

Messenger

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Beyond Bethlehem



**Fletewood school making a
difference for the blind and
the elderly**

Beyond Bethlehem: living with a prophetic voice

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau,
BUC Stewardship Director



‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’

Luke 2:14, NIV

Following the dramatic scenes of a multitude of the heavenly host appearing to the shepherds, but before the arrival of wise men from the east who ‘opened their treasures . . . to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh’ (Matthew 2:11, NKJV), beyond the manger in Bethlehem, we are introduced to a woman named ‘Anna, a prophetess’ (Luke 2:36, NKJV).

She is one of two elderly figures who meet Jesus as He is brought to the temple to be dedicated and who recognise Him to be the promised Redeemer, a ‘light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel’ (Luke 2:32, KJV). While the priest who blessed him and fulfilled the dedicatory ritual completed his duty with competence, ‘little did he think, as the babe lay in his arms, that it was the Majesty of heaven, the King of glory’ (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 52). But both Anna and

Simeon immediately understood that the baby was sent from God so that ‘whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’ (John 3:16, NIV).

Anna’s life of devotion and deep scriptural literacy demonstrates that the insight of effective Christian leaders is the result of persistent preparation. This enables the leader to recognise and articulate the fulfilment of a long-awaited vision.

The disciplined foundation: preparation for prophetic revelation

A disciplined foundation is the key to preparation for a prophetic revelation. Job, who experienced immense suffering, confidently said, ‘For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God’ (Job 19:25, 26, NKJV).

While the discipline for Job was the destruction of his home, the loss of his livelihood and the death of his ten children, the discipline for Anna was different. According to Scripture, she dwelt in the temple and had spent decades there. After the death of her husband of seven years, she remained single, devoting herself to prayer and fasting and being a prophetic voice in her generation.

Anna devoted her life to preparing for the coming King. She was expectant, vigilant and committed to her Lord. Her decades of spiritual practice represent the preparation leaders require for clarity when pivotal moments arrive.

Reflection

As church leaders, where is our focus during our board and business meetings and even during our worship services? What devours most of our time and energy? What if we allocated more time to the foundational aspects of our faith?

The prophetic encounter and recognition

The priests ministered in the temple daily and were accustomed to dedicating children; but it took an elderly woman’s insight to recognise Jesus Christ. She had prophesied about the coming Messiah, and God had enabled her to live long enough to see the prophecy fulfilled. She was exuberant and joyful that she had lived long enough to bear testimony to His presence, having been able to recognise the One in whom her hopes had for so long been founded.

In the story of the miraculous escape of Peter in Acts 12:1-19, we learn that some believers who were praying for his release did not recognise the miracle when it happened. Young Rhoda was sent to answer the door; but, ‘when she recognized Peter’s voice’, returned, and announced that their prayers had been answered, ‘they said to her, “You are crazy!” But she kept on saying it was true, so they said, “It must be Peter’s angel.”’ When ‘they saw him’, they ‘were amazed’ (verses 14-16, NCV).

Reflection

When was the last time you had a recognisable encounter with the Almighty? What difference did it make to your life? How was this prophetic encounter a witness to others?

A witness to redemption

Anna was a witness to the coming of the Redeemer that she had longed for. Her companion Simeon saw this fulfilment of prophecy as the culmination of his life: ‘Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace’ (Luke 2:29, NCV); but Anna was given a new lease of energy: ‘Standing there at that time, she thanked God and spoke about Jesus to all who were waiting for God’ (verse 38, NCV).

During this festive season, may we open our hearts to our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and share the good news of His second coming with a world in desperate need of a Saviour.



Editorial

by Dusanka Rancic,
Editor

EDITORIAL

‘Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.’

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, NKJV

Dear reader,

You may have heard the saying, attributed to Confucius, ‘A healthy person wants a thousand things; a sick person only wants one.’ It is a simple line, yet it carries a profound truth: when our health deteriorates, every other desire fades into the background. Suddenly, the greatest wish is simply to be well again.

The Bible affirms this deep connection between our wellbeing and our ability to live fully. Scripture presents health not as a single dimension, but as a beautiful, holistic harmony of ‘spirit, soul, and body’. We are reminded that our body is a ‘temple of the Holy Spirit’, ‘fearfully and wonderfully made’, every organ a masterpiece of God’s design. Caring for our bodies is therefore not only practical wisdom, but an act of worship.

Throughout the Bible, physical habits and spiritual attitudes intertwine. A joyful heart is described as ‘good medicine’,¹ while bitterness and anxiety can wear us down. God gave guidance on healthy choices, emphasised self-control, spoke of the healing power of rest, and invited His people into rhythms – such as resting and working, fasting and reflection – that nurture both physical resilience and spiritual strength. True health, according to Scripture, is wholeness: harmony between lifestyle, emotions, relationships and our walk with God.

At the same time, the Bible cautions us not to idolise physical perfection. While caring for our bodies matters, anchoring our hope in God matters even more. He is the ultimate healer, the One who restores what is broken and strengthens what is weak. In Him we find the promise that sustains us: that one day pain, crying and death will be no more.

Because health shapes so much of our daily lives, this year’s Christmas edition of *Focus* magazine is dedicated to a theme that touches every home: health matters.

In these pages you will find stories, insights and practical guidance for your journey to whole-person wellness. Catherine Anthony Boldeau reflects on youthful choices and the lessons they leave behind. Dr Chidi Ngwaba asks a vital question about our independence from disease. Dr Peter Roach tackles the challenge of obesity with compassion and clarity. Dr Hermine L. Graham helps us rediscover the gift of sleep, while Joanna Daniel explores the connection between trauma and winter wellbeing.

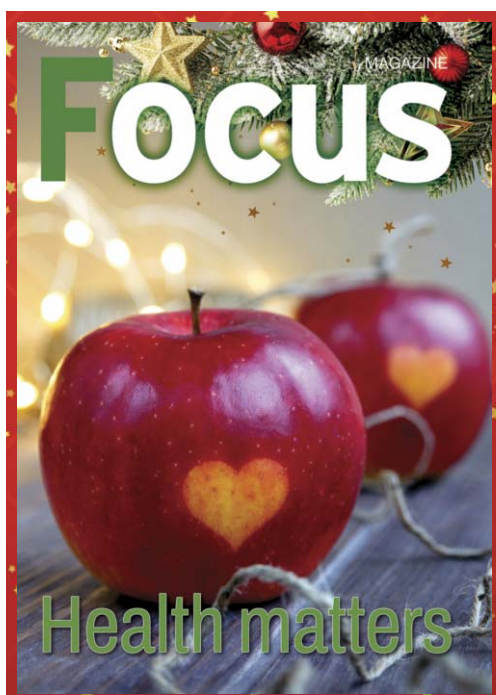
You’ll meet people who have turned movement into joy, like Yanet Guarachi, and experts such as Dr Bernard Lendor, who shows how we can protect our minds long before dementia takes hold. You will read about laughter – a medicine with no side effects – and gain insight into navigating sexual health, supporting mental illness, and building healthier communities.

This issue of *Focus* magazine offers more than information: it offers hope. It is a thoughtful gift for friends, neighbours, colleagues and loved ones who may be searching for stability in an unstable world – or searching for God Himself. And the most certain truth we can offer them is this: God loves us, He walks with us, and He will return to bring us to a place where health will never be fragile again.

Because health matters – and so does the God who gave it.

Thank you for your support and prayers throughout this year. God bless.

¹Bible verses quoted in order: 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Psalm 139:14; Proverbs 17:22



This festive season, inspire at least one person for God by sharing with them the latest edition of *Focus* magazine.

To order, please call our sales hotline, 01476 591700, or order online at: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/focus-magazine/>, or scan this QR code.



Lessons from a lost Christmas parcel

by Adina Lupu



Last December I decided to surprise my friend in America by sending her a Christmas present, all nicely wrapped. I handed the box to the worker at the Post Office and cheerfully mentioned that this special parcel was destined for the USA. She processed the details, handed me the receipt with the tracking code, and I merrily went on my way, eagerly anticipating the smile this gift would bring to my friend's face when she received it – within two weeks, according to the Post Office's advertised delivery times.

A few days later, I checked the parcel's journey online to see its status. To my surprise, it had been delivered to a sorting hub in Australia. While I don't claim to know much about international deliveries, I do know that Australia is in the opposite direction to the USA from Scotland, where I live.

Concerned, I decided to enquire at the Post Office. By this time, the parcel's location had not changed; it seemed to be 'stuck in transit'. That was when I realised that the worker who processed the parcel had mistakenly recorded it as bound for Australia, and had also misspelt the second line of the delivery address. I began to fear the parcel might never

reach my friend due to the confusion. For weeks the online status didn't change.

But one day, by now in January, my friend joyfully informed me that the parcel had arrived. A journey meant to take just fourteen days across the ocean had turned into a thirty-four-day global adventure. This experience made me reflect on life.

Has God ever intended for us to be in a specific place at a specific time, only for us to head in the wrong direction? Along life's path, have we ever found ourselves in a strange place we were never meant to be in – 'lost in transit' – as if our value had been overlooked and our purpose forgotten?

