo and his wife, expressing gratitude for their visit and inspiring sermon. The service served as a timely reminder of the significance of the resurrection.

*SUBMITTED BY STRATFORD SDA CHURCH COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT*

**A taste of Ghana in Basingstoke!**

Basingstoke SDA Church is a diverse church on a mission to break down social barriers with the message of the Gospel. On 4 March they held their country profile day, which, on this occasion, focused on Ghana. Having spent time learning about the country, they held a special programme which, in addition to community outreach, featured a tasting menu of various Ghanaian dishes, including gari & beans, banku & pepper with fish, and, of course, jollof rice!

*SUBMITTED BY BASINGSTOKE SDA CHURCH*



**A grand farewell & ordination at Wood Green Church**

On 29 October 2022, Wood Green Church bade farewell to their beloved Pastor Bonnie in a heartfelt ceremony. The congregation gathered to hear his final sermon, accompanied by a presentation highlighting his pastoral journey and notable milestones. Pastor Bonnie’s family received gifts as a token of appreciation. In a significant moment, Phillip Grant, a trainee elder who had overcome a difficult past that included guns and gang culture, was ordained. The service concluded with Pastor Bonnie presenting gifts to the congregation. Later, on Sunday 30 October, a banquet celebrated the Bonnie family’s contributions, with delightful culinary offerings and heartfelt performances in which the Wood Green and Hackney churches came together to express their gratitude and bid a fond farewell.

*SUBMITTED BY ODELE PRINCE & ANGELA DINHAM-JONES*

## Frank Castellino's life celebrated: 19 February 1930 to 26 March 2020

On 2 April 2023 family and friends gathered at Leamington Spa Mission to celebrate the life of Conrad Frank Castellino (known as Frank). Frank was a member of the Mission from the early 1990s until his passing.



Frank was born on 19 February 1930 in Ajmer, Rajasthan, the middle of three surviving sons of Francis and Anna. His parents, originally from the former Portuguese colony of Goa in southwest India, had moved to northern India in search of work. They made their home in a settlement of fellow Goans in Ajmer.

Frank's family were staunch Catholics, and his first encounter with Adventists was with a door-to-door evangelist. One of the brothers opened the door, and their mother called out to him to slam the door in his face!

Having won a British Council scholarship to study at Moray House in Edinburgh for a diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), Frank decided to emigrate to the UK. Travel would become a passion of Frank's, taking him to places as far-flung as Malta, Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia), the United States and Yemen.

While working at a Church of England primary school in East London, he met his future wife, Antonia. He started attending the Adventist Church with her and her family. He was baptised into the Adventist Church, and then they married and moved to Kent, where their two children, Emma and Mark, were born. The family moved to Essex to be closer to his London job. They raised their young family there for four years before receiving the call to establish Harper Bell School in Birmingham in 1988. Frank served as the founding head teacher and Antonia as the first teacher until 1991. In later life Frank would look back on this as being the greatest achievement of his career.

Frank was a devoted father (and, later, grandfather) who took great interest in his children's activities and achievements, encouraging them to aim high and do their best. He set them a good example himself by his own hard work and positive achievements. He continued to lead an active life in his retirement, tending to his garden, helping with the care of the grandchildren, travelling and taking up new hobbies of watercolour painting and writing. Ill health took its toll in the final few years of his life, but to the end he enjoyed the company of family and friends and kept them always in his prayers. Frank passed away on 26 March 2020 at Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield.

During the memorial service, donations were taken in memory of Frank for ADRA-UK. To date, over £1,000 has been raised. If you knew Frank and would like to make a donation in his memory, or if you are a parent whose child has benefited from attending Harper Bell School and you would like to make a donation to ADRA-UK in memory of the founding head teacher, you can do so here: <http://ADRAUK.donr.com/frank>.

ANTONIA CASTELLINO AND MARK CASTELLINO



## Health Ministries Day

Easter weekend worship at Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church was primarily a time to remember Christ's death on the cross, but also at this time of year the Health Ministries team, consisting of two doctors and two nurses, ran their second diabetes series in March and April 2023, supported by brothers and sisters from across Area 5.

Dr Pasi Gutti led the worship with a sermon based on Matthew 5:13, which reminds us that we are the salt of the earth; Galatians 5:22, which speaks of the fruit of the Spirit; and the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector in the temple, saying that humility rather than pride will characterise the members of the remnant church.

