

A large, leafy green tree stands in a field of tall grass under a clear blue sky. The tree is the central focus of the background image, with its branches spreading out across the upper half of the frame. The grass in the foreground is vibrant green and appears to be a mix of different species, with some small white flowers visible. The sky is a clear, bright blue, suggesting a sunny day.

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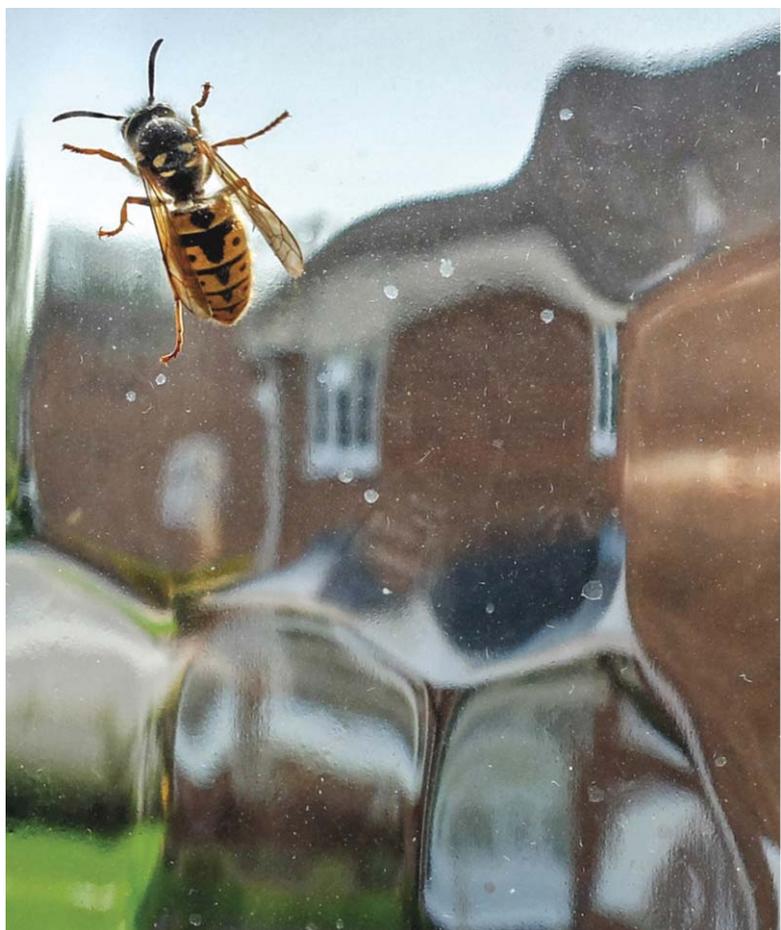
A closer look at
Camp Meeting

Stanborough Press Open Day is coming back! Save the date: Sunday 4 September 2022.
Fun children's activities and great speakers - more information to follow.

Reality check

Three lessons learned from my first 100 days as President of the BUC

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,
President of the British Union Conference



There was frustration on the face of the tiny creature as he smashed his head and banged his wings into my living room window – over and over and over again. Dizzy and dazed, he eventually flew away, his head shaky and his wings the worse for wear.

As I sat and watched the wasp for what appeared to be an eternity, that familiar adage came to mind: 'Insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly, hoping for a different result.' As a church organisation, are we repeating the same mistakes of the past and trying to solve them with the same outdated solutions? This sobering question continues to haunt me. But we need to prayerfully reflect on how the BUC can lead the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles to be transformational, effectively fulfilling the mission that God has given us while being an outstanding charitable organisation that operates with excellent business acumen.

We live in unusual times. Never in recent history has a disease crippled the world as did COVID-19. I was appointed to this role just as the UK was emerging from the virus, and I started my term of office in what is now classed as a 'post-pandemic' world, with its varying hybrid models of working, education, socialising, and worship. The fallout from the ongoing war in Ukraine has inflated more than our energy bills, and the cost of fuel has increased as the cost of living rises.

But we know that 'all things work together for good to those who love God' (Romans 8:28, NKJV). Despite the challenges that we face, there is still hope in God, and we must remain focused in times like these.

And, in times like these, there are three lessons that I have learned in my first hundred days.

1. Spirituality is vital if we are to grow in Jesus Christ. Our focus should be on the Saviour, who came to this earth, who died to save us, and who is coming back very soon. But our attention is often diverted by the casualties of members who are strewn around our congregations, lying at the doors of the church, and scattered through various communities up and down the country.

Local church conflicts, unresolved differences and poorly managed situations in our corporate institutions have caused us to become unnecessarily litigious. If our organisation is immersed in spirituality, as it should be, our business practices MUST marry with what we say we believe – otherwise, workers, members, young people, and people in the community that we seek to serve will not see a church that has at its core the Spirit of Jesus Christ, but one that lacks integrity. This is my aspiration:

At the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists we value integrity, transparency, truth, and accountability.

We will aim to be an anti-bullying, anti-harassment, anti-racist and anti-sexist organisation.

We are committed to operating with integrity.

We will engage with each other, respectfully.

We will be accountable to each other and for each other.

We will operate from a position of trust.

We will practise servant leadership.

2. Strategy: The world's wisest man said, 'Where there is no vision,

the people perish' (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). A strategic vision not only needs to be verbalised, but it must be put into a guiding document that curates the implementation of key performance indicators which the organisation can be measured against. Anecdotal evidence, however entertaining, is insufficient for making financial, policy and operational decisions. As stewards of our Father God, it is imperative that the BUC uses its time, talents and treasures in a manner that allows accountability to be rigorous, accurate and timely. The successful delivery and execution of an effective strategic plan will remove ambiguity, prevent duplication of resources, encourage collaboration between different departments and institutions, and provide clarity to the membership while rebuilding trust. The British Union Conference is a **church** entity. Our guiding principles are based on the Word of God, and that will never change. But in our strategic endeavours, as a **charity**, we are accountable to the Charity Commission and are subject to charity law. We are also a **corporate** organisation that employs staff, runs schools, owns land, and holds church properties in trust. It is essential that the BUC has a strategy that represents these three crucial aspects of the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

3. Significant business priorities: At the recent BUC trustees and directors' retreat, after prayerful consideration and reflection, I unveiled what I believe are the 12 key business priorities for the British Union Conference, as the umbrella organisation for the two conferences, three missions, and all the associated institutions. These are: 1) Reflecting Christ, 2) Asset Management, 3) Resources, 4) Human Resource Management, 5) Education, 6) Communication, 7) Policy, 8) Head Office, 9) Safeguarding, 10) Legal, 11) Finance, 12) To be agreed. It is a deliberate action that key business priority number 12 is yet to be agreed. Input from the Executive Committee and directors will inform this priority.

To execute this vision requires hard work, commitment and dedication, but also a prayerful and humble spirit. I solicit your prayers. Please pray for the team at the BUC. Pray that God will give us wisdom for the tasks ahead. Pray that our ears and hearts will be open to His leading. Pray that will all remain humble and obedient to His voice.



Julian Thompson,

Editor

From the editor . . .

Dear reader,
I'm pleased to inform you that I have now completed my move from Newbold College of Higher Education to the Stanborough Press after a necessary transition period. I want to pay tribute to the many outstanding students and colleagues I encountered during my time there. Indeed, it was wonderful to teach alongside experts in Theology, many of whom taught and encouraged me on my own continuing academic journey.

In the May 2022 edition of *MESSENGER*,

Lorraine McDonald, our BUC Education Director, wrote about how Adventist schools are one of our 'best-kept secrets'; the same is true of Newbold College. In 2019, the external examiner appointed by the University of Wales Trinity St David wrote in his report that 'I have absolutely no doubt that Newbold continues to maintain a gold standard for teaching Biblical Studies in this country.' Given that Newbold operates in a context that includes Oxbridge and many other excellent academic institutions, that is quite an endorsement!

I am thankful for our in-house *MESSENGER* team, whose hard work and dedication form the bedrock of this historical journal. For those of you who may not be aware, the *MESSENGER* team includes Andrew Puckering, who was recently promoted to assistant editor; Sarah Jarvis, our editorial secretary; and David Bell, our graphic designer. I look forward to working with them to provide you, the members of the British Union, with an informed, quality, and current publication.

Traditionally, June is the month that sees the beginning of the Camp Meeting season; and, as such, Camp Meeting is the focus of the present edition of *MESSENGER*. Among the many excellent articles, we are delighted to include a piece written by Pastor Cecil Perry.

As I write, the General Conference is convening in session; we will be providing you with updates in our next edition.

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

SEC Camp Meeting 2022

by Don Roberts,

SEC Communications & Media Assistant

'Let's Cross Over' was the inspired theme for the South England Conference (SEC) Camp Meeting 2022. The largest spiritual convocation in the SEC calendar returned this year to a new location and format after two years of virtual-only meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 150 attendees at the Conference-owned Hay's Wood Retreat in Norfolk were joined by an online audience of thousands throughout the week.

The schedule of presentations, testimonies, workshops, a talk show, music, and sermons featured a seven-speaker line-up including keynote speaker Ty Gibson, co-director of the 'Light Bearers' ministry and pastor of Storyline Adventist Church in Eugene, Oregon. Youth Ministries, Teens and Children's Ministries also held their own programmes.

Opening night speaker, SEC President Dr Emmanuel Osei, stated that the 'hybrid nature of the event' marked a 'slow and gradual' move to a 'face-to-face camp meeting experience . . . as time goes by we will be able to develop more of Hay's Wood so that we can hold a full camp meeting.'

Referring to the 'cross over' theme during his sermon, Osei went through the story of Jesus calming the storm as He crossed the Sea of Galilee with His disciples in Mark 4:35-41. Osei concluded: 'Put your trust in Him. Have faith in Him. . . . I'm looking forward to crossing over, because I know that He's on board with us.'

Each morning Camp Meeting started at 6.30am with prayer, testimonies and inspirational messages from SEC Teens Ministries Director, Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick, illustrating God's transforming power through personal stories and the lives of Bible characters.

Pastor Ty Gibson's evangelistic series started on Tuesday evening with 'Let's Cross Over: From Guilt to Innocence', challenging the perception that 'lives must become better to attract God's attention' or that we must 'rectify something in us to get God to love us'. He reminded us that 'God relates to people according to their potential rather than their actual condition.'

Wednesday's sermon, 'Let's Cross Over: From Fear to Love', detailed the 'only legitimate motive for serving God – love'. Gibson



expounded on Romans 8:15, saying: 'The fatherhood of God removes fear from our hearts and puts love in its place.'

On Thursday, Gibson's sermon, 'Let's Cross Over: From Obligation to Attraction', asked: 'Are you attracted to God?' He urged for a paradigm shift away from having a master-servant relationship to the spousal love relationship that God asks for in Hosea 2:16-18.

In Friday's sermon, 'Let's Cross Over: From Weakness to Power', Gibson spoke of his experience driving a Bugatti supercar to illustrate 'righteousness by faith' in Galatians 5:5, 6.

Other programmes included daily health presentations where Jacqueline Brown and her family spoke on the immune system, stress, and lifestyle diseases, and also gave cooking demonstrations and massages. Dr Beatrice Kastrati, NEC Community Services Director, addressed 'Your Mental Health and Different Seasons' in an interactive workshop where on-site and online audiences evaluated their values and discovered their strengths and spiritual gifts. Kastrati used biblical



continued on p. 4

SEC CAMP MEETING

continued from p. 3

principles to explore forgiveness and grace, dealing with the past, and optimism, encouraging attendees to break the chains of the past 'so that we can cross over and move forwards with optimism'.

Daily Bible studies were held by North England Conference (NEC) Bible instructor and Crisis Talks Ministry Director, André Crawford. His series, 'Common People's Revival' (CPR), paralleled Old Testament stories with our experiences in 2022, including the Israelites waiting to cross over to the Promised Land, Samson, and Gideon. Crawford's central theme was that ministry always begins with sacrifice: 'It always begins with what you're willing to give, rather than what you want to get.'

SEC Church Growth and Advent Mission Director, Pastor Wayne Erasmus, presented 'First-century Wisdom for Twenty-first-century Lives', speaking about 'practical discipleship' and the 'strange conversations' Jesus had with Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, Simon Peter, and the woman who touched the hem of His garment.

Among the innovations of the camp meeting was the talk show 'The Cross Over', hosted by theatre producer and poet Jermaine Wong. The platform was transformed into a talk show studio set where Wong conducted conversational interviews with special guests, including camp meeting presenters and organisers. The show also featured musical items and prize giveaways.

One of the week's several highlights was to see performances and interviews with a group of singers and musicians from the London Ukrainian Church Group and their pastor, Vasyl Vartsaba. The group gave details on the impact of the war in Ukraine, sharing updates on aid relief projects, stories of miracles, and personal testimonies of God's love and deliverance.