In broader terms, this seems to be the condition of humanity. Sin has set us on a path God never intended for us, causing our lives to take a wrong turn. Do you feel stuck in transit, lost, or on the wrong course? Jesus takes it upon Himself to redirect you, putting you back on the right track so you can reach your intended destination. He sees your worth and never casts you aside, even when you end up in the wrong place because of your choices or the missteps of others. If you entrust your journey to Him, He will ensure

that you will become a blessing in the right place at the right time.

But that's not all!

I heard a sermon about waiting for God's blessings. The speaker referenced Zechariah and Elizabeth, who prayed for many years for a child but faced long delays. Even when it feels like God's answer is delayed, He has not forgotten us. I can relate to this: for almost

20 years I have prayed for a specific blessing, yet the answer hasn't come.

I'll leave you with a quote from the book *My Single Joy* (published in 2024) by Melody Mason, which greatly encouraged me:

"Think of the forty years Moses spent herding sheep in the wilderness. Think of the additional forty years he spent herding the children of Israel, trying to get them safely into the Promised Land. Think of the fifteen years David fled for his life from King Saul, the thirteen years Joseph served as a slave and prisoner in Egypt, the fourteen years Jacob worked for his love Rachel, the years Hannah spent praying and waiting for a son, and the many quiet years Jesus spent working as a carpenter in Nazareth. The examples go on and on. While the waiting was not easy, God was always at work in the delay. . . . Just because there is a delay in our love story, just because we haven't yet seen our prayers answered for a child, or for a position in work or ministry, or for deliverance from suffering, it doesn't mean it's an absolute denial. . . . The God of delays is not the God of denials!"

Be encouraged – God's timing is perfect. He is always working . . . even in the delays or in the waiting.

Christmas and Christianity

by Timothy R. Jennings, MD

FEATURE



The Christmas holiday has many diverse cultural connections, both Christian and pagan. Given this mixed history, many Christians wonder what the proper Christian attitude towards this holiday should be.

This question is similar to one Paul addressed in Romans chapter 14, when those of weak faith were afraid to eat meat bought at market. These new believers were afraid of the food because the animal may have been sacrificed to a pagan god. Paul knew that a god of metal or wood had no power over the food; that the real power was implanting lies into the mind. Therefore, he warned that if you believe that by eating food offered to an idol you'd be sinning and giving a pagan god power over you, you shouldn't eat it. The problem was not the meat, but the belief one holds about the power of the god. Those who understood reality like Paul could eat it without fear.

The issue with Christmas is similar: what meaning does it hold when celebrating it? Anyone who believes that celebrating Christmas honours pagan gods or gives them power over them should not celebrate it. But those who celebrate the holiday with hearts honouring God can enjoy Christmas and grow spiritually.

Spiritual immaturity is the starting point for new converts, with the expectation of spiritual growth and maturity. The problem throughout Christian history has been when genuine spiritual maturity was replaced with codified behaviours that appeal to the immature. Too often, the immature, by focusing on behaviour and obeying all the 'rules', find themselves without genuine spiritual insight. This frequently leads them to have concerns over such issues as celebrating Christmas or the name we use for God.

God is more concerned with healing our hearts and causing us to know His true nature than He is

with the terms we use to address Him. Words are symbols that represent ideas; the issue is not the word, but whether we understand the reality that word describes and the principle behind it. In Bible times, God allowed Himself to be addressed by terms that were also used by pagans to address their gods:

- *Adonai*, used as one of God's names in Scripture, is linguistically related to the name of the Greek god Adonis – both mean 'Lord' – which was also used by the Phoenicians for their god Tammuz.¹
- *Elohim* means 'gods' and is used for both the God of Israel and other gods. The many gods of the Gentiles were called *elohim*. In the commandment 'thou shalt have no other gods before me' (Exodus 20:3), the Hebrew for 'gods', as in 'no other gods', is *elohim*, yet God is also addressed by this term.²

The date of 25 December is not magic; it has no power. But if this day can be beneficial to turn hearts to Jesus and the sacrifice He has made to save us, then let us embrace this opportunity to celebrate and share the truth about God's kingdom of love.

Regarding Christmas decorations and traditions, these can be part of the celebration of the season and done with good cheer. God instructed ancient Israel during one of their annual feasts to bring boughs of green into their homes. Likewise, we can celebrate with Christmas trees, or with holly, which traditionally is symbolic of the thorns worn by Christ and makes a lovely decoration that can be used to cheer the home and remind us of the spring to come.

Even in church, we could celebrate by decorating for Christmas. Ellen G. White

held a similar view on this point. She wrote:

'God would be well pleased if on Christmas each church would have a Christmas tree on which shall be hung offerings, great and small, for these houses of worship. Letters of enquiry have come to us asking, Shall we have a Christmas tree? Will it not be like the world? We answer, You can make it like the world if you have a disposition to do so, or you can make it as unlike the world as possible' (*Adventist Home*, p. 482).

Christmas will be either a celebration of Christ or a celebration of self. It all depends on the heart. Every person must be fully persuaded in their own mind.

¹James Hastings (ed.), *Dictionary of the Bible* (Edinburgh, UK: T. & T. Clark, 1909), p. 13

²Idem, p. 299



A season of joy; a world in pain

by Abigel Gordon, ADRA-UK Communications Officer



'Michel' (name changed for privacy) with his wife and two of his children



Lebanon

As Christmas nears, we look forward to gathering with loved ones, sharing meals and exchanging gifts within the welcoming embrace of home.

Perhaps you've already begun the season's checklist: hanging tinsel around the house, looking for new fairy lights that actually work, pre-ordering food and plotting gift ideas that will outshine last year's noble offering of novelty socks.

This is a special time – as it should be – a season of reflection, thanksgiving and the celebration of hope. We gather around a full table, sharing stories and laughter. The scent of Christmas spices fills the air. We sit snug in our woolly jumpers, warm tea in hand, watching with glee the excitement in the eyes of the children as they open their Christmas gifts.

But Christmas isn't the same for everyone.

For those displaced by conflict and chaos, it's a reminder of what's missing . . .

- Home, where there once was laughter and singing.
- An uncle, a brother, a sister, a mother lost in the rubble.
- The streets they once played in.
- The family gatherings that will never feel complete.
- The classroom that's been empty since the conflict began.
- The dream they had to let go.

This time last year, when bombs fell on Douris, families faced terror. Michel (*name changed for privacy*), a father of five, remembers it vividly.

Michel, who is also a beneficiary of an ADRA project in Lebanon, shared his experiences in an interview describing what it was like when bombs fell in his home town and changed everything. He recalls:

"The parents would be sitting, and the children would say, 'No, we want to flee!' People were escaping to Deir al-Ahmar: 'Take us now to Deir al-Ahmar; it's safe there.' Or they'd say, 'We want to go to Zahle,' or 'to the Chouf,' 'to Beirut' – **anything,**



anywhere safe. The children were the ones asking to flee.'

Can you imagine your children pleading to you with these words, and not knowing as a parent if you could keep them safe?

He later shared about the help ADRA provided, saying: 'ADRA was the only organisation that really helped. The whole city was buried, even our home. We didn't have access to food . . . no rice, no lentils, no chickpeas, nothing. ADRA provided food assistance at an unimaginable level.'

When asked if he had a message for the donors, he replied: 'I want to sincerely thank the donors who provided this aid. God willing, this support will continue not just for me, but for others too. Because this work is important. It's lifesaving. And life itself is a big thing. Thank you so much.'

These stories remind us why it's so important that we stand by those facing crisis.

Michel was able to find a safer place for his family and was helped by ADRA Lebanon's CARE programme, supported by ADRA-UK. However, many other families around the world are still in need amid conflict and danger.

For families in Sudan, Gaza, Ukraine and other conflict zones, this season is not about celebration – it's about survival.

When you sit with *your* family, hold in your heart those who still face instability and those who don't share the privilege of celebrating this season in the safety of their homes.

ADRA's Advent Appeal is now launching. This Christmas, join us in supporting those in need and donate by visiting our website at adra.org.uk. ADRA Ambassadors can also find resources – textual content, videos and photos – to share on local church social media platforms to help raise awareness.

Seventh-day Adventist schools lead the way in twenty-first-century AI-enhanced teaching

by Chisha Chitambola, BUC Education Department Marketing Coordinator

As the UK Government announced on 4 November that a new national curriculum will include lessons on budgeting, mortgages and the safe use of artificial intelligence (AI), Seventh-day Adventist schools in the British Union Conference (BUC) are already well ahead. Just one day earlier, on 3 November, nearly 60 teachers and teaching assistants from all Adventist schools in the UK gathered at Stanborough Secondary School for the annual INSET Day – this year with a timely and future-focused theme: **‘The Effective Use of AI in Education’**.

Staff were guided by Christian Turton of the Chiltern Learning Trust, a leading national figure advising the Department for Education on the responsible and impactful implementation of AI in schools. Throughout the day, attendees explored how AI can enhance learning for students of all abilities, streamline teachers’ workloads, and elevate the classroom experience while safeguarding students’ essential skills in critical and analytical thinking.

