

Messenger

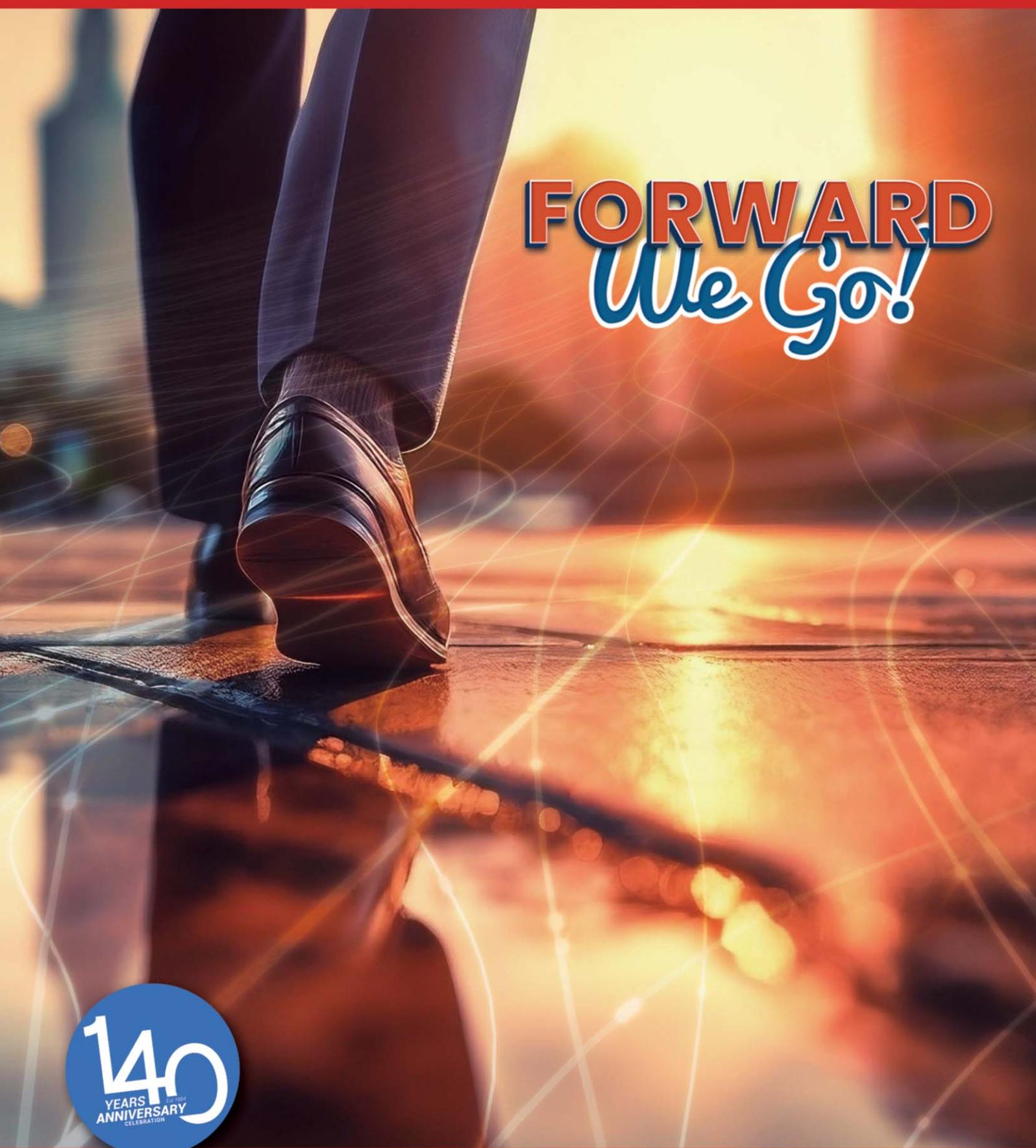
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Celebrating 140 years of God's
blessings at Stanborough Press
Open Day
The gift of water
Impacting our communities
When God allows accidents . . .
Engaged in Mission –
fifth European Pastors' Council
Forward we go! The 64th Session
of the North England Conference

+ *Baptisms*



FORWARD
We Go!



Celebrating 140 year's of God's blessings

Power belongs to God

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,
President of the British Union Conference

'During ages of spiritual darkness the church of God has been as a city set on a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders. Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theatre of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.' (Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12, emphasis supplied.)

At a recent pastoral meeting, I had the privilege to present the Union's vision for the territory. One response was a question: 'Is this a power-grab?'

I was stunned. Not only was 'power' far from my thinking, but I was surprised that it was in the thoughts of my colleague.

As church workers, like Jesus' disciples, we have answered the call to 'follow Me'. Our mandate should be one of unselfish service for the Master. Thoughts of power should be the furthest from our minds.

In humility, Christ washed the dirty feet of His disciples. He 'made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men'

(Philippians 2:7, NKJV). That is servant leadership at its best.

And our remit at the Union is to demonstrate the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. Our recent State of the Union Address was an exercise in listening and learning and looking at areas that demand change.

As an entity, we have a responsibility to lead and govern the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland; and, as a team, we take this charge seriously.

As a church, we seek to empower our workers to be effective in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these last days. Evangelism is not an event, but a lifestyle, and we seek to encourage our fields to equip members for service.

We are blessed to be a charity. Charitable status comes with its own set of structures, but it enables us to exist in an environment that ensures that we are transparent about our purpose and encourages us to serve our local communities.

We are a corporation, a business. We employ more than 400 workers in the territory, as well as having nearly 500 retirees. Just employing staff demands that we adhere to business law, and that's just one set of a myriad laws we have to abide by.

So our power, our help, and our sustenance come from God. Like the psalmist, we say, 'My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth' (Psalm 121:2, NKJV).

'Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us,
But to Your name give glory,
Because of Your mercy,
Because of Your truth.'
(Psalm 115:1, NKJV.)

And God's power and glory are best seen in the transformation of human beings who surrender their lives to Him.

As a union we are committed to this, and we seek your prayers as we carry forward God's work and demonstrate His power at work in our lives.



Editorial

by Dusanka Rancic,
Editor



Dear reader,

The lyrics 'Jesus is a Rock in a weary land; He's a shelter in the time of storm' have resonated with me since Sunday 8 September. This was the final message delivered through song by the London Adventist Chorale to all who visited Stanborough Press Open Day. What an appropriate and encouraging thought to conclude the celebration programme, since Jesus has been the true Rock and Shelter to all who have worked at the Stanborough Press for the last 140 years.

And what a milestone that is, celebrating 140 years of the unwavering dedication of our predecessors and the current team. But let's start from the beginning.

A rainy start

Open Day got off to a wet start in the car park as parking attendants juggled setting up gazebos and directing those who had come to set up their stalls, but the weather soon brightened up, and all visitors were welcomed with cheery smiles, programmes, and a free book.

Multiple drivers testified of answered prayers for God to calm the stormy weather on the roads, and soon the car park filled with numerous vehicles of various shapes and sizes.

'It was a joy to see so many people arrive, all eager for spiritual nurture and fellowship,' reflected Andrew Puckering, Stanborough Press Assistant Editor, 'and parking staff who went on to serve at the tills could tell that their needs were being amply satisfied.'

'The challenge of trying to identify and find a particular title is combined with the pleasure of meeting old and new church members,' said Ian Clutton, Stanborough Press Sales Assistant, who continued: 'You can put a face to the person you have spoken to numerous times over the phone, as well as seeing a person you have known personally for many years. Their stories and updates on life reflect how time is passing as we all journey through life. For many, Open Day is an annual marker to refresh their joy in both books and each other.'

Sunshine and smiles

Among the army of visitors, we welcomed some special guests, such as Steve Apola, GC Associate Publishing Director; Dr Philip Baptiste, ASI Liaison to the North American Division; Dr Kevin Burton, Director of the Centre for Adventist Research at Andrews University; Dr Herma Percy, Director of the International Humanitarian Advocacy Unit, ADRA International; Marcos Paseggi, from *Adventist Review*; Vanesa Pizzuto, TED Communications and Media Associate Director; Pastor Eglan Brooks, BUC President; many other BUC directors, conference and mission presidents; and the Principal of Newbold College of Higher Education, Dr Stephen Currow, and his team.

Some of the Stanborough Press authors who joined in the celebration, such as Sharon Platt-McDonald, Dr Philip Baptiste, one of our guest speakers, Dr Herma Percy, and some self-published authors, were enthusiastically signing their books while exchanging pleasantries with visitors.

The gloomy morning turned into a sunny day that buzzed with activities, filled with joy and laughter. A visitor commented, 'It is a marvellous thing that believers from all parts of Britain and beyond can come together to support one another and enjoy the day as a family.'

I learnt that two young men had come to Press Open Day every year since they were toddlers. They love books, and, above all, they love God. Weather did not scare them away. To the contrary, they encouraged their families to join them, since they 'wouldn't break their families' tradition due to the unfavourable weather'.