Sabbath saw the largest on-site presence as additional pre-booked visitors came to Hay's Wood. Pastor Juan Carlos Partrick's penultimate early-morning presentation examined the transformational story of the demoniac in Mark 5, who went from being possessed by a legion of demons to wanting to follow Christ and testified of God's mercy and love.

Sabbath School was hosted by SEC Sabbath School Director, Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boateng, who led a panel discussion on 'Jacob-Israel' with elders and pastors including the Newbold College Principal, Dr Stephen Currow.

The final two sermons by Pastor Ty Gibson bookended the break for lunch. 'Let's Cross Over: From Bondage to Freedom' identified the life of Mary Magdalene as a prophetic illustration 'of the experience the Gospel produces in all who receive it'. Gibson reflected that 'bondage to sin and shame is broken by God's forgiving love.' His concluding sermon was 'Let's Cross Over: From Empty to Full', emphasising God's unfailing love covenant with mankind. In closing, he appealed to the audience: 'Make a shift of focus in which you look long and deep into the heart of God's love for you, until you know with absolute certainty that you yourself love Him in return – not out of cultural obligation or because you were born and raised in the church, but because you have come to own your faith as a personal experiential state of awe and adoration.'

After a vote of thanks by the SEC Youth Director, Pastor Anthony Fuller, an evening concert featured a variety of musical talents, including the camp meeting's singing evangelists, soloists Michelle Boyd and Michaela Mathieu-Marius, in addition to the praise team and

band led by C. J. Nicholls.

A social and campfire then took place for the on-site attendees, who mingled and laughed, ate and drank with each other. Comments such as, 'What a wonderful, Spirit-filled experience!' and 'Camp Meeting is back!' were shared and echoed by the group late into the night.

The following morning, SEC Camp Meeting 2022 was officially brought to a close as Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick ended his series with a message about 'accepting God's love' and SEC Prayer Ministries Coordinator, Linda Asare, said a final prayer for the departing campers.





Camp meetings in the UK – a history

by Pastor Cecil Perry, former British Union Conference president

The history of the Seventh-day Adventist

Church in the British Isles is branded with the ink of *sola scriptura*; the unshrinking faith of the reformers; and the sparks from the Second Great Religious Awakening in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Millerite movement in North America gave great stimulus to the preaching of the imminent coming of Jesus Christ at camp meetings and other gatherings. William Miller and his followers diligently searched the Scriptures to understand Daniel 8:14: 'For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed' (NKJV). They misapplied the cleansing of the sanctuary to that of the earthly instead of the heavenly. The setting of a date for Christ to return ran contrary to His warnings to the apostles that no one knows the day or hour of His second coming.

When Jesus did not return on 22 October 1844 it was a great disappointment. However, the little flock restudied the prophecy, and God confirmed the true answer to their quest. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was born, Bible-based and mission-driven.

The communication of the Gospel through nurture and outreach is the main reason why we promote and engage in activities that build the mental, physical, social and spiritual faculties. Our church in North America conducted its first camp meeting in 1868.

Ellen White encouraged the believers attending these meetings to be spiritually prepared to let their conduct influence others for God's kingdom: 'Even unbelievers will feel the holy atmosphere as they enter the encampment. Oh, how much is lost by neglecting this important work! You may be pleased with the preaching, you may become animated and revived, but the converting, reforming power of God will not be felt in the heart, and the work will not be so deep, thorough, and lasting as it should be. Let pride be crucified and the soul be clad with the priceless robe of Christ's righteousness, and what a meeting will you enjoy. It will be to your soul even as the gate of heaven' (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 165).

Background to the revival of camp meetings

Camp meetings are a social construct coming out of a common desire for people to meet in physical contiguity for fellowship, worship and study within a given time frame. While not unique to our denomination, their revival in the South England Conference is historical, originating in the mass immigration of the

1940s to 1970s. Those who came here brought their religions with them and flocked together.

Many immigrant groups were concentrated mainly in the big cities and industrial areas that gave easy access to existing churches and places of employment. The Seventh-day Adventist church members in transition brought new vigour and evangelistic thrust to the host churches.

The increasing members in London required a new vision in providing sound leadership for the mixed community. Baptisms increased and new churches sprang up as a result of *biological and evangelistic growth*. In the London of the 1970s, the church had become more multicultural and cosmopolitan. The question of managing diversity became more urgent as cultures clashed and lines of demarcation began to appear between groups. To ease tensions, the church dialogued with the various interest groups to achieve Christian cohesiveness and preserve the unity of the faith. In the struggles for equality and the crying need to see others through the eyes of Jesus, God brought out good. A schism was avoided. As it was in the early Christian church, the leadership met to resolve any dispute, eventually leading to the 'Pierson package', which recommended the employment of seasoned pastors to provide leadership to the churches, the majority of whom were of the diaspora.

In 1978-79 the families of Pastors David Hughes, Louis Preston, Cecil Perry, Dr Silburn Reid and Everett Howell answered the call to serve. Pastor Reid served as executive secretary and Pastor Howell as departmental director of personal ministries and church growth. The remaining missionaries served in the role of pastor-evangelists.

The result was a resurgence in tent evangelism and strong promotion of Christian education. John Loughborough Secondary School was established. Chapel Porth was purchased as a camp site for our youth. Strong leadership in the lay advisories gave the members an outlet for meaningful participation in the life of the church: in planning various events, days of fellowship and evangelism.

Revival of camp meetings

The big idea for the South England Conference was the rebirth of camp meetings. The apostle Paul said, 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28, NIV). Time and circumstances re-awakened the idea of camp

meetings after 46 years in hibernation.

At the 1981 Conference Session, Dr Silburn Reid succeeded Pastor Ken Gammon as president. It was Pastor Reid's vision that left us the wonderful legacy of camp meetings in the South England Conference and the British Union Conference.

Armed with the Scriptures and quotes from Ellen G. White's writings, Pastor Reid and his team blew the trumpet for the children of God to come to the solemn convocation. Having experienced beforehand the spiritual benefits and educative value of camp meetings, Pastor Reid was fired up to sell the idea to his committee. Like a man driven by an insatiable passion, he went from place to place promoting the coming reality of what could be the greatest spiritual event of the 1982 calendar.

The feverish build-up to the 10-17 October 1982 camp meeting was palpable. The detailed planning of the programme consumed many long hours. The venue would be Rockley Sands, Poole, Dorset, where God's people would be summoned to eight days of spiritual refreshing, biblical preaching and Bible studies. The inclusion of the health lectures became a popular choice for many, based on the statement of Ellen White that the health message is the right arm of the three angels' messages.

The departmental workshops defined for attendees what the church is all about.

The packed timetable was all-inclusive: it was for adults, the youth, and children.

We who attended the services will never forget the showers of rain that fell all week, nor the speakers sheltering under umbrellas as they spoke because the tent was perforated with holes. The sweet songs of the campers as they waded through the mud and straw to give God praises in the tent of meeting sent echoes into the future. The survivors of that first camp meeting will never forget worshipping on that spiritual mountain; nor the many souls who surrendered their lives in baptism.

Camp meetings have now reached their 40th anniversary, having survived the challenges of frequently changing venues and social and natural disasters, including the COVID-19 pandemic. These difficulties only served to help us find new ways of preserving the longevity of camp meetings.

The digital age has made it possible for us to communicate the everlasting Gospel on multiple platforms. However, while useful, it tends to lack the vital elements of presence and fellowship. The writer of Hebrews 10:25 admonished the believers, 'And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching' (Hebrews 10:24, 25, NKJV).

For further information, see the *MESSENGER* vol. 87 November 1982 Camp Meeting report by Mike Stickland, then SEC Youth and Communication Secretary.

Pastor Doug Batchelor visits the Irish Mission



The Irish Mission was blessed by the visit of Pastor Doug Batchelor and his wife Karen during the first week of May 2022. He was the guest speaker at four events: the Pathfinder Camporee, an evangelistic series in Limerick, the Divine Service in Dublin, and an afternoon service at Belfast Church. Below are some reflections on these events.

Pathfinder Camporee by Simangaliso Sibanda and Pam Petersen, Derry/Londonderry Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor Doug Batchelor's first event was the Irish Pathfinder Camporee. On the evening of 29 April, 220 enthusiastic Pathfinders set up camp at the Portlick scout camp in Athlone. There was a very positive vibe and an excited buzz as the children got to see old friends and make new ones. The rainy weather did not dampen their spirits. Rather, it inspired clubs with indoor cooking facilities to use the opportunity to help others by offering hot meals to those without.

At the Friday opening ceremony Pastor Doug and his wife Karen were warmly welcomed, made honorary members of the Pathfinder club and given Adventurer scarves. The camporee's theme was 'Standing on His promises'. Pastor Doug used the story of Daniel to encourage the children to connect with God through worship and prayer, so that they can stand for God in today's turbulent times. Our secular society needs godly young people with integrity and Christian moral

values. A highlight of the weekend was the Sabbath baptism of four Pathfinders in the lake.

The weekend involved more than just worship and singing. On Saturday night the Pathfinders had lots of fun playing indoor games. Sunday was filled with various activities, which included marching drills, kayaking, laser guns, field activities, crate stacking, a zip line, a water slide, and an obstacle course race. The day ended with the evening service, a Bible quiz, prizes and a bonfire.

At the last meeting on Monday, camp patches were given to all the participants. It had been a cold, wet weekend, but the camaraderie, fellowship and joy experienced during the camporee warmed our hearts. As we left, we were encouraged and strengthened to choose to live as Daniel did.

**Limerick evangelistic meetings
by Pastor Dan Serb, Irish Mission President**
From 2 to 5 May Pastor Doug Batchelor held a series of evangelistic meetings at the Limerick Strand Hotel. He was assisted by

Pastor Fillipe Lessa, who had just been appointed as a church planter in Limerick. There was not much time to advertise the meetings; nonetheless, they were well attended by a good blend of both church members and visitors. The presentations were Bible-centred and gave a quick overview of the story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation, with a special focus on hope and faith. The event provided church members in the region with the opportunity to get together and be affirmed in their faith. They were also able to build valuable relational bridges with many visitors who expressed an interest in knowing more about our message and the Adventist Church.

Dublin Day of Fellowship by Diane Lewis, Ranelagh Seventh-day Adventist Church

After a two-year break, members were very excited to finally be gathering again for the annual Greater Dublin Day of Fellowship held on 7 May. The state-of-the-art Betania Church was perfect for hosting this large event with its unassuming international guest speaker, Pastor Doug Batchelor.

The Dublin churches (and other churches from further afield, such as Cork) were blessed with an insightful lesson study panel led by the Irish Mission President Pastor Dan Serb, including Pastor Doug.

This was followed by an inspiring sermon by Pastor Doug, entitled 'The Red Rope of Rahab'. He beautifully linked the experience of Rahab and the fall of Jericho with salvation and the Second Coming of Christ.

The Greater Dublin churches would like to thank the Irish Mission for organising this event. The €2,800 offering that was taken up to cover the expenses is a sure sign of the members' gratitude.

Belfast afternoon service by Nelleke Magee, Banbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church

Saturday 7 May was a wonderfully blessed Sabbath. It included seeing the church full, hearing the beautiful singing, meeting friends not seen for a while, and, to top it all off, hearing Pastor Doug Batchelor speak. His graphic description of how Jesus set the demoniac free and restored him (Luke 8:26-39) was powerful. If Jesus can free a man possessed by a legion of demons, then no one is beyond His loving touch! Pastor Doug then proceeded to share a part of his life story, which was basically a present-day version of the story of the demoniac's restoration.

Conclusion

We are happy to report that Pastor Doug said that he hopes to visit Ireland again someday. May the messages that he shared on the Emerald Isle have a lasting effect on the people living in Ireland; and may they be as bold as he is in proclaiming the soon coming of Jesus and the importance of being prepared to meet Him.

NEC Area 2 Youth Day of Fellowship

by Sherena Harper

Sabbath morning began with business as usual, but as I walked up to the church the air seemed tinged with something different. There was a buzz of excitement as the sun shone brightly, bringing with it a strong breeze that carried the promise of what God had in store for the NEC Area 2 Youth Day of Fellowship.

The venue was Preston Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the day was going to be lit – after all, *'This was the day that the Lord had made,'* and we were ready to *'rejoice in it!'*¹ Area 2 was well represented, as we welcomed young visitors from Manchester, Leeds, Bradford, Blackburn, Salford, Birmingham and Windermere.

The day started off well with a prayer and a warm welcome from our praise team for the day. However, that was just the beginning, as the praise team, accompanied by some very talented musicians, got us warmed up and ready to study the Word. A wonderful,

interactive study on James 2 followed that left us thinking about partiality and how Jesus' countercultural approach to this issue is still applicable, even today.