Mr Turton emphasised that AI is not a replacement for teachers, but a tool to empower them. With AI, teachers can create engaging lesson resources within minutes, tailor learning to meet a wide range of individual needs, and reduce administrative burdens that too often pull time away from personal interaction with students.

The excitement among staff was unmistakable. For many, this training felt revolutionary – opening their eyes to possibilities they had never imagined for their classrooms.

One participant described it as: ‘Fantastic! Possibly one of the best INSET days. Very practical and relevant for staff. Any follow-up training in this area would be welcome.’

Others shared that the technology would transform both teaching and learning outcomes: ‘Wonderful ideas and very useful. The websites

mentioned are going to change my life.’ ‘A rich tapestry of possibilities . . . as well as a balanced view of the risks.’

‘Very informative, innovative and impactful. I am keen to use what I have learnt today.’

Teachers also appreciated the hands-on, interactive approach, with one attendee remarking: ‘Content delivery was very beneficial. . . . Excellent training session – extremely useful!’

Beyond lesson planning and classroom engagement, educators noted that AI can benefit pupils with additional educational needs significantly: ‘Excellent for sharing new AI programmes which are less well known. Good for staff workload and supporting non-native English speakers and children with additional needs.’

Throughout the sessions, Mr Turton addressed not only the technology’s strengths, but also its ethical implications – how to ensure that learning remains authentic; how to protect students from misinformation; and how classrooms can model safe, responsible use of digital tools. Staff left feeling not only inspired, but equipped to guide learners wisely in a rapidly changing world.

One comment summed up the general feeling: ‘Don’t think I’ve had an INSET day as enjoyable and engaging!’

Adventist education prepared for the future

The power-packed day was organised by Lorraine McDonald, BUC Director of Education. Celebrating the schools’ commitment to innovation, she stated: ‘As a church, we believe in preparing our students not only academically, but for life and service in a world increasingly shaped by digital technologies. To remain relevant and effective in this educational landscape, we must



embrace tools like AI that can enrich learning, support our teachers, and uplift every child’s potential. Our schools are committed to leading this development while maintaining our strong Christian values and safeguarding pupil wellbeing.’

This sentiment aligns closely with the Government’s direction of travel – but Adventist schools are already demonstrating what cutting-edge, responsible technology integration can look like in practice.

A mission-driven approach to technology

While AI may be viewed with caution by some, Adventist educators are determined to harness it for good: strengthening creativity, promoting inclusivity, and freeing teachers to spend more time engaging directly with students – where true transformation occurs.

The success of the INSET Day has generated enthusiasm for continued professional learning in digital pedagogy. Many staff expressed a desire for further sessions, and planning is already underway to build on this momentum.

As one teacher put it: ‘This has been great. There is so much we can use to support planning, admin, students and staff. It will help organise our leadership resources as well.’

With schools fully engaged, Adventist education stands confidently at the forefront of twenty-first-century learning – showing that faith-based education can lead innovation, shine brightly in a digital age, and prepare our children and young people for both present opportunities and future callings.

For more information about Adventist schools in the UK, visit: <https://buc-education.adventist.uk/schools>.

Reflecting on a racially aggravated incident through the lens of practical theology

by Pastor Njabulo King Ndlovu, *Interim BUC Youth Director, DMin.*



On 5 August 2025, the largely successful joint Scottish and Welsh Mission Pathfinder and Adventurer Camporee concluded at the CRAI Scout Activity Park in Wales. To quote a young person's experience of the camporee itself, as published by the Scottish Mission on 15 September, U. Ugoala described it as an 'unforgettable experience' that was 'worth it' in spite of the long travel from Scotland and some chilly nights at the scout camp.¹ She enjoyed the opening ceremony, the drum corps and the marching, and she states that 'throughout the week we worked on honours and learnt new skills such as sign language, knot tying, CPR and braiding. We met new people, made friends, and discovered more about God in fun and interactive ways. The atmosphere was unique – different cultures, new foods, and the thrill of sleeping in tents under the stars.'

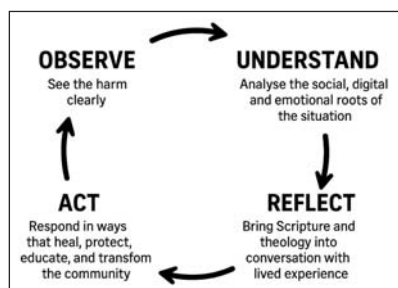
Elder Christopher Khuoge from Southend-on-Sea Seventh-day Adventist Church 'was a powerful and engaging speaker, sharing personal stories from his childhood and youth. . . . On Sabbath, something incredible happened – thirty Pathfinders, including me, made the decision to be baptised. It was one of the most powerful moments of my life,' says U. Ugoala.

However, to the campers' dismay, on the final day of the camporee, a racially aggravated incident occurred in and around the campsite. It's difficult to imagine the huge sense of anticlimax the campers experienced as some of these innocent children were filmed and had their pictures taken and posted on social media by certain members of the local community who claimed to be protecting the local community from an immigrant invasion of some sort. Consequently, the police became involved; and, applaudably, pastoral care and counselling support were offered to the children through the British Union Conference.

Several major news and media

outlets, from Sky News to *The Independent*, published stories of this unacceptable incident. However, it was Channel 4's request for an interview with the involved Pathfinder leaders that got me thinking.² Seeking to investigate the consequences of anti-immigrant rhetoric and misinformation that our youth were subjected to, Channel 4 stated: 'We believe it's important that people understand the human impact of what's happening in our communities.' I started reflecting on their statement. Does the 'human impact' matter, or has racist and anti-immigrant rhetoric dehumanised us? Could it be that immigrants are being dehumanised in other more subtle but hurtful ways in the British Union Conference, not least within the immigrant communities themselves and their families?

As a practical theologian and youth worker, my deepest concern is the way in which our faith is lived out in real contexts with the transformation of our young people in mind. **The Observe–Understand–Reflect–Act** cycle is one of several pastoral or theological reflection models that help to practically connect lived experience with theological understanding. I use this model here with the hope that the churches, families and institutions of the British Union Conference can engage with and reflect on each step of this cycle within the context of the dehumanisation of immigrants, especially since most of our youth are of global majority heritage.



1. Observe. In

this first step, we are challenged to intentionally gather observations without hastily rushing to judgement or theological explanation. What are the social dynamics, emotions, injustices and pastoral realities? Can we see the reality clearly?

Ask yourself whether the immigrant-background teenagers you know are being harassed and left feeling anxious, ashamed or afraid to be visible because of the spread of misinformation on social media. Are some of our youth, rightly or wrongly, perceived as 'dangerous', 'criminal' or 'a drain on resources', and do such narratives influence decision-making bodies for better or for worse? It would be helpful to observe whether there are increases or decreases in youth group attendance of immigrant-background teens in the wake of renewed interest in Christianity among young people. Clarify whether there is any congregational tension – not necessarily open hostility, but confusion, discomfort and silence on the dehumanising nature of most immigration talk. In more complex contexts, is there an internalisation of negative immigrant-on-immigrant stereotypes leading to one group distancing themselves from other immigrants as a way to appear 'respectable' or 'assimilated', or to scavenge for the privileges associated with 'whiteness'?

2. Understand. Analyse the situation to determine what social, psychological or cultural factors are at play. Insights from the human sciences and contextual analysis may help us to understand what's really going on. What trends can the new wave of immigrants respectfully and humbly learn from the immigrants of, for example, the West Indies, Ghana, Nigeria, the Philippines, Poland or Romania?

Acculturation – that is, the process of cultural and psychological



Channel 4 interviewing one of the Pathfinder leaders

change that occurs when an immigrant's home culture comes into continuous contact with British culture – is a helpful topic to explore in this case. Acculturation gaps between first- and second-generation immigrants tend to form naturally as a result of the differing pace with which parents and their quicker-to-adapt children acculturate. Parent-child miscommunication and disagreement on critical matters such as values, beliefs and practices tend to widen the acculturation gap during the struggle to accept each other's cultural perspectives. This may lead to a phenomenon known as 'intergenerational cultural conflict', which is associated with poorer psychological outcomes for immigrant youth, who already face extra sets of developmental tasks compared to their indigenous peers. A recent two-generation study I conducted on immigrant families in the Scottish Mission concluded that improving attitudes towards relationships within the family and improved communication skills were critical family means of reducing intergenerational cultural conflict. Are immigrant families willing to set time aside to learn and unlearn from such game-changing and transformative research?

Several insights that can shape much-needed resilience may be gained by recognising that anti-immigrant sentiment often resurges during economic or political anxiety, and that misinformation spreads rapidly on algorithm-driven platforms that reward outrage. It would also be helpful to explore whether the local community has experienced traumatic events at the hands of immigrants.

3. Reflect. Engage in theological reflection to determine what

situation, and reflect on how this experience challenges or affirms theological assumptions.

It's worth asking what the Holy Spirit is inviting our church to become in the midst of this harm, and to remember the biblical injunction on what happens to the whole body of Christ when one group suffers (1 Corinthians 12:26). The practical and impartial application of this principle should be engaged.

