

Messenger

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

Established 1902

Seeking God, finding love

The little man

Who's influencing
your teens?

NEC Camp Meeting

Reflecting on Reflecting
Hope in Scotland

Windrush – The reason we care

28 July 2023 • Volume 128 • 7

+ Stanborough Press Open Day – 3 September

Babies and Bathwater

Policies should reflect
our beliefs and values



Strategic Priority (7) – Policy

Aim:

- Ensure that the BUC remains a hub of legislative development relevant to all stakeholders and parties.

Objectives:

- Continue to implement relevant training packages for all staff and institutions around key policy.
- Explore the need to expand our organisational policies to cater for the changing needs in the territory.
- Review our policy advisory committee and invite industry professionals to assist us, if appropriate.



Babies and bathwater

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,

President of the British Union Conference

*'For a Child will be born to us,
a Son will be given to us;
And the government will rest
on His shoulders;
And His name will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.'*
(Isaiah 9:6, NASB)

'Policy' – for many, it's a frightening word. It can conjure up images of dictatorial, pedantic, over-reaching bureaucrats demanding their 'pound of flesh' for minor misdemeanours or implementing draconian laws that benefit few. Often, just hearing the word can encourage a level of anarchy and disregard among even the most seasoned conformists.

On 31 March 1990, 'an anti-poll tax rally in central London . . . erupted into the worst riots seen in the city for a century'.¹ 100,000 people took to the streets for what started as a peaceful protest. But 400 were arrested; there were 113 injuries, including 45 police officers and 20 police horses; 4 tube stations were closed for safety; and cars were overturned and set

alight. All this occurred because the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, replaced domestic rates and introduced her flagship 'poll tax' policy in Scotland in 1989, and in England and Wales in 1990.

What is policy?

The nature of a policy differs depending on the organisation. Policies can be guidelines, rules, regulations, laws, principles, or directions. They say what is to be done, who is to do it, how it is to be done, and for (or to) whom it is to be done.² In short, *policies guide our actions*. Policies also set roles and responsibilities. They also provide guidance on how these should be executed.

And our policies should reflect our beliefs and values. For example, there are organisations that implement a Kindness Charter. Such a charter (which is often publicly displayed, and not lost in a policy manual) guides the behaviour of the employees.

As a church organisation, we have the Bible as our policy manual. 'The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right.'³ In addition to this, the General Conference also issues a church manual and policies for the smooth and effective running of unions, conferences, missions, and institutions for mission and outreach.

As a charity, we are subject to the policies and guidelines set to us by our regulator, The Charity Commission; and, as a corporation (business), we are subject to policies around finance, safeguarding, employment, and health and safety, to name just a few. Some of the policies are guidelines for best practice, while to ignore others would mean that we lose our charitable status or ability to practise as a business.

Over the next few years, we will review our policies to ensure that all our employees and institutions are not only aware of these policies, but fully trained to execute them. Where necessary, we will hire the services of external experts to advise us regarding policy changes; and, as the church, charity and corporation landscape evolves, we will review our policies to ensure that we are legislatively compliant.

Let's not 'throw out the baby with the bath water' – let's not be frightened of policy or confuse its implementation with dictatorship. Together, let's explore the changes and nuances of policy and ensure that these accurately reflect our values and beliefs. And, finally, let's embrace the benefits that it can bring to the British Union Conference as we seek to fulfil our mission.

¹http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/march/31/newsid_2530000/2530763.stm

²<http://partfood.msuu.ca/section4/4.pdf>

³2 Timothy 3:16 (TLB)

Editorial

by **Julian Thompson,**
Consulting Editor



Dear reader,
This will be one of the last editions of *MESSENGER* that I oversee as editor; I am transitioning back to Newbold College of Higher Education, where I will serve as a lecturer in Biblical and Pastoral Studies. I am profoundly grateful for your trust in me as editor, and it has been an honour to serve you alongside the wonderful team at the Stanborough Press and the British Union Conference.

Given that the names of our recent *MESSENGER* editors have been David Marshall, Julian Hibbert, David Neal, and now myself (Julian Thompson), you might be forgiven for thinking that being named Julian or David is a prerequisite for the role!



However, I am very pleased to let you know that the incoming editor breaks the mould in more ways than one. At the BUC Executive Committee meeting on 15 June, Dusanka Rancic was voted in as the new *MESSENGER* and Stanborough Press editor. An alumna of Newbold College of Higher Education and the University of Wales Trinity St David, Pastor Rancic has a strong background in theology and served as a pastor in Serbia before coming to the UK alongside her husband, Pastor David Rancic, and their children.

Pastor Rancic has the distinction of becoming the first female editor of *MESSENGER*; and, having worked alongside her during this initial period of transition, I am confident that this publication remains in good hands and will continue to go from strength to strength. Please keep Pastor Rancic and her family in your prayers as their ministry takes a new direction.

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Reflecting on Reflecting Hope in Scotland

by Pastor Jimmy Botha, *President of the Scottish Mission*



Hallelu-hallelu-hallelu-hallelujah: praise ye the Lord!

Chances are that when you read the name of this song, a melody automatically enters your mind. This song would at least be familiar to some of us who were around in the eighties and nineties. When this song echoes in your mind, what memories does it wake up? Perhaps more important is that we sing this song to celebrate what the Lord has done. This song started the afternoon meeting as almost fifty people came together to celebrate three weeks of efforts to reach folks in Aberdeen, Shetland, and Inverness.

As part of the Reflecting Hope endeavour undertaken in the British Isles during May 2023, a small group of pastors took to the roads on bicycles in search of people with whom they could share the Gospel in person. Dr Anthony Kent, Associate Ministerial Secretary of the General Conference, led this initiative.

Planning for this project started in 2022, and many meetings took place to cover all the aspects of the project. On occasions such as these, you realise how essential it is to have software that enables meetings between people living in different parts of the world.

Many avenues had to be taken to bring the project's focus first to two big items, and eventually to one main item. The two items are riding a bike and holding public meetings where the Gospel is shared. But these public meetings will only happen with the hard work leading up to it.

The islands of Shetland have not been actively engaged with by the church to anyone's recollection. This means that the meeting in Lerwick on Sabbath 20 May would have been the first ever church service meeting held by Seventh-day Adventists on that island. This meeting was the second of two meetings the group had planned, and it happened after only a week of being present on the island.

During this week, the team cycled most of the roads of the main three islands, exchanging conversations with people they met – and after three weeks in three different places, Aberdeen, Shetland and Inverness, the list grew to sixty-eight people.

But what is inspirational is what the process involved. The team had breakfast together every morning, followed by a short devotion taken by a different person each day. The cyclists would then prepare their bicycles, and the van had to be ready. The cyclists then started their daily route, and a car and the van would follow some distance behind the bicycles to provide extra leaflets and books, as well as food and nourishment, as it was needed in the cold and windy days of the Shetland islands.

The team would gather around the table in the kitchen, where a

warm plate of food awaited, and conversations about the day's activities would be had before everyone would go and rest.

The Shetland Reflecting Hope project in Scotland could not have taken place had it not been for the initiative of the General Conference working with Adventist World Radio and other entities at that level. In the Trans-European Division, the work of Anthony WagenerSmith and his team was complemented by the work at the Union level of Cathy Boldeau and Christian Salcianu, who worked long hours to get websites up and running and who made miracles happen by designing and printing leaflets and book inserts in record time. Hellevi Walker also proved invaluable in the Scottish Mission office, and worked hard to ensure that support remained in place for most of the focus areas during the project.

We thank the pastoral team in Scotland for their generosity of time and physical efforts. It must be pointed out that retiree Dr Paul Tompkins also made himself available for the duration, and that his presence in the group helped put that atmosphere of fun in place.

Plans are already being discussed for another such visit to Shetland in the future, and for follow-up work to be done shortly.

Statistics

by Pastor Reinder Bruinsma*

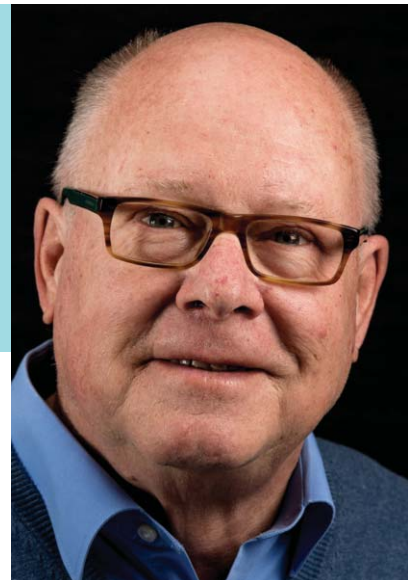
“The LORD spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Desert of Sinai. . . . “Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one . . . all the men in Israel who are twenty years old or more.”’
(Numbers 1:1-3, NIV)

The best-known census in the Bible is, of course, the population count that was ordered by the Roman emperor Augustus around the time of Christ’s birth, which compelled everyone to register in ‘their own town’ (Luke 2:1-3, NIV). In Old Testament times, on several occasions a census of Israel was taken. When David ordered an unauthorised census, he was sharply criticised by the prophet Gad and severely punished by God (1 Chronicles 21).