We were then richly blessed with a special item from Blackburn's singing trio, and then we fed on the spiritual food delivered to us by Pastor Jermaine Swaby during Divine Service. The message was aptly titled *'#ThereisLifeInMe'*, with a focus on Acts 20:7-12. Pastor Swaby's closing appeal proved to be a call to action for all who attended. The Spirit was really moving throughout, as many of the attendees stepped up to the front in response to one of the three appeals made.

By this point we had all worked up an appetite and were ready to partake of the physical food. To say the food was good would be a severe understatement! The catering team did a wonderful job of feeding us all, and then some.

We wrapped up the day with a very

powerful afternoon service led by Pastor Micah Campbell, who reinforced the acronym IMAGE: through Christ, 'I Am Always Good Enough'. The afternoon service was focused on growth, and provided some practical tips on goal setting and measuring.



All in all, the day was such a huge success and testimony to the hard work that we know goes on in the background, but we only ever see the finished product. We say thank you to the Preston youth team, the NEC Youth and Communications Department, Pastor Swaby and family, Pastor Micah and family, Pastor Joe Philpott and family, and the entire Preston church family for organising and hosting the event.

May we always remember that we are made in the IMAGE of God, and He says that through Christ we are always good enough!

Visit the @NECYouth YouTube page for the recording of the services.

Visit the @NECYouth Instagram page to keep up to date with all upcoming events.

¹See Psalm 118:24.



The BUC Core of Adventism 2022: 'We Believe'

by Divinia Reynolds

This was the heartbeat of *The BUC Core of Adventism 2022* as the much-appreciated annual event returned over 7-14 May. Attendees gathered both online and in person, every evening and twice on Sabbaths, to affirm their faith in Christ, our 'essential' beliefs, the work of organisations and the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A spiritual banquet of intercessory prayers, praise sessions, musical items, stories, sermons and ministry updates had been organised by British Union Conference (BUC) Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Director, Pastor Kirk Thomas, culminating in special baptismal services at two sites across London and a final surprise. It was a phenomenal experience that will long be remembered.

On Sabbath mornings, Pastor Thomas led Sabbath School discussions on the book of Genesis.

In his message, BUC President Pastor Eglan Brooks encouraged attendees to tell someone about 'God's willingness to save' with an awareness of 'what God can do through us'.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, Field Secretary of the Trans-European Division and former BUC president, brought home the reality of the Second Coming by describing the loss of life of those who reject God, but also the resurrection of the faithful. 'Are you ready to meet Him? Is your neighbour ready? . . . Let's be ready and ensure that others are ready, too.'

In his Sabbath evening message, Pastor Mohan Abbadasari spoke on the subject of stewardship, explaining that our use of resources reflects how we relate to God and our preparedness for His coming. He urged the 'wise and unselfish use' of everything we have been entrusted with, remarking on the difference this would make. 'If you want the Lord to come soon, be a good steward,' and Jesus will say, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant' (Matthew 25:21, KJV).

On Sunday, Pastor Joseph Philpott, North England Conference Communications Director, spoke on the law of God, stating: 'The path to God is paved by grace.' He encouraged everyone to link others to God, who gives our lives joy and meaning, and to value God's presence more than His blessings, using his own relationship with his young daughter as an example.

In the sermon for Monday on the topic of salvation, Pastor Adriana Fodor, Welsh Mission Evangelism Sponsor, described the Cross as the 'everlasting evidence' that God loves the world, while personalising John 3:16: 'you and I' are the clear subjects of

God's love and redemption. Many people pass us by, but 'something is missing in their lives'. 'Do you have the joy of salvation?' Pastor Fodor asked – because, if so, 'The joy will beam from our faces.'

The theme of spiritual gifts was addressed by Dr Stephen Currow, Principal of Newbold College, on Tuesday. Based on 1 Corinthians 12-14, he said the gifts are 'not about making me great again, but making God look great'. Dr Currow spoke of the need for the Spirit of God to control church life and manifest His fruit in our lives, observing: 'Only the mature people . . . can value diversity while building community. . . . To an immature person, diversity threatens who they are.'

Pastor Sophia Peart spoke on Wednesday of our need for intimate, transparent dialogues with God, using King David's prayer of repentance (Psalm 51) as an example. David asked for God's mercy while seeing himself for who he really was. 'When was the last time we confessed our sins?' Pastor Sophia continued. 'If we want to see this church in the British Union take off, we've got to do some soul-searching, heart-wrenching prayer to the Lord.'

Pastor Dan Serb, President of the Irish Mission, delivered Thursday's sermon on our eternal home, stating that 'we are saved for a life in the presence of God . . . filled with joy [and] pleasures that never end' (see Psalm 16:11 and Revelation 21:3). Pastor Serb mentioned that religious undertones to films can build bridges in a world so informed by them – for example, scenes of communication between species and instant transportation from one place to another – and added, 'Our future with Christ is one of limitless possibilities.'

On Friday, Pastor Vili Costescu, former South England Conference media director and co-ordinator of the 'Sabbath Sofa' project, made connections to the Sabbath personal, referring to God's promise to write His law in our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33) and our biological makeup. As a teenager in Communist Romania, despite religious oppression, he had stopped attending school on Sabbaths and expected to be punished with grades preventing his graduation, but achieved the highest grade of all. Pastor Vili hinted that heaven is filled with a Sabbath atmosphere, adding that the 'aroma' of the Sabbath should be with us on 'all days of the week'.

On the concluding Sabbath morning, Holloway members were happy to see their former intern, Pastor Warren Gillin, return as a fully-fledged pastor. Speaking on the subject of Christian living, he said that living out our

love sometimes requires us to do things we don't want to. 'When you love, you look most like Jesus. . . . Radical discipleship is coupled with radical love,' he said. 'We have put too many things above a simple message of loving one another,' yet 'love is the central part of the gospel.' God 'has given us everything', and all He asks is that we love.

Pastor Mario Phillip spoke about baptism on the final Sabbath evening, explaining that 'God does not simply want you to belong to a church: He wants you to be born from heaven' (John 3:3). He is not concerned about 'the group you belong to', as 'He wants you to belong to Him yourself,' and churches need more members to be born from heaven. When this happens, 'all the problems of the church can be solved.' Pastor Phillip highlighted our great need of transformation. 'Have you found a new life?'

In addition to these messages, the daily services were bookended by the children's story experience at the beginning and special times of intercessory prayer at the end. Each story was given online from Scotland by Pastor (or 'Auntie') Ivana Mendez, who was met by eager interaction from children on key themes. Danelle Cuffie also presented a lively children's story. During the prayers, Pastor Thomas, Bible worker Sindi Mabena, Pastor Harrison Mburani and Pastor Rory Mendez remained online to lead prayers for attendees' requests. God's presence was felt. 'I don't want to go!' remarked one attendee as people lingered online afterwards.

There were valuable ministry updates throughout the week. Lorraine McDonald, BUC Education Director, discussed Adventist education. Sobering figures from 2012 indicate that the church has been losing 43% of the people they baptise, amounting to a crisis in retention. Young people have been of special concern, especially since the pandemic. However, the Education Director cited studies revealing that both baptism and retention rates improve when people receive Adventist education. She encouraged everyone to see the church's 8,000 educational institutions worldwide as evangelistic sites operating all year round. Attendees were inspired regarding the impact of Adventist education in laying lifelong strong foundations of faith.

Cathy Boldeau, Development Education Officer of the UK Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-UK), presented on their work, here and abroad, to alleviate suffering 'so all may live as God intended'. Hundreds of thousands were helped last year, but ADRA would like to help more. Their current fundraising drive, the 'Do Good Campaign', continues until the end of 2022. While people



cannot go door-to-door, Cathy Boldeau suggested alternative ways to participate in raising funds: for example, arranging with the local church's ADRA agent to have a tin at home or work for collecting change, or donating directly by visiting ADRA's website, phoning ADRA's office, or texting 70470 to donate £5. She thanked the church for its continued support.

'Let's go together' was the invitation of Pastor Christian Salcianu, Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC). He spoke about their 'Free Bible' project that we can introduce to friends via the websites www.freebible.uk and www.freebible.ie. After completing quizzes to qualify, more than 2,000 students have been awarded Bibles so far. The quizzes are mini studies of our fundamental beliefs, which Pastor Salcianu referred to as 'essentials' of our faith. People don't need expertise to take part: once students have completed the studies, the ADC is just asking people to deliver the Bibles in their localities. Pastor Salcianu asked the question in Isaiah 6:8 (NKJV): 'Who will go for Us?'

Pastor Kevin Johns, BUC Youth Ministries Director, spoke passionately about the work of his department, which began as the Adventist Youth Society over 125 years ago. Their aim of taking 'the advent message to all the world in my generation' and the motto 'the love of Christ compels me' have led them to facilitate enriching experiences for and with young people, including the Pathfinder Bible Experience programme, delivering food parcels, and receiving training on finances, relationships, and making life choices in the twentieth century. The inspiring experiences this year continue with the August Youth Congress in Finland and a planned September retreat. Pastor Johns declared of young people: 'They are God's people: they are the church.'

Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health, Women's and Community Services Director, updated attendees on a plethora of projects and resources now used by conferences and government agencies internationally, including the 'Forgiveness as Healing' programme. One student reported that after attending the course her blood pressure had finally returned to normal. Sharon commended various churches and pastors for their collaborative work during the pandemic – including Mario Philip, who is leading a group of religious leaders in the community – remarking that the Government is coming to the church for answers as we share the Gospel of healing and restoration.

This year, Anthea Davis Barclay also presented a poem that inspired and challenged people to grow in their relationship with God and aspire to heaven.

Pastor Moore described the praise team's



Pastors Vili and Danelle



Holloway baptismal candidates



Pastor Adriana



Camelia Bran



Quality of photos as supplied



Pastor Mohan

heartfelt worship as 'ushering you into the presence of God'. There was certainly a rich palette of music. Attendees were stirred by the melodious musical ministries of Camelia Bran, Michicka Mullings and Ma'cell London. There were also two stirring

versions of the theme song 'We Believe' by singer Nealsen Mirk with violinist Okantan Aye and renowned singer Paul Lee, Radio Manager and Assistant to the President.

Attendees and presenters participated both in person and online internationally from various places such as the UK, Barbados, Nigeria, Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA. Livestreamed from outstanding host church Holloway via the SEC, BUC and Holloway YouTube channels, there were more than 50,000 viewings.

The event, widely known as a meaningful spiritual experience, did not disappoint. Intercessor Pastor Anthony Opoku-Mensah referred to it as a 'healing movement of the Spirit'.

'What a timely, relevant and twenty-first-century interpretation and contextualisation of the core scriptures of Adventist beliefs!' remarked Jewel from Greenwich Church. 'To

me, the nightly Prayer Afterglow was the A** extra that brought us together as one beating heart. Praise the Lord!'

Attendees also appreciated vibrant hosting by Danelle Cuffie, Elder Lemar Smith and Pastor Kwesi Moore, who, as the week drew

to a close, remarked on God's leadership throughout the programme.

Then we all witnessed four precious souls give their lives to Him in baptism at Wimbledon and Holloway Church. Candidates shared stories revealing remarkable resilience and God's goodness, despite obstacles and multiple bereavements, impressing those present with this very special commitment.

Michel Erica Bowen said: 'This has been a long time coming; I was always running away. God kept me.' There was a final surprise as the overjoyed, newly baptised Michel closed the programme with an incredible musical item. Pastor Thomas called this an example of what can happen when we 'leave room for the Holy Spirit of God to move'.

As Pastor Mendez remarked, in times to come, people will be able to fondly say, 'I was at *The Core of Adventism 2022*.'



The life of an evangelist – Faye Weekes

by **Dr Kirk M. Thomas**, Evangelism, Missions, Publishing, Personal Ministries & Sabbath School Director of the British Union Conference



As I was reading about evangelism, I came across the following illustrative story about Harry Winston, who was one of the world's greatest jewel merchants. It was said that one day he watched one of his salesmen try to sell a beautiful diamond to a rich Dutch merchant. The potential client listened thoughtfully to the expert description, but he eventually turned away, saying, 'It's a wonderful stone, but not exactly what I want.'

After observing what had transpired, Winston stopped the customer on his way out and politely asked, 'Do you mind if I show you that diamond once more?' The merchant agreed, and Winston took the stone in his hand. He did not repeat anything the salesman had said. He simply talked about the gem as an object of deep beauty.

Abruptly, the customer changed his mind and bought the diamond. While he was waiting for it to be brought to him, he turned to Winston and said, 'Why did I buy it willingly from you, though I had no difficulty saying no to your salesman?'