We must acknowledge and affirm the biblical premise that all people, regardless of origin, race and culture, bear God's image (Genesis 1:26, 27), and that consequently any rhetoric that dehumanises immigrants directly violates this truth. Whether such dehumanisation is carried out by vigilante journalists, those desiring to protect the church from some sort of 'immigrant invasion', or even immigrant parents themselves should not matter much, given biblical principle.

Critically, a Christian interpretation of research on human agency can empower youth with healthy self-worth, which will enable them to confidently make positive life choices and exercise control over their future, guided by Christian values like dignity, justice and compassion.

4. Act. Decide what to do in response – informed by observation, understanding and theological reflection. This is praxis – faith in action – aimed at transformation and flowing naturally from the previous stages: not from panic or guilt.

Ask yourself what support networks and interactions with schools and other community, charitable and governmental bodies need to be established in the long and short term. There may be a need for

churches to be intentional about empowering immigrants to integrate with life in the UK – for example, by shunning the seemingly natural agenda of immigrants to treat minority groups other than their own with the same prejudice that they themselves have experienced as immigrants. While affirming the identity of youth in Christ and valuing both their culture and story, alienation of any sort should be avoided. Sermon calendars may be helpful. Cross-cultural mentorship, cultural competence and unconscious bias training are essential components of a visionary agenda in which the preservation of young people's positive experiences is valued for its long-term implications. Strategic planning and operational intentionality may be required at various organisational levels of the BUC entities. Envisioning a faithful, healing, truthful and justice-oriented response through the eyes of young people and those who have worked and still are working with them can help in harvesting rich perspectives from the young people's acute sense of injustice.

Without minimising the deep hurt caused by the events of 5 August, immigrant families may want to sincerely reflect on the 'human impact' of certain behaviours that consistently leave immigrant youth feeling 'dehumanised' and without agency in their own homes. Immigrant youth should leave home feeling loved, visible, supported and enough of an image-bearer of God to face their uniquely complex world. Anything less than this may need to be seen as just as dehumanising as 5 August was – or simply as unacceptable.

¹For U. Ugoala's story, see <https://adventist.scot/news/my-amazing-adventurer-pathfinder-camporee-in-wales>.

Adventist school making a difference for the blind and the elderly

by Rachel Gray, Fletewood School Headteacher



Here at Fletewood School, we are 'dedicated to the discovery of excellence in each child'. We know that excellence comes in many forms, and one of those forms is through the care we show others. Jesus told us, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,' and that is at the heart of all we do at Fletewood. I'd like to share some of the fantastic things our children do for others in and around Plymouth.

Last year, I was chatting to a wonderful lady, Charlotte Greenaway (one of my neighbours!) who owned an ex-guide dog called Tina. Charlotte was telling me about how she and Tina had become ambassadors for the guide dogs' charity. She was raising money by doing a parachute jump for them. I

wanted to be able to help this wonderful cause, so I suggested to the teachers and pupils that during the autumn term of 2024 we raise money for guide dogs ourselves. The school threw itself into the challenge wholeheartedly, and the children came up with lots of fundraising ideas.

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations that year, the children told the parents more about the guide dogs, and Charlotte and Tina joined us to emphasise the importance of the work the charity does to support blind and partially sighted people. (Tina was incredibly well behaved and sat beautifully throughout the whole service!) By the end of the term, the children, staff and parents had raised a phenomenal £1,375. This is an

incredible sum of money for a school with fewer than 50 children to collect. As we had raised so much, Charlotte suggested that we hang on to the money until we have raised enough to name a guide dog puppy. This requires a sum of £2,500, so we know it will be a challenge.

We had to put the fundraising for guide dogs on the backburner for several months, as we also commit to other charities, such as ADRA, at different times of the year. Now it is the autumn term of 2025 and we are raring to go once again, with the aim of raising a further £1,125 before Christmas. The children are planning social events, Christmas markets, mufti days and more to reach that lofty goal! I have faith

in each and every one of them.

As we approach Christmas, our thoughts again turn to others at this festive time of year. We have developed strong links with a local residential home called Bethany Christian Home, which is just a short walk away from the school. Over the past several years, the children have come to cherish the visits we have with the home, and I know the residents feel the same. We joined them for a Remembrance Day service where the children sang 'Abide with Me' to the elderly, and we will join them again for a light-hearted Christmas celebration before the end of term.

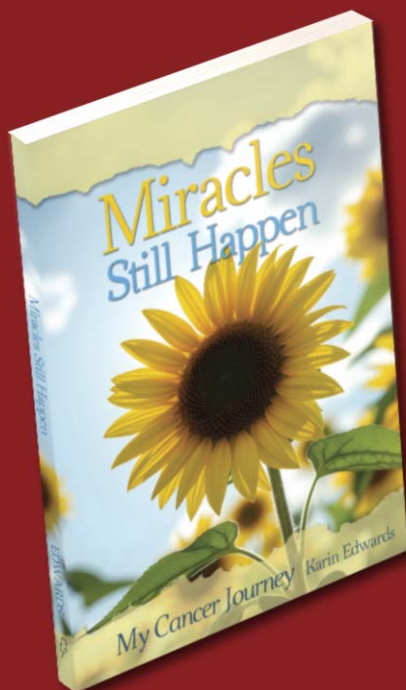
We enjoy sharing the festive cheer with others in Plymouth, too, and every year we sing carols at the local library and shopping centre. Never ones to miss an opportunity, the children give passers-by the chance to make a donation in the collection tins – this always helps us towards our fundraising goals, and we are so very grateful for the generosity of the people who stop to hear the children sing.

Although the children are great at showing care and compassion to others in the community, we all know the saying, 'Charity (love) begins at home.' I can't tell you how proud I am of the children showing their compassion, not only to strangers they meet, but in their everyday interactions with their peers, their teachers and their parents. They really live out the school values of *compassion, cooperation, happiness, respect and resilience*.

Children from our youngest 2-year-olds to our oldest year 6 look out for and care for each other on a daily basis. It always makes me smile when we get the opportunity for the whole school to get together and the children share books, play games and share toys. The nursery children love spending time with the older children and really look up to them. The oldest children love to care for our smallest pupils and can often be seen giving hugs and smiles and sharing experiences together throughout the week. I am blessed to be the leader of such a special and precious school, and I thank God every day for the path He has put me on.



The Book of the Month



Miracles Still Happen

An intense spiritual journey and a remarkable testimony of healing.

Karin's world was turned upside down when she discovered cancer in her leg. She had many questions for God, and fear threatened to engulf her – especially when the cancer returned and the doctors told her there was no more they could do.

Throughout it all, though, her family, friends and medical team supported her, and her faith remained strong. In fact, it grew even stronger as she wrestled with God and sought answers and comfort in Scripture. And her faith was rewarded in an amazing way. . . .

Karin, the wife of Pastor Llewellyn Edwards, with whom she has had three children and four grandchildren, has assisted in various church ministries in the UK and Egypt, and has also worked as a physiotherapist and health educator. Be inspired and encouraged by God's work in her life, both spiritually and physically, as you read of her battle with cancer.



To order this excellent book for yourself or to give it as a gift to someone you care about, telephone 01476 591700 (8.30am-5.30pm, Monday-Thursday) or visit www.lifefsourcebookshop.co.uk.

God's chatterbox

by Adrian Samuel

A chatterbox is a game, an origami of childish ideas, paper-creases, and endless discovery.

Its simple design served as the imaginarium of my youth. My friends and I sat and listened to paper mouths as they whispered secrets, holding us in a trance of our own creation as we looked to divine the future and our place in it.

Time has yellowed the happy memory of these years, but many of us still hold dreams – folded in pockets, in prayers, in the cares that wear lines into our brows; these trinkets of hope are preserved.

Unlike the unpredictable games of our youth, God speaks to us now by surer means. Tucked into the letters of the Scriptures are treasures that hold the Holy Oracles. God's voice sustains us with promises, correction and encouragement – a feast to strengthen the mixture of joy found in our sheepish hearts. This growth is described as a faith that 'comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God' (Romans 10:17, NKJV).

Many today are either unable or unwilling to listen to God's call. How do we gain the attention of a generation whose minds are fixed on the great spectacles of the day?

- Some believe the solution is amplification, meaning megaphones, microphones and large printed signs. Make the message so loud and so big that it cannot be ignored.
- Others believe it is through provocation: stirring the cauldron of controversy, lighting it with fevered flames, watching as it seeps into every home like a miasma, forcing a reaction from everyone, everywhere.

Fleeing the Phoenician vengeance that was Queen Jezebel, Elijah found himself, like us, among the raw chaos of the elements. Tempests, earthquakes and fires contended for attention, yet Elijah found that God was to be heard only in the beckoning call of 'a gentle whisper' (1 Kings 19:12, NIV; see also verses 11 and 13).

God is calling us to echo His gentle words through a life of quiet but predictable courage coupled with a love inscribed with careful letters, woven into the very fabric of our lives (2 Corinthians 3:2, 3).