As in previous years, the Press was privileged to welcome children to its Open Day. We intentionally invest in our children, because they are the future of our church. They had activities of their own while their parents and grandparents enjoyed the worship, browsing and buying books, as well as socialising. Sharing favourite book stories, making key rings and bookmarks, and following a treasure trail were just a few of the activities the children could take part in on the day. The dedicated Children's Activities team

Continued overleaf



These two young men, seen here with Press Manager Elisabeth Sangüesa, have been coming to the Stanborough Press Open Day since they were toddlers.

Celebrating 140 year's of God's blessings

Continued from previous page



Steve Apola presenting a plaque to Elisabeth Sangüesa – in addition, numerous videos were shared from church leaders and partners of the Press across the globe, testifying of the powerful impact that the Stanborough Press has had over the years in their territories.

enjoyed interacting with the little visitors, ensuring that the children's area was a busy, funny, and interactive corner throughout the day.

Satisfied hearts and minds

The attendees benefited from two presentations heartily delivered by our guest speakers. Elisabeth Sangüesa, Stanborough Press General Manager, introduced the first speaker, Dr Kevin Burton, who challenged the audience with the thought-provoking presentation titled 'Ellen White's body:

retrospective diagnosis and plagiarism'. In this gender analysis of critics and apologists, he addressed the question, 'To what extent does Ellen White's gender affect public opinion of her visions and writings?'

He disarmed two common weapons that her critics use to destroy her credibility: the allegation that she was mentally unstable, and plagiarism. 'Through her writings, Ellen White transgressed a sacred male domain,' Dr Burton said. In the nineteenth-century mindset, good writing could only be associated with men, while weak or bad writing was associated with femininity. Expectedly, things are not much better today. Dr Burton shared that observation, saying, 'The critics are continuously at work, building on the aforementioned premises of their predecessors, and their influence is still being felt today.' 'Will she ever be free?' was his concluding remark.

Yet we bear witness to the amazing positive influence that her writings have had on people throughout the years. God is using her work to transform lives, and people have been guided by the Holy Spirit to engage in studying the Bible and become disciples of Christ. And studying God's Word was the topic of the second presentation.

Dr Herma Percy, while presenting her latest book, *Sabbath School Reboot*, emphasised the importance and role of Sabbath School. She reminded attendees, 'Our pioneers prioritised studying God's Word over the founding and the development of the church structure.' However, 'Sabbath School today faces many challenges,' she said, adding that 'we see a decline in Sabbath School attendance and participation.' Hence the need for the book that, using Dr Percy's words, 'was a call for a revival in our church of the study of God's Word'. The goal is to help and motivate all, but especially young people, to deeply and passionately study God's Word.

People left Grantham with the commemorative book as a souvenir, but more importantly with hearts and minds filled with satisfying and uplifting food for thought.

While writing this editorial, the song lyrics have still been echoing in my head. In these times of challenges and troubles, God is our Shelter; in these times of uncertainty and despair, He is our Rock.

*'As we write, a raw autumn wind swirls leaves and dust in small tornadoes and sends pedestrians scurrying for indoor warmth. It speaks of melancholy and winter soon to come. Open Day was at once a last taste of summer and a foretaste of a summer soon to be, when God's people will be forever united.'*¹



Dr Kevin Burton



Dr Herma Percy



The book display



London Adventist Chorale

¹MESSENGER, vol. 84, no. 21, 12 October 1979, p. 5



Preparing the ground

by Dr Jeff Couzins

REFLECTINGHOPE.ORG

Second Corinthians 3:3 (NIV) tells us, 'You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.'

This tells me that, before I open my mouth, people will see something of God in me; so my witnessing begins before I share the Gospel or any of the doctrines.

Jesus spoke about a sequence of witnessing in John 5:31-40.

The first witness, in John 5:31-33, is John the Baptist. The principle here is that the first witness is a human witness – us. The only thing that some people know about God may be what they see in us.

First Corinthians 2:14 (NIV) says, 'The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.'

Sometimes we cannot communicate spiritual truth through our words, but our behaviour can convey a message beyond words. By what we do and what we say, we are telling others what God is like. This raises the question: what sort of example are people seeing in us?

The second witness is the works of Jesus. In today's context that is our Christian ministries. In the parable of the sheep and goats, in Matthew 25:34-36 (NKJV), we read, 'Then the King will say to those on His

right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' '

From this we can infer that the works of Jesus today include feeding the hungry, giving people a drink, clothing people, visiting the sick, and visiting prisoners – which in today's context means essentially practical Christian ministries. We can add to the list such things as job clubs, debt counselling, health expos, health seminars, cooking classes, lifestyle change classes, community mediation, advocacy, and so on.

When we support people in the community with practical Christian service, Jesus is doing His works through us. Sometimes the most powerful sermons are unspoken. Ellen White noted that the work of Adventists is to 'first meet the temporal necessities', and 'then find an open avenue to the heart' where we can 'plant the good seeds of virtue and religion'.¹

And this brings me to the third witness: the inner witness of the Holy Spirit. God has called us to work cooperatively with Him. The Holy

Spirit works within the hearts and minds of people.

In Matthew 28:20 (NKJV), Jesus said, 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Jesus said that in the context of making disciples. If you think about it for a moment, you can see why it makes sense. When we make disciples, we can only share what we have ourselves. We need Jesus in our own hearts to share Him with others.

Remember that we are ambassadors for Christ. We are an external witness to the love of God, while the Holy Spirit witnesses within people – which brings us to the fourth witness, the Bible.

The Holy Spirit takes our personal testimonies, the witness of our lives, and the witness of our Christian ministries, and prepares people's hearts to be receptive to God's Word. But note that the Bible is the last in the sequence.

Our personal witness can converge with the inner witness of the Holy Spirit. We first prepare the hearts of people through our friendship, personal testimonies, and Christian service. When these converge with the inner witness of the Holy Spirit, then people will more likely be receptive to the Word of God in the Bible.

¹Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 227



The gift of water

by Hélia Mateus, ADRA-UK Chief Finance Officer



Our ADRA dairy development project in Zambia was halfway into its three-year plan when ADRA-UK Programmes Officer José Orozco and I visited it this July.

During the first 18 months of the project, ADRA Zambia started activities in three regions: Choma, Chongwe and Chibombo. The objective of the project is to increase income for dairy farmers by enhancing milk production. The project field coordinators have been instrumental in linking communities to milk-collection centres, teaching them about animal upkeep, hygiene, fodder, resilience to diseases, and reproduction.

Linda, the headwoman for the Hachintundwe group, two hours away from Choma City on track roads, exclaimed passionately: 'ADRA has taught us how to save.' She and her 30 members have committed to save at least 50 kwacha per month (approximately £1.50). With these funds, every three to four months, one of the members of the committee is able to buy a cow. They have bought eight so far.

Before travelling, we read about the drought that was affecting millions of people in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana and Malawi – but it's one thing to read about it in the news, and another thing entirely to witness people rationing water to drink, to wash their children, and to feed their animals. We crossed field after field that had been ploughed and sown in

preparation for the rainy season last year, but the rains never came, and crops have simply withered and dried out.

The irony cannot be lost on us: it is the country of the Victoria Falls, over which an average of 500 million litres of water comes crashing down every minute, but only two hours' drive from there, in the next few months, there is a high risk that animals will die and households will go hungry due to the lack of water.

In the village of Pangwe, a local woman, Fales, showed us the cart that is pulled by oxen every day to go and fetch water at a borehole 8 kilometres away – but even there the water is scarce, and the local people are not pleased that she is coming. As I opened the tap at the small hotel where we were staying in Choma City, her words reverberated in my mind: 'We are thirsty, but we just sip, sip, as little as possible, to save water.' The rainy season is still far away. November is the earliest we can expect the first rains.

In another region covered by the project, in the Chibombo district, Meeknos, an elderly community leader, challenged us to come and see their waterpoint. This one was not far, some 100 metres from the village, but it was only an open hole on the ground with stagnant dirty water and flying insects. This water they collect, leave it in a bucket for the dirt to settle, and then use it for cooking and washing. As much as possible, they chlorinate the water they drink. Yet this water is already

running low and will not last until the rains come. It will run out much sooner!

ADRA is desperately seeking partners to drill boreholes in priority communities which are the most affected and where we can strategically serve the largest number of people and animals. Given the context, we will require deep boreholes with lasting solar power pumps to provide multiple water points for more than one community.

Once again, a field monitoring trip brought me back to the words of the Bible. The gift of Jacob, a well dug in the arid land of Sychar, was indeed the gift of life – where, centuries later, Jesus would sit down at the hottest hour and tell a low-status foreign woman that He was the Messiah, the One and Only who could satisfy the thirst of the world!

If you are able to support ADRA-UK in bringing water to rural communities in Zambia, please donate to the Jacob's Well Zambia fund at www.adra.org.uk or use the QR code above.