Winston answered, 'That salesman is one of the best men in the business. He knows diamonds – but I love them.'¹

Faye Weekes loved and lived for evangelism. Her passing has left a hole in the evangelistic fabric of the British Union Conference. At the headquarters she was considered the mother of the office; the prayer warrior; the counsellor; the friend that's closer than a brother; the encourager; the one who paid attention to the least; the one who made her shoulder available for tears. To the churches, along with her husband Edison, she was the evangelistic preacher, teacher and friend; a winner of souls; a fearless worker for God, who even in her sickness still proclaimed the Word of God. Here is a testimony from Richard and Greta Poulton about her faithfulness to God's service:

'We know that Faye has been a very faithful, trustworthy employee in the BUC. We got to know her when she offered her and her husband's help for our church plant in Leighton Buzzard. Whenever in need, we could trust and rely on them to accept preaching appointments, blessing us all with God's messages – which is not the norm nowadays for many people seeking to help out with supporting a church plant. Despite her diagnosis of cancer, she would still come,

wishing to serve in God's work as long as possible. She even turned up in a wheelchair to preach His Word, cheering us up with God's love and promises, which she relied on too. Therefore, we all know that our Lord granted her to fall asleep, ready for His return. We were quite amazed that her husband, Edison, came to L. B. on 30 April with his son, showing his dedication by presenting a wonderful message for us, bringing tears to our eyes; sharing with us that this might possibly be his last visit with us, as he needed to spend more time with his wife. We will miss his support too. All our L. B. church plant members and friends remember her as one of God's daughters, representing Him well in character and service – a good example not only for her children, but for church members too. We do feel that she is also very special to our Lord and Saviour, and will receive her crown! She is one of those who worked to spread the Word of God whenever possible, and without getting paid for it either. The Lord's love is her reward indeed throughout eternity.'

As I reflect on her life and ministry, the conversations we had and those witnesses who spoke about her, what lessons can we take away from the life of such a faithful witness? The first takeaway is that she knew God personally. That was the source of her power to witness effectively. The words flowed naturally from her mouth, because her life was totally consecrated to the service of God. Her devotional life was so important that it occupied first place on her daily agenda. This gave rise to a deep spirituality that was grounded in the amazing grace of God. Secondly, the power and presence of the Holy Spirit were with this woman. The pleasantness of her demeanour, the way she spoke to people, and her attitude to life all testified of a Holy-Ghost-filled existence. There was a calming atmosphere whenever you encountered her. It spoke volumes to the efforts she made to be a loving, kind and supportive Christian. She was a Seventh-day Adventist who believed in prayer. It was the foundation of her being and the elixir of her soul. Every Wednesday at the BUC office she sent out a call to prayer. Sometimes it would be her and one or two others, but she would faithfully carry out the mandate to pray. She believed that prayer moves the hand of God to help His children. She was often heard saying that prayer is the breath of the soul.

Faye has left a legacy of faithful witness and spiritual excellence in Christ Jesus.

What legacy are you building? When you fall asleep, what would be said about your witnessing for Christ? How many souls have you touched with your life? How is your prayer and devotional life? Are you discouraged because your witness has been rejected by a few? Are you about to give up on telling your story of what God has done for you? Like Faye, I find encouragement in Isaiah 52:7 (NKJV): 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"'

The good news is not just good news: it's great news! The nuance of the Greek for the word 'gospel' literally means that this news is almost too good to be true. In our world, when something seems too good to be true, it usually is. But this is not the case with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This news is true and incredible. And Isaiah reminds us that the feet of those who bring this good news and announce it to the world are beautiful. Keep spreading the good news, friends!

¹Green, M. P. (ed.), *1,500 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005)



Mission catalysts

by Kayle B. de Waal, Director of Disciple-making and Prayer Ministry, TED

Our missionary God loved the world so much that He *gave* (John 3:16). 'The entire Christian existence is to be characterised as missionary existence . . . through the universality of the Gospel it proclaims.'¹ Mission is *giving* the eternal

Gospel of Jesus to everyone.

In God's wisdom, the Bible's method is in its message, and the message empowers the method (1 Cor. 1:18; 2:4, 5). Let's explore the biblical method of taking the Gospel to all (Rev. 14:6-12).

Prayer and mission

Prayer preceded Pentecost (Acts 1:14). The disciples humbled their hearts and repented anew in the light of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. They prayed for the ability to share the news of His death and resurrection for the salvation of humankind.² The resulting outpouring of the Holy Spirit initiated Christian mission. The presence of God was tangible (Acts 2:3), and the disciples boldly preached the Word. Three thousand people were baptised, giving birth to a new community (Acts 2:41).

Prayer in history

Prayer is always at the centre of mission. In 1722 Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf allowed Christian exiles from Bohemia and Moravia to settle on his estate. The centre became known as Herrnhut, meaning 'Under the Lord's watch', and grew quickly, as did its appreciation of the power of prayer. On 27 August 1727, 24 men and 24 women covenanted to spend an hour each day in scheduled prayer, praying in sequence around the clock, soon joined by others. These prayer warriors met weekly to support one another and to read letters from their brothers for over 100 years.

Zinzendorf, 27, suggested winning others to Christ in Greenland, the West Indies, Turkey, and Lapland. Twenty-six Moravians stepped forward. The first missionaries, Leonard Dober and David Nitschmann, were commissioned during a deeply spiritual service on 18 August 1732. During the first two years, 22 missionaries perished and two more were imprisoned, but others took their places. Of the 600 inhabitants of Herrnhut, 70 became Moravian missionaries. Their fervour sparked the conversions of John and Charles Wesley, indirectly igniting the Great Awakening that swept through Europe and America.³ From a prayer meeting started on Zinzendorf's estate, untold millions have heard of the Gospel of Christ. To be missional, the local church must build a powerful prayer ministry.

The Word and mission

The living, enduring Word of God was central to the disciples' evangelism, and the people yearned for this Word (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 8:26-39). They studied the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). The disciples quoted, alluded or referred to Old Testament passages nearly two hundred times. They had memorised the Scriptures and preached with deep conviction.⁴

The phrase 'the word of the Lord' (Acts 8:25) shows the divine origin and authority of the Gospel. God's word has tremendous power to accomplish the tasks He gives it (Ps. 33:6-11; Isa. 55:10, 11; Jer. 1:9-12).⁵ 'The real hero of the Acts of the Apostles is the *logos*, the Word.'⁶

The Word progresses the narrative of Acts: 'So the *word of God* spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith' (Acts 6:7, NIV, emphasis supplied). This summarises the Word's work in Jerusalem (Acts 1:1-6:7). 'But the *word of God* continued to spread and flourish' (Acts 12:24, NIV, emphasis supplied) – summarising the word's spread throughout Judea, Samaria and Gentile areas (Acts 6:8-12:24). Finally,

'the *word of the Lord* spread widely and grew in power' (Acts 19:20, NIV, emphasis supplied) throughout Asia Minor and Europe (Acts 12:25-19:20).⁷ The kingdom grows as the Word grows.

The kingdom and the Word move and develop simultaneously (Acts 6:7; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20). The Word sets the agenda for evangelism and discipleship. The same Greek word (*plethynlein*) describes the 'increase' of disciples (6:1; 9:31) and of the Word (6:7; 12:24).

The Word in history

Peter Waldo was a wealthy merchant of Lyon who experienced conversion about 1175. He gave away his possessions and followed Christ by living in poverty and preaching. Convicted by the need to spread God's Word, he had the Latin New Testament translated into the vernacular, which formed the basis of his evangelism. He preached the Scriptures fearlessly and powerfully, and soon had a group of poor folk following him. When the Word of God is preached fearlessly with the Spirit there is an explosion of kingdom growth.

Waldo's group eventually came to the attention of the Pope. They were given the approval of Pope Alexander III at the Third Lateran Council in 1179, under one condition: they were to gain the approval of the church before preaching. Nevertheless, the Waldensians preached the Bible without seeking approval from the local bishop. Waldo quoted Acts 5:29 (NIV): 'We must obey God rather than human beings!'⁸ They condemned the laxity and wealth of the church. Their preaching of God's Word was Spirit-filled, and in 1181 the Archbishop of Lyon prohibited it. The Waldensians preached even more zealously.

The church hierarchy were clearly troubled. In 1184, at Verona, Pope Lucius III directed that the Waldensians should be eliminated. The Waldensians eventually fled from Lyon and spread throughout Lombardy and Provence. A movement of God always centres itself in the authority of the Word. The proclamation of the Word brings kingdom growth, and disturbs and defeats the devil and his forces.

Conclusion

Prayer and the Word are the biblical methodology of the evangelistic explosion in Acts and every subsequent mission movement. God wishes every person to have the saving knowledge of Jesus (Matt. 24:14; 1 Tim. 2:3, 4; 2 Pet. 3:9), and the Spirit can empower us to that end (Acts 1:8). Prayer and the Word are central to God's missionary agenda, so the local church must gather *in* prayer and *around* the Word. Sadly, we often gather for information, not transformation; for spiritual input, rather than missional output.

The biblical method involves *mission catalysts relationally activated by the power of the Holy Spirit*. Just as the message and the method go hand in hand, and the Spirit empowers both, so do mission and relationship, also empowered by the Spirit.⁹ The Word and the Spirit are deeply relational (John 6:63; 2 Tim. 3:16), so the Word travels best in our relationships. As the Word conquered Rome, may the Spirit lead us into relationships with those who do not know of Jesus and His saving grace, and triumph in those relationships.

¹David J. Bosch, *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1991), p. 8 ²Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles* (Idaho: Mountain View, 1906), pp. 36, 37 ³Robert J. Morgan, *On This Day* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000) ⁴Robert E. Coleman, *Making Disciples*, p. 105 ⁵David G. Peterson, *The Acts of the Apostles* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009), p. 33 ⁶D. Marguerat, *The First Christian Historian: Writing the Acts of the Apostles*, SNTSMS 121, transl. by K. McKinney, G. J. Laughery and Richard Bauckham (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), p. 37 ⁷Peterson, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 34. ⁸Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*, p. 208 ⁹Coleman, *Making Disciples*, p. 56: 'The fellowship of kindred spirits became the primary means by which disciples were trained.' This can be seen all through Acts – where new Christians were brought into close relationships with other believers (Acts 2:46, 47; 4:32); the lame man who was healed at the temple gate stayed with Peter and John (Acts 3:8; 4:14); the Samaritans received the word of God (Acts 8:14-25); Saul was converted (Acts 9:18-25); and Paul stayed with Priscilla and Aquila at Corinth (Acts 18:2, 3).

Creation changes everything

Part 2

In this second article in a two-part series on evidence for Creation, Timothy G. Standish, PhD compares the moral and ethical implications of evolution with those of the real origin of mankind as revealed in the Bible.



Charles Darwin, the leading nineteenth-century proponent of the theory that mankind evolved from lesser creatures, wrote the following in 1882: 'At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilised races of man will almost certainly exterminate, and replace, the savage races throughout the world.'

I want you to think about who Darwin might be talking about here when it comes to these 'savage races'. I can tell you that I know from reading Darwin more extensively that I am certainly one of those savage races, but you're

probably one of those he had in mind as well. And, according to his theory of evolution, you are and I are less evolved than Europeans like himself, and as a consequence of that your role in nature is to go extinct.

Here's a more recent Darwinist writing about the implications of this Darwinian view when it comes to morals and ethics. James Rachels said in 1990: 'An evolutionary perspective denies that humans are different in kind from other animals; and one cannot reasonably make distinctions in morals where none exist in fact.'

In other words, there is

nothing special about humans; there is no moral difference; and, from a Darwinian perspective, you're just going to have to live with it. Of course, the Bible reveals a completely different reality: 'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27, NIV).

Human beings, as revealed in the Bible, are created in God's image. That gives us a different moral status. It gives us a different reality, so therefore a different ethical system; and this is really a big deal. The Bible tells us about some of those

implications: 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28, NIV).

Jesus Christ, who created us, is our Redeemer as well, and we are all equal. This is a totally different view of reality than you see propounded by many people even today.

Peter Singer, who is an evolutionary ethicist, took the implications of Darwinism all the way. Here's what he wrote in 1983: 'If we compare a severely defective human infant with a nonhuman animal – a dog or a pig, for example – we will often find the nonhuman to have superior capacities, both actual and potential, for rationality, self-consciousness, communication, and anything else that can plausibly be considered morally significant.'