To be God's chatterbox is to surrender to the fold of God's design, allowing Him to place us in the space in which we're needed (1 Corinthians 9:22, 23).

If you connected with any of the ideas shared in this column throughout the year, please send an email to: chat@adrian.moi; I'd love to stay in touch.



Supporting others in times of crisis

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,
BUC Director for Health, Adventist Community Services & Women's Ministries



Altruistic action

The *Psychology Today* magazine published an article entitled 'Are We Biologically Wired to Help Others During Crisis?'¹ It's a fascinating article that speaks about the innate characteristics of human compassion that instigate a positive response when individuals have suffered traumatic experiences.

The article's author, Dr Tracey Asamoah, writes: 'While tragedies are devastating to those who are directly affected as well as those who are a witness to the events, the social and empathic nature of our

humanity manifests during these times. Crisis can instil fear and isolation, but community resilience flourishes as we connect with others.'

The catastrophic impact of Hurricane Melissa is well documented on a number of social media platforms. Yet, amid the desolation, we have seen the capacity of the human heart to reach out in compassion, to assist others in need, even when individuals themselves have suffered significant loss.

In critical times like these, the benevolent acts of others are crucial to the holistic recovery of those suffering from traumatic experiences.

I want to applaud the efforts of all who have responded to humanitarian emergencies – particularly the tremendous work of our Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Trauma awareness

Explaining the repercussions of trauma, the mental health organisation Mind gives a comprehensive outline of how individuals undergoing trauma might be provided with support. Its website states: 'Experiencing trauma can change how someone thinks and feels, and their goals in life. It's important to understand that this change is normal. And [it's important] not to pressure someone into returning to how they were before the trauma.'²

On its web page titled 'Helping Someone Through Trauma',³ Mind expands on the following tips for giving effective support: be a good listener; manage your expectations; learn their triggers; try not to judge; offer practical support; respect their privacy and boundaries; help them set boundaries; engage in fun and relaxing activities; help them find support; and look after your own mental health.

Awareness on the risk of 'secondary trauma'

It is well documented that individuals caring for others experiencing trauma can themselves become stressed and be vulnerable to what is termed as 'secondary trauma'. An online article on post-traumatic stress disorder and how to treat and recover from trauma explains what secondary trauma is and why it occurs. The article states: 'Secondary trauma, often called vicarious trauma or compassion fatigue, is a complex emotional and psychological phenomenon that occurs when individuals indirectly experience the distress and suffering of others who have undergone traumatic events. The

condition is commonly observed among professionals in caregiving roles and friends and family members who emotionally support trauma survivors.'⁴

The article further explains how secondary trauma is manifested: 'Secondary trauma occurs through a process of empathetic engagement with the experiences of primary trauma survivors. When individuals closely interact with or listen to the narratives of those who have endured traumatic events, they may involuntarily internalise the emotional and psychological distress of the survivors. The absorption of another person's trauma can manifest in various ways, affecting mental and physical health.'

Self-care

A *Psychology Today* article titled 'Secondary Trauma: How to Build Resilience and Heal' outlines the cautions and protective steps one should take to reduce the risks.⁵ Among the comprehensive advice given, in a segment titled '*Proactive Strategies to Diminish the Effects of Secondary Trauma*', the article counsels us to do the following: 1) be aware of the symptoms of trauma; 2) selectively screen information; 3) make informed choices on sources of media; 4) connect with support networks; 5) focus on replenishing and regeneration; and 6) develop the ability to self-reflect.

Read the full article at psychologytoday.com.

Good health!

¹ www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/lets-reconnect/201804/are-we-biologically-wired-help-others-during-crisis?msocid=052eefc976b1652f198cfb1077b76476

² www.mind.org.uk/information-support/types-of-mental-health-problems/trauma-for-friends-and-family/

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://ptsdinfo.org/secondary-trauma/>

⁵ www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/things-to-consider/202401/secondary-trauma-learn-how-to-build-resilience-and-heal?msocid=052eefc976b1652f198cfb1077b76476



'ConnectED25: Faith, Tech and the Future of Outreach'

SEC and Newbold College host groundbreaking outreach conference

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau, BUC Stewardship Director



CONNECTED25

'This was a visionary event, inspired by the Holy Spirit. . . anyone who missed this, you must come to the next one. It was informative, inspirational and exactly what you need to move into the future of media and communication,' remarked Cynthia Osei Owusu-Arthur, HR professional and presenter of the IN2G show. Her enthusiasm captured the spirit of 'ConnectED25: Faith, Tech and the Future of Outreach', a collaborative event hosted by the South England Conference (SEC) Media and Communication Department and Newbold College of Higher Education on Sunday 12 October.

This dynamic gathering brought together pastors, church leaders and lay members from across the UK and Ireland, and also from as far away as the Netherlands, to bridge the gap between timeless faith principles and the rapid advancements of the digital arena – transforming technology into cutting-edge tools for mission and outreach.

Pastor Joe Philpott, newly elected Associate Communication Director of the Trans-European Division (TED), opened by blending personal narrative, theological depth and inspiration, reflecting on Jesus' commission in Acts 1:8: 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses' (NIV).

'Jesus doesn't give them a communication strategy,' Pastor Philpott said, 'but He gives them a mandate that the Spirit would work through them.' He urged attendees to 'communicate the Gospel through the reporter's pen as a pulpit, through the photographer's lens and a graphic designer's image,' adding that the same Holy Spirit who empowered the disciples continues to empower believers today.

Dr Sorin Petrof, SEC Director of

Media and Communication and conference organiser, invited attendees to explore the intersection of faith, technology and mission. Citing historian Yuval Harari, he warned, 'Religions that lose touch with the technical realities of the day forfeit their ability even to understand the questions being asked. If we don't engage meaningfully with technology, we won't simply struggle to reach people – we won't understand the world they are navigating.'

The morning continued with a series of inspiring TED-style presentations. Pastor Carlos Magalhães, South American Division Director of Digital Strategies, spoke on 'AI, Gaming, Streaming to Engage Gen Z'. He shared examples of AI tutors for Bible studies, films as modern parables, and VR in youth ministry, concluding that technology can foster belonging when used with Christ's methods.

Paulin Giurgi, Vice President of Hope Media Europe, which reaches 2.5 million people monthly through nine media centres, reminded participants, 'There is a danger of treating faith as a commodity. We are not sellers; we are disciples.'

Music industry professional Keith Kirk explored 'Harnessing Music Publishing for Digital Mission'. He revealed that only 1.5% of hymns in the Adventist hymnal were written by Adventists, encouraging creators to use their talents for outreach and collaboration.

Dr Dan Serb, Newbold College Principal, who supported the use of AI for mission, cautioned, 'AI is the first tool in history that can make decisions' independently. He closed with a reminder from Rowan Williams: 'The holy presence is not one item to be noticed among others,

but the foundation of all noticing.'

BBC news presenter Neil Nunes, identifying a 'crisis of attention' and 'loss of stillness', encouraged communication that appeals to the HEART – holy intention, empathy, attraction, revelation, and the touching of the will.

Pastor Christian Salcianu, Adventist Discovery Centre Principal, reflected on 'Leading in a Digital Age'. Referencing *Time Magazine's* 1982 'Machine of the Year', rather than the usual Person of the Year, he urged the attendees to discern divine vision in a constantly changing landscape.

Eunice Alves, BT Product Designer, inspired attendees with her four design principles – beauty, story, familiarity and emotion – highlighting how creativity reflects God's own design.

The Newbold youth pastor, Pavle Trajkovski, concluded by 'Exploring WhatsApp for Pastoral Connections'. His research showed that, with intentionality, even 'the dreaded WhatsApp group' can become an instrument of God's grace.

Afternoon workshops expanded on these topics, followed by a lively panel discussion addressing the challenges of digital outreach and the importance of elevating Gen Z voices. The key takeaway: community and connection remain central, and the church must harness digital spaces under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to stay relevant and impactful.

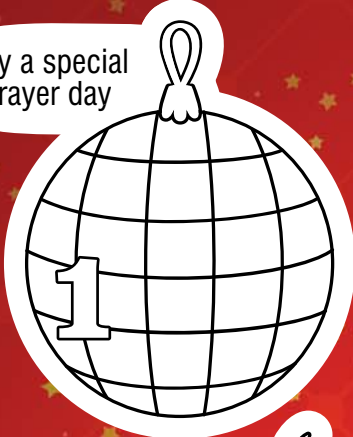
Reflecting on the day, Pastor Joe Philpott said, 'ConnectED was excellent – the environment was good, the networking opportunities were superb, and the event was Spirit-led.'

The original version of this article was published on the South England Conference website.

Give yourself a feel-good pr

*As you do each activity,
colour in your progress!*

Say a special
prayer day



Write a
thank-you note
day



Do a cool
activity day



Eat a
cookie day



Show
kindness
day



Give
a hug
day



Eat a
chocolate
day



Eat Brussels
sprouts day



Make a
gift day



Make cut-out
snowflakes day



Read the Nativity
story day



Eat a red
apple day



Candy
cane day



Learn a Bible
verse day



Give a gift day



Present each day this month!