The Jersey Breed Focused Dairy Development Project in Zambia (JBFDDZ) 2022-2025 aims to sustainably improve livelihoods, resilience and dairy productivity of smallholder farmers. ADRA-UK is implementing this project in partnership with the Royal Jersey Agricultural and Horticultural Society (RIAHS) with funding from Jersey Overseas Aid.



Job opening: local church stewardship leader

by Alex Mareniuc,
SEC Stewardship Director



GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

It's autumn: leaves are falling; days are getting shorter; birds are migrating to warmer countries; and many local churches are going through the important process of prayerfully electing new officers to lead out in various ministries. You might not have expected this last part as a characteristic of the season, but there's a reason for mentioning it.

There is one position that I have noticed is sometimes neglected come election time: the local church Stewardship Ministries leader. While nominating committees and churches understand the need for leaders in roles such as elders, deacons, and Sabbath School superintendents, we are not as concerned if the nominating committee report does not include a name to be voted for the Stewardship Ministries leader role – yet what we fail to understand is that without a

dedicated stewardship leader, churches risk missing opportunities for growth, unity and service, impacting the congregation's spiritual health and outreach efforts.

Current attitudes may stem from misconceptions that the role is limited to appealing for tithes and offerings only – a topic often avoided. As a result, in too many churches, the local treasurer has been automatically assigned the role of stewardship leader as well, the position has been left blank, or it has been marked 'TBC' (*to be confirmed*) for a number of years. This really should be a reason for concern and reflection.

At its core, stewardship touches every aspect of life – time, talents, resources, health, and even our care for the environment. When the role of the stewardship leader is not seen from this holistic perspective, the church risks reducing this rich, multifaceted biblical concept to mere income generation. Having a dedicated leader for this ministry in your church ensures that the comprehensive understanding of what stewardship is becomes woven

into the fabric of the church community. The stewardship leader doesn't just educate and encourage people to return a faithful tithe and support the church through their offerings, but is tasked with helping members to understand their personal responsibility in managing all aspects of their lives in a way that honours God, including through their service, relationships, and spiritual growth.

The General Conference also encourages us to see that having a stewardship leader should be a vital part of a church's spiritual ecosystem. The ministry description speaks about working alongside other church leaders to foster a culture of generosity, accountability, and holistic living, while also placing on the stewardship leader the great responsibility to educate and inspire members to recognise that everything they have belongs to God and should be used for His glory.

I hope you too are starting to see how stewardship should be a foundational ministry in your church. Therefore, whether you are a pastor, a nominating committee member, or someone who will vote on the committee report, I encourage you to ensure that the role is not overlooked during this election season. Seek suitable candidates prayerfully, and consider making it a permanent elected position rather than leaving it open or merging it with other ministries.

Stewardship is a spiritual mandate that touches every aspect of Christian life. Electing a leader who will advocate for holistic biblical stewardship is crucial for guiding your congregation to grow spiritually, serve more effectively, and honour God with all that has been entrusted to them.



Health markers: assessing your well-being profile – part 6b

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

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

Boosting and maintaining energy

In this final instalment of 'Health markers for assessing your well-being profile', we look at solutions for maintaining and boosting energy. Here are some essentials to consider:

Reduce your commute

Post-pandemic research has yielded interesting data on how changes in commuting to work have affected energy levels. It also provides some travel tips to help preserve your energy. 'Researchers at the London School of Economics are examining how hybrid working – which relieves many workers from the need to be in an office five days a week – affects well-being, tiredness and levels of burnout. Even dispensing with the commute a few days a week could be significant, says Alexandra Kirienko, a PhD researcher.'¹

Kirienko further explains: 'If somebody can go directly to a client meeting from home in the morning, instead of popping into the office for 30 minutes, it definitely cuts down on tiredness because the commute is a giant source of stress and fatigue. While some value commuting time as a buffer between home and work, studies have found the ideal duration to be just 16 minutes; increasing that by just 20 minutes brings a sharp drop in measurable standards of well-being.'

Positive lifestyle practices

Making daily positive lifestyle choices can significantly improve energy levels and overall well-being. Evidence-based research lists the following lifestyle factors that increase energy:

- **Sleep to renew energy** – Deep sleep restores your body and mind.²
- **Hydrate adequately** – Dehydration can lead to fatigue. Sufficient water boosts your metabolism, which is associated with increased energy.³
- **Eat for energy** – High-fibre, nutrient-dense foods with a low glycaemic index maintain steady energy levels.⁴
- **Exercise regularly** – Exercise enhances oxygen circulation and supports mitochondrial energy production, which improves body functionality and uses energy reserves more efficiently.⁵
- **Manage stress** – Reducing stress levels boosts energy and increases mental clarity and physical fitness.⁶
- **Avoid stimulants and refined foods** – Caffeine and sugar give quick, short-lived boosts, but often lead to a crash later.⁷
- **Exposure to sunlight** – Getting out in the sunlight boosts serotonin levels, which enhances your mood, making you more focused and productive.^{8,9}
- **Take regular breaks** – Throughout the working day, short breaks decrease exhaustion, improve vigour and enhance performance in work-related tasks.¹⁰

Ageing well

Is it possible to maintain your energy as you age? Much scientific research



suggests so. A Johns Hopkins article titled 'Age-Defying Energy Levels' states: 'Getting older doesn't automatically mean less vibrancy and vigour, or lower energy levels.' Listing helpful tips, they advise the following:

1. eat mostly whole foods;
2. check your vitamin D levels;
3. revitalise with vitamin B12;
4. move more; and 5. review your medications.¹¹

For more tips on maintaining energy as you age, visit:

www.rush.edu/news/keep-your-energy-you-age.

Good health!

¹www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/may/19/exhausting-search-for-solutions-to-uk-rise-in-tiredness

²www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/how-sleep-boosts-your-energy

³www.healthline.com/health/food-nutrition/why-is-water-important#energy

⁴thebeet.com/tired-heres-how-to-boost-your-energy-on-a-plant-based-diet/

⁵www.health.harvard.edu/exercise-and-fitness/does-exercise-really-boost-energy-levels

⁶medicalwesthospital.org/blog/could-chronic-stress-be-costing-you-your-energy/

⁷www.webmd.com/balance/boost-energy

⁸newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-minute-how-change-in-sunlight-can-affect-your-mood/

⁹centerforbrainhealth.org/article/sunlight-and-your-brain

¹⁰thewellbeingthesis.org.uk/foundations-for-success/importance-of-taking-breaks-and-having-other-interests/

¹¹www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/wellness-and-prevention/age-defying-energy-levels



Impacting our communities

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

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

*'The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organised for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world.'*¹

Church impact

BUC Director Sharon Platt-McDonald recently heard the responses of community leaders to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (including her presentations): 'Your church does such a lot for the community. It's great to see people of faith caring for the holistic needs of individuals, and not just their spiritual well-being.' 'I am now visiting a local SDA church as a result of their community outreach in my area.' 'I like the way your faith is weaved into your presentations and the evidence-based research you present on the positive impact faith can have on all aspects of our lives.' 'The practical help your church gave to the community during the pandemic was critical to the survival of so many who were unable to help themselves.'

Impactful outreach

Following requests for advice on how our churches can undertake more impactful outreach, here are a few suggestions:

- Put the desire for community ministry and outreach in prayer to God.
- Learn how to understand and reach your community through specialist organisations such as www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/our-impact/understanding-local-need.
- Check neighbourhood profiles or annual council reports for your local area to get acquainted with the community's demographics.
- Do a needs assessment of the community, meeting with key

organisations and agents (for example, NHS establishments, social care providers, or voluntary agencies), discuss how you can help, and bring them a proposal. Is your outreach what they need?

- Identify community-based initiatives that meet a need.
- Link in with local networks who are already involved with outreach in your area and participate in their events to gain experience.
- Undertake a **SWOT** analysis of any intervention you decide on (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats).
- Ensure you have enough relevantly skilled volunteers.
- Ascertain any costs and assess whether you have enough funds. Establish relevant community funding/Government-funded schemes/grants/sponsorship as appropriate.
- Have groups of people pray for your ministry, and conduct prayer walks in that area.

Engaging the church

Your community outreach should be a 'whole church' effort instead of just a 'departmental' project. In this way, the entire church owns the outreach and is invested in its success and evangelism potential. Engage the church board in planning outreach, place local or national events on your church's calendar so you can get involved and be more visible, and make intervention programmes part of the church's mission. Follow the 'I will go' strategy and embrace total member involvement. Get involved in local authority programmes



tackling social issues and well-being projects. Invite local political and religious leaders to your events, and always report the project outcomes and data to your church.

Reflection

Take time to evaluate your outreach. What worked well? Why was it successful? What did not work well, and why? Which aspects worked best or least? What has changed as a result of your intervention? List any benefits to the community.

Use the things you have learnt as a benchmark for future outreach.

May God make our churches relevant to our communities as we minister effectively to their diverse needs.