The census that is mentioned in the first verses of the book of Numbers resulted from a divine initiative. Israel was going to face fierce opposition when taking possession of Canaan. God would not suddenly let all the inhabitants

of Canaan disappear in one immense black hole. The Israelites would have to fight in their conquest of the ‘promised land’. They were to trust God’s promises and His help, but they also were to be active participants in this momentous enterprise. God told Moses that it was important to know what human resources he would be able to mobilise.

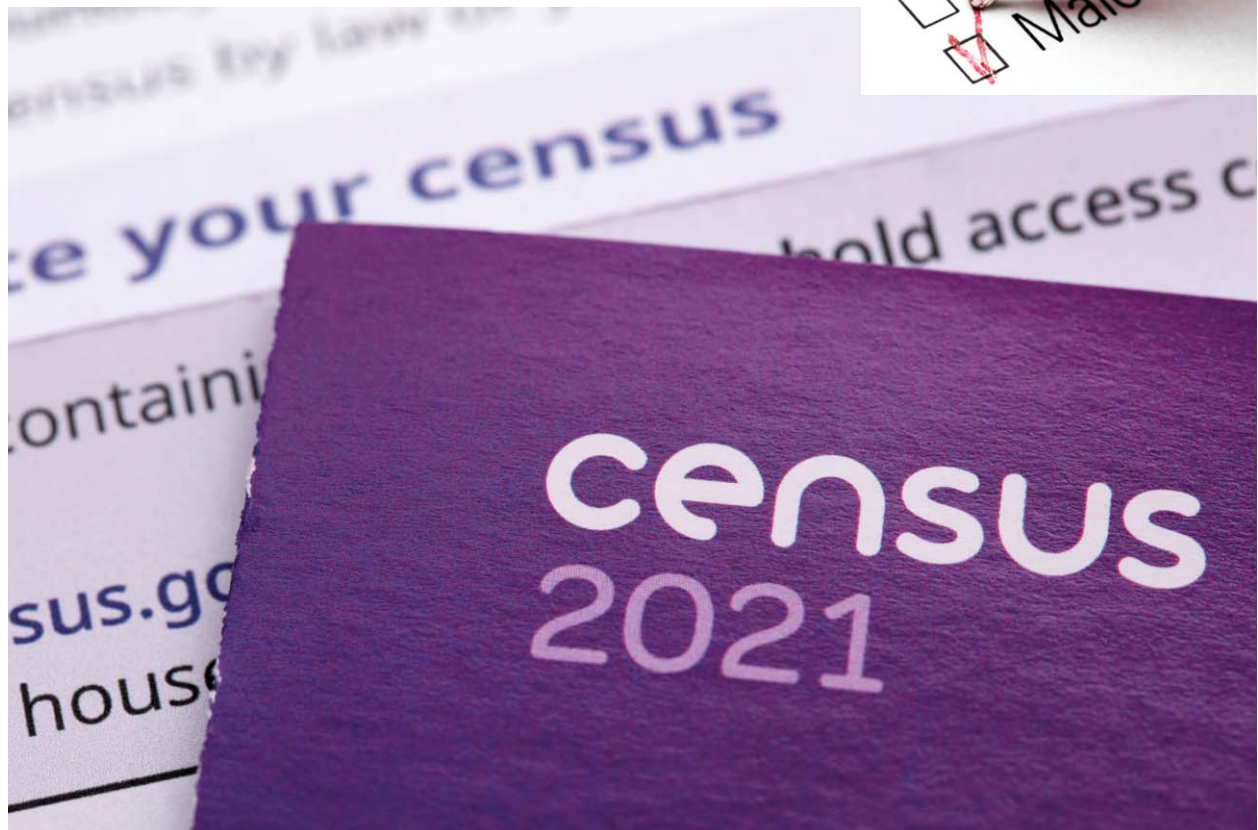
It is interesting to note that the people were to be organised not only ‘by their clans’, but also ‘by their families’. In subdividing a significant number of people, it is important to ensure that each person feels responsible for the well-being of all the other people in the group to which he or she belongs. Close relatives, and people who know each



other well, want to support and protect each other.

My prayer for today

Dear God, I trust in Your help when I am faced with a big task, but help me also to look at the human and other resources that I have at my disposal and must use as well as I can.



Seeking God, finding love

by Precious Chitwa



The fifteenth of November 2014 was a special Sabbath not only for members of Voorburg International Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Netherlands, but especially for Romee Dits, who was officially sharing her new-found love with the world. The beautiful sunset found family and friends already settled and chatting away. The pool was set with heat lights around it to stay the cold weather, and the moment everyone had been waiting for finally arrived.

Adorned in white robes, Romee Dits and ten others approached the pool and went in, one by one, to be baptised. This being her birthday, Romee and her family extended this celebration with a special family dinner.

Like most children in her country, Romee had led a happy and carefree life with her non-religious family. 'It was only when I became a teenager that I started to think about life and what the whole meaning of it was. I would experience this unexplainable emptiness that would leave me grumpy at times,' she said.

While working at a supermarket, Romee met a handsome man who later became her boyfriend. Having attended the Seventh-day Adventist church where his mother was serving as the head deaconess at the time, her boyfriend shared the little knowledge that he knew about his faith with her. When he introduced her to his mother, Romee got the opportunity to learn more, and her interest in the faith grew.

'With time, I began to read the Bible which his mum had given me, even though I could not understand most of the things, and I also learnt how to pray. I believe the Holy Spirit was working even in my ignorance,' she added.

As she researched further, Romee realised that there was more to the world than meets

the eye. Soon, she and her boyfriend enrolled in Bible studies at the Seventh-day Adventist church, and they began attending Sabbath worship regularly. In the three years that they were together, Romee grew in her faith to the level where she desired to implement what she was learning. Her boyfriend, however, did not desire to move at the same pace as her, which eventually led to their break-up.

Seven months into her baptismal lessons, Romee and her boyfriend got an opportunity to attend the Generation of Youth for Christ Conference in Austria when their registration and accommodation were paid for by an American donor. It was at this conference that she gained the courage and had the conviction to give her life to Jesus Christ after listening to Sebastien Braxton's sermon titled, 'None of these things move me'.

Romee Dits is currently leading the music department of her church, where she is also serving as a Sabbath School discussion leader.

'Though my relationship did not last, I appreciate that through it I found my True Love, who has given me not only eternal life, but also joy and a sense of purpose.'

This certainly is a beautiful love story worth hearing!





Wise counsel from the bard – who’s influencing your teens?

by Carol Logan,
mother, grandmother, teacher,
and life coach

In his play *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare issues a clear warning to parents of teenagers that they need to be aware of other adults’ influence over their teenage children. This warning has rung loud and clear down the ages since Tudor times, and is just as relevant today as it was then.

Two teenagers – Romeo and Juliet, from prominent families of Verona in northern Italy – meet and fall in love, and this liaison leads to tragedy. The two trusted adults in this scenario were a friar (a priest) and Juliet’s nanny, who had also been her mother’s nanny.

The friar had extensive knowledge of the deadly and healing powers of herbs. Alongside his priestly duties, he grew herbs and gathered wild ones, which he then mixed and dispensed to those who sought his help. In the case of *Romeo and Juliet*, his meddling actions and advice resulted not only in the suicide of two young people, but indirectly



led to the deaths of others.

Juliet’s nanny, lewd of speech and action, actively encouraged the teenagers to consummate their sacred union, performed in secret by the friar, without the consent of their parents. She then tried to persuade Juliet into a bigamous marriage with someone whom her parents wanted her to marry. The parents of these two teenagers, so wrapped up in their mindless feud with each other, were blind to the actions their teens were taking.

The question to be asked of twenty-first-century parents is this: do you know what is going on in your teenage children’s lives? With whom

are they communicating on their phones? Are they being groomed online – or, worse still, by a trusted family member or friend? Have they been introduced to drugs? Are they having underage sex? What would you do if your fourteen-year-old daughter became pregnant?

Take a warning from the fate of *Romeo and Juliet*. Be mindful of who and what your children are being influenced by, and always be aware of where they are. Above all, be the kind of parent your children and teenagers regard as their best friend. Spend quality time with them. Do not relinquish your rightful place in their lives to someone else.