Make someone smile day



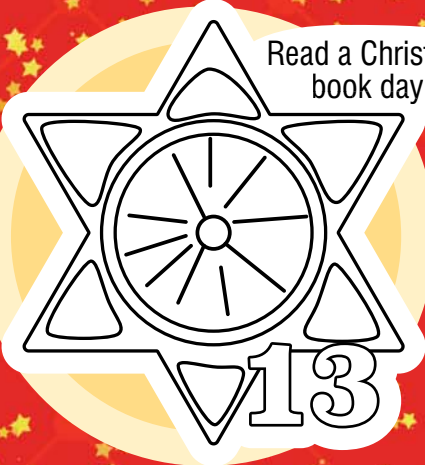
Draw Jesus day



Make a cross day



Tidy your room day



Read a Christian book day



Help your parents day



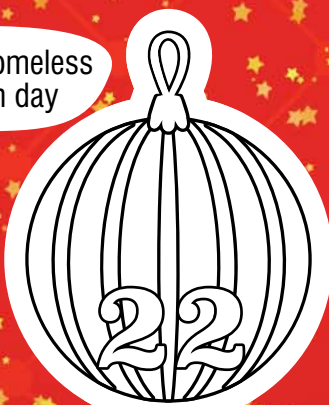
Go carolling day



Help a friend day



Feed a homeless person day



Drink a hot chocolate day



Play an instrument day



Help your neighbours day



Make a diorama of Jesus' birth day



Say 'I love you' day



Learn a new song about Jesus day



Show your gratitude day



Member of Newbold College staff conducts evangelistic campaign

Dr Ivan Milanov, Senior Lecturer in Old Testament at Newbold College of Higher Education, gave twelve presentations of the fundamental biblical beliefs for members of the public in Strumica, a town in the southern part of Macedonia, from 25 October to 2 November 2025.

Every night around sixty visitors and church members filled the public hall in the town centre. It was interesting to see that there were more visitors than church members. Even though every presentation lasted 55–60 minutes, the visitors ‘complained’ that it was too short; they wanted more. It was a joy to see how hungry people were for the Word of God.

A group of twenty visitors, who have already decided to follow Christ, attend the local church worship services each Sabbath. The small church hall is fully packed every Sabbath, and up to ten church members have to leave the main hall and sit in the smaller room next to the main hall. It is interesting that the number of visitors matches the number of church members who attend the services. The local pastor and his outreach team have an action plan for both groups and will individually tailor the Bible studies for the next several months so that the visitors can be fully prepared for their baptism.

A couple of phenomena are worthy of mention. First, the majority of the visitors come from an evangelical background. According to their own testimony, the reason they have been attracted to the Seventh-day Adventist message is the peculiar biblical truths proclaimed and practised by the Adventists, such as the Sabbath, eschatology, the state of the dead, and health reform. Second, there has been a trend of declining attendance at the evangelical churches in the town, despite the fact that the area has been a Methodist stronghold since the nineteenth century.

While the attendance at other churches has been in decline, the opposite is happening to the local Seventh-day Adventist church. It is interesting to note that the local Adventist church also experienced a significant drop in attendance until 2023. That year was key to the local church’s outreach success. The team of elders were utterly dissatisfied by the spiritual state of the local church and started prayer meetings over Zoom three times a week. Gradually the church experienced a proper revival, not just short-term excitement, and the quality of the worship services and outreach activities went up. The result is that all the church visitors are their friends; the local members study the Bible with them and support them spiritually. The spiritual support is equally as important as Bible study, because it helps the visitors to develop the feeling that they belong to the community of faith.

Despite the presenter’s exhaustion, he enjoyed each moment spent with the visitors and church members. The awareness that these people now experience God in their lives and hopefully expect the return of their Saviour gives motivation to carry on and participate in other outreach projects. Therefore, do not hesitate to contact Dr Milanov if you think that he can help you with your ministry.

DR IVAN MILANOV



Stoke Newington Education Department hosts inaugural education conference

On the last day of August 2025, Stoke Newington Church’s education department hosted its first education conference. Everyone was welcome, regardless of age. Brother Punta, Lascelles McKenzie, Tony Westmore and Earl Johnson supported the event, and Hyacinth Douglas

dropped in to support her daughter, one of the presenters, staying until the end. They all chatted with the professionals and thoroughly enjoyed the event. Sister Brade of Stokey could not attend as she wished, but donated to the department. Feedback was positive and very encouraging.

Nineteen professionals of a widely diverse academic landscape gave the attendees worthwhile information, exceptional guidance and the benefit of their skills and years of experience, which was greatly appreciated.

The chef, Wilma Williams-Kelly, and Howard deserve special mention: everyone enjoyed the food, and some even purchased more to take home. Furthermore, Gem Smith’s selfless support gave life and energy to an idea, ensuring that the fantastic event took place.

We thank Naomi and Angela for being there and holding up our hands; and we also thank Hyland House for the use of their facilities and their site team. We give God our Father thanks and praise for allowing everything to unfold as it ought. Until next year – blessings, and continue to walk in the Lord.

SANJO JEFFREY, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

‘Empowered by the Holy Spirit: I will go!’

More than 100 individuals attended the fourth Willesden and Holloway Seventh-day Adventist churches’ prayer retreat at the Kents Hill Park Training and Conference Centre based in Milton Keynes during the weekend of Friday 31 October to Sunday 2 November 2025.

The theme for this year’s conference was: ‘Empowered by the Holy Spirit: I will go!’ The speakers were Pastor Mario Phillip (Holloway), Elder Mark Baptiste (Cambridge), Pastor Kuda Conese (Newbold pastoral student, Holloway) and special guest speaker Pastor Kerwin Mitchell (Ireland). Each of the speakers shared messages on the powerful role the Holy Spirit plays in our devotional and prayer life, as well as in the spiritual warfare believers often find themselves in when on a mission for God.

A welcome addition to this year’s prayer retreat was the introduction of prayer warriors available each hour to pray with those needing prayer, as well as professional counsellors for those needing to talk to someone about any issues which may have been on their heart. There was even a space for the children and young people to have their own worship sessions, facilitated by Maria Samuel and her team.

Pastor Mario Phillip shared exciting news of progress made regarding the global mission work in various parts of Asia and Africa, where lives have been blessed by the building of new church buildings and latrines and the provision of access to clean water for drinking, bathing and farming; through the sharing of the Gospel, many have given their lives to Christ in baptism.

Throughout the prayer retreat, opportunities were



given for delegates to pray together about being empowered by the Holy Spirit to go and spread the good news of salvation to everyone. Testimonies were shared regarding the positive impact the retreat has had on the lives of those attending during the past four years since its inception.

Yvonne Cummins, administrator of the retreat, said: ‘It was great to see the inclusiveness of young people and of non-Adventists at the retreat, who testified of how welcome and included they felt. Also, the early morning prayer sessions strengthened our faith; space and time were given for us to be vulnerable in sharing what was on our hearts with a prayer warrior or a professional counsellor; and an anointing service was led by the guest speakers. It ensured that all our needs were being met, as there was something there for everyone.’

In his final charge, Pastor Kerwin Mitchell, who originally hails from the Caribbean island of Guyana, told the delegates to support each other in their prayers and walk with God. ‘Just as Aaron and Hur lifted up the prophet Moses’ hands, leading Joshua and the children of Israel to victory over their enemies, so too must you support and lift each other up with your prayers and encouragement in this spiritual walk with the Lord, knowing that victory over our enemies and even over ourselves has been ensured as we put our faith and trust in Him.’

DARELL J. PHILIP

‘Hope for Healing’ campaign at Clapton

The ‘Christ: The Hope for Healing’ campaign, held from 4 to 11 October 2025 at Clapton Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, was a truly uplifting and restorative experience. Led by Pastor Nicole Gooden and Pastor Wilfred Blake, the week-long series focused on finding hope, healing and renewal through Christ.

Throughout the campaign, hearts were touched and lives were inspired as the messages spoke to real and personal struggles – emotional pain, broken relationships, guilt and fear. The afternoon and evening services reached not only those attending in person, but also many who joined online via YouTube, allowing the message of healing and restoration to extend far beyond the church walls.

Each day built upon the last, guiding participants through themes of forgiveness, freedom and spiritual wholeness. The week concluded with a joyous Sabbath celebration as two young ladies surrendered their lives and became children of God through baptism – a beautiful testimony of God’s transforming power.

It was truly a time of spiritual growth, unity and renewal – a powerful reminder that, in every season of hurt or struggle, Christ remains our hope for healing.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT





Camp Hill Church's week-long 70th anniversary celebrations culminate with baptism

Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in Birmingham marked a significant milestone from Sabbath 20 to Sabbath 27 September 2025, celebrating seventy years of God's faithfulness. After months of planning and preparation by a committee of members, the resident minister, Pastor Aster Bruce, welcomed returning ministers to lead a series of uplifting evening services: Pastors Garry Gordon, Rainford McIntosh, Jeff Nicholson, Patrick Herbert, Dan Majaducon, Isaac Liburd and Pardon Chenjerai, who each shared heartfelt messages of encouragement and thanksgiving. Finally, Pastor Don McFarlane, a former pastor of Camp Hill Church and former president of the British Union Conference, reflected on the church's legacy of service, music and spiritual growth on Sabbath 27 September for the closing thanksgiving service, at which fifteen precious souls were baptised: Neville Rusike; Tawana and Tinaye Gutu; Makanaka Tobaiwa; D'Layna Byron; Lewanna and Keith Ncube; Nathaniel and Andre Jordon; Isaiah, Malachi and Jahzara Hayden; Alerice Russell; Leah McLeod; and Kabelo Mpofu.