¹Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9

Resources

- *The Role of the Church in the Community* (E. G. White notes for the Sabbath School lessons)
- *Burst the Bubble - Finding Your Passion for Community Outreach* by Sung K. Kwon
- *Adventist Churches that Make a Difference* by May-Ellen and Gaspar Colón
- *For the Least of These* by Nathan Brown
- *Creating Space for Strangers - Thinking Afresh about Mission and the Church* by David Evans with Kathryn Scherer



When God allows accidents . . .

by Harry Wilby

When we kneel at the start of each day to talk to our Creator, a request for protection is usually included. And most days that protection is given to us. But sometimes God allows something else to happen.

On 30 May I was heading home from my allotment at about 5.30pm on my electric bike. As I approached a T-junction, I could hear traffic coming from both directions, so I began to brake. Suddenly the driver coming from the left turned into my road, *on my side of the white centre line*, in order not to be held up by the car coming towards her.

I didn't have time to jump off. (At 92 years old, I'm not capable of jumping anywhere these days!) The driver must have seen me in the last split second and braked before smacking into my front wheel. Electric bikes are considerably heavier than ordinary bikes, mine in particular. It lurched to the left, throwing me down to the road on to my back. My helmet thumped on to the tarmac with a bang that sounded like a dropped saucepan. Then the full weight of the bike landed on top of me, the pedal tearing open a 5-inch gash down the front of my right shin.

For a few seconds I lay there, feeling dazed and annoyed! I sat up, saw that the wound was bleeding very freely but not spurting, and my nurse's first aid knowledge engaged. All I had on me was a grubby handkerchief, which I slapped onto the wound while applying pressure to control the blood flow.

Then, looking up, I recognised a



couple of retired doctors who used to visit their patients in Roundelwood, where I had been a staff nurse. They were out for a walk. Also there were the couple from the corner house, who had been working in their front garden. Next was one of our community nurses. She had been driving the other car and seen it all happen. She arrived with all her medical kit. Last, but not least, was a pale-looking and very apologetic guilty driver.

Someone lifted off the bike and parked it in their garden. The doctors assessed the wound, and the nurse cleaned it and did a proper pressure dressing. Someone else had phoned for an ambulance but all were in use, and one would have to come 18 miles from Perth. However, a nearby paramedic was on his way home, and by the time he had had a look, control had also diverted an ambulance. The paramedic told the ambulance drivers that a vein had been severed, and that they should take me to Dundee rather than Perth, as it might need micro surgery.

After details had been swapped with the driver, I was loaded into the ambulance and given a thorough examination. One of them asked, 'Where is your bike, and where do you live? We'll take it home for you.'

The heavy bike was hoisted into the back of the vehicle by these two petite young women, and we completed my journey home. While they unloaded the bike, I changed my clothes and collected my phone, some cash, a sweater, and my bus pass.

At Ninewells Hospital I joined a crowded waiting area, and an hour and a half passed before being triaged. It was 11pm before the wound was stitched and glued. Then followed X-rays of the leg and full spine, and a scan of my head. They kept me in overnight for observation, and discharged me the next day just before the dinner trolley arrived.

Unfortunately for us, Satan still works in our world, and God sometimes allows unpleasant things to come our way. But He certainly provided all the help that was needed in my emergency.

We may never know how many times His angels have steered us away from both physical and moral dangers. May God grant me the opportunity to be in the right place when someone else needs my skills, help and sympathy.

Thank You, Heavenly Father.

After sending us this testimony, Harry Wilby finished his race before it was published. You can read his obituary on page 15.

'Engaged in Mission' – the fifth European Pastors' Council

A concise summary of the Trans-European Division's thirteen reports on this landmark event

Nearly 1,200 pastors, Bible workers, departmental leaders, and accompanying spouses from 22 countries across the Trans-European Division (TED) gathered from 28 to 31 August at the Sava Centre in Belgrade, Serbia, for the fifth European Pastors' Council (EPC). Daniel Duda, TED President, and Patrick Johnson, TED Ministerial Association Director, welcomed everyone, emphasising the significant gathering's role in continuing education, connection and growth.



Daniel Duda, President, TED
Tor Tjeransen/AME (CC BY 4.0)

The 2024 theme, 'Engaged in Mission', reflects the dynamic perspective of the current TED strategic plan: 'Extend Love – Grow Lifelong Disciples – Multiply Communities'. Inspiring sermons, 11 plenary presentations, 50 practical workshops, and moments of worship provided a much-needed opportunity for pastors to refocus their service to God and their communities.

Attendees were inspired, challenged and encouraged by numerous dedicated speakers. Pastor Erton Köhler, GC Executive Secretary, described five certainties of mission, defining the Adventist mission as a miracle. Sophia Nicholls, a student from Newbold College of Higher Education, spoke on extending love through a personal story about her disabled son, seeking greater engagement (not mere inclusion) for people with disabilities in local churches. Pastor Jonathan Holder of the North England Conference said knowledge must never take precedence over love.

Pastor Victor Marley, President of the Norwegian Union Conference, emphasised that growing lifelong disciples is a collective, community-based effort rather than an individual task. Pastor Lidija Djordjevic Runic (South-East European Union Conference) beautifully expressed, 'People will argue about almost anything, but you cannot argue love.' Expounding on 1 Corinthians 11:1, Runic emphasised that discipleship is not hierarchical, but parental, involving love and sacrifice. Pastor Mathew Herel (South England Conference) spoke on how trust and respect can powerfully transform community outreach.

Dr Tara J. VinCross, senior pastor of Azure Hills Church in California, stressed in her Friday evening sermon that God is more concerned with who we are becoming in Him than with the roles we serve. 'Before being a pastor, director, or administrator, we are disciples of Jesus,' she stated, urging everyone to prioritise their

relationship with Christ above all else.

The Sabbath sermon, 'Secret Disciples and Other Imperfect Believers', was passionately and knowledgeably delivered by Dr Kendra Haloviak Valentine, Professor of New Testament Studies at La Sierra University. 'The Church is made up of imperfect people – and that's why we can be a part of it,' she said, quoting her late father, Bert Haloviak.

During the programme, special attention was given to female pastors and pastoral spouses, who met three times for discussion, mutual support amid challenges, prayer, and networking.

Uplifting music and heartfelt prayers from the worship team, led by Kärt and Tihomir Lazić, complemented devotionals and talks, highlighting the power of music in Christian experience. Sabbath worship was a foretaste of Heaven as 2,000 melodious voices from many nationalities offered praise to Almighty God.

Many outreach projects, unique approaches to ministry and creative programmes were presented throughout the week. A group of riders from Serbia testified of the blessings they had experienced as part of the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry. A delegation from Ukraine, clothed in their national attire, testified of how God is miraculously working amid difficulties. Pastor Daniel Soldat and his wife Kristina talked about their ministry in Sarajevo, Bosnia, using board games to simply and effectively foster relationships and build a spiritual community. The response to their initiative has been overwhelming. Additionally, many success stories of church planting were presented.

Despite the myriad challenges facing modern ministry – including the aftermath of COVID-19, political polarisation, declining church attendance, and societal shifts leading to faith deconstruction – Dr Daniel Duda surprisingly said in his concluding message, 'This is a great time to be in ministry, because I do believe that this is the time for the church to shine. The church can be at its best when the world is at its worst.' He urged pastors to view these difficulties as opportunities for God to work through their ministries.

Duda encouraged attendees to devote their lives to building communities that reflect God's love and transformative power, stating, 'God has done it before. He has not lost His power. The Holy Spirit is still available.' He reminded everyone that God's strength works through human weakness. Pastors departed Belgrade inspired and equipped to embrace their ministries with renewed faith, ready to face challenges, firmly grounded in God's power.

For more details, see the articles about this topic on the TED website: ted.adventist.org.

HEBREWS 1

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| POWER | BEGINNING | FOOTSTOOL |
| ANGELS | FOUNDATION | HEIRS |
| BEGOTTEN | HEAVENS | SALVATION |

Taken from *Hidden Words: Book 6*, by Helen Johnson.
 To purchase your copy, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/hidden-words/>

No-bake Granola Bars



Granola bars are so fun to make. The recipe is easy, and this one doesn't even require an oven. If you want to try out a few raw vegan recipes on your children then this is a good one to start with. Packed with lots of healthy goodness, you can get creative and use this as a basis to create other flavours or versions too.

- 1 Line a medium-sized shallow baking tray, about 20x30cm, with greaseproof paper.
- 2 Put the **dates**, **bananas**, **agave (or maple) syrup**, **coconut oil** and 2 tablespoons **water** in a food processor and blend.
- 3 In a large bowl, combine the **oats**, **raisins**, **currants**, **flaxseed**, **sunflower seeds** and **pumpkin seeds**.
- 4 Stir in the puréed fruit and agave, and mix well.
- 5 Place the mixture into the prepared tin and gently press it down, getting it as even and level as you can.
- 6 Put the tray in the fridge for 2-3 hours to allow the flapjack to set, and then turn out onto a board and slice into bars.
- 7 Keep in a plastic container in the fridge and eat within a week.