The little man I see God everywhere, but can I see myself in His eyes?

by Pastor Dusanka Rancic, Editor

'There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.'

Albert Einstein

I am choosing to live my life like everything is a miracle. Every new day, every new breath, is a miracle. I see a miracle in the kind words of support from my husband; a word of comfort from a friend; a hug from my child; a smile from my mother, whom I nearly lost last year.

However, life is not always easy. We have all experienced tough days and even longer periods. In one of those hard periods, I received a text from a dear friend. She said: 'God will always give you enough strength for one day of your life, and that is all you really need. Just keep on walking: not running or jumping. Sometimes crawling is OK too.'

And this idea has helped me in different situations when I was facing darkness. *Just keep on crawling.*

Deuteronomy 32:10 says: 'He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye' (ESV). This encouraging verse is a part of the Song of Moses. This poem talks about God's care for His people, and it is very relevant to us today. Moses uses four verbs in this verse, and each one teaches us about God's caring character and His love for us.

- **God finds you** – wherever you are, be sure that God will find you. What is your wasteland? Is it fear of the unknown or overwhelming

daily activities? God will discover you: the true you, your smiles and your hidden sorrows.

- **God encircles you** – God encircles you in order to make you safe. Just as a city, in ancient times, was encircled by a wall for protection; or as an army encircles defenceless people to protect them from their enemy; or as a mother eagle encircles her eaglets – He surrounds you and strengthens you. In His presence you will grow.
- **God cares for you** – God is your Creator, and He understands you completely: your struggles, fears, ambitions and dreams. What battles are you fighting right now? Do they include fear for the future of your family caused by the increased cost of living, the illness of somebody close to you, or your loneliness? He understands, and He cares.
- **God keeps you** – He guards you like a precious treasure, like 'the apple of His eye'. This English phrase describes one who is greatly loved. However, a better translation from the Hebrew language would be 'the little man of His eye'. What does this actually mean? It refers to the wonder of seeing your own reflection in the eyes of another person who is looking at you.

But in order to see your own reflection in somebody else's eyes, that person needs to be very close to you. This points to a very intimate relationship . . . so God is watching you closely. He is so close to you that you are reflected in His eyes. The Ruler of the whole universe sees you as the apple of His eye.

Personally, this brings me great comfort. God loves me and cares about my well-being so much that

He wants to be close to me at all times. On the other hand, when I am so close to God, I can clearly see myself in His eyes. I can see my purpose in life, as well as my worth as His child. This then impacts my thoughts, actions and words. I reflect God's love and care.

Sometimes problems in life might blur our vision or block our view. But, no matter how hard or big they are, we must not allow them to come between God and us. If we allow these problems to create a distance between God and us, this will affect our perception – we will not be able to clearly see 'the little man of His eye', and our view of Him, and ourselves generally, will be blurred.

What do you see?

A long time ago, I saw a photo frame with the caption, 'Family is where our stories begin.' Let them be good stories that inspire us and others. Let them be stories that give us strength and motivation in life. Let them be memories that put smiles on our faces. Let them be stories of standing so close to God that we can see our own reflection in His eyes. Let our children remember hard times in our families as times when we were crying together; praying together; loving and supporting each other. Let them remember that, in our families, we follow God so closely that we never lose sight of ourselves in His eyes. Let them remember that pain comes first, and then the song of deliverance!

Remember, you do not always have to run or jump. It is OK to crawl. God will find you wherever you are, and He will crawl with you. He will surround you with His love and protection until you become stronger. Do not forget, He is watching you closely, filled with love, waiting for your eyes to meet: so just keep on going, until He delivers you.

Post-pandemic well-being

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

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

COVID-19 impact on well-being

Assessing the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, News Medical states: 'The COVID-19 pandemic has overwhelmed healthcare systems around the world, having a knock-on effect on the diagnosis and treatment of other diseases.'¹

News Medical identifies the following health fallout from the pandemic:

- Reduced diagnosis rates of infectious diseases such as seasonal influenza, due to social distancing and lockdowns during the pandemic.
- Reduced diagnosis and treatment (despite existing illness) due to lockdowns and avoidance of medical settings: individuals avoided seeking help for non-COVID-19-related health problems.
- In diagnosed cases, treatment for diseases and conditions such as cancer had to be postponed.
- Most treatments postponed due to the immediate threat of COVID-19 consuming health systems and their resources.
- Aside from the respiratory system, SARS-CoV-2 also appeared to have affected the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, urinary, and nervous (neurological) systems.



Long COVID

The World Health Organisation (WHO) identified post-COVID-19 condition (long COVID) as a health issue that 'can affect anyone exposed to SARS-CoV-2, regardless of age or severity of original symptoms'. The WHO defines the condition as 'the continuation or development of new symptoms three months after the initial SARS-CoV-2 infection, with these symptoms lasting for at least two months with no other explanation'.²

Explaining the symptoms and impact in the same article, the WHO states: 'While common symptoms of long COVID can include fatigue, shortness of breath and cognitive dysfunction, more than 200 different symptoms have been reported that can have an impact on everyday functioning.' The WHO goes on to outline: 'Studies show that around 10-20% of people infected by SARS-CoV-2 may go on to develop symptoms that can be diagnosed as long COVID. . . . It is believed that more than 17 million people across the WHO European Region may have experienced it during the first two years of the pandemic (2020/21).'

Stories of coping with long COVID continue to emerge as people recount their journey, coping strategies and rehabilitation. Read one such account at: <https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/feature-stories/item/the-most-important-thing-is-human-connection—facing-long-covid-together-in-the-netherlands>.

Cost-of-living impact

The Lancet Regional Health Europe has linked both the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine with the current cost-of-living crisis due to their disruption of supply chains, resulting in high inflation rates across most countries.

In an editorial published in April 2023, titled: 'The cost-of-living crisis is also a health crisis',³ *The Lancet* reports: 'As the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis emerges as the next major public health concern for both adults and children. Worsening of the cost-of-living crisis has pushed more people to be at risk of poverty, which can have detrimental effects on health.'

Similarly, an online *Guardian* article (Wednesday 28 June 2023) carried

the headline: 'Cost of living worsening health of children in UK, say school nurses'. The article highlights concerning data: 'The survey of 313 school nurses and dentists found that two-thirds said the health issues facing children had worsened in the past year, with parents in work struggling to afford nutritious meals.'⁴ In light of this, campaigners are urging the Government to commit to free school meals for every primary school pupil in England.

Post-pandemic well-being tips

Exploring ways to maintain well-being and improve health is important as we emerge from the pandemic and grapple with the current state of the economy. Starting with your mental health, consider the following five tips outlined in Davenpost by Dave Gillespie (Social Science Department Chair), listed as: 1) Examine your sleep practices; 2) Maintain physical activity; 3) Socialise with others; 4) Practise gratitude; 5) Give back (volunteer). Read the full article on the beneficial aspects of these tips at: <https://post.davenport.edu/2022/09/23/five-tips-to-improve-your-mental-health-post-pandemic/>.

Good health!

¹<https://www.news-medical.net/health/How-has-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-Impacted-Global-Health.aspx>

²<https://www.who.int/europe/news-room/factsheets/item/post-covid-19-condition>

³[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanep/article/PIIS2666-7762\(23\)00051-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanep/article/PIIS2666-7762(23)00051-0/fulltext)

⁴<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jun/28/cost-of-living-worsening-health-children-uk-school-nurses>

Windrush – the reason we care

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

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



A pivotal moment in British history was the arrival of HMT *Empire Windrush* at Tilbury dock on 22 June 1948, bringing with her passengers from the Caribbean. Answering the call from the mother country, Great Britain, the West Indian immigrants eagerly arrived to rebuild Britain and fill labour shortages after the war. Subsequently, the *Windrush* generation has contributed significantly to UK life and helped shape modern Britain, especially in the NHS and transport industries.

Sadly, that first wave of immigrants met with an onslaught of racism. Even today, many suffer from intense and sustained discrimination.¹

The celebrations

The *Windrush* celebrations help us to reflect on black people's experience, marking trials and triumphs of the past, celebrating progress and achievements, and casting a vision for the future.

An event marking the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the *Empire Windrush* was hosted by the One Vision charity on Tuesday 20 June 2023 at the Stanborough Centre. Keynote speaker Cliff Walker (BEM, MBE, JP, DL) received a standing ovation for his deeply moving and challenging presentation. He gave a historic overview of the *Windrush* experience, calling for action to

ensure a better future. While celebrating the contribution of the *Windrush* generation to British society, Mr Walker spoke about more serious issues related to prevailing racism, 'stop and search' policies, and commitment to changes that will address discrimination in all its forms.