The music, communications and catering teams facilitated the week's events, including quizzes, music, interviews and testimonies. Individuals who have made a difference to the church over the years were publicly recognised, including Sister Vanessa Gent, the granddaughter of one of the founding members. In addition to the speakers, several former pastors of Camp Hill expressed appreciation for the church's enduring witness and impact, either in person or remotely, including Pastor Cyril Sweeney. The pastors were given trophies engraved with their names and years of service.

At the closing service, Pastor Gordon – who had preached during the first Sabbath on Psalm 137 and Jeremiah 29:11, explaining that God plans to save us and cause us to flourish – preached from John 3, reminding the congregation of the importance of being born again. Each candidate entered the baptismal pool supported by family and friends, who read favourite scriptures and shared personal testimonies of spiritual growth. As each one rose from the waters, the congregation sang the candidates' favourite hymns and choruses in joyous tones. Pastors Garry Gordon and Cyril Sweeney conducted the baptisms, assisted by elders who had spent many weeks preparing the candidates.

One of the candidates, Alerice Russell, was supported by ten friends from her school. Elder Pasi Gutu commented, 'It was incredibly meaningful to my wife,

Tendai, and myself to see two of our own children, Tinaye and Tawana, and our niece Makanaka among those making this life-changing decision.' Tinaye replied that she feels happy with her decision and is looking forward to continuing her journey with God. The elders presented the candidates with books to strengthen their spiritual growth, and five more young people expressed their interest in Bible studies for a future baptism.

On Sunday 28 September 2025, the celebrations concluded with a joyful anniversary social and health expo at Harper Bell School, attended by more than two hundred people.

DR JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Eight young people baptised at Stockport

Sabbath 13 September was a day of joy and celebration at Stockport Seventh-day Adventist Church as eight young people publicly gave their lives to Christ through baptism.

The special service, held as part of the church's youth day, brought together family, friends and members from the wider church community. The candidates, aged between 10 and 16, have grown up within the fellowship of Stockport Church. With the loving guidance of their parents, the nurturing support of the congregation and regular preparatory Bible studies with Pastor Geoff Smith, they chose to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and embrace the fundamentals of the Seventh-day Adventist faith. They made their promise to the Lord publicly, in the presence of around 200 members, family and friends.

The baptismal service for Rhea, Zanaley, Talitha, Naomi, Justin, Dylan, Josh and Sam was filled with heartfelt music, a special message and a spirit of thanksgiving. Each young person's commitment served as a powerful reminder of God's work in the lives of our children and youth, and of the importance of the church family in encouraging faith from an early age.

As the congregation rejoiced together, the service became a call to the entire church to continue supporting and mentoring its youth, helping them grow deeper in their walk with Christ.

The day closed in an atmosphere of joy and unity, with the assurance that 'there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth' (Luke 15:10, KJV). Truly, heaven rejoiced with Stockport Church on this blessed Sabbath.

CAROL-ANNE NAYLOR



Joseph and Sharon, with Njay Ndlovu and Pastor Paul Tompkins



Zuzia welcomed into fellowship after baptism



Olivia Wiech baptised by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda

Baptisms at Crieff

The Crieff congregation in Scotland have been delighted to witness multiple baptisms in 2025: the baptism of Sharon Owens and Joseph Baraniuc at a service led by Pastors Paul Tompkins and Njay Ndlovu on 10 May, and the baptism of 19-year-old Zuzia Ostrowska by Pastor Bob Rodd on 25 October; in addition, 16-year-old Olivia Wiech, who was baptised in Poland by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, was voted into membership upon returning home to Crieff.

Joseph, who has been attending Crieff Church for almost six years with his family, was following in the footsteps of his sister, who was baptised in Crieff a few years ago. Joseph engaged in baptismal studies with Pastor Paul Tompkins, who described him as 'an absolute pleasure to study with'.

Sharon, who was introduced to Crieff Church by Geanina Diaconu, our placement ministerial student, found Crieff Church very friendly and welcoming, and felt compelled to be baptised here. Sharon was led in baptismal studies by Pastor Njay Ndlovu.

At her baptism in October, Zuzia shared, 'For the longest time, baptism was something daunting for me.

... I always knew that I wanted Jesus in my life in some shape or form, because I couldn't imagine what my life would look like without faith. It took me this long to take this step because I was afraid that once I got baptised, I might end up walking away, like my dad and many others did. I didn't want that. So, I thought that maybe if I delayed the baptism, I would delay the possibility of ever walking away. However, after a couple of my fellow youth got baptised throughout this year, I realised that I had nothing to gain from holding myself back. If I have always considered myself part of Christ, then why am I stopping myself from making this commitment?'

How wonderful it is to see our youth inspiring each other for Christ. Please pray for all of our recently baptised youth as they continue their Christian journey.

MARIANN COWIN



Sib, Elder Ruth Ohman & Elder Des Mills, with Pastor Namuchana behind

Baptism and belonging: Sibusiso Mhlanga's spiritual milestone

On a crisp autumn Sabbath morning, Lodge Causeway Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bristol welcomed a moment of profound joy and spiritual renewal. Sibusiso Mhlanga (Sib), surrounded by family, friends and fellow believers, took a bold and beautiful step in his faith journey – baptism.

The ceremony, held on 1 November, was officiated by Pastor Namushi Namuchana, whose heartfelt message and prayerful presence set the tone for a day filled with reverence and celebration. Sib's decision to be baptised followed a series of baptismal lessons led by Elder Des Mills, whose guidance helped deepen Sib's understanding of Scripture and his commitment to the values of the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

As Sib emerged from the waters, the congregation responded to this powerful symbol of spiritual rebirth with hymns of praise and warm embraces of communal love. The moment was not only a personal transformation for Sib, but a reminder of the church's mission to nurture faith and welcome new members into the body of Christ.

Joining Sib in this sacred moment were Brother James Mureru, Pastor Namuchana, Elder Des Mills and Sib's devoted aunt, Nonsikelelo Moyo, whose presence added a tender layer of family support and generational blessing. Their smiles reflected the joy and unity that define Lodge Causeway SDA Church.

Sib's baptism stands as a testament to the power of faith, mentorship and community. As he begins this new chapter, the church family rejoice and commit to walking alongside him in fellowship, prayer and purpose.

ELDER DES MILLS

PHOTO BY SISTER LOUIGIE DE SAN JOSE



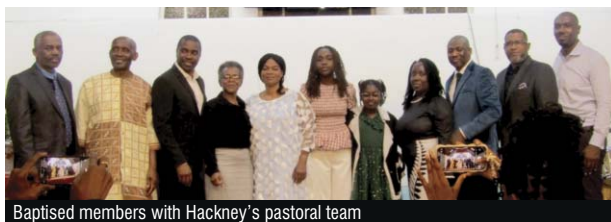
Newly baptised members from left to right: Ezra Sibanda, Kaleb Gabula, Nelson & Ana Soeiro and Elisa Munangatire

Baptism at Birmingham Perry Beeches

On the evening of Sabbath 30 August, five precious souls – Kaleb Gabula, Elisa Munangatire, Ezra Sibanda, and married couple Ana & Nelson Soeiro – were baptised and added to the membership of Perry Beeches Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Special mention should be given to Head Elder Emmanuel Babafemi and other elders of the church who studied with these individuals. The immersions were conducted by Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma, who currently serves the Breath of Life, Smethwick and West Bromwich churches. The homily was presented by the resident minister, Pastor Rainford McIntosh, whose sermon challenged all in attendance. We wish the new converts great success on their spiritual walk and pray for the church's continued engagement in total membership involvement.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Baptised members with Hackney's pastoral team

Four baptised in Hackney's 'Reignited and Restored' campaign

Four precious souls were baptised at the end of a dynamic two-week campaign (6-18 October 2025) at Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church with a special guest speaker, Pastor Cory Jackson.

Born and raised in Chicago, Pastor Jackson leads New Covenant SDA Church in Memphis, USA. He loves his family and passionately leads his church in regularly reaching out to the community with food deliveries and medical assistance. Each night, under the theme 'Reignited and Restored', he challenged members to examine whether they were truly living a consecrated life. Anger, gossip, pride and discontent, which are often treated lightly, were clearly pointed out as sins needing to be eradicated today. These traits were exhibited by the scribes and Pharisees, who emphasised law-keeping rather than having a relationship with Jesus Christ Himself.