Shopping list

Dates – 200g, pitted
Bananas – 2, slightly over-ripe
Agave or maple syrup – 150g
Coconut oil – 2 tbsp, raw organic
Oats – 325g, porridge or jumbo
Raisins – 100g
Currants – 50g
Flaxseed (linseed) – 25g
Sunflower seeds – 25g
Pumpkin seeds – 30g
Water – 2 tbsp



This recipe is taken from the book, *Cooking with Kids*, by Kirly-Sue.
To purchase your copy, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/cooking-with-kids/>

Forward we go!

The 64th Session of the North England Conference

by Pastor Jonathan Holder



FORWARD
We Go!

The North England Conference (NEC) Session, held from 11 to 13 September 2024 at the Leonardo Hotel in Hinckley, Leicestershire, was a powerful gathering filled with reflection and decision-making. The three days of the Session were followed by two deeply moving services: the consecration and ordination services on Sabbath 14 September.

Day 1: Setting the tone for mission and ministry

The NEC Session officially began on Wednesday 11 September at 10.03am, with Pastor George Kumi (NEC President) welcoming the delegates and introducing the devotional speaker, Pastor Ian Sweeney (TED Field Secretary). Pastor Sweeney extended his thanks to the NEC members for their faithfulness and generosity, highlighting that the NEC is the second-largest giver in the Trans-European Division (TED). His devotion, based on Isaiah 1:12-16, urged attendees to integrate their worship with daily living, emphasising that true Christianity must be lived out consistently, not just on the Sabbath.

Following the devotion, the Session moved into a series of motions led by Pastor George Kumi and Pastor Emanuel Bran (NEC Executive Secretary). These included the acceptance of newly formed churches, voting systems, time limits on comments, and other procedural matters. Vigorous discussions ensued, giving delegates valuable insights into the governance of the church. Intertwined with these moments was a touching 'In Memoriam' segment, where members of the NEC who had passed away during the current term were remembered. This solemn tribute served as a reminder of the importance of the church's mission as we await Christ's return.

Discussions then turned to the proposed budgets for elected positions, with suggestions for increasing director roles in certain departments. This discussion continued until lunch, after which the session focused on departmental reports, including those from AMR, Children's Ministries, and Communications.

Day 2: Reports and elections

The second day of Session was focused not only on departmental reports, but also on the critical task of nominating and electing the NEC's key leadership roles. The day began with worship led by Pastor Ian Sweeney, who shared a message from Isaiah chapters 18 and 19, reminding delegates that God's desire is to save all people.

Throughout the morning, departmental reports were delivered from Community Services, Education, and Family Ministries. Questions arose about how the church could provide more consistent and permanent community service beyond one-off events. The Education report, led by Lorraine McDonald (BUC Education

Director), reassured delegates of the strength of Adventist schools, while Family Ministries focused on the need to support young married couples and maintain a robust safeguarding framework.

A highlight of the day came when the Nominating Committee presented their first partial report. Pastor Steve Palmer was nominated and elected as the new NEC president, succeeding Pastor George Kumi. Pastor Palmer humbly accepted the position, expressing his gratitude for the trust placed in him.

Following this, the Nominating Committee returned with further reports for the roles of Executive Secretary and Treasurer. Pastor Emanuel Bran was re-elected as Executive Secretary, while Elder Michael Agyei-Asare was re-elected as Treasurer. Both re-appointments were approved by the delegation with overwhelming support.

In the afternoon, Dr Beatrice Kastrati delivered the Health and Possibilities Ministries report, and further nominations were presented for key departmental roles, including Youth Director, Personal Ministries Director, and Pathfinder Director. The meeting ended with a focus on Men's Ministries, highlighting the need for greater investment in this area.

Day 3: Elections and decision-making

The third and final day of business at Session began with a powerful devotion led by Pastor Daniel Duda (TED President), focusing on the theme 'Forward We Go!' Pastor Duda challenged delegates to consider the implications of this motto, urging them to adapt to the times while staying true to the mission of becoming more like Jesus and extending His love to others.

The Session then shifted to business with the Credentials and Licences Committee presenting its report, covering missionary and ministerial credentials and the list of lay preachers.

Next came the Prison Ministries report, wherein Pastor Ian Philpott encouraged delegates to engage in evangelism within prisons. This sparked questions about how the department could receive more support, and delegates commended the work accomplished with limited resources.



Front row, left to right: Pastor Julian Kastrati, Michael Agyei-Asare, Dr Steve Palmer, Pastor Emanuel Bran, Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi. Back row, left to right: Elder Horace Radcliffe, Pastor Ian Philpott, Dr Gina Miller, Pastor John Francis, Pastor Derek Simon, Pastor Dan Majaducon, Pastor Joe Philpott



The Plans Committee, the largest committee of Session, presented proposals across six key areas: Reflecting Christ, Asset Management, People, Education, Communication, and Safeguarding. These proposals generated passionate discussions, and, after some suggestions, the plans were voted through.

The afternoon focused on further reports, including those from Stewardship and Teens Ministry. Pastor Derek Simon emphasised the need for ‘safe people’ to create ‘safe churches’, and the Women’s Ministries report was delivered by Sister Beulah Plunkett, who received praise for her inclusive leadership. The reports concluded with the Youth Department, which highlighted the IMAGE theme and urged more cross-departmental collaboration.

As the day came to a conclusion, the Nominating Committee returned with partial reports for the remaining directors and Executive Committee members, which were eventually approved. The Nominating Committee recommended that Prayer Ministries, Men’s Ministries, and AMR be referred to the Executive Committee.

Here is the final list of officers, directors, and sponsors approved by the delegation (the number in brackets indicates the department’s allocated budget):

- AMR – referred to Executive Committee
- Children’s Ministries - Bekezela Peters (0.5)
- Communication – Pastor Joe Philpott (0.5)
- Community Services – Dr Beatrice Kastrati (0.5)
- Family Ministries - Pastor John Francis (0.75)
- Health – Dr Beatrice Kastrati (0.5)
- Media – Pastor Joe Philpott (0.5)
- Men’s Ministries – Referred to Executive Committee
- Ministerial Association – Pastor Juljan Kastrati (1)
- Music – referred to Executive Committee
- Pathfinders – Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi (1)
- Personal Ministries – Pastor Dan Majaducon (1)
- Prayer – referred to Executive Committee
- Prison – Pastor Ian Philpott (0.25)
- Sabbath School – Dr Gina Miller (0.5)
- Stewardship – Pastor Ian Philpott (0.25)
- Teens – Elder Horace Radcliffe (0.5)
- Women’s Ministries – Dr Gina Miller (0.5)
- Youth – Pastor Derek Simon (1)

After these final votes, the Session was adjourned with prayer, closing a successful NEC session.

Sabbath 14 September: Consecration and ordination services

The week reached a crescendo on Sabbath with two significant services: the consecration service in the morning and the ordination service in the afternoon.

The consecration service, held at Leicester Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, began at 11.15am with special guests Pastors Daniel Duda, Eglan Brooks (BUC President), and Jacques Venter (BUC Executive Secretary) in attendance. Pastor Daniel Duda delivered a sermon about the necessity of seeing value in people, reminding the congregation that *‘the ability to see value and potential in people is one of the rarest and greatest gifts in the world.’*

Following the sermon, Pastor Eglan Brooks charged the newly elected NEC officers and directors, including Pastors Steve Palmer, Emanuel Bran, and Elder Michael Agyei-Asare. These leaders and their families were prayed over as they committed themselves to the service of God and His people.

Later, at 4.15pm, the congregation gathered for the ordination service of Pastors Neville Taylor and Sergio De Sousa. The service opened with a powerful song service, and the Leicester Central praise team’s rendition of ‘Give Me Jesus’ set the tone for the ordination.

Pastors Taylor and De Sousa knelt before the congregation as fellow pastors gathered around to pray over them, committing their ministries and families to God. Pastor Neville Taylor, speaking on behalf of both ordinands, expressed gratitude to their families and the church community for their unwavering support.

The 2024 NEC Session was a week of significant decisions, spiritual reflection, and heartfelt dedication. From the election of new leaders to the powerful moments of consecration and ordination, the Spirit of God moved throughout the event, guiding the church into its next chapter. As the newly elected officers and ordained pastors take up their roles, they do so with the prayers and support of the entire NEC family, ready to lead and serve with humility, faith, and love.



Pastor Nerine Barrett



Dr Sorin Petrof

SEC London Area 6C Camp Meeting: 'Maranatha! Are you ready?'

This year's South England Conference (SEC) Camp Meeting was done rather differently, taking place in 18 venues across the SEC. The London Area 6C Camp Meeting – held in two venues, the Clapton Community and London Ghana SDA churches, and hosted by Pastors Nerine Barrett (who is also the SEC Community Ministries Director) and Bright Agyemang-Baah respectively – brought spiritual revival to those who attended, both in person and online. SEC Communications Director Dr Sorin Petrof and SEC Teens Director Pastor Joojo Bonnie were two of the Conference directors in attendance.