Dr Jude Jeanville, President of the African Caribbean Dual Heritage Alliance (ACDHA), also gave an engaging presentation, and a large number of dignitaries each affirmed the significance of the *Windrush* generation to British society, and committed to reducing discrimination and building more cohesive neighbourhoods.

Faith impact

There were repeated acknowledgements of the part faith played in connecting people during challenging times, despite the racism and rejections they faced. Enoch Kanagaraj, founder & CEO of One Vision, who is grateful for the diversity that exists in the UK, states: 'Seeing how much the demographic of the church has changed in the past 75 years is positive. God works with diversity, and it is His idea. I think the community has been well served by the West Indians . . . because of their grounding in Christian belief and fellowship.'

Cultural implications

Fabiola Gianotti states: 'Diversity is

really a richness for mankind,' and how true that is as we embrace all that diversity has to offer.

In the fusion of cultures and the struggle for acceptance and recognition, a very different Britain emerged. Colin Grant writes in the *Guardian* that, depressingly, 'four in 10 adults in this country agreed . . . that "having a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures has undermined British culture", although he correctly states that cultures 'are dynamic things, developing organically from communities. They do not exist in isolation or remain static. Having a range of cultures in Britain is normal.'²

The biblical directive in Leviticus 19:33 is still relevant today: 'Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land. Treat them like native-born Israelites, and love them as you love yourself. Remember that you were once foreigners living in the land of Egypt' (NLT).

Togetherness

'The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively,' said Bob Marley, whose song 'One Love' was played at the end of Tuesday's event, to the delight of attendees. The lyrics 'One love, one heart, let's get together and feel alright' captured the mood of the occasion.

BUC Director Sharon Platt-McDonald reflected: 'We care about *Windrush* because God cares about people. Today's *Windrush* celebrations have been truly inspirational, especially the hopeful outlook that, as we work together for a better future, we can be the change we wish to see – for ourselves, and for generations to come.'

One day, the greatest invitation from God Himself will be issued, as He invites all nations, kindreds, tongues and peoples to the greatest 'togetherness' event in His heavenly home. It will be a place of perfection, where all will be accepted, valued, and loved for eternity.

¹Read more about the impact of *Windrush*: <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/indepth/the-descendants-of-the-windrush-generation-who-changed-britain/ar-AA1cLOl4>

²<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/sep/17/the-guardian-view-on-multicultural-britain-learning-to-live-together>

The Stanborough Press OPEN DAY 2023!

EXHIBITORS' TABLES
VERY LIMITED
AVAILABILITY **£50**
PER TABLE

DEADLINE 14 AUGUST

Don't miss out – tables booked only on receipt of fee.

Sunday
3 September
8am-4pm

Terms & conditions:

- 1) No vending of cooked or otherwise prepared foods will be allowed either on site or on the perimeters of The Stanborough Press property. Only the sale of fresh garden or farm produce will be allowed.
- 2) The sale of literature CDs or DVDs is not permitted.
- 3) Table coverings must be provided by the exhibitor/vendor if they require them.
- 4) Electricity will NOT be available.
- 4) Tables must be set up between 8.30 and 9.30am, and all displays must be cleared by 4pm.
- 5) If goods on display do not comply with the agreed list given at time of booking you may be asked to leave.
- 6) Sales from car boots or any location other than their authorised table are prohibited; anyone found doing this will be asked to leave.
- 7) No vending/exhibiting will be permitted without the display of an official permit issued by The Stanborough Press. (Permits must be displayed on the day.)
- 8) Table permits will only be issued upon the receipt of £50 per table on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Please email SJarvis@StanboroughPress.org.uk for booking form.

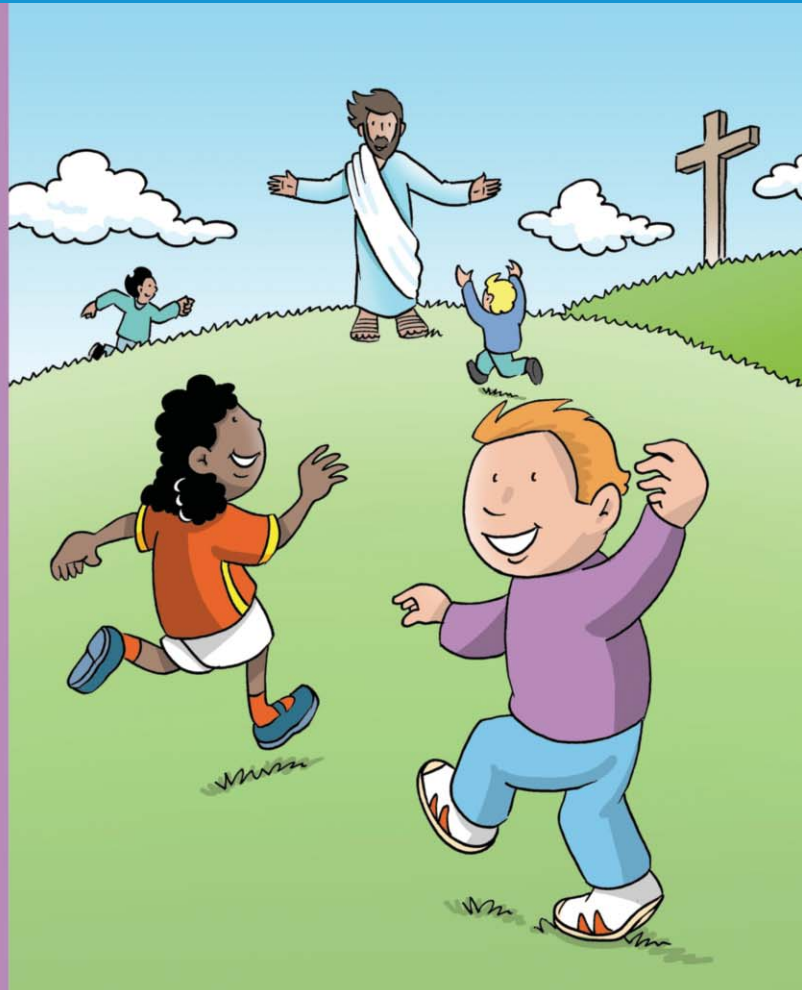
Jesus loves children!

'Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these little children.'

Luke 18:16

**God loves every girl and boy;
Each one gives Him lots of joy.**

Dear God,
Thank You for loving little children,
Just like me!
Thank You for inviting me
To be with You.
Thank You for always
Making me feel welcome.
I am always happy
When I have spent time with You.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Help us to forgive

'Yes, if you forgive others for the things they do wrong, then your Father in heaven will also forgive you for the things you do wrong.'

Matthew 6:14

**Some might not do what they should,
But we'll forgive, for that is good.**

Dear God,
When I do wrong,
You forgive me,
Even though I do not deserve it.
Help me to show Your love to others
By forgiving those who upset me.
Help me to keep my promise
To forgive those who do me wrong.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.



Taken from *My First Bedtime Prayer Book*.

To purchase your copy, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/my-first-bedtime-prayer-book/>

THE LORD'S PRAYER — MATTHEW 6:9-13

FATHER	DAILY	EVIL
HEAVEN	BREAD	THINE
HALLOWED	FORGIVE	KINGDOM
DEBTORS	POWER	WILL
LEAD	GLORY	EARTH
TEMPTATION	AMEN	GIVE
DELIVER	LIVE	

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



Adventist Church represented at Lord-Lieutenant's event

by Pastor John Surridge,

British Union Conference Executive Secretary

On Tuesday 2 May 2023, Seventh-day Adventists were among the faith leaders invited to a special tea hosted by Robert Voss CBE CStJ, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. The event was held at the Bhaktivedanta Manor, Aldenham, once a training college for St Bartholomew's Hospital, but famously purchased in 1973 by George Harrison and donated to the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, which continues to run the property.

The Lord-Lieutenant, who represents the monarchy, was joined by a number of his deputies as well as the former lord-lieutenant, Dione Grimston, Countess of Verulam, and the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, Margaret Elizabeth Green.

Addressing his fifty or so assembled guests, Lord-Lieutenant Voss explained that the event had been arranged as part of the celebrations for the momentous occasion of the coronation of King Charles III. 'Faith is a central part of the King's priorities, and Hertfordshire's diversity is something to celebrate,' he said. 'I am inviting you to join me to see how faith leaders can form strong links to bring about change in our community.'

Lord-Lieutenant Voss went on to point out that, in his Christmas message, King Charles spoke of 'the extraordinary ability of each person to touch, with goodness and compassion, the lives of others and to shine a light in the world around them'. Faith leaders have a special role to play in fulfilling this vision.