The praise team and musicians enhanced the worship during the Divine Service, and afterwards there was a healthy lunch prepared by the wonderful catering team headed by Andrew Jordan. The afternoon saw the graduation of the second diabetes reversal cohort. Eleven individuals graduated, and five individuals received attendance certificates. A guest speaker – Tony Kelly, a local Diabetes UK ambassador – gave the congregation important tips on diet to manage type 2 diabetes and hopefully help it to become a thing of the past. A musical item from Dr Ben uplifted the congregation and brought about a positive spiritual atmosphere in the sanctuary.

The diabetes reversal groups will be followed up in three months to check on their progress. One graduate from the first cohort, Jarvia Blake, gave a presentation on her journey to date. She summarised her statistics in January 2022 and acknowledged that as a diabetes patient she had lacked energy, had arthritis in her knees, and rarely exercised. She had learned a great deal from the course hosted by Camp Hill Church, and by April 2023 her health had improved to such an extent that she was on the cusp of ceasing the medication, with the agreement of her general practitioner, as her diabetes had been reversed. Others in the first cohort had similar stories, encouraging the second cohort to keep working on their health.

Both cohorts included a number of non-Adventists. We are hoping that they will be inspired to visit Camp Hill not just for the diabetes reversal support, but also to gain spiritual upliftment. The Health Ministries team wholeheartedly thank all of the volunteers who gave their time and talent to support the course. This includes two non-Adventists from the first cohort who attended with their family members to undertake height and weight measurements, as well as supporting the cooking demonstrations and introducing the speakers. God has been blessing us all in this work.

JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL

## KEEPING IT REAL

### Aberdaron Family Camp

21st - 30th July 2023  
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**FORWARD We Go!** Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NEC Family Ministries department  
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### 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, C04 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](mailto: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](http://www.be-lifted.org)

SEC PRESENTS

## CAMP MEETING 2023

24 - 30 July

### THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

AT HAY'S WOOD RETREAT  
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### SEC CAMP MEETING 2023

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### LifeSource book sales

DATE	VENUE	TIME
9 July	Hyland House School fête	12am-6pm
9 July	Newbold College graduation	10am-2pm
24-30 July	SEC Camp Meeting	
3 September	Stanborough Press Open Day	8am-4pm

## 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)



### Three baptised at Bristol Central

On Sabbath 4 March 2023 Bristol Central witnessed the baptism of three precious souls.

At 4pm the church was filled to capacity as the beautiful service commenced with a rapturous song service. Pastor Curtis Samuel delivered a sermonette titled 'A new chapter'. Addressing the candidates, Pastor Samuel charged the candidates to use the story of Jesus to keep writing a new chapter in their own story.

The first candidate was 12-year-old Rajay Cochrane-Yearwood, an enthusiastic young Pathfinder. He was supported by some club members, who also wore uniforms to commemorate the occasion. His favourite text, Psalm 1, was read by his father, Donald Yearwood, who told the congregation that every year Rajay had been asking to be baptised, and he expressed his pride at his son's decision to follow Jesus. His favourite song, 'All to Jesus I Surrender', was sung by Monica Turner and Rajay's mother, Marsha Cochrane-Yearwood.

Anna Kay Tulloch was next in the pool. Her 8-year-old daughter read her favourite text, Ezekiel 36:25-28, in between tears, and said that she was proud of her mum and everything she had done for her. Anna's favourite song, 'There Is Power in the Name of Jesus', was sung by her brother, Stanley Jackson.

Chadwick Reynold was the final candidate to be baptised. He chose John 3:17, which was read by Mortel Henderson. His favourite song, *Thank You for the Cross*, was sung by Jean Cato Chadwick. He gave thanks to Jesus Christ his Saviour, and some powerful words of exhortation, during which time he acknowledged his mother, Terri, and his daughter, who came to witness his baptism.

Many church members were moved by Chadwick's decision to be baptised. They remembered his connection to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jamaica as a young boy, where his great-grandmother, Pastor Daisy, had been the first female pastor of the East Jamaica Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. One member,

Sharon, fought back tears as she recalled having known him from a young age. Elder Janet, who is also a close family friend, echoed, 'Welcome home, son!'

A special thank-you goes to all friends, family, and church members who came out to support the candidates on what was a very special day. And, of course, we thank the Lord for His continued goodness towards us.