The early Morning Manna sessions, hosted by the SEC Prayer Ministries Director with guest speaker Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick, examined the ministry of Moses under the theme of 'Out of your desert and into His promised land' and encouraged members to faithfully look to God as Moses did, knowing that God has a plan to benefit all His children. 'Your trauma will become your triumph, and your misery will become your ministry,' encouraged Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick.

Each evening, interactive Bible study sessions based on

real-life topical themes took place at Clapton Church, led by the SEC Personal Ministries Director, Pastor Royston Smith. Alongside those were health presentations by professionals within the various churches.

Louanne Sampson sang thoughtful meditations, preparing hearts for the messages of the guest speaker, Dr Mark Braithwaite. Currently ministering in Miami, Florida, Dr Braithwaite was born and raised in Hackney. His powerful messages of hope encouraged members to press on, remain steadfast, and abound in the Lord's work.

The guest speaker at London Ghana Church, Dr Kwesi Gyimah, born in Ghana and currently ministering in Toronto, Canada, reminded members of their 'true identity in Christ', and of the calling each of us have been given to sharing the Gospel of Jesus' soon return with all those with whom we come into contact. The Camp Meeting concluded with a concert with many artists, including the London Asian church, giving praise to God for the freedom found in a relationship with Christ our Lord.

DARELL J. PHILIP, LONDON AREA 6C COMMUNICATIONS

SEC President visits Tottenham Lighthouse Church

Sabbath 20 July was greatly anticipated by the members and friends of Tottenham Lighthouse Church. This was not only because it was the first day of Camp Meeting 2024, but because Elder Jacqueline Edwards was going to be ordained on that Sabbath by none other than the President of the South England Conference, Pastor Dr Kirk Thomas.

It was a joyful homecoming, full of pleasant memories for Pastor Thomas. He remembered that many years ago he had conducted a campaign here. Also, seated in the audience was Kyra Pond, now 9 years old, whom he had blessed as a baby.

Pastor Thomas brought greetings and thanks from the Conference executives for our church's faithfulness. He spoke openly of the personal burden he felt in his heart, knowing that the church had still not been completed. He said prayers were literally being said daily for its completion and for the unity of the church.

Elder Jacqueline Edwards was ordained with reverence and solemnity, yet with thoughtfulness and care. Elder Edwards was very pleased to have her family present to witness such a momentous occasion.

The title of Pastor Thomas's sermon was 'Creating Connections – Reaching Out Like Jesus'. His message was about practical Christianity, and he used a quote from Peter Kuzmic to drive home his point: 'A credible message needs a credible messenger, because charisma without character is catastrophe.' We were given the charge to search our hearts to see if we were doing what God wanted us to do. What were we doing for Christ? We were reminded that when God uses us to do things for people, He makes us happy. Pastor Thomas used Ephesians 2:4 and Colossians 1:20 during his presentation. We were all blessed to have Pastor Thomas at Tottenham Lighthouse, sharing the Word of God.

MAXINE DONOVAN, COMMUNICATIONS & PRAYER MINISTRIES



Elder Jacqueline Edwards and the President

Photos by Andrej Valko



Dudley House stars shine in summer production

Parents, carers and well-wishers were awe-struck on Wednesday 17 July as the little stars at Dudley House School acted out a fabulous play themed around the life of Daniel. There were some amazingly confident and talented children, and even the shyest of them managed to deliver a line with great courage. The teachers and staff had worked incredibly hard to give the children this experience, and the play served as a witness to the non-Christian children and parents, as does the rest of the school's rich curriculum. To God be the glory – great things He has done, is continuing to do, and will yet do through the noble work at Dudley House School.

If you would like to enrol your children in this Seventh-day Adventist school in the North England Conference, you can contact the headteacher on 07483455997 or at headteacher@dudleyhouseschool.co.uk to arrange a visit, or download an application form from the website: dudleyhouseschool.co.uk.

ANDREW PUCKERING



'Back to basics' – the BUC and Netherlands Youth Congress

The BUC and NUC Youth Congress from 22 to 27 July was incredibly inspiring, uplifting, and powerful, with

500 attendees gathering at De Broodfabriek (The Bread Factory) conference centre in Rijswijk, Netherlands. A soaring tone was set by the colourful opening ceremony, featuring operatic vocals and beautiful string moments, and an initial message about God's call for us to rise in our purpose.

Each day began at 8.30am with a well-attended prayer time, followed by morning worship and workshops. These workshops covered various topics, from financial and emotional literacy to music theory and brand-building. This diverse range of topics ensured that everyone could find something that resonated with them. The atmosphere was always filled with laughter, singing, and knowledge sharing.

The BUC Netherlands Youth Congress journey was an exceptionally uplifting and robust experience filled with inspiration. It provided us with a deeper understanding of God's Word and allowed us to explore relevant topics we encounter daily, leading to profound spiritual growth.

Professionals who are deeply passionate about their respective fields generously dedicated their time to sharing their expertise and knowledge in music, finance, business, family life, and many other areas. Their commitment testified to the respect and value they place on the younger generation's potential. They inspired the younger generation to connect with others, nurture their talents, and witness how they grow. With God's guidance, they were equipped with the necessary tools to make a difference in this world.

The mornings were dedicated to worship, while the afternoons were full of various activities. Exciting off-site adventures like snowboarding, climbing, and laser tag sparked enthusiasm. On site, there is a palpable creative energy with clay-making and painting sessions.

New friendships were formed, and everyone enjoyed themselves. The evening messages were impactful and made a positive difference in the spiritual lives of the attendees. This youth congress was a great success. The youth were networking, and we could see them nurturing their gifts and abilities, which will undoubtedly positively impact our lives.

PASTOR KEVIN JOHNS, TED YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Reflecting Hope with Pastor Royston Smith, SEC PM Director

Pastor Smith explored hope in a series of sermons at Bristol Lodge Causeway Church from Sabbath 4 May 2024 to Sabbath 11 May 2024. The sermons looked at healing, family life, sticking close to the Word of God, suffering and why we suffer, and an exploration of promises of Jesus' coming.

The sermons given by Pastor Smith have left us with a lot to think about, while remembering that we must keep our minds fixed on the Word of God. The key text used as Pastor Smith wrapped up was John 14:1-3, where Jesus told His disciples that He would be leaving, with the promise that He would prepare a place for them. This is a promise for us also as we continue to focus on His business while we wait for His return.

Many hearts were touched by the series, and the local pastor, Namusha Namuchana, is looking forward to a baptism later in the summer.

CAREEN LAWRENCE



Left to right: Pastor John Melki, Sithembile Mhlanga, Nompumelelo Mangwiro-Marumahoko, Garth Thompson and Pastor Robin Lewis

2024 summer baptism at Basildon Church

On Sabbath 6 July 2024 three precious souls were received into the family of God through baptism and the right hand of fellowship. The baptism took place outside.

Brother Garth Thompson was one of the candidates who had hesitated to get baptised when Pastor John Melki first implored him two years ago, claiming unreadiness, but now he could not wait to get baptised. He wanted to follow Jesus all the way. Sisters Sithembile Mhlanga and Nompumelelo Mangwiro-Marumahoko had long desired to renew their commitment to their Lord and Saviour. All three candidates have been avidly studying the Scriptures every Sabbath with Elder Marc Sabadin.

Brother Garth Thompson and Sister Nompumelelo Mangwiro-Marumahoko were immersed in the pool by Pastor John Melki; Sister Sithembile Mhlanga was extended the right hand of fellowship by Pastor Robin Lewis; and all three new members were unanimously voted into the church fellowship by the members of Basildon Church.

All praises and glory to our Heavenly Father.

ELDER MARC SABADIN



Father and daughter, Mr Kavekini and Ms Mariana Saukuru; twin sisters, Tulia and Kayla Nayasi; Laqila brothers, Oliva, Isireli and Aporosa; Tiko sisters, Fuiva and Meita, with their cousin, Tyran McFarlane; Simone Serukalou; and Mr Sevuloni Verebasaga

A Sabbath to remember for the UK Fijian church company

The UK Fijian Seventh-day Adventist church company recently hosted its camp meeting at the Vauxhall Christian Trust campsite in Colchester, under the theme 'Better than Gold'. The gathering featured respected speakers, including Pastor Tabua Tuima (a visiting pastor and Assistant Principal at Fulton Adventist University College in Fiji), along with Pastor Adam Ramdin (*Lineage Journey*), Dr Stephen Currow (Principal of Newbold College of Higher Education), and Pastor John Melki (pastor of Ipswich Seventh-day Adventist Church).

This memorable Sabbath, 10 August 2024, was

especially significant, because, following three months of online Revelation seminars and Bible studies, twelve devoted individuals courageously dedicated their lives to Christ through baptism, witnessed with joy by supportive family and friends.