BUC Executive Secretary Pastor John Surridge was joined by Pastors Nathan Stickland and Jude Jeanville in representing the Adventist Church, and together they spent more than two hours networking with other faith leaders. These included Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists, as well as leaders from the Jewish (Orthodox and Reformed), Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Bahá'í faiths.

Also present was Enoch Kanagaraj, a Seventh-day Adventist, who is the founder & CEO of the One Vision charity. With a

multitude of connections to local communities within Hertfordshire, Enoch has encouraged many such interactions between the church and community leaders, and we are most grateful for his work in this area.

Speaking after the event, Pastor Surridge commented on the number of positive conversations he had had during the meeting. 'I am constantly surprised by the warmth of feeling there is in the community towards Seventh-day Adventists. Many people know of our international humanitarian work, and, here in Hertfordshire, the great work being done by our local churches.' When asked what was his highlight of the day, he confessed that it was actually a classical performance on the sitar. 'As a Beatles fan, I have to say there was something poignant about listening to a sitar being played in a manor house which had been purchased by George Harrison fifty years ago!'





Worship and Music Leadership Training at Newbold College of Higher Education

by Dr Lubica Mueller, PhD

The Worship and Music Leadership Training programme (5-13 May 2023), conducted by Newbold College of Higher Education in partnership with the International Centre for Worship and Music, Andrews University, brought together a diverse international group of professionals and lay members who wish to create Bible-based, inspirational, and engaging worship for local churches.

Bible-based worship

In Newbold's Smith Centre, participants explored biblical worship principles in lessons throughout the week. 'Our worship needs to be rooted in an essential understanding of our value in God's eyes,' said Dr Nick Zork (songwriter, worship leader, and music director). Worship is our response to God's love and an act of gratitude to Him. It is about fully focusing on God, not on our own skills or performance. 'We need . . . to be humble,' reflected Diana Roldan (an attendee from Mexico). Focusing on God is humbling but also liberating. 'It is the Holy Spirit who will take care of the work, which we only facilitate through worship,' remarked Dr David Williams (Associate Professor of Worship and Sacred Music, Andrews University).

Facilitating requires us 'to be mindful of our audiences and to produce meaning, not confusion', David added. Parishioners gather to worship God from different contexts and theological standpoints, and in diverse cognitive and emotional states. How can we deliver a worship service that speaks to the audience?

Meaningful and inspiring worship

Creating meaningful worship often requires contextualisation, so Dr Tihomir Lazić (Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology at Newbold College) explored different perspectives, purposes, principles and practices of worship with the participants throughout the week.

The group visited different worship places, from the very old St Aldates church to the contemporary Hillsong worship service in Oxford, 'to immerse ourselves in different experiences and maybe open some new questions', remarked Tihi.

While music is often prominent, 'Worship is more than music and singing – that concept was completely new for me,' reflected Helen Diaz (an attendee from Italy). Creating inspirational worship that includes a variety of expressions was a topic that Kärt Lazić (singer, worship leader and songwriter) tackled with the group. 'There is a place for every person, and we need to be able to facilitate that space so that they can

worship God,' said DeLocia White (from the UK). As we worship with diverse emotions, tastes, and talents, we must 'make worship a complete experience', reflected Jóhann Grétarsson (from Iceland). This completeness involves providing a quiet space to reflect, share and respond.

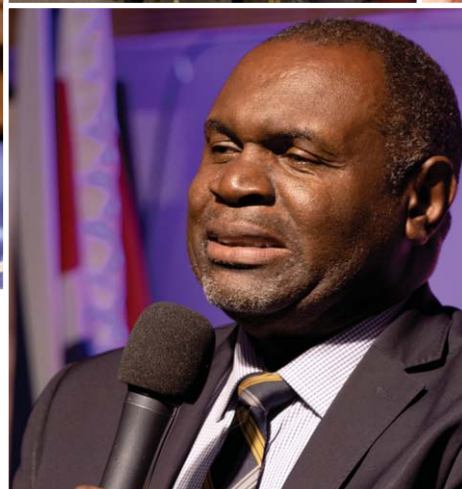
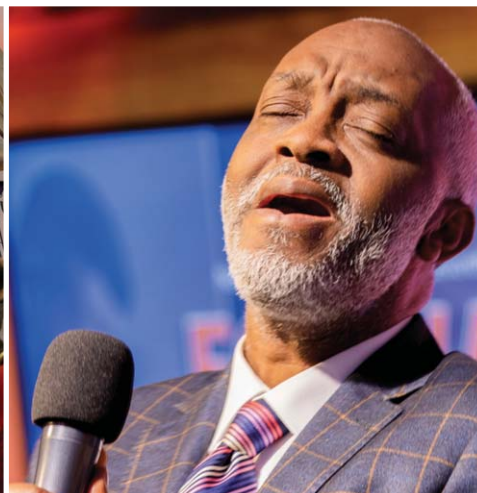
Engaging worship

Attendees 'were curious to know how . . . we apply this in our local church', remarked Isai Moran (from the USA). Programme leaders and participants applied the principles of worship to prepare the Sabbath worship service of the final weekend, writing a song that creatively reinterprets the hymn 'Nearer, Still Nearer', which celebrates the Holy Spirit's ability to draw us closer to God and to each other. This, alongside an inspiring liturgy, an interactive 'Hallelujah' song, and an engaging children's story, shaped the joint Sabbath worship service with the local Newbold church congregation, emphasising the central Christian message: worship expresses our gratitude for God's love, Jesus' sacrifice, the Second Coming and our life with Him in heaven.

We are very thankful to Ken Burton (composer, songwriter, performer and choral director) and Dr Steve Zork (Professor of Music and conductor of university singers and chorale at Andrews University), who offered excellent classes on choir singing. Special thanks also go to Professor Susan Zork (Emerita Professor of Religion, Andrews University) for an inspiring Sabbath sermon, and to Andrews University Singers for their outstanding Sabbath worship performances and the evening ChoirFest organised with Reading Gospel Choir as a local outreach programme. Our appreciation also goes to Newbold College staff and Newbold Church volunteers, who contributed their time and talents to make this programme possible.

We hope that this event will be an inspiration for the future. 'We had several days exploring how God is at work in all those people and locations . . . and building a network that lasts. We would love to run these programmes again, and we would love to see more pastors and elders,' said Kärt invitingly.

Would you like to join next time, or do you know of someone who would benefit from such training? Let us know. We would love to see you.



NEC Camp Meeting 2023

by Grace Nkeshimana

'Forward We Go!' was the North England Conference Camp Meeting theme from 29 May to 4 June. At this, the first in-person camp meeting since 2019, attendees delighted in the scenic surroundings of Hay's Wood Retreat, with one individual noting that the intimate nature of this year's event gave it a 'family feel'.

The Communications & Media team worked tirelessly to facilitate a hybrid experience through thirteen hours of live streaming daily. This meant that those tuning in worldwide were immersed in the action. Streaming included behind-the-scenes coverage, speaker interviews, and throwbacks to camp meetings from previous years. Viewers were invited to engage with the host, Jemima Nambo, as their 'eyes and ears' by sending questions and comments via YouTube and social media. Whether in-person or at home, all could partake in the blessings of Camp Meeting.

The guest speakers for this year were Dr Blessing Nyahuma (midday manna), Dr Eldeen King (evening), and Elder Paul Lee (singing evangelist). The energy of the NEC Drill & Drum team ensured the event started on a lively note. In his opening message, Dr King spoke powerfully on the 'absolutes' of God: absolute ability and absolute authority. He stressed that 'it is pointless, irresponsible, unproductive, and meaningless to go forward if your life is not in the hands of God.'

Throughout the week, both guest speakers did not disappoint in delivering challenging and sobering messages that provided much food for thought. For example, on Thursday, referencing Aeschylus (a Greek



playwright), Dr Nyahuma encouraged us to think about the paradoxical nature of grace: amazing grace and awful grace are two sides of the same coin that perhaps few have appreciated.

The spoken word was beautifully complemented by the ministry in song of Elder Lee, the praise team, and the musicians. The joy of singing was so infectious that it sparked a new tradition! It became obligatory for the person introducing the youth workshop to lead the congregation in singing a chorus.

A single venue for all adult and youth programming allowed both age groups to benefit from the wisdom of the workshop speakers. Local speakers provided practical advice on a range of topics. Audience interaction (online and in-person) also meant that attendees could learn from one another. Moreover, the speaker interviews with Jemima allowed online viewers an exclusive opportunity



to delve deeper into each presentation.