So Peter Singer advocates an evolutionary ethic in which human beings whom he considers to be defective have no more or greater moral status than animals do. He's looking for what reasons we might have for human exceptionalism. What he comes up with is a utilitarian argument. But the Bible reveals a

International news

- **The 10,000 Toes campaign, an initiative of health ministries at the South Pacific Division, has been recognised by the World Health Organisation for its work in Fiji,** reported Tracey Bridcutt. The 2022 Healthy Island Award in the Best Practice Category was awarded for the work that 10,000 Toes is doing to address the epidemic of lifestyle diseases, particularly diabetes, in the Pacific region. Statistics indicate that every 20 minutes someone in this area has a limb amputated due to diabetes, and this is having a devastating effect on livelihoods. Pam Townend, 10,000 Toes' coordinator for the South Pacific, confirmed that the campaign, working in Fiji and six other countries, is currently operating five mobile clinics, with more than 4,000 ambassadors, including 100 professionals, testing to date in excess of 10,000 people for diabetes. 'Our work is not over until every village in the Pacific has had an opportunity to go on a health journey,' she said.
- **ADRA Ukraine reports on food aid and evacuations.** From 9 to 15 May food packages were distributed to 1,280 internally displaced families from the Luhansk region in eastern Ukraine with the support of the ADRA network, as well as 26 pallets of food for 2,000 people in Poltava in central Ukraine. Volunteers also distributed 369,000 loaves of bread and provided food for around 9,000 people as part of the emergency food project, supported by the World Food Programme and ADRA Ukraine. An emergency project for the occupied southern Ukrainian city of Kherson was launched, and, despite the difficult situation, volunteers have already distributed the first food packages. ADRA Ukraine is also involved in evacuating people from crisis areas, with funding from ADRA Czech Republic enabling the evacuation of about 1,800 people.
- **The Southern Asia-Pacific Division's Voice of Youth EXPAND 2022 sends 819 teams and reaps 7,514 disciples in the Philippines,** according to a report by Pastor Petronio Genebago. A total of 26,792 young people have been involved in this year-long evangelistic effort, and, as of 3 May, the VOY EXPAND 2022 initiative has brought a harvest of 7,514 new disciples. It has been noted that 80% of those attending meetings were young people; there was active support for the young people involved from church elders, pastors, and parents; and, despite obstacles such as flooding and electricity interruptions, the young people were determined to persevere. A further 2,819 VOY teams are preparing to begin work this year.
- **HopeMedia Spain's online evangelisation project is reaping rewards,** according to a report by Samuel Gil. Since April 2021 adverts offering Bible studies have been posted on Facebook and Instagram in various participating cities. Those browsing their social networks see these, and clicking on them provides HopeMedia with their contact information, which is then sent to local tutors – church members who have received training. To date, 30 churches have participated, with 906 people providing their contact details, of which 237 are studying the Bible in different cities. Four have been baptised. HopeMedia hopes to carry out four more digital campaigns this year, covering another 25 churches.

SARAH JARVIS

International News is a regular column for *MESSENGER* that provides a brief snapshot of developments from the rest of our church around the world.

very different view, based on our creation.

Here is a paper that actually appeared in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* taking this particular view all the way. The authors write: 'We claim that killing a newborn could be ethically permissible in all the circumstances where abortion would be. Such circumstances include cases where the newborn has the potential to have an (at least) acceptable life, but the well-being of the family is at risk' (Alberto Giubilini & Francesca Minerva, 2012).

Because newborns lack all of those things that these individuals consider to be morally significant – because they can't feed themselves, and they're not aware of themselves in the same way as maybe an adult would be – they are considered disposable. They can be slaughtered like a pig or a rat or a gnat.

But it's not just in medical ethics that we see this Darwinian view promulgated. We also see it very commonly in political discussions. Here's something that Adolf Hitler wrote (1941-1944): 'By means of the struggle the elites are continually renewed [remember that the idea of struggle is central to the Darwinian view; the struggle for survival is what makes natural selection get rid of the weak and keep the strong]. The law of selection justifies this incessant struggle, by allowing the survival of the fittest. Christianity is a rebellion against natural law, a protest against nature. Taken to its logical extreme, Christianity would mean the systematic cultivation of the human failure.'

Now, it's correct to say that Christianity is a rebellion against what Hitler calls natural law. However, he has got the laws of nature just a little bit wrong, as did Darwin. The Bible calls on us to 'defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked' (Psalm 82:3, 4, NIV).

That is the biblical view, because everybody is created in the image of God. Human beings have a special moral status in the creation. We might be tempted to look down on some people because of some injury or other handicap, but the Bible says: 'No, no, no; they have the same moral

worth that you do, because we're all created in God's image – and, by the way, Jesus Christ, our Creator and our Redeemer, died to save everyone.'

Believing in Creation changes how we view others. We view them as equal; all created in the image of God; objects of God's love and our responsibility. The alternative is that we view one another as enemies competing for resources – that's the Darwinian view.

Here's another thing that Charles Darwin wrote: 'What a book a Devil's Chaplain might write on the clumsy, wasteful, blundering low and horribly cruel works of nature' (1856).

Do we see horrible things in the creation? In fact, we do. There are all kinds of struggles for survival. There are all kinds of organisms that do terrible things that result in suffering and death in other organisms. As Bible-believing Christians, we understand the ultimate cause of that: sin. The original creation was made 'very good', but the entrance of sin into the world means the entrance of death, the entrance of struggle, and so on. But is that struggle really the central theme of life? That's the way Darwin saw it, but the Bible encourages a different view. It says: 'He [that is, God] has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no-one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end' (Ecclesiastes 3:11, NIV).

I love that text, because it tells me that I as a biologist am not going to run out of things to do when I get to heaven. I'll never get it all figured out from beginning to end, but there'll be plenty of wonderful things to discover along the way. That's my hope as a Christian, and it's my hope as a Christian biologist as I go out and study the creation. It's not that I ignore the death and suffering that's there, but I know that it was originally very good, and I know that there are plenty of wonderful things, plenty of beauty that still exists in God's creation.

When you look at nature, the central war of nature is not actually struggle and competition. For life to exist, cooperation must be the central war of nature. When you look at the relationship between a poppy and a bee, is

that a situation where they're in a struggle with one another? No. They are cooperating. The poppy is providing nourishment for the bee. The bee is providing a service of moving pollen from one flower to the next. Without one another, they don't survive. Together, by cooperation, they do survive and thrive. That's why life can exist.

So believing in Creation changes how we view the rest of creation. We view it as sustained by the Creator and worthy of our study and admiration, and caring for it is also our responsibility. Remember, God put Adam and Eve in charge. He gave them something pretty amazing. They may have blown it by sinning and rebelling against their Creator, but it's still amazing. The alternative is to view the creation as cruel, but also our creator. These are very different views.

Remember that as we get to the very end of the Bible we're reminded about Creation: and not just the original creation. Here we read in Revelation 21:5 (NIV): 'He who was seated on the throne

[God, Jesus Christ] said, "I am making everything new!" ' So when we see broken aspects in the creation, we can have this hope that the Creator who originally made everything 'very good' can restore His creation and can make a new creation where there's no more sickness, no more death, no more tears – no more of all of these things that distract us from the sublime beauty that is still there in the creation. And I love the emphasis here in the rest of the verse (NIV): 'Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ' I believe they are.

This means that the biblical creation:

- Provides a reasonable and sufficient cause for all that we see that is wonderful in nature;
- Provides a coherent hope of salvation and a 'new creation'; and
- Changes our entire view of ourselves, the rest of creation, our past and our future.

In short, believing in the biblical creation changes everything.

This article was first presented in video form at the Global Camp Meeting: see <https://www.campmeeting.com/creation-changeseverything-divine-design/>



South England Conference

SINGLE ADULTS WEEKEND

Saturday 16th July 2022

Speaker: TBC

Venue
Stoke Newington Church

Sponsored by The Family Ministries Department

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Church schools as centres of influence in the community

by **Lorraine McDonald**,
BUC Education Director

For the past decade or more, many Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America, Europe and some other parts of the world have struggled to succeed with traditional public evangelistic events. The denomination employed these approaches from its beginnings to the mid-twentieth century, resulting in many churches being planted and established.

One of the critical factors that have led to this decline is quite evident – the current culture in these places is nothing like the culture when the Adventist Church began. Yet many Adventist churches continue conducting evangelism efforts as if it were. Furthermore, just as culture has changed dramatically over the past century and a half, it will continue to change until the end of time. Learning to adjust and adapt continuously is necessary if the church wishes to reach surrounding communities. To be effective in our efforts, we must be relevant.

The culture of twenty-first-century Western countries today is very secular. In other locations, a variety of religions are attracting growing numbers of believers. Often, these societies are either indifferent or antagonistic towards Christianity and the Gospel.

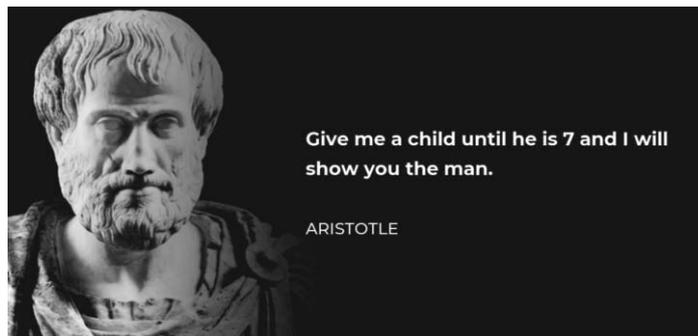
How can we develop a Gospel culture where we can lovingly disciple our church's children as well as people from our communities into a personal relationship with Jesus? This is where our church's schools can play a powerful role. Our schools must be campuses that provide a loving Gospel subculture for our children, and centres of Gospel evangelism for our communities as well. Where we once tried to reach our communities directly from our churches, now our churches can also reach our communities by collaborating with schools in ministry.*

Aristotle said, 'Give me a child until he is 7 and I will show you the man.' The Catholics have long understood this, and have made it their primary method of evangelism. They don't build churches: they build schools. The Church of England have recently shifted their focus to re-establishing overt Christianity in their schools. Could it be that they too have realised that they are losing the battle in the churches and are now trying to regain influence through their more than 4,700 schools in the UK? Who is influencing and evangelising your children?

Adventist schools were designed to have spiritual influence. They have been established under the direction of the Lord. 'And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children' (Isaiah 54:13, KJV). It has always been God's purpose to educate His children in a climate consistent with His will. The church operates a school system to provide children and youth with a balanced physical, mental, spiritual, social, and vocational education, with God as the source of all moral value and truth. The stated interest of the church is the restoration in people of the image of their Maker, resulting in the optimum development of the whole person for both this life and the life hereafter.

Early in the Old Testament God gave instruction that His followers were to be taught in all significant areas of life: healthful living, civic order, social justice, purposeful work and the deeper meaning of His divine character and law (Deut. 6:1-25). This is the continuing mission of the Seventh-day Adventist school system.

Adventist church schools bring about the salvation of children and youth through acceptance of and faith in Jesus as their personal Saviour, and help them grow in character to become God-fearing, honest, stable, and productive members of society. The curricula in Adventist schools are designed to instruct students in a biblical view of



the origin of life, human duty and destiny.

The vision of the Education Department of the British Union Conference is to restore the biblical blueprint of Adventist education in all our schools so they can truly be centres of influence.

Needed: supporters for education

Calling all education leaders in our churches to register for support and to help promote education in all its forms. If your church does not have a leader, speak to your pastor.

All educators: we are inviting anyone in education, whether you are a current or retired ECT, trainee teacher, lecturer, bursar/finance officer, educational psychologist, speech and language therapist, SENCO, learning mentor/TA etc., at all levels (nursery, school, college, university), to join the Adventist Teachers Association UK (ATA UK).

(Watch the video of the first ATA UK meeting, held in May 2022, at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jydmKpXgf_w.)

To find out more about our schools and register as an education leader or someone working in education, visit: <https://adventist.uk/departments/education/>.

*Read the complete article by Scott R. Ward, 'Church Schools as Centers of Influence in the Community: K-12 Education as Evangelism', *The Journal of Adventist Education* 83:3 (2021), pp. 37-41.

Sponsored By The Family Ministries Department

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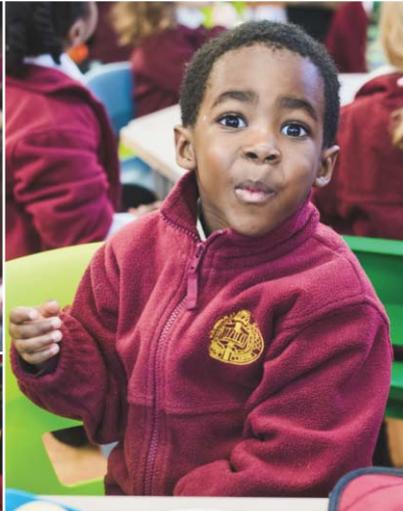
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As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Is your family missing out on free nursery hours available at Newbold School?