MARY PHILIP, BRISTOL CENTRAL CHURCH COMMUNICATION/  
COMMUNITY HEALTH MINISTRIES

### And Cairstine makes three!

Back in 3 September 2022, Cairstine Mary Ayla De Vos McKinnell was dedicated at Winchester Church. Her brother, Alban, was dedicated during COVID-19 by Pastor Laszlo Liebhardt, as was Joel Collins, and all took their places at the front of the church.

Alban and Joel had both been dedicated at their respective homes by Pastor Laszlo, and we'd all watched on Zoom, so it was wonderful when it came to Cairstine's dedication that the whole church was gathered in person and joined by many friends, relations, and godparents for a celebration of three new children at Winchester Church.

The three little ones are accompanied by two older ones; these are their Watch Keepers and best buddies, Oisín and his sister, Niamh Wilson, who keep a watchful eye on their younger friends.

God bless you, Alban, Cairstine and Joel; may your journey through life be filled with God's love, His blessings and all good things.

WENDY BRADLEY, WINCHESTER CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

### 100 years . . . and counting!

Marie Doreen Bull (née Merchant) – also known as 'Dr Doreen' – celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sabbath 1 April 2023, and it was a delight to celebrate her birthday with her by having the choir sing to her in the home where she now lives.



Born in Langley, in the Black Country, she studied to be a doctor. She met David Bull in Watford and they were married in 1951. They were both doctors and had three children: Hazel, Cynthia and Malcolm. She also has two grandchildren: Susan and Elizabeth.

Dr Doreen and her husband spent 10 years in Trinidad as mission doctors, where she was also very involved with the youth. Afterwards, they had a successful GP practice in Leamington SPA for 25 years. She was an active member of a charity called CORD for 20 years, and, as she also has a degree in tropical medicines, she interviewed volunteers for this charity who went to Africa and to the Far East, giving them advice on how to live in the tropics.

Although less physically active over the last few years, Dr Doreen's many uplifting prayers, notes, emails, calls and little parcels have been a huge encouragement to so many of us through tough times, and her close relationship with Jesus is clear to see. She is a loving, caring person whom we all love very much. What a privilege to know this wonderful lady whom God is still using, at this amazing age, to serve others.

MARIANA PRETORIUS

**Muriel Daisy Glendinning (née Seymour-Shove) (1932-2022)****d. 13 September.**

Muriel arrived in England in 1947 from Calcutta with her mother and younger sister, Margaret. She had an older brother, Ron, who was already settled in England. Eventually, the family moved to Wembley, where they were introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Muriel accepted the teachings of the Adventist Church and was baptised by Pastor Victor Cooper in the early sixties. She was a deaconess in the Wembley church for many years, teaching primary and kindergarten children. Muriel later transferred her membership to the Stanborough church in Watford, where she continued teaching the young children.

During the past year, her health had been declining and she was unable to attend church, but was able to keep in touch by watching services through the livestream.

Muriel leaves behind her two children, Paul and Alison; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and her sister Margaret, in Canada. She outlived her beloved husband Robbie, whom she dearly missed for many years.

She is very much missed, and leaves a huge void in many people's lives. We know we will see her again when Jesus comes very soon.



MAGGIE MANN

**Leslie (Les) George Simpson (1965-2023) d. 6 March.**

It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden and unexpected death of Les Simpson. Up to his last few days he had been busy as usual, carrying out his paid work as a quantity surveyor and voluntary work for the church, even though he knew that cancer had spread to his brain.

Les grew up and was educated in NE Scotland. After several years of working at his profession on large construction projects, he



became an Adventist. He volunteered to help at the Special Needs Camp at Aberdaron, where he met Tracey. They were married in 1995 and subsequently had two daughters, Danielle and Elen. Les found the camp environment and its challenges to his liking, and he was later to become general camp site manager, a job he held for over ten years. He was happy to work in church employment, putting his practical skills to good effect. He was always willing to participate in the Special Needs Camp, too, knowing each camper by name. Sadly, during this time he was diagnosed with cancer. Eventually, the heavy work got too much for him, so he moved back to the Dundee area for the remaining years of his life.