Youth workshops focused on ‘moving forward with’ various topics: mental health (Pastor Sergio De Sousa – Tuesday), unity (Chilaka Iheoma – Wednesday), forgiveness (Ikechi Iheoma – Thursday), and my place in the church and the community (Jemaule Gardner – Friday). These young men took care to deconstruct the issues succinctly. They also wove in personal experiences to bring the subject matter to life.

Adult workshops focused on physical health (Tuesday), mental health (Wednesday), family finance (Thursday), and relationships (Friday). Workshops were led by Dr Beatrice Kastrati (NEC Health, Possibilities & Community Services Director) and Pastor John Francis (NEC Family Life & Stewardship Director) alongside his wife, Delivon Francis. From the link between the brain, gut, and heart to ‘money personalities’ and sex, each speaker imparted their expertise on these pertinent issues.

How many 5-year-olds know about the three angels’ messages? Pastor Patricia Douglas noted that this subject has often been ‘off limits’ for children. However, this year, she and her team sought to make it accessible to children between 0 and 15. The key message was to understand the importance of choices and that our decisions have consequences. In her behind-the-scenes tour, Jemima also caught up with the children. They gave a resounding ‘yes’ when asked if they wanted to return next year! Their enthusiasm and engagement are a testament to the hard work of the Children’s Ministries team.

Sabbath marked a bittersweet end to an invigorating week, which many felt had ended too soon. The vibrant Sabbath School, inspiring final messages, and creative children’s showcase were an excellent way to end the week.

Reflecting on the week, Pastor George Kumi, President of the NEC, writes, ‘The purpose of the “Forward We Go!” Camp Meeting was to elevate the spiritual life of our people under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. God indeed



visited His people through the powerful preaching of His last warning messages, the various dynamic presentations, and the engagement in prayer. The praise and worship were out of this world and created a spiritual atmosphere for all who attended or watched online. I am deeply grateful to our pastors and members for their prayerful support. We look forward to a venue large enough to accommodate our physical presence. We declare, “To our God be the glory.”’

Camp Meeting may be over, but your journey forward has only just begun. The theme song captured our collective yearning for heaven. May this yearning motivate you to move forward so that you can ‘look upon the One who bled to save me and walk with Him for all eternity’.

SEC Youth Ministries mission to Cancún

Fulfilling God's mission through a global impact with no boundaries: a testimony of faith, hope and love

by Jordan Gilbert

In the heart of Cancún, Mexico, I embarked on a life-changing mission trip alongside more than thirty dedicated volunteers (largely from the SEC, with some from the NEC) led by Pastor Anthony Fuller, SEC Youth Director. Our goal was to spread the message of faith, hope and love while providing support, inspiration and uplifting experiences to the local community. Little did we know that this journey would not only touch the lives of those we encountered, but would also transform our own hearts and souls.

In the months leading up to our trip, we diligently prepared ourselves for the mission that lay ahead. Through numerous virtual meetings and an in-person gathering, we discussed logistics, challenges, and fundraising opportunities. It seemed like an impossible task for some, but we trusted that God had a plan for each and every one of us. We delved into Bible verses such as Philippians 4:13, which reminds us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

On 26 May our group gathered at Gatwick Airport; filled with excitement and anticipation, and with the knowledge that God had called us to this mission, we were ready to embrace every challenge and opportunity that lay before us.

Our first stop was the local church, La Iglesia Adventista Central 90 Cancún III. On the Sabbath day, we joined the congregation for a worship service filled with the harmonious melodies of Spanish hymns. The experience was a beautiful reminder that the language of faith transcends cultural barriers. I couldn't help but think of 1 John 4:7, which reminds us of the power of love in connecting us to God and to one another.

Throughout the week, we dedicated ourselves to enhancing the church's interior and exterior. Some of us painted and decorated the sanctuary, creating an uplifting and welcoming space for the congregation. Others, including Pastor Fuller, had the privilege of delivering a sermon alongside Pastor Kevin, a pastor local to the district, spreading God's word and inspiring the cross-cultural congregation.

On the Sunday we headed to another church to work side by side with local Pathfinders and Adventurers, picking up litter and refreshing the landscape. During our efforts, we encountered unexpected wildlife, a testament to God's diverse creation.

They invited us back for our final evening to celebrate, play piñata, and indulge in the flavours of local homemade foods and exotic fruits. It was a joy to participate in traditional Mexican culture and fellowship together, a pure reminder of the verse from 1 John 4:7 that calls us to love one another.

Another meaningful aspect of our mission was our visit to Ignacio Comonfort, an Adventist primary school.

The moment we stepped into the school, we were surrounded by the energy and love of the children, for Proverbs 22:6 says: 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it' (NKJV).

We shared lunches, played sports like football, and engaged in lively conversations, forming bonds that would forever impact our lives. As we interacted with the children, we couldn't help but recall the verse from Jeremiah 29:11, assuring us that God has plans to give us hope and a future.

In addition to spending time with the children, we felt compelled to contribute to the school's environment. With brooms in hand, we dedicated ourselves to refreshing the classrooms. We shined the windows, tended to the exterior garden, and mopped the indoor floors with care. It was a labour of love, driven by the desire to create a space where the children could thrive academically and spiritually.

One of the most prominent moments at Ignacio Comonfort was when the children initiated a fundraising effort for new furnishings and furniture. They sold sweets and chocolates, showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to their education. Witnessing their resilience and determination reminded us of the verse from Philippians 4:13, which assures us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Their dedication and enthusiasm served as a powerful reminder that with faith and determination nothing will be impossible.

Amid our busy schedule, we found moments to enjoy the fruits of our labour and reflect on our journeys on the tropical beaches of Cancún. The turquoise waters and gentle breeze provided a fitting backdrop for thankfulness and gratitude. We gathered in small groups, sharing our experiences, testimonies, and the lessons we had learned. It was in these moments that we felt the presence of God, reminding us of His promise in Matthew 28:20: 'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age' (NIV).

As we explored the local amenities, including the vibrant markets and shopping malls, we immersed ourselves in the richness of Mexican culture. We sought opportunities to support local artisans, engaging in meaningful exchanges and embracing the diversity of the community. Our interactions with the children, who eagerly swapped small gifts with us, reminded us of the verse from Mark 12:31, which commands us to love our neighbours as ourselves.

While in Cancún, we also had the chance to visit the legendary Chitzen Itza pyramids, an awe-inspiring testament to the ancient Mayan civilisation. Standing before these architectural marvels, we marvelled at the ingenuity and wisdom of a culture that flourished many centuries ago. The Mayan civilisation, with its advancements in astronomy and mathematics, left a mark on Mexican culture and the world at large.

We also had the opportunity to embark on a memorable day as we boarded a small boat to the enchanting Isla Mujeres. The journey itself was a testament to God's magnificent creation, with clear blue waters shimmering with hints of turquoise and green. As we set foot on the island, the majority of us eagerly embraced the opportunity to snorkel and witness the



Street clean-up with the Adventurers and Pathfinders



Calm before the storm



Litter-picking outside one of the churches



Pastor Kevin, our guide and translator for the week, with Emelio

through prayers and gospel songs, we weathered the storm.

As we reflect on our journey in Cancún, filled with acts of service, cultural immersion, and

the boat ride through the storm, we are reminded of the enduring message of faith, hope and love. It is through these qualities that we navigate life's trials, knowing that God's hand is guiding us every step of the way, embracing the power of love to make lasting connections and leave a positive impact on the lives of those we encountered. In moments of reflection, and amid the beauty of Cancún, we found solace and strength, knowing that God was with us. 'For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever, and ever' – from the English conferences to the world and back!

'The mission trip to Cancún, Mexico was a very inspiring and thought-provoking trip. Every day presented a unique witnessing opportunity to both learn about Mexican culture and also assist the needs of the community and the church at large. The street cleaning served as a way to learn more about the wildlife of Mexico, and also to speak to some of the children in the church.'

'The painting of the church afforded us the opportunity to sing a collection of hymns and choruses, as well as to restore the aesthetic appeal of the church to a high standard. We also were able to inspire a young person to want to organise a mission of their own.'

'The day trip to Isla Mujeres gave us the opportunity to discover another Seventh-day Adventist church and to witness to the boat crew about Adventism. Lastly, the day trip to Chichen Itza helped us to discover more about a pre-Christian civilisation and hear of the way in which God is woven through history in both the past and the present' (Kingsley Akraasi).

underwater statues. The vibrant marine life and coral reefs left us in awe at the wonders of God's handiwork. While some of us explored the vibrant wildlife, encountering playful parrots and even having the extraordinary chance to hold a shark, others strolled around, taking in the beauty that surrounded us.

However, amid the sunny weather, an unexpected turn of events awaited us. Dark clouds began to gather on the horizon, indicating the approach of a thunderstorm. We knew we had to cut our island adventure short to ensure our safety. Hurriedly, we made our way back to the yacht, anticipating the journey back to Cancún.