Newbold, once parents



It's no secret that, for several years, the Government has funded 15-30 hours of free nursery education. However, what many Adventist parents don't know is that these funds can be used at Newbold School (along with our other Adventist schools) until the September after their child's 4th birthday.

Unfortunately, too many Adventist parents are missing out on this important entitlement, either because they don't know it exists, or because they have fallen prey to the myth that government funding doesn't apply to faith schools. However, it does. Consequently, Newbold School is inviting Adventist families to come forward and use their entitlement in our school. We want as many Adventist children as possible to experience the high-quality Christian education that our nurseries have to offer. Children could be enrolled as early as September 2022, at little or no cost.

Here's how it works: all parents, without exception, are entitled to 15 free hours. Even better, when both parents work a minimum of 16 hours each per week, their entitlement doubles to 30 free hours. It's easy to check if you are eligible for the 30 hours; just go to www.childcarechoices.gov.uk. You will also find the weblink needed to apply for your free hours. If you are eligible, you will be given a code to pass on to your chosen nursery. At

have been allocated a place in our nursery, the code is then processed to activate funding for the free hours entitlement. This scheme is well worth investigating. It could make a big difference to that all-important first school experience.

Parents also need to know that not all nurseries offer the same services. Adventist nurseries are unique. At Newbold School, we acknowledge God as a reality, pray to Him, sing about Him and model our behaviour on Him. Most nurseries don't do that. Newbold's motto is: 'A Great Start for a Great Future', and this has been proven true time and time again. Children who receive a quality nursery education are always much better prepared for 'big school' when the time comes. And being in a Christian environment makes all the difference, because God is present with us every single day.

At Newbold School, we educate children from 3 years of age right up

to age 11. This means our nursery children get a full school experience right from the beginning. They have older children as role models, attend whole-school assemblies, learn through Forest School and more. We have always found that holistic education leads to the best outcomes, combining excellent academic skills with life skills and social skills – for example, kindness, love and forgiveness. We want our children to be able to make good choices, based on a recognition of God as their guide. This starts in F1, our nursery class, and runs all the way through to Year 6.

Typically, our children leave our school as confident individuals who know they are valued, cherished and loved. Thanks to the 15/30 free hours scheme, this is an experience accessible to all nursery-age children, so please come along and taste how good it is. Our next Newbold open morning will be on 10 June. Register on our website (newboldschool.co.uk) or just come along between 9.10am and 12.30pm. We'd love to see you. After that, our PTFA are hosting a Friday feast with delicious food. Stay and ask our parents to tell you the whole story!

MRS JAKI CRISSEY, HEADTEACHER
PHOTOS BY ASUN OLIVAN



Report on the NEC response to the Ukraine crisis

Connect to commit

Dr Beatrice Kastrati,

Health and Possibility Ministries Director, Community Services Director, NEC



With great concern we witness the war in Ukraine continuing, with people losing their loved ones and their homes. Every effort is being made to help accommodate refugees (including Seventh-day Adventist refugees) in the UK. Dedicated staff from Adventist Community Services in all entities of the church in the UK and Ireland, from the BUC to the two conferences and the three missions, are working together to encourage, empower and educate church members to open their homes and register as hosts.

I praise the Lord for the seven families in Grantham, Birmingham, Mansfield and Liverpool who have informed me that they have already committed to doing this, and, indeed, three have already welcomed their guests in the last week, and I thank them for their kindness! I call on all of you again to register as hosts, and to email health@necadventist.org.uk if you are willing to open your home to those who have lost theirs. Get in touch with your local pastors and community services leaders to plan what your church family can do to support and help! Please connect so that we together are able to commit!

Here is what the NEC Community Services Department is committed to:

- **We commit to keeping people safe.** A safe online server has been created so that Seventh-day Adventist families looking for a home in the UK can upload their data and be matched safely with Seventh-day Adventist families without having to share personal information

via social network channels, thus protecting their privacy.

- **We commit to bringing families together who share Christian/Adventist values.** We are in touch with local leaders in Ukraine to help us match families and provide a warm and safe space where families are met with love.
- **We commit to helping families make it across the border.** We can contribute to travel arrangements to the UK, if necessary.
- **We commit to providing integration into our church family.** We can help sponsor their stay at the NEC family camp so they can find friends and families to embrace them (please get in touch with Pastor John Francis or Dr Beatrice Kastrati for details).
- **We commit to cultivating total member involvement.** If you have any special skills, knowledge and expertise, a passion for reaching out and a willingness and ability to translate if needed, please register as a volunteer so we can arrange help and support: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTgNO5ICA3-Vn0npGFjBuEPf9hyKsiDQmM2YDMWd7gtZ5YBg/viewform>
- **We commit to delivering continuing education and edification.** Expert seminars to hosts and guests are planned, as well as Zoom support groups.

All we need is for caring, hospitable Seventh-day Adventists to connect with us so that we as a church body, by God's grace, are able to commit.

Irish Mission humanitarian response to Ukraine crisis

BUC Adventist Community Services Director, Sharon Platt-McDonald, interviews Helena Konova – Irish Mission Sponsor for Adventist Community Services.

SPM: Helena, please share your response to the Ukraine crisis.

HK: When the first Ukrainian families arrived in Ireland, our Ukrainian church member Natasha Didkivska, who has lived in Ireland for a couple of years now, led our response to this crisis. She is coordinating all Ukrainian refugees coming to Ireland and agreed to provide her phone number on the IM website. It works perfectly. Anybody who is interested to come or would like to help families to come to Ireland can ring her. She gets all the details, and then makes contact with the closest pastor. This way we know how many refugees we have in various counties.

SPM: I imagine it's important to keep in contact with the new arrivals.

HK: Yes. Following the initial contact, Natasha keeps everybody in Viber groups. Everybody can be in touch. She is posting different types of information such as accommodation, job opportunities, administration, advice on coming to Ireland, etc. It is all very helpful. At the moment she is coordinating around 60 refugees here.

SPM: How are you facilitating integration into church life for Adventist refugees?

HK: Natasha is trying to help families to participate in worship. She is in touch with the Cuisle Centre in Dublin Ranelagh. She and Heather Keough, who leads the centre, have organised 'Welcoming Sunday', which was a big success. People came, shared food, and, most importantly, had a chance to chat with each other. They all felt very blessed that day. Natasha and Heather are scheduling another Sunday to support those families. Natasha has many other ideas how to help. God willing, we will be doing more for refugees.

SPM: That's excellent news. Do you have any personal stories to share with our readers?

NK: Yes – there is one from Cork. Thanks to Natasha, 11 people live in Trabolgan (holiday homes), another three people in Youghal, and two with an Adventist family in Clondulane, all around 40km from our church. All of the refugees are involved in church life. God has blessed

us with Dmitry and Elena Melnikov for five years, who both speak Russian. On Sabbaths, Dmitry organises transport for everybody. He and Elena prepare Sabbath School, and Dmitry translates the main service. We have also organised a welcoming potluck to let them know they are part of our church family. Other church members invited them for a birthday party. Our next activity will be a trip with Adventurers and Pathfinders to visit Fota Animal Wildlife Park close to Cork.

SPM: This is so inspiring Helena! Any final comments?

HK: None of this would be possible without our church members and our pastors across the mission. We need everybody involved. If you can help with a smile, do it. If you can help with transport, do it. There are many opportunities to respond to this call. We want to create a welcoming, friendly and family atmosphere, providing a safe place for healing. God can use us in amazing ways. Let Him do it!





by Sharon Platt-McDonald

Antimicrobial resistance

There is growing concern about the rise of antimicrobial resistance and its potential long-term impact globally. This issue of *Enhancing Health* deals with the cause and impact of this health threat along with potential solutions to it.

Cause

Defining the origins of this growing health challenge, Dr Sujata Sharma, writing in *The Pioneer*, states: 'Antimicrobial resistance is caused naturally, but is compounded due to overuse of antibiotics, non-compliance with antibiotic doses, improper dumping of untreated chemicals from factories and hospitals in the environment, random dosing of antibiotics to livestock, and excessive spraying of pesticides on crops.'¹ The article, titled: 'Antibiotic resistance crisis in post-pandemic world', sets out the grim reality and the urgent action required to stem its negative impact globally.

Impact

The World Health Organisation (WHO), capturing the scale of the problem, writes: 'Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi.'²

The WHO further explains the impact when these organisms change over time: 'They no longer respond to medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death. As a result, the medicines become ineffective and infections persist in the body, increasing the risk of spread to others.'

Describing antimicrobials, the Department of Health explains: '“Antimicrobials” or “antimicrobial agents” are medicines which kill or inhibit the growth of germs and are used in treating infectious diseases. These include antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, antiparasitics and disinfectants.'³ The term 'superbugs' is often used to describe microorganisms that become resistant to antimicrobials.

The WHO, reporting on the global impact of this issue, published



an article (02/03/2022) on its website, titled: 'World leaders and experts call for action to protect the environment from antimicrobial pollution'. Quoting from previous research by Frontiers, the WHO states: 'While the exact scale of global antimicrobial pollution is unknown, evidence indicates that it could have significant impacts on antimicrobial resistance. For example, multi-drug-resistant bacteria are already prevalent in marine waters and sediments close to aquaculture, industrial and municipal discharges.'⁴

Solutions

Scientists are undertaking research to boost the immune system's natural ability to clear infections. Animal studies are one approach ([nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/immune-boost-fights-antibiotic-resistant-infections-mice](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/immune-boost-fights-antibiotic-resistant-infections-mice)).

The WHO outlines five strategic objectives in a global plan to tackle this health threat ([ahpsr.who.int/publications/i/item/global-action-plan-on-antimicrobial-resistance](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/global-action-plan-on-antimicrobial-resistance)).

The next issues of *Enhancing Health* look at lifestyle interventions for boosting immunity and reducing antimicrobial resistance.

Good health!

¹[dailypioneer.com/2022/columnists/antibiotic-resistance-crisis-in-post-pandemic-world.html](https://www.dailypioneer.com/2022/columnists/antibiotic-resistance-crisis-in-post-pandemic-world.html)

²[who.int/health-topics/antimicrobial-resistance](https://www.who.int/health-topics/antimicrobial-resistance)

³pharma.doh.gov.ph/doh-program-on-combating-antimicrobial-resistance/

⁴[who.int/news/item/02-03-2022-world-leaders-and-experts-call-for-action-to-protect-the-environment-from-antimicrobial-pollution](https://www.who.int/news/item/02-03-2022-world-leaders-and-experts-call-for-action-to-protect-the-environment-from-antimicrobial-pollution)

Walk for ADRA



I love walking. Every day I try to walk at least 5 kilometres. It started when we went into lockdown as a way to keep sane and healthy. At first I walked as early as possible in the morning, but slowly I let time slip and started walking whenever time suited. I love walking, but don't like walking alone. To me, walking is not about solitude or quiet time, and

it's about much more than distance – it is about sharing and communion, about walking together with someone else. I walk mostly with my better half, but during lockdown I also walked with my children and grandchildren – although how hard it was to be socially distanced from them while doing so! Walking is about health, but even more about community. And that is exactly what we have in mind for our nationwide 'Walk for ADRA' event on Sunday 18

September. We want to encourage communities to fundraise for ADRA: church groups, Pathfinders, friends, and even whole families. Walk an hour for ADRA and donate £10.

ADRA works with communities to help them escape cycles of poverty, alleviate emergency situations, or simply pull them

back from the edge of living. In the coming weeks we will share stories of how communities have acted in emergencies and times of distress. Read inspiring stories from St Vincent, Beirut, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and beyond.

We see the 'Walk for ADRA' events as a way for communities to help other communities. How exciting it will be to know that across the UK whole communities are fundraising and walking for ADRA!

Some of the ADRA-UK team and trustees will do a walk in what could be a destination close to you. I am planning to start my walk at 10am at the King George IV Gate at Windsor Castle in Windsor for at least one hour into the Windsor Great Park. If you can, why not join me?

More information will follow: ask your ADRA agent to organise a walk. Please set Sunday 18 September aside to join the nationwide 'Walk for ADRA' event.

BERT SMIT (CEO, ADRA-UK)





Pathfinder Bible Experience North American Division final testing

Pathfinders across the British Union had the opportunity to attend the Pathfinder Bible Experience North American Division level testing in April 2022 at the Lane Events Centre in Eugene, Oregon, USA.

The BUC was represented by five teams from the North England Conference, two teams from the South England Conference, one team from the Welsh Mission and three teams from the Irish Mission. Four teams from the Irish Mission and five from the North England Conference participated virtually.

As per our custom, the Pathfinders visited places of interest and educational value, including the Eugene Museum and Space Centre, where they participated in lectures and activities about astronomy and science. They had the opportunity of a lifetime in joining Portland Adventist Community Services to assist their food bank outreach project – packing and distributing food boxes to the community, even directing traffic as cars lined up to receive their food boxes. They helped deliver food boxes to 85 vehicles, some of which took them to families unable to reach the distribution centre.