Les was a modest, hardworking man, always willing to help, preferring to work quietly behind the scenes. He had a strong, unwavering faith that saw him through his years of suffering, never showing fear of his condition. His devotion to God was evident in everything he did. He died peacefully in hospital, leaving behind his two daughters; their mother, Tracey; as well as his wife, Lowella. The moving funeral service in the Dundee church and interment at Kirriemuir Cemetery were conducted by Pastor Njabulo Ndlovu. A beautiful book containing memories of Les, sent in by family, friends and members, was presented to his daughters. He rests in peace, ready to be woken by the trumpet sound when Jesus comes again.

COMPILED FROM TRIBUTES TO THE FAMILY

**Halina Wolfram (1929-2023) d. 25 March.**

Relatives and friends attended the service in memory of Halina Wolfram at the Stanborough Park church on Wednesday 15 April. The service was conducted by Pastor Terry Messenger, who many years ago had baptised her son Eric. Pastor James Shepley read her life sketch, and Edyta Miltiadis, Halina's niece, read from Mark 16:1-8.

Halina was born in Poland in 1929, but



came to England in the 1960s after marrying her husband, Alfred. They first lived in London, but moved to Watford in 1976 so that their son could attend Stanborough Secondary School to receive an Adventist Christian education.

Both Alfred and Halina attended the Stanborough Park church for many years. In the early 1990s, her mother came to live with them due to health reasons. Thereafter, Halina stayed at home to care for her. She watched recordings of the church services, which Alfred borrowed regularly through their good friend Radomir Bardel, who was the church librarian at the time.

Alfred passed away in 2017, and in 2020 Halina's own health started to decline. She passed away peacefully in hospital on 25 March 2023, with her son Eric at her side.

We look forward to seeing Halina and her husband Alfred on the resurrection morning!

JOHNSON WONG (A FAMILY FRIEND)

## Messenger

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**Visit the BUC website at:**[www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)  
ISSN 0309-3654**Dr Rhamie and Dr Osei visit Stratford SDA Church**

On Sabbath 25 March 2023, Stratford SDA Church was blessed by a Newbold College lecturer, Dr Gifford Rhamie, and Dr Emmanuel Osei, the SEC President. Dr Rhamie led an interactive Sabbath School session on faithfulness and preparedness for Christ's Second Coming. Dr Osei emphasised the importance of collaboration and community service during the COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged church members to study the Scriptures, maintain an intimate relationship with Christ, and be disciples who trust and have faith in Him. The day included fellowship and a Q&A session.

SUBMITTED BY MONIQUE FRANCOIS, STRATFORD SDA CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS LEAD



### Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belg
Jun 30	9.21	9.34	9.34	10.02	10.03
Jul 7	9.18	9.31	9.30	9.58	9.59
14	9.13	9.25	9.24	9.50	9.53
21	9.05	9.17	9.16	9.41	9.43
28	8.55	9.08	9.06	9.28	9.32



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# September

'Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.' Revelation 22:17

African elephant at the watering hole. ©damanstaden/123rf.com

Sunset Times	Card	Nott	Edin
1 7:48	8:00	7:54	8:08
8 7:32	7:44	7:38	
15 7:16	7:28	7:22	
22 7:00	7:12	7:04	
29 6:44	6:56	6:47	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> Our God rewards great faith. Matthew 15:28 					<b>1</b> There is no one like You, O God. 1 Kings 8:23	<b>2</b> You have lifted me up. Psalm 30:1
<b>10</b> I cried out to You, and You healed me. Psalm 30:2	<b>11</b> Hear the prayer of Thy servant. 1 Kings 8:28	<b>12</b> The Son of God will sit in heaven. Matthew 23:12	<b>6</b> God made all things through Jesus. John 1:3	<b>7</b> Jesus is He who rules. Revelation 1:5		
<b>17</b> Be called by His name, and be blessed. Numbers 6:27	<b>18</b> Be not ashamed of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 1:8	<b>19</b>				
<b>24</b> The Lamb of God takes away our sins. John 1:29	<b>25</b> He makes His face to shine upon us. Numbers 6:25	<b>26</b> come to me. Matthew 13:14				

Save the date!



**Main speaker**

Melody Mason is passionate about Jesus and about helping people develop a vibrant walk with Him. She is the author of the books **Daring to Ask for More** and **Daring to Living by Every Word**, and currently helps coordinate the General Conference's new 'Back to the Altar' discipleship training. She also helps with resource development for the Revival and Reformation initiatives for the world church. Melody loves to write, hike, and spend time in nature, and, whenever possible, volunteers her time in overseas missions. She lives in Arkansas.

# Sunday 3 September

8am-4pm

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