Pastor Ramdin delivered a moving message on the significance of baptism, prompting many to reflect on their own faith journey. One by one, the families of the candidates shared personal testimonies about their loved ones' paths to baptism. A Bible verse that resonated with each candidate was read, followed by a favourite hymn or song. These heartfelt expressions deeply touched the community.

As the candidates approached the baptismal pool, the pastor and diaconate awaited them with open arms. With each immersion, the congregation erupted in celebratory applause and amens.

After the baptisms, each individual received a baptismal pack and was warmly embraced by the entire church community. The day was filled with love, connection, unity, belonging, and a reaffirmation of faith, leaving everyone with hearts brimming with hope and gratitude for the profound impact of Christ.

BY ELDER EREMASI SERUKALOU AND ELDER VILLAMU TIKO

Double blessing for Luton Adventist churches

The Seventh-day Adventist churches of Luton Central and Luton North have received a double blessing with the installation of a new pastor and a successful evangelism campaign which saw nine people baptised.

Pastor Itamar James has taken over from Pastor Bernie Holford, who has been at Luton Central and North Churches since 2017.

Earlier on, in February 2024, Pastor James and his family were presented to the Luton churches by the South England Conference President, Dr Kirk Thomas, and in his acceptance speech Pastor James stated that he is not perfect and does not expect the members of the church to be perfect, but together we serve a perfect God.

Dr Thomas stated that Pastor James was a strong believer in evangelism and reaching out to communities; hence his first mission was to host and preach during the weeklong campaign titled 'Hope in a Troubled World', organised by the Personal Ministries Department at Luton Central Church, from 25 May to 1 June 2024, and the work of the Holy Spirit was witnessed as people present and online gave their lives to Christ.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA, LUTON CENTRAL CHURCH





Hayley Cooper and Pastor Michael Walker

**Sunsets, water, and God’s goodness!
Baptisms at Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft**

Four precious souls gave their lives to the Lord in baptism in the autumn of 2023 and spring of 2024 at Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. The first, Hayley Cooper, was baptised on 2 September 2023 at the Great Yarmouth church by Pastor Andrew Cudjoe. She testified of how God had graciously led her back to faith.

Witnessing Haley’s testimony was Susan Matenga, who, moved by what she had seen, made a decision for Christ and was baptised on 30 September 2023 at the Lowestoft church, witnessed by her mother and daughter. Joe Meagher of the King’s Lynn church was also baptised on this occasion by Pastor Jerry Smith. King’s Lynn members and choir joined Lowestoft members in singing praises to God.

On 13 April 2024 Edmiza Miller D’Assanção Camblé was baptised in Great Yarmouth, witnessed by her mother, two sisters, and the wider Great Yarmouth church family. Having recently relocated to the United Kingdom, Edmiza had undergone online Zoom Bible studies and started regularly attending the Great Yarmouth church with her family, and continued her Bible studies with Pastor Michael Walker. There were tears of joy as Linda sang for her sister Edmiza.

All glory and praise to God for these precious souls.

PASTOR ANDREW CUDJOE



Wood Green Church’s Gospel series – ‘Metanoia’

The Wood Green Gospel series ‘Metanoia’ ran from 11 to 25 May, conducted by Dr Clive Dottin from Trinidad. The Wood Green Gospel Series team were assisted by their sister church, Hackney. The series

concluded with the baptism of five precious souls, including the mother of the church pastor, Vaughn Thorpe. ‘This moment I have anticipated for a long time. I’m so overwhelmed right now,’ Pastor Thorpe expressed.

Pastor Clive Dottin charged the newly baptised members (9-year-old Daniel Lindsay, 11-year-old Lex Vanderwhal, Carol Thompson, Yenny Santamaria and Leonie Thorpe, mother of Wood Green’s pastor) to hold on to their faith and serve Christ through reaching out to those in need.

This was a truly wonderful series from which many spiritual blessings were received. Please scan the QR code to view the entire series.

ODELE PRINCE



3 young men from Newport baptised; 2 elders on the left and pastor on the right.

Welsh Mission baptisms

On 18 May, Paige Khumalo from the Hereford church publicly declared her decision to follow Jesus by being baptised at Putson Baptist Church. Paige shared that the doctors had thought she would be born deaf and blind, but God had other plans. Her parents, Bruce & Shelly, played a major role in her decision as they kept on doing Bible studies with her and encouraging her to follow Jesus. Paige also participated in Bible studies with others from Newport Church, led by Pastor Samuel Semakula.

At Newport Church three young men committed their lives to Christ. Thabang Junior Ncheke shared how he had wanted to be baptised sooner but hadn’t been, and then the lockdown had a major effect on his relationship with God. He prayed that he would be baptised before he turned 18 and went to university, and the Lord answered his prayer.

Rafael’s walk with the Lord had also been affected by lockdown. However, his grandad in the Philippines started a Zoom Bible study with those who wanted to know more about Jesus, and Rafael attended those studies. When the lockdown ended, his mum encouraged him to think seriously about Christ and consider baptism.

Nathaneal had been baptised at 9, but as he got older his Muslim friends pulled him deeper into Islam. As he spoke with his dad concerning his doubts, he was able to get answers and made the decision to rededicate his life to Christ through re-baptism, having a fuller understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Sabbath 22 June was a special day for the Haverfordwest Pembrokeshire group as Paul Walter Johnson was baptised in his garden in a borrowed inflatable jacuzzi, witnessed and celebrated by numerous friends, neighbours and family members.

WELSH MISSION OFFICE

All adverts as supplied, errors and omissions excepted

God first
- MY LIFESTYLE -

Stewardship Revival Week

NOVEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 7TH

With Hosts:
Catherine Anthony Boldeau & Heli Otamo-Csizmadia
Anchors:
Jimmy Botha, Crystal Knight, Alex Marenic & John Francis

Streaming 7:30pm on BUC TV YouTube

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ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND

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Non-Executive Expert Advisors



The British Union Conference (BUC) of Seventh-day Adventists is excited to extend invitations for application to members willing to serve as Non-Executive Expert Advisors to our Trustee Board (commonly referred to as the Executive Committee).

As a Non-Executive Expert Advisor to the Executive Committee, you'll play a pivotal role to the Executive Committee in their governance of the BUC and its territory, providing specialist advice and guidance. Your contributions will be instrumental in sharing

good governance practices, supporting the vision of the future of the BUC and driving positive change in line with our organisational strategic plan.

There are five areas of expertise that we are currently seeking to strengthen our board:

- Legal
- Compliance & Audit
- People
- Safeguarding
- Assets & Investments

Please see the full details and relevant application packs by visiting the website:
<https://adventist.uk/who-we-are/jobs/>

Applications are welcome from individuals who are not employed by the entities BUC, SEC, NEC, IM, SM or WM or by affiliated institutions, and who are not currently serving Executive Committee members.

Employment Type:
Voluntary

Application deadline:
Applications are open until the end of 2024 and successful applicants will be contacted at the start of 2025.



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Connecting Carer's Day



'Caring with Love'
19th October 2024
10 - 3.30pm

Venue: Newbold Student Hub
Newbold College
St Marks Road, Binfield, Bracknell, RG42 4AN
Donation: £15.00 (ASNA members £12.00)
Register: www.asna.info/events




www.asna.info Create places of belonging
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
Stockholm International Group

Family Week

Theme: **'The Whole Family'**

6th - 11th October 2024

Time: 18:45 - 20:00 CET (17:45 - 19:00 BST)



ID: 4684363759
Password: 7777



Ophelia Nyarko
(Host Pastor)



Lorraine McDonald
(Education Director, BUC)



Paula Campbell
(Church Leader and Author)



Pr. Rio Espulgar
(Family Life Director, SEC)



Karen Hofford
(Family Min. Director, TED)



Sophia Nicholls
(Charity Leader)



Nicole Gooden
(Pastor, Stoke Newington)

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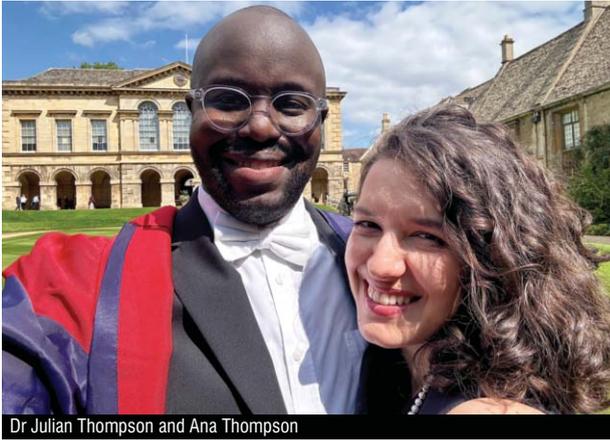
DATE	VENUE	TIME
November		
2	Camp Hill	After sunset
9	Lewisham	After sunset
22-24	Reflecting Hope Weekend, Leonardo Hotel, Hinkley	
December		
1	Manchester South	10am-2pm
8	Brixton	10am-2pm
15	Hyland House	10am-2pm

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

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Dr Julian Thompson and Ana Thompson

Congratulations, Dr Thompson!