One of the organisers, commenting on our Pathfinders, stated: 'Out of all the kids that come . . . these children were the best! They were cooperative, they are not loud, they are not wild, and I so appreciate it!'

They also visited the offices of Oregon Conference, where they met departmental directors and the President, Pastor Dan Linrud, who

offered the President's chair to any Pathfinder who wanted to be President for one minute!

The Pathfinders, as we know, worked very hard, and coming face to face again after the pandemic was a joy for them. Our Pathfinders received a warm reception from their American counterparts, as the COVID-19 pandemic had prevented physical meetings for this event for the past two years. One of our Pathfinders took part in the Friday evening worship service by praying in English, while her fellow Pathfinder prayed in Spanish.

The environment on Sabbath was ecstatic and contagious. Everyone was buzzing, and those attending for the first time commented on the large attendance, not having seen anything like it before!

Our Pathfinders had prepared well for this level of testing, and as a result South England Conference teams Stanborough Royals, Stanborough Monarchs, Ipswich (online), Jerusalem Champs (online), North England Conference team Wolverhampton Central Team A and Welsh Mission team Newport Nobles achieved first place. The other teams from the SEC (Basildon District, Reading Central Eagles, Slough Central Royals), the Irish Mission (Cork Clovers Team B, Galway, Dublin Royals, Faith Force), the NEC (Manchester Piccadilly, Leeds New Generation, Nottingham Bulwell and Nottingham Central Hawks) achieved a combination of second and third place.

The purpose of the Pathfinder Bible Experience and the Adventurer Bible Experience is to encourage our children to study their Bibles and to enjoy doing it, using methods of their own choosing, supported by their mentors. In doing so, the Pathfinders and Adventurers come to know Jesus for themselves, and, through the influence of the Holy Spirit, give their lives to Jesus and are baptised. They confidently tell their friends about God, and have a story to tell of how studying the Bible has impacted their lives.

We give God all the praise for the achievements of our Pathfinders, and I want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our pastors, club directors, mentors, parents, and other support personnel who accompany the Pathfinders on this journey. Please continue to give the Pathfinders and Adventurers your support and encouragement as they begin to study the book of John and the Adventurers study John 1-8 for 2023.

PASTOR KEVIN K. JOHNS, BUC YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR



Trust, teamwork and testimony

Nottingham Hawks

The Nottingham Hawks PBE team took the Divine Service on 7 May to thank God for travelling mercies and a wonderful experience at the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) which took place in Oregon. The team achieved a third place. They were accompanied by directors Iris Johns and Edna Mokaya. The team also thanked Levon Johns for driving the team and other Pathfinders from the NEC around Oregon in very poor driving conditions. The service was a time of praise and thanks.

The PBE requires Bible study and memorisation, along with teamwork and a deepening relationship with God, building trust and

confidence in Him. The Nottingham Hawks shared their personal experiences of this journey.

Jayden and Joshua Turner were unable to travel to Oregon due to COVID-19. They stayed up late at night to take part via Zoom. They enjoyed working as a team, listening to the audio recordings and the encouragement received from the team.

Mati Janda learned that King Solomon was chosen by God to build the Lord's temple, and that if he always trusted in God He would do great things in his life. Mati enjoyed meeting others in Oregon and visiting the Seventh-day Adventist hospital, and encourages more people to take part in the PBE.

Glen Mase studied 1 Kings and learned that King Solomon eventually disobeyed God, and the influence of his pagan wives led him to worship idols. Glen also enjoyed his visit to the conference office in Oregon and learning about Seventh-day Adventist history. 'I thank Nottingham Central for making the trip possible and Aunt Iris and Edna for looking after us.'

Gabrielle Smith-Strachan found it difficult to juggle PBE and school studies, but the Lord made a way. 'I have learned to use time wisely and have a closer relationship with God.' Gabrielle enjoyed visiting a food bank and charity shops run by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oregon. 'This experience helped me put my trust and confidence in God.'

Grace Frances enjoyed her experience in Oregon and attending the PBE. 'I have learned the endless patience of God and how God has forgiven us. I too want to forgive other people and give other people the opportunity to forgive others by sharing my PBE experience.'

DENNIS TAYLOR AND IRIS JOHNS

Baptismal candidate inspires Willesden's 24-hour prayer line

'Marvellous, infinite, matchless grace' were the song lyrics that opened Willesden Church's third baptism since lockdown lifted. The church came together on Saturday 21 May to celebrate the new journey of baptismal candidate Gloria Patricia Edwards, who inspired the creation of Willesden's 24-hour prayer line.

Gloria had joined a prayer call, led by Willesden's pastor, Mario Phillip, that ended up running over by several hours because of her contribution. It was because of this that the church decided to extend their prayer ministry and establish a 24-hour prayer line for anyone who needs it.

Yvonne Cummins, a Willesden church member and the candidate's younger sister, welcomed everyone to a 'two-pronged ceremony'.

'This is both a funeral, from which the devil is put aside, and a marriage service, where the Spirit of the Lord stands in allegiance with those getting baptised,' explained Yvonne. 'This is our very own jubilee celebration!'

Yvonne also shared her sister's story: their family is from a Sunday-church background, and Gloria hopes that other family members and friends will accept the seventh-day Sabbath as the will and gift of God.

First Elder Keith Allen led Gloria through her baptismal vows, after which the members unanimously accepted Gloria into the church's fellowship. Pastor Mario Phillip shared an encouraging message, speaking of having to hide his own baptism from his mother as a young person.

'My mum said I couldn't get baptised, and so I put some clothes in a bag, left them with a neighbour and went to church,' he said. 'When the preacher asked if my mother knew, I lied and said yes! That night she was so angry, but my baptism was the catalyst for other members of my family to get baptised. If I hadn't made that decision, other people would not have been affected. I urge you, Gloria, to be a catalyst to others. He who began a good work in you will complete it to the very end.'

Gloria's friends and family joined together, in person and from around the world via the live stream, to support and witness her baptism.

In his final words to Gloria, Pastor Phillip described how important baptisms are in the life of children of God.

'Noah preached for over a hundred years, and only seven other people came to God!' declared Pastor Phillip. 'Today we are celebrating



that the Kingdom of God has won again. He will enable you to lead the life that comes next; the same God that called you will sustain you. As tough as it gets serving Jesus, it is worse not serving Him.'

WILLESDEN COMMUNICATIONS

Gloucester baptism

On Sabbath 12 March Camella Cephas gave her life to the Lord through baptism and became a member of the local Gloucester Seventh-day Adventist church. In a joyful afternoon service, she was baptised by Pastor Tremon Jackson.

Camella had been attending Gloucester for many years before deciding to accept Jesus Christ

as her Saviour. In his message, Pastor Jackson said that in their Bible studies together Camella had demonstrated her love for the Lord and a deep understanding of the Scriptures, and he described her as a very spiritual lady.

The Gloucester church joined the host of heaven in welcoming Camella into its fellowship.

The baptism concluded a week-long campaign by Pastor Jesse Samuels entitled 'When faith comes alive'.

GLOUCESTER MEDIA TEAM



From left: Pastor Jackson, Camella Cephas and Elder Errol



Baptism at Preston

'In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents' (Luke 15:10, NIV).

On 30 April 2022 angels were rejoicing in heaven as two

young men gave their lives to God at Preston Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their stories of answering God's call upon their hearts are both touching yet so individual – you cannot help but see the hand of God working in their lives.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Elder Andrew Rock, who gave Bible studies to Farid Abdiani, a refugee from Iran; also to Elder Robert Jeremias for studying with Laurentiu Dumitrascu. Because of the elders' dedication to spreading the love of God, these two young men discovered the love of God for themselves.

The day began with our NEC President, Pastor Kumi, delivering a rousing message titled 'The Purifying Hope'. In his message, Pastor Kumi mentioned that 'biblical hope is not a wish: it is a certainty!' And so it is with that certainty that we welcome Farid Abdiani and Laurentiu Dumitrascu to the loving family of God!

The journey has only just begun for these two; but, as Pastor Kumi also mentioned, 'Heaven is not just the destination, but also the motivation.' May we all be motivated by heaven!

PRESTON CHURCH COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Camp Hill's day of praise

The first Sabbath in May traditionally marks the anniversary of the opening of the current Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist church building in central Birmingham on 10 May 1987, after the original church was burned to the ground a number of decades ago. This year, on 7 May 2022, we celebrated our first May Day of Praise since the pandemic.



Elder Vivia Salcedo

Sister Leonie Stephen, the youth leader, brought great news that the youth of the church had raised over £1,000 for the food bank and soup kitchen – two of the outreach programmes that are run on a weekly basis by two departments in the church.

Sister Cecilia Hinds was also called to receive a bouquet to celebrate her birthday on 8 May. Others, including Head Elder Vivia Salcedo, also celebrate their birthdays in sunny May.

Sister Cecilia has served for many years as a deaconess – one of the team of female members who have the ongoing challenge of welcoming the congregation, supporting the quarterly Communion Service and many other behind-the-scenes activities.

A baby dedication of Tamuka added further blessings to the day.

A children's story, led by three inspiring young readers, reminded the congregation of why we should be thankful for items as simple as a shoelace, a used battery, an empty juice carton and an empty food container. The fascinating contributions from the children of the church reminded us all of why we should be thankful for the various items that we can take for granted. The story concluded that God is happy when we are grateful, and that we can stay positive even when challenging times arise.

A young choir sang 'Let us come together and praise the name of Jesus' with wonderful enthusiasm, energy and actions imbued with the joy of the Holy Spirit.



Praise team

The season of prayer enabled congregational reflection of thanks to God for life, health, connectedness through IT during the pandemic, and the people who are working, worldwide and locally, to complete the great commission through their ministry in the vineyard to glorify His name.

Pastor Richard Jackson shared the platform with his wife, Sister Angela, who gave a testimony expressing thanks for God's leading in a tumultuous time of loss earlier this year.

The sermon by Pastor Jackson was framed around Psalm 146 and emphasised how important it is to be thankful, even in times of strife.

He also reminded us that our lives are sinful and full of selfishness. Worship should be spontaneous, a way of life, and is music to God's ears. Music in worship is an important opportunity to express ourselves. He reminded us that we should sing praises even if we are 'tone deaf'.

The evening of praise extended the wonderful day of oneness in worship, with various groups and individuals offering items of music and biblical encouragement. The church ministerial team, audio-visual team, and music ministries team lifted the hearts and minds of many on this special day. The YouTube recording is available online for those who may wish to watch how this service to God unfolded as we prepare for the joy of heaven when the former things have passed away. Amen!

JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Ordination at Preston

It was ordination day in Preston Seventh-day Adventist Church, and a blessed day it was indeed. On 21 May a total of eleven persons were ordained, consisting of nine deaconesses, one deacon and our youngest elder to date.

Pastor Roman Smejkal delivered the sermon and oversaw the ordination service. The candidates were introduced by three separate elders who acknowledged their hard work and efforts in helping to spread the Gospel message. They were answering the call of service by accepting their new roles.

Both Elder Anita and Pastor Roman touched on the fact that service is a matter of the heart. Whether we think we have the ability or not, when in service to God it is the purpose of your heart that matters most.

Pastor Roman also emphasised that the early pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church were all young men and women when they started, but that did not matter to them.

The ordination service concluded with Pastor Roman reading out Numbers 6:22-27 (NKJV): 'And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

"Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." ' So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them." ' "

As the certificates were handed out, Pastor Roman reminded the newly ordained that the certificates were to act as a reminder that the church stands behind them, supporting them, so that they are able to give support to the wider church.

We congratulate the newly ordained members, and pray that they will continue to be a blessing to all they come into contact with as God continues to bless them.

Please visit our YouTube channel, @prestonsdachurch, to view the service.

PRESTON CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Wood Green's grand farewell & COVID-19/Ukraine fundraiser concert

Wood Green Community Seventh-day Adventist Church said farewell to two of its treasured members, Mr and Mrs Everton and Edwena Wilson, on 16 April 2022. Edwena has served in the church for over 40 years in various capacities, including Sabbath School superintendent and AYS leader, and Everton has been an active elder at Wood Green Church. It was therefore appropriate that, as we said farewell to them both, Edwena gave an insightful children's story about the plight of the donkey, and Everton preached a powerful sermon entitled, 'Nothing left to prove'. The morning service concluded with a special farewell lunch for the couple. We wish them God's peace and blessings as they move to new waters, and we know that wherever they go they will be a rich blessing to those around them.