But as we set sail the storm descended upon us with intensity. The once-calm sea was transformed into a turbulent battleground. The boat rocked, surrounded by thunder, lightning, and powerful tides. The torrential rain soaked us, while fear gripped the hearts of some of us. However, in this moment we found solace in the Bible stories we had grown up sharing. We thought of when Jesus and the disciples were caught in a violent storm on the Sea of Galilee, despite the disciples' experience as skilled fishermen. Just as Jesus calmed the raging waters and restored peace, we clung to the faith that God would be our shelter in the time of storm. It reminded us of Psalm 107:29 (NIV), which proclaims, 'He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.' He calmed the storms within our hearts, filling us with peace and reassurance, for we experienced His power and presence first-hand. Our boat ride through the storm became a powerful metaphor for life's challenges; for,



Stanborough Park Church members celebrate coronation of King Charles III

Stanborough Park Church members, families, friends and community members gathered at Stanborough Park to celebrate the King's coronation on Sunday 7 May, with stalls, entertainments, live music and themed children's activities on offer. The inflatable slide proved particularly popular, crafting activities kept the children entertained, and the small portable goals proved popular with the young boys enjoying a good 'kick about'.

A selection of stalls sold craft items, and Pat Walton's clothing and bric-a-brac stalls proved particularly popular, raising £623 for the church's Soup Run. This Friday-night outreach activity has run for more than three decades, with volunteers taking soup, hot drinks, food, clothing and toiletries to the hostel-based or homeless people of Central London. Her charity receives no official church funding, and relies solely on sales such as this and voluntary donations.

Food stalls proved popular, especially the one run by the Stanborough Secondary School PTA, which also sold colourful T-shirts and small bears with the school's logo. Staff member Jeanetta Liburd said, 'Huge numbers of the community and church members supported us, and we were able to share information about Stanborough Secondary School.'

The horsebox was back again too, selling drinks and snacks, run by a former school caretaker. The Adventist Discovery Centre and ADRA-UK also ran an information stall, and one member had an outreach stall handing out free paperback editions of *The Great Controversy* and *Ministry of Healing*. Live music featured on the stage, including accordion players, and former church minister Pastor Geert Tapp livened things up with his singing, accompanied by two guitarists and a keyboard player.

The event organiser, Audrey Balderstone, said the event exceeded expectations and participants felt 'truly blessed'.

JUNE COOMBS



Coronation Royal Garden Party invitation

Early in November 2022, I received a phone call from the Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex inviting me to the 15 December Christmas Carol Service at Westminster Abbey, organised by HRH Princess Kate Middleton and dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II, who had passed away in September. Community volunteers around the UK were invited. I sat near King Charles III, Queen Camilla, and other members of the royal family in a televised service broadcast on Christmas Eve, and it felt wonderful to watch it with my family!

To my surprise, the Lord-Lieutenant's office later informed me that due to my twenty-five years of community service I was one of 500 volunteers in the UK who had been chosen by Queen Camilla for our contribution to society in the 'Coronation Champions Awards', and was therefore invited to a Coronation Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 9 May 2023.

Dressed in our very best, we were welcomed by friendly volunteers; guards in red uniforms; Yeomen Warders ('Beefeaters') marching around the beautiful gardens; and military bands. At 4pm Prince William, Princess Kate, Princess Anne, Prince Edward and Princess Sophie arrived at the top of the stairs as we sang 'God Save Our King'. We mingled with the royal family, talked about our community work, and enjoyed the beautiful gardens. I felt honoured to be invited, and I thank God for everything!

MARILYN LE FEUVRE (GATWICK SDA COMMUNITY SERVICES LEADER)



Farewell, Pastor Jackson

On 1 April 2023, Wolverhampton Central had the privilege of having their former pastor and former president of the North England Conference preach his final sermon before moving to his new assignment in Canada. Pastor Jackson has a long connection with Wolverhampton Central, having completed his internship at the church and provided support for numerous community projects that have been carried out over the years.

In the fittingly titled sermon, 'Thank You, Jesus', Pastor Jackson gave God praise for what He has done and the greater things that are in store when we reach the New Jerusalem. This was a day of celebration and sadness – but, overall, the church felt honoured to be able to provide Pastor Jackson with a farewell that reflected the relationship he had with members over the years. This was reflected in his relationship with the stalwarts of the church, some of whom have now passed away.

Pastor Jackson will be missed, but we also know that God will continue to do a great work in him as he continues to serve within the Ontario Conference.

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Formal Notice – July South England Conference Quadrennial Session

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

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

Pastor Douglas McCormac
(SEC Executive Secretary)

RECEPTIONIST

British Union Conference, Watford, England

The British Union Conference (BUC) of Seventh-day Adventists is looking for a cheerful, diligent, tactful, and friendly person who can undertake the role of Receptionist.

To join us as Receptionist you will need at least:

- GCSEs in Mathematics and English, or equivalent RQF Level 2, or willingness to train.
- Previous experience of working as a receptionist or face-to-face customer service.
- Microsoft Office software proficiency and handling of multi-line phone systems.
- Appropriate level of GDPR and data protection, security awareness and confidentiality.

Employment type:
Full-time, permanent
(will consider part-time job-share)

Hours of work:
36.75 hours per week (Monday-Thursday 8.15am-5pm, and Friday 8.15am-12pm)

Benefits:
£19,830-£26,028
(regional weighting included) annual Seventh-day Adventist Church pay scale range. Actual pay will be based on your skills and experience – contact Mrs Desiré Lewis for more information.

- Statutory annual leave according to England and Wales.
- 15% Additional Employer Group Pension Scheme contributions.
- Income and life insurance (*conditions apply*).
- Professional development allowance (*conditions apply*).
- Health and well-being allowance (*conditions apply*).

The BUC is an equal opportunities employer. We value diversity and commit to equal opportunities for all employees and applicants. For more details, including online application form, job description and person specification, please visit www.adventist.uk. To apply, download and complete the application form, and return it, along with your CV, to Mrs Desiré Lewis at dlewis@adventist.uk. If you have any questions, please call Mrs Desiré Lewis on 01923 672251.

The deadline for applications is **11 August 2023**.



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Hope – The Gift of Heaven

A new sharing resource on the topic of hope has been produced by the Adventist Discovery Centre in partnership with Sharon Platt-McDonald, called *Hope – The Gift of Heaven*. You can read about it here: <https://adventistdiscoverycentre.org/hope-the-gift-of-heaven/>. This publication is born out of a sincere desire to share the power of hope – a hope that comes not from what we see around us, but from a God who is constant and trustworthy.

The booklet is available in print at the ADC office. Place your free orders by emailing adc@adventist.uk or phoning 01923 672606.



Teens and Tweens and Twenties who keep coming back!

Fellowship day and camping weekend
Friday 1 September to Sunday 3 September
Cranham Scout Centre
GL4 8HP

What you need to know

- Come for the day on Sabbath or stay for the weekend
- Camping *must* be booked in advance
- All under 18's must be accompanied by a responsible adult for insurance purposes
- Camping costs will be about £7.50 per person/per night

For more details, contact: 07925 858297

Sabbath presenter:
Robin Beemish




DATE	VENUE	TIME
4-7 August	West of Ireland Camp Meeting	
3 September	Stanborough Press Open Day	10am-4pm
7-10 September	SEC Session, Colchester University	
24 September	Peckham Church	10am-2pm

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





Left to right: Margaret Johns, Nyasha Sibanda, Christine Wilson and Elvin Moyo, J. J. Wilson and Rose Hlatshhwayo

Baptisms at Wolverhampton Central

Wolverhampton Central was one of the first churches to move its services to YouTube during the pandemic, and later returned to in-person services in May 2021. Over the past two years we have seen not only Seventh-day Adventists tuning in on a Sabbath, but also individuals from other denominations, who have commented that they join our services on a Sabbath. This provided us with the opportunity to focus the first quarter of 2023 on a prophecy series entitled 'What on earth is going on?'

This series allowed members to revisit and visitors to explore Bible prophecy in a simple manner, and the series was led by our speakers, Pastor Jeff Nicholson, Elder Mark Palmer and Elder Paul Munroe. The church was additionally blessed by our guest presenter, Adrian Roberts, who brought his unique style and knowledge to the series.

At the end of the series Pastor Nicholson baptised six people: Margaret Johns, Nyasha Sibanda, Christine Wilson, Elvin Moyo, J. J. Wilson and Rose Hlatshhwayo.

We praise God for our new brothers and sisters in Christ, and for the work He is doing in Wolverhampton Central.