On Tuesday 23 July 2024, Pastor Julian Thompson, who teaches Biblical and Pastoral Studies at Newbold College of Higher Education, graduated with a doctorate in Theology from the University of Oxford. This day marked the end of a long journey that started when his MA supervisor at Newbold, Dr Aulikki Nahkola, encouraged him to pursue this goal.

Dr Thompson initially worked with Professor John Barton, the former Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture, before continuing under Professor Katherine Southwood of St John's College. His work explored how ethnographic studies can be used to better understand texts such as Judges 5 and Exodus 15, and showed how actively embracing diversity in terms of 'nations, kindreds, and tongues' enriches our Bible study.

His thesis was examined *viva voce* by Revd Canon Professor Susan Gillingham of Oxford University and Professor Jaqueline Vayntrub of Yale University.

Julian, your family is very proud of you, and we can't wait to see how you continue to serve God and others with your talents.

ANA THOMPSON



Sister Beth expresses thanks with Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell looking on

60th birthdays

Beth Clarke and Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell celebrated their 60th birthdays on Sunday 2 June at St David's Church Hall Shenley Green, Birmingham – the new place of worship for Northfield Church. One hundred guests, family and church members enjoyed good food and fellowship in Christ's name.

For some it was the first opportunity to socialise among Seventh-day Adventists, giving them a glimpse of God's love, the importance of faith in the Bible, and the blessed hope of eternal salvation. Pastor Liburd led the event and delivered a sermonette.

The sisters donated their monetary birthday gifts to Northfield Church, and £630 was received with thanks by Elder Lenore. The sisters thank God for His mercy and blessings, and with continual praise we should use every opportunity to tell others about the salvation He offers His children.

DR JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Manchester South teachers in saris

Manchester South's 13th Sabbath programme

The children of the Junior Sabbath School Department did an amazing job on 30 March to showcase all they had been learning over the first quarter.

As the mission offering was going to assist projects in India, the teachers got dressed in saris for the morning. This was a surprise for the children and the whole church!

Laurel, one of our teachers, gave a review of the projects, and the children did an amazing job sharing their lessons and managed to raise over £200 for the projects in India in Sabbath School alone.

An enormous *thank-you* to all the Junior Sabbath School teachers for their continued commitment and dedication to nurturing our children in God's way.

HANNAH GAYNOR

Adventist pastor honoured with Citizens in Policing award

The West Midlands Police honoured police support volunteers as part of the Citizens in Policing Awards at Tally Ho in



Birmingham, the West Midlands Police Conference and Banqueting Centre, on Monday 3 June 2024.

Chaplain Obinnaya Iheoma was among a number of volunteers who received long service awards handed out on the night. Sam Booth, Head of Citizens in Policing, declared: 'The winners have all shown tremendous commitment and dedication to policing, and I am proud that we are able to recognise their achievements. Their work is absolutely invaluable. They are all volunteers who give up their time for West Midlands Police, and these awards recognise their hard work and dedication.'

Dr Patrick Herbert, NEC Personal Ministries Director, states, 'We need more individuals from our church who will take on positions like this and stand tall for Jesus in our community.'

DR PATRICK HERBERT

Catherine Elizabeth Burt (1932-2024) d. 2 July.

Catherine Elizabeth Burt (Kit) was born on 20 June 1932, in Windy Hill, Montserrat, to Mary Wade and Wilfred Griffin. She was baptised at 8 years old and enjoyed life, study and work, and from her early years she assisted in Sabbath School as a teacher and secretary.



At 22 she left Montserrat and arrived in Birmingham, England in the winter of 1955, where she stayed until her passing. There she married Henson Burt, who had arrived in England from St Kitts. They had five children: David, Kenneth, Carole, Richard and Lloyd. Since Henson's passing in 1978 she wholeheartedly supported her children as a single mother. Though this stalled Catherine's ambitions of being a teacher, she was able to complete O levels in Welfare and Society, Sociology and a grade A in English Language at the mature age of 49.

Sister Burt was one of the earliest Caribbean members of the Camp Hill SDA church. Here she served as a deaconess and was a key volunteer in the early days of their senior citizens' day centre. She also hosted a Bible study/prayer group at her home for many years!

She worked as an auxiliary nurse in the former East Birmingham Hospital and a care worker with the local authority. For about five years she was the customer advisor at the Holland and Barrett health store in Birmingham city centre, being passionate about good health and very knowledgeable about natural remedies.

She overcame various illnesses, pneumonia and associated problems, but at 92 she peacefully passed away on 2 July. During the celebration of her life many neighbours, friends and family members attested to how her encouragement and invaluable practical and spiritual advice changed their lives and in some cases led them to accept Christ.

She is survived by her brother Philip; four sons: David, Kenneth, Richard and Lloyd; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She now sleeps, awaiting the second coming of Jesus and the resurrection, when we will meet again.

DR DAVID BURT

Edward W. H. Vick (1929-2024) d. 23 July.

Born into an Adventist family on 4 April 1929, Edward Vick achieved excellent school results and enrolled in Newbold College, which culminated in his ordination and finding a wife with whom he enjoyed a happy marriage for 71 years.



Always ambitious, he moved to the United States with his young wife and took two degrees at Adventist universities. His intellectual curiosity and spiritual fervour never slackened. He continued his theology and philosophy education with a BD from London, a PhD from Vanderbilt, and a BLitt from Oxford. Even after retirement, he took a further BA in England.

Edward Vick strove to pass on his knowledge through teaching, preaching and writing. As a professor and teacher, he inspired

countless students with his insightful interpretations of Scripture and his ability to connect biblical texts to modern life. In the USA he did this within the Adventist Church, as a professor in Canada, and by heading a PhD programme at Andrews University in Michigan, USA.

Moving back to England, he continued teaching in state high schools and institutes of further education. Even after his retirement, he taught evening classes. Often his house was full of student gatherings and avid discussions.

Immediately after ordination, in his early twenties, he took on evangelising and pastoral work in the south of England, including roles as the singing and conducting preacher. He loved preaching, and did so across Canada, the US and England.

From the age of 18 his writing was published in Adventist journals and magazines, as well as non-Adventist scholarly journals, and some thirty books of his were published. He established his own publishing house, Evening Publications. He chiefly wished to establish a discourse between the Adventist Church and mainstream theology, and wished his legacy of constructive Adventism would find a broader hearing.

After forty years on the move in twenty houses, Edward ended up settling in Nottingham for over fifty years. From his huge garden he fed family and neighbours with fresh fruit and vegetables. He enjoyed cricket, but his greatest and enduring love was ongoing research and writing.

Edward had great integrity, wisdom, and kindness. His gentle demeanour and thoughtful insights made him a beloved mentor and friend to many. His legacy as a theologian, educator, and humanitarian will inspire and guide future generations. He leaves a wife, a son and two daughters, and four grandchildren.

EDWARD VICK (SON)

Harry Wilby (1931-2024) d. 25 July.

Harry, born to Adventist parents, learnt Bible stories and biblical principles in both Sabbath School and the small country school he went to as an 8-year-old, reading about doctors, teachers, engineers and missionaries who left home for far-away lands to help those in need. Inspired, he trained as a nurse to become a missionary. He married Esther, and they served together in West Africa at Kwahu Hospital in Ghana, Jengre Hospital in North Nigeria, ACWA (Adventist College of West Africa – now Babcock University), and Ahoada Hospital in East Nigeria, completing two tours before returning home for their children's education. Sue was born in England, David in Ghana, and Laila in Nigeria.



The family spent 14 years in Dublin, running the health clinic and better living centre and leading many health-improvement courses. These were very satisfying years. Later, they moved to Crieff to work at Roundelwood Health Centre, where he settled into an active retirement.

Harry packed a lot into his 93 years, and in retirement he drove aid lorries for ADRA in the aftermath of the Balkan crises, volunteered as a

support driver for the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS), and contributed to Crieff Church in a number of positions, most latterly as a deacon. He was regularly in his allotment and always active.

Harry strongly believed that God was with him every day, and he trusted God for guidance. Even in sickness he thanked God for every new day. He was a son, brother and uncle, but to Sue and Laila he was a father, husband, grandpa, farfar (Danish for grandfather) and great-grandad. His brother, John Wilby, remembered how he constantly sought God's love and guidance, saying, 'I have been personally blessed to have a brother like that.'

Harry was laid to rest at Crieff Crematorium on Thursday 8 August, and a celebration of his life was held at the Crieff church on Tuesday 13 August. Both services were conducted by Pastor Paul Tompkins. Harry now awaits his Saviour's call to life eternal.

PAUL TOMPKINS

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 4	6.31	6.43	6.34	6.39	6.51
11	6.15	6.27	6.17	6.21	6.34
18	6.00	6.12	6.02	6.04	6.17
25	5.46	5.58	5.47	5.47	6.02
Nov 1	4.33	4.45	4.33	4.31	4.47

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