In the evening of the same Sabbath day, the church was ablaze with inspirational music by the gifted members of Wood Green, our sister church Hackney, and further afield. It was an evening of poetry and music to commemorate those who had died or had been affected in some way by the coronavirus pandemic, but it was also an opportunity to raise funds for the outstanding work of ADRA in various communities around the world, including war-torn Ukraine.

The master of ceremonies for the evening was our very own Dr Peter Roach, who guided us through the evening with panache. The talent for the night included Paul Lee, Louanne Sampson and DnA (Wood Green's vocal duo), but we were also impressed by the contribution of one of our younger members, Roshan Ekoli, who blessed us with a vocal solo of such conviction that it brought the house down!

The concert was followed by a food sale with all kinds of culinary delights such as ackee and salt fish, Jamaican patties, cakes of all kinds and varieties, coconut drops and homemade coconut ice cream, churned by hand on site! We raised an impressive £1,520.05, which will go towards ADRA's worldwide mission. Many thanks to all those involved in the organisation and execution of the evening's events. *ODELE PRINCE*

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Adventist Risk Management Career Opportunity Customer Service Representative

As the official insurance and risk-management company for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Risk Management®, Inc. (ARM) is devoted to finding professionals who are committed to the success of our clients and our organisation.

We currently have a part-time **Customer Service Representative** position open on our Client Care team. This position supports and assists the account executives in serving clients, including gathering and maintaining policy-renewal data, preparation of schedules of insurance, processing certificates of coverage, and performing general administrative duties, working from our office in St Albans, England.

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- Assist the account executives as they complete applications and bind policies by keeping up-to-date records such as property values and client employee coverages.
- Assist in checking policies and applications for accuracy and requesting corrections when needed.
- Enact policy changes through endorsements.
- Assist in the development and implementation of the annual client service plan with the account executive.
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- Prepare and maintain schedules of insurance.
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Deluding ourselves to death

by Pastor Nathan Stickland



In previous ponderings, I've reflected on the rate of growth of Adventism in the UK during the early 1900s. The two world wars caused our growth to plateau and even decline. Essentially, Adventist membership has increased due to migratory growth and the subsequent natural growth from our increased membership. I now wish to ponder on the implications of this.

The current migrant growth has hidden the reality in society of a declining interest in Christianity. Many articles and ideas have been shared in recent years on why this has happened and how we might approach it. Two important matters revolve around why there is less interest in Christianity throughout society, and whether we have sold ourselves short in trying to accommodate social change.

Recently I have read of adults in the UK who have viewed religious content online during and after the COVID-19 lockdown periods. We might think they're attracting online viewers as a way forward, but contrast that with the decline in church attendance by already professing Christians (a ponder for another time).

Hayward, in 'Growth, decline and extinction of UK churches',¹ writes of the statistical research in Christian denominations across the UK. He shows the decline and increase in church membership from 2015 to 2020. The denominations established before 1900 are on the decline (one exception is Seventh-day Adventism), whereas newer denominations are growing. In other graphs he maps out the decline and projected extinction of some UK denominations, including the United Reformed Church, on a trajectory to be extinct by 2038, and even the Methodist Church by a decade after that (though they are in conversations with the Church of England about amalgamation).

The analysis Hayward puts forward suggests that the downfall of older, established denominations is their conformity to changing social opinion. The growing churches have a strong biblical identity: Jesus, judgement, and salvation fuel the impetus to seek for new converts. They are intentionally and overtly evangelical.

About 20 years ago I almost crashed my car when I heard on BBC

Radio 4 that all Christian denominations were on the decline except for charismatic Catholics and evangelical Adventists. It highlights the decline of Christianity across the UK, and people are searching for reasons why. Another previous pondering reflected on the Welsh revival in the early 1900s, but Hayward's research indicates that Welsh Presbyterians, the Church in Wales, and Welsh independent churches may all become extinct within 25 years.

What is happening to Christianity across the UK? I fear that the figures of incremental growth for Adventism in the five years to 2020 are a distraction, even a delusion to the point of death. So how must we look at the growth of Christianity and Adventism in the UK?

Premier Christianity published an article, 'How to halt the decline',

with contributions from 12 Christian leaders across the UK, addressing falling attendance at churches and what we can do about it.² The article predicts that the latest census figures will show Christianity to have become a minority religion. A decade ago, 60% of people in Britain ticked the 'Christian' box when asked of their faith. Facing the potential of less than 50% of the population considering themselves to be Christian, and with the decline in attendance at churches, we must reflect deeply on the potential of faith sharing in the future.

These 12 Christian leaders reflected on the failure of liberalisation of faith; meagre attempts towards social justice; the watering down of the deep reading of Scripture (for example, Creationism); attention given to majorities rather than minorities (single women are more likely to leave church); culture and class divides (60% of the UK classify themselves as working class, but the church might be seen as middle class); a liberal church chasing societal norms; the need to return to the Bible; and the need for more robust apologetics.

Adventism in the UK and Ireland may pat itself on the back with numeric membership growth numbers, but we have mostly gained members rather than claimed converts. Our churches have held their own due to immigration. What will happen in the coming years? We have seen generational drop-off in past waves of growth with both indigenous and migrant groups.

This is not an ethnic problem. This is a mission problem. I believe there are issues with our organisational structure, but it's not the sole answer. We need believers to believe in their calling due to the transformation that Jesus produces in our lives. When a professed believer only conceives of Christ's redemption, there is no transformation in their life and they are unlikely to share their faith.

I am concerned that we are so inexperienced with community growth that we are not ready for it. If our community took over our churches, how many would be ready for that Pentecost experience? We are not ready for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives that will transform our friends and neighbours to a point where the original group is now the minority. We are not experienced in the habit of growth. God forgive us.

With the projections that our neighbours increasingly do not see themselves as Christian, we have a huge task on our hands. If we are to glean anything from some of the reflections noted above, it's that we must be distinctly Bible-believing Jesus followers.

Peter Drucker is often, and mistakenly, accredited with the expression: 'Culture eats strategy for breakfast.' This expression is used in corporate leadership theory. The premise is that if your actions, your culture, do not work towards your strategy, your strategy is dead in the water. We talk about reaching our community – that is our strategy – but does our culture enact that intention?

Our streets are filled with people disassociated with Christianity. Are we really ready for a faith explosion that will draw people to faith in Christ? Will you join me as we pray for this change to take place?

¹<https://churchmodel.org.uk/2022/05/15/growth-decline-and-extinction-of-uk-churches/>
²premierchristianity.com/how-to-halt-the-decline/12937.article

Daphné Daisy Jessie Lombart (née Adeline) (1925-2022) d. 1 February.

Daphné, mother of seven adult children, all members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (including two pastors), 19 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, died peacefully at her son Ralph and daughter-in-law Jeanne's home in Canterbury on 1 February 2022. Close by her side for the past five years was her granddaughter nurse, Anabelle, who quit her job to care for her grandmother around the clock with her mother's support.



Daphné was born in the Seychelles on 9 October 1925. She met and married René, a Mauritian missionary to the Seychelles. She had her two eldest children, Mercia and Claude, on her native island. Her five other children – Monique, Ralph, Marianne, Fernand, and Claris – were born in Mauritius.

She was a pillar of strength to her husband, Pastor René Lombart, and supported him in his work wholeheartedly through daunting circumstances and several painful challenges over the years.

The family moved to England in the mid-sixties, and first set up house in North London before later settling in Dartford, Kent. When René had a stroke at the age of 76, she never left his side until his death five years later. She epitomised spousal fidelity and self-sacrificing motherly love, kindness, care, generosity and compassion.

Daphné had three distinct but overlapping priorities in life: love for God; love for her husband, children and extended family; and love for her church and friends. In return, she was showered with love – not just on special occasions, but throughout the year.

She loved travelling and visited her missionary son, Claude, first in West Africa, and then in the Middle East. She once accompanied him and his family on a holiday road trip all the way from Dartford in Kent to Albufeira in Portugal, via Andorra. Mercia and Ben took her along on several of their travels too.

Daphné was a creative and fabulous cook. She found great satisfaction in preparing healthy and mouth-watering meals for her family and guests that could drop in at short notice. She didn't miss any opportunity to exercise her gift of hospitality.

She never took a counselling course, but she had an undisputed reputation for being the counsellor-in-chief of her family. She showed unconditional love. She had a deep

sense of empathy and excellent listening skills. No problem was too big or too complicated for her, primarily because she was a woman of faith who drew her resilience and strength from reading her Bible and Sabbath School lesson daily and kneeling beside her bed morning and evening to pray.

Although Daphné did not have an academic degree, her achievements for nearly a well-spent century of life qualify her for the highest degree in the university of life, where she, arguably, graduated *summa cum laude*.

On Friday 25 February, family members had travelled from far and wide, and others watched online as her youngest son, Claris, stood on the platform of Canterbury Chapel and addressed the bereaved congregation of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Solemn and sad tears were shed as the coffin came into the chapel and out again, and grew more intense and poignant as the casket was lowered into the ground and the words 'dust to dust' pierced the air.

Reminiscing on a life lived to the full to the glory of God and for the blessing of others assuaged the pain of the final farewell. Her absence leaves a void that cannot be filled. However, the certainty of Daphné's resurrection, which her son Claude (a retired pastor) spoke about in his homily and reiterated at the graveside, lifted spirits as nothing else could do.

Daphné ran the Christian race; she finished the course, and is now asleep in Jesus until the Life-giver wakes her up to be with Him and her loved ones, for eternity.

EMERITUS PASTOR DR CLAUDE LOMBART

Rae Hanna (1933-2022) d. 26 March.

Rachel Hanley Dornan was born on 13 July 1933 in Rutherglen, Glasgow, the firstborn of Harry and Martha (Mattie). She was the eldest of four and had Harry, Ruby and David as her siblings.



Rae, as she was affectionately known, attended the Church of Scotland as a child, where her mother taught Sunday School.

In 1938 her mother and father were baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church following a campaign in Glasgow by Pastors Murdoch and Goodall. Later, Rae was baptised in 1949 at the age of 16 at Glasgow Church.

During her teens and early twenties Rae played an active part in attending many church youth retreats and camps around the UK and overseas in Switzerland.

Rae was employed by the NHS as a receptionist at the Victoria Infirmary. She worked at the South England Conference office in Watford as a secretary to J. A. Clements, and after returning to Glasgow she worked in the Rutherglen Council offices, but her real calling was to be at the centre of a loving and supportive family.

In 1959 she was married to Robert Hanna at the age of 25 in Glasgow Church by Pastor T. H. Fielding. The couple were inseparable for their 63 years of marriage, receiving congratulations from the Queen on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Two very active boys arrived, and she gave her boys a great start in life – for which my brother and I will be forever grateful, as we could not have wished for a happier and more love-filled childhood.

Rae loved being involved and active in the church as church clerk, deaconess, children's Sabbath School teacher, Sabbath School secretary, Personal Ministries secretary and church organist. Her time in the children's Sabbath School department is fondly remembered by many of her charges. She had a lovely contralto voice and sang at many church occasions with other church members, family and friends, and with her brother Harry.

She loved gardening – her father was a gardener by profession – and spent many hours tending plants, pruning roses and weeding. Rae could also knit up a storm, regularly churning out complex cable-patterned Arran jumpers for all the family. She also adored flower arranging for church and home.

Her love of music ran like a thread through her life. Rae taught herself how to play from a very young age, picking out melodies on an old organ, slowly and determinedly building her skills and repertoire. Although essentially a private person who played for her own enjoyment and that of her family, she was later encouraged to develop and share her abilities by playing the pipe organ at church. Many people were blessed by her music ministry. We will always remember the music of hymns and gospel melodies around the house as Mum played the organ in the front room.

Although her whole life was affected by the increasing pain of osteoarthritis, she refused to let it define her and maintained as active and enthusiastic a life as possible until latterly. Even then she kept in touch with friends and relatives by phone. In her last years, Rae was cared for lovingly and attentively at home by Dad and her carers.

Rae has four grandchildren, of

whom she was immensely proud: Daniel and Michael to Leslie and Heather, and Jonathan and Lois to Gavin and Linda.

She had the most attractive blend of unconditional, trusting love along with feistiness and spirit that made her a purpose-driven individual whose strong, practical faith and Bible-based values were held dear for the entirety of her life.

She looked forward to the time when we will be made new and there will be no more suffering and tears, when our Lord will return in glory.

The funeral service was conducted by Pastors Paul Tompkins, Jimmy Botha and Ivana Mendez, with tributes from the family. *LESLIE HANNA*

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Jun 24	9.22	9.34	9.35	10.03	10.04
Jul 1	9.21	9.33	9.33	10.01	10.03
8	9.18	9.30	9.30	9.57	9.58
15	9.12	9.24	9.23	9.49	9.51
22	9.04	9.16	9.14	9.39	9.42

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