DONNA PALMER



Meeting the community during the coronation weekend

On Sunday 7 May, the weekend of the coronation, Northampton Central held a celebratory afternoon tea for our community. After the previous day's downpour of rain, we were greatly blessed with clear, sunny weather – praise God! Doors had been knocked on, invitations had been given, the car park had been set up with Union Jack bunting, and tables were adorned with white tablecloths and flowers. Cakes, sandwiches, scones and, of course, tea were at the ready. And our neighbours did not disappoint us. We had seventeen members of our community come out, and they took full advantage of the conversation starters, making new friends and reacquainting with old ones. It was indeed beautiful. Every guest was well fed and watered and left with gift bags of *Signs of the Times*

health magazines, along with a copy of *The Great Controversy*.

Our neighbours even phoned in the week following to say thanks and tell us what a lovely time they had spent. We pray that this is the beginning of a long-lasting, impactful relationship with our neighbours. To God be the glory!

PARDON CHENJERAL, DISTRICT PASTOR



Double celebration at Ystrad Mynach Church

On the weekend of 20 & 21 May 2023 the members of Ystrad Mynach Church in the Welsh Mission had two firsts to celebrate – the first time a baptism had been held inside their very own church, and the wedding blessing of the baptised couple – all in one weekend!

Ystrad Mynach Church witnessed and celebrated the baptism of a young Welsh couple, Ellis and Courtney Lewis. They were also joined by friends and family members, who were touched by what they saw and heard on this joyous occasion.

Ellis and Courtney visited the church in February 2022. Both having different backgrounds, Christian and non-Christian, they had been searching and studying the Bible at home. Then they were led by the Holy Spirit to visit the Seventh-day Adventist church in Ystrad Mynach, which welcomed and embraced them as part of the church family. It was wonderful to see two indigenous young Welsh people giving their lives to Christ, the first of many. Truly, the Holy Spirit is working mightily in the Welsh Mission.

The weekend services were conducted by Pastors Adriana Fodor, the local pastor, and Jeremy Johnson, who assisted in both services. Pastor Fodor delivered the charge for the candidates, encouraging them to remain rooted in Christ, our only source of strength. They were baptised by Pastor Jeremy Johnson and received into the membership of the Ystrad Mynach church family.

Ystrad Mynach Church has been encouraged by this wonderful occasion to go forward, proclaiming the Gospel, and we are looking forward to the next baptism.

On the Sunday, Courtney and Ellis were joined in holy matrimony, continuing the celebrations for Ystrad Mynach, and Pastor Johnson spoke on 1 Timothy 6:11. Their marriage is rooted and grounded in Christ, the centre of all things.

After the double baptism-and-wedding celebration over the weekend, some visitors were moved to ask questions about what it is to have a life in Christ. We look forward to engaging with them, and to the potential next baptism at our growing church.

PASTOR ADRIANA FODOR

Keith Alan Butt (1936-2022) d. 8 January.

Keith was born on 24 May 1936 in Bournemouth. He attended school in Kinson. During his National Service he saw action with the 3rd Field Engineers in Cyprus and Suez in 1956. In 1963 he married Roma Gwendoline Probyn, who sadly passed away on 17 January 2020. From the joiner's yard in Granville Road, Keith worked with his father and grandfather in the local building and property trades. He completed three terms on Bournemouth Borough Council in charge of Town Planning, Roads and Traffic, and Bournemouth Tourism.



On 8 May 1977 Keith was baptised at Bournemouth Church by Pastor David Currie, following evangelistic meetings. He loved Bible study, was a cheerful church member, and willingly shared his faith. He had a deep love for his wife and family, and a zest for life. His hobbies included photography, beekeeping, sailing, and Jaguar V8 cars.

His sudden death on 8 January 2022 came as a shock. He will be greatly missed and long remembered by his friends and family.

The funeral service was held at Bournemouth Crematorium on Monday 31 January 2022. An honour guard from his comrades in the 22nd Engineer Regiment escorted his flowered coffin into the church, to the song 'You Raise Me Up' by Josh Groban. Reverend Rupert Higgins led the service, reminding mourners of the resurrection and reunion at the return of Jesus Christ. Lloyd Butt gave a moving tribute to his father, and we closed with 'The Lord's My Shepherd'. Our prayers and condolences are with his sons, Lloyd, Duncan and Ryan, and all their loved ones.

RICHARD L. VINE

Josephine Powls (née Spencer) (1926-2022).

'Auntie Josie', as she was known by local church members, was born in Newcastle in 1926, the middle of three daughters.



During World War 2, she shared a room with a Seventh-day Adventist girl called Muriel Smith. Muriel invited her to church, and Josie became a regular attendee, developing a deep faith, which led her to baptism in 1945.

Josie attended Newbold College, where she met George Powls, whom she later married. Their union lasted more than 60 years, until George's death in 2011.

Josie trained as a teacher at Newbold, working in several small Adventist and state schools in Scotland and London. After the birth of their four children – Wendy, Sharon, Andrew and Graham –

Josie retrained as a nursery nurse and worked part-time in one school until her retirement.

A founding member of Middlesbrough Church, Josie played the organ and helped in multiple ways until her decreasing mobility prevented her. The family hosted many social events, and 'Auntie Josie' was loved and respected by young and old.

After George's death, the family purchased an iPad, and Josie used the internet. When she could no longer attend church, she avidly watched church services. She dearly missed seeing the church members, so afternoon Sabbath School meetings began in her home.

When COVID-19 hit, Zoom helped her reconnect with many people she had not seen for a long time, and afterwards a small Zoom Sabbath school continued. Josie never lost her ability to study in great depth.

Josie had to go to hospital before Christmas. Sadly, she then contracted the flu and did not recover. She is missed by her four children; two daughters-in-law, Emma and Lucy; nieces, Samantha and Faith; and nephews, Dominic and Damien, as well as neighbours and church members who knew and loved her. As George would say, we wait to 'see you in the morning' – at the resurrection.

SHARON POWLS

Peter Breedon (1953-2022) d. 30 October.

Peter was born on 19 July 1953 in Sheffield. His father owned a fish and chip shop. Peter grew up in the wooded Gleadless Valley Estate, where he learned to love the beauty of God's creation. In his youth he supported Sheffield United FC, and enjoyed the annual TT Races on the Isle of Man. After technical school he went into scaffolding, maintaining huge cooling towers 100ft high. He was fascinated by church steeples.



Later, he moved to Bournemouth and met Peter O'dor of Bournemouth Seventh-day Adventist Church. For ten years they worked as builders in Germany and England. Peter became a qualified electrician, which helped him maintain the Bournemouth church building, and generously helped set up public health screening weekends in Boscombe, run by church members and friends who work in the medical profession. People's faces lit up when the two Peters invited them in for testing.

Largely resulting from Peter O'dor's witness, Peter gave himself to Jesus Christ, and on 26 September 2020 Peter was baptised in the sea by Pastor Laszlo Liebhardt. Peter said, 'This is the best day of my life!' Due to foot problems caused by diabetes, Peter was helped into the sea by

Laszlo and Douglas Vine. Later, he underwent surgery for a brain tumour.

Through his last days, he was sustained by his many friends and his newfound faith in Jesus. Sadly, he died two years after his baptism. We look forward to being with Peter, a loving and loveable Christian, when Jesus comes.

A memorial service was held in Bournemouth Church on 26 November 2022. We offer sincere condolences to Peter's friends; his sisters, Sue and Jackie; and their loved ones. 'Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come.'

RICHARD L. VINE, BOURNEMOUTH CHURCH

Messenger

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 Consulting Editor: *Julian Thompson*
 Design: *David Bell*

Proof reading: *Andrew Puckering*
 Production and distribution: *Peter Oppong-Mensah*

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Beif
Jul 28	8.55	9.08	9.06	9.28	9.32
Aug 04	8.44	8.56	8.54	9.15	9.19
11	8.31	8.44	8.40	8.59	9.05
18	8.18	8.30	8.26	8.43	8.49
25	8.03	8.15	8.10	8.26	8.33

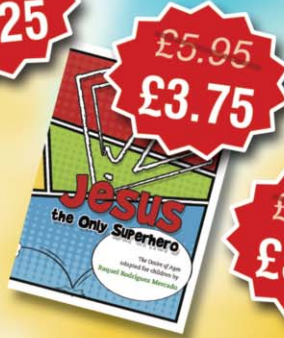
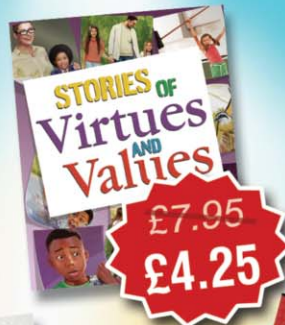
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