Through a range of symbolic gestures members were encouraged to demonstrate their need of repentance to follow Jesus and serve God by reaching the lost with the everlasting Gospel. Special items were rendered by Pastor Vaughn Thorpe, Myrtle O'Keefe, Jevan Lecointe, Michaela Mathieu-Marius and Hackney's praise team. The campaign ended in jubilation as Neriah Adewuyi,

Siobhan Prince, Olufunke Ayorinde and Alban Hippolyte gave their lives to Christ in baptism in the presence of their families and friends. The baptism of Deshane Philip (a homegrown Hackney regular since childhood and brother to the writer) was also livestreamed from Poinciana SDA Church in Orlando, USA just a few minutes before Hackney's own campaign came to an end.

DARELL J. PHILIP, PR & COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT



Iranian baptisms

What do the following biblical characters have in common – Daniel, King Cyrus, Esther and Nehemiah? They were all connected to the Persian Empire, now known as Iran. Many will know Iran to be an Islamic country, and the religion there is strongly enforced by the Iranian government. To become a Christian in Iran means persecution, imprisonment or even death! Therefore, the Christian faith and churches there are 'underground', worshipping in secret.

In the UK we hear news of asylum seekers risking their lives to get to Britain – some of whom are individuals evading persecution for their faith. Since arriving in the UK, and even before reaching the UK, some of them (not all of whom have come to the UK illegally) have been studying the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with Elder Andrew Rock from Reading Central Church.

The studies commenced in 2021 during the height of COVID-19 and have been conducted on Zoom through a translator who was an asylum seeker but has now, like many, been granted refugee status. Over the past four years, seventeen individuals have been baptised across various parts of the SEC and NEC, the most recent six on 23 and 30 August 2025 in London. For safety reasons their names cannot be mentioned, and sadly their faces in the pictures have had to be blurred out – not just for their own safety, but also for their loved ones back in Iran.

Thanks go out to Pastors Colin Stewart, Dee Edwards, Namushi Namuchana, Aundries Malcolm and Wilson Lagos and their congregations, of which the newly baptised candidates will become members.

ANDREW ROCK, ELDER, READING CENTRAL CHURCH

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Gangs and County Lines Church Safeguarding Tour 2025

The Gangs and County Lines Church Safeguarding Tour 2025 made its final appearance for the year at London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church on the afternoon of Sabbath 25 October 2025.

Hosted and arranged by Paul Frempong, a youth worker who is also Team Manager within the Youth Justice Service and Director of Boys2Men Ministry, the Gangs and County Lines Church Safeguarding Tour 2025 travelled to each of the London Area districts, educating parents and young people on how to safeguard themselves from gangs and violence. Paul was joined by motivational speaker Elder Clarence Jackson, who supports at-risk children through one-to-one programmes; Ambrose Dawson, Senior Executive Officer at the Ministry of Justice; and Linda Acquah, Primary School Special Educational Needs Coordinator and a member of South East Community Seventh-day Adventist Church. Also supporting the young people in attendance was the South England Conference Teens Ministry Director, Pastor Joojo Bonnie, and his team.

Each of the participants shared advice on how the church could help in safeguarding their young people from gangs and violence. In his presentation, Paul Frempong highlighted some of the things that attract young people to join gangs: money, a sense of protection and love, but also peer pressure. What was driven home was the importance of parents being actively involved in every aspect of their children's lives – from their home, church and school life to the friends they associate with. Homes where there is openness, honesty and trust built on the love of Christ make a positive difference in the lives of the young people found there.

Linda Acquah shared how vulnerable young people such as those with special educational needs are groomed



Left to right: Pastor Joojo Bonnie, Elder Clarence Jackson and Ambrose Dawson

into joining gangs, as well as the importance of parents taking an active interest in the education of their children by attending parents' evenings to meet teachers and have authentic conversations with their children about their school day and learning.

The information shared finally hit home when it was highlighted that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not immune to such an issue. Among the many young people to have lost their lives to youth violence, albeit indirectly, were Kiyan Prince, Keelen Morris Wong and Vanessa James, all from Adventist homes, who lost their lives while trying to safeguard themselves and their loved ones from harm. Kiyan's father, Mark Prince, set up the Kiyan Prince Foundation, which works with young people in educating them on the dangers of youth violence and the ways in which they can safeguard themselves. Elder Jermaine Wong set up Learn2Live in memory of his son, Keelen, which uses the power of creative expression to build emotional resilience and break cycles of trauma among young people.

For more information on this subject, contact boys2menworkshops@gmail.com.

DARELL J. PHILIP, LONDON AREA 6C COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



London Lifesavers at Welling

The innovative and vibrant Children's Ministries team at Welling Church made a great impact earlier this year when they showed gratitude to the Bexleyheath and Barnhurst fire and ambulance personnel through a special community visit to our local heroes.

Such was the impression made during that visit in May that the ambulance personnel offered to connect

the team with the London Lifesavers to provide our Pathfinders and adults with vital lifesaving training.

After several months of liaising to obtain a suitable date for all, the training was scheduled for 22 August 2025, a beautiful day during the school holidays. Twenty-three participants attended, including one member from the wider community. Under the skilful instruction of Julie and Lucinda from London Lifesavers, participants learnt and demonstrated essential cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) techniques and the use of a defibrillator. This valuable training enabled the Pathfinders to earn another competency badge, along with their official certificates of achievement.

The affable and engaging Julie and Lucinda effectively conveyed the seriousness of life-saving techniques while keeping the children captivated through hands-on activities. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and were eager participants throughout. Julie and Lucinda were presented with beautiful bouquets in appreciation of their time and dedication.

Of course, no event would be complete without good food, and the delicious culinary delights provided by Daynea were enjoyed by all!

As the Children's Ministries team continue to forge relationships within the community, we pray that Welling Church will continue to be a beacon of light, hope and life to everyone we serve.

LESLIAN ELLIS, COMMUNICATION TEAM

The right arm of the Gospel

On 27 September 2025, Bodmin Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cornwall demonstrated faith, compassion, care and community outreach by hosting a health expo, providing free blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and BMI screenings.

The programme was coordinated by Elder David Hatton, Personal Ministries Leader and Coordinator for the Cornwall churches, assisted by Terril Crichton and Cynthia, Bodmin Personal Ministries Leader. The effort was strengthened by the professional service of qualified nurses (Bev, Rata, Mui and Chinyere), together with dedicated volunteers from the Bodmin and St Austell churches. Brother Mark and his wife, Claudia, journeyed to Exeter, bringing essential medical equipment that contributed greatly to the success of the day.

The response was heartwarming. Many community members came for their free health checks, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to learn more about their wellbeing. Local council representatives who attended the event praised the initiative, commending the church for its commitment to public service. They encouraged us to continue this good work, acknowledging the vital role the church plays in promoting health and wholeness.

This event was far more than a medical exercise: numerous health magazines and other items of Christian literature were distributed, demonstrating the Gospel in action. Christ's ministry was both spiritual and practical. He preached the message of salvation and restored broken bodies, showing that the Gospel is not only to be proclaimed, but also to be lived out through compassionate service.

When the church reaches out to meet the physical needs of the community, it reveals the compassionate heart of Christ. Jesus' tender care for the suffering opened doors for spiritual transformation. Likewise, as Ellen G. White testifies (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 77), when people experience kindness through health outreach, they become more receptive to the message of salvation. When we share the health message, we are not merely teaching lifestyle improvement; we are pointing souls to the Great Physician, Jesus Christ. Every checkup, seminar and act of mercy becomes an invitation to experience the abundant life He offers.

This event laid a strong foundation for future outreach and was followed up by further expos in October and November, offering new opportunities to serve and connect with the community.

May the right arm of the Gospel never grow weary. The world yearns for both physical healing and the hope that comes from knowing Christ. Let us continue to labour together, united in mission, so that through our compassionate service the community may see the love of God revealed.

GOODLUCK AJUZIE (DISTRICT PASTOR)



Barnstaple health checks event

On Friday 26 September 2025 a new door was opened for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North Devon when its members served the community in Pannier Market, Barnstaple, through health tests.

It was the first time such a project had been planned and approved by the local authorities in the area. The focus of the day was not on the number of people served, although volunteers from Barnstaple SDA Group and Exeter SDA Church served almost 30 people in five hours. What was more important for us was that the local authorities see us as normal people with an interest in the wellness of the local community, and thus develop trust in our project, securing consistent future collaboration.

We want to give thanks to God for helping us to have meaningful conversations and interactions with a variety of people in need of health, hope and meaning. May God help the church community in the area to know



how to keep and enlarge this door that has been opened for the everlasting Gospel in North Devon.

PASTOR FLORIN ORĂȘANU

Stoke Newington Church marks diamond anniversary

Stoke Newington Seventh-day Adventist Church recently marked its diamond anniversary, celebrating sixty years of unwavering faith, service and community impact. The vibrant programme of events honoured Stoke Newington's legacy and illuminated its future. Under the theme 'Shining Ever Brighter: a Diamond Legacy, a Radiant Future', the church embraced the symbolic brilliance of the diamond – enduring, multifaceted and shining ever brighter with each passing year.

The commemorations began with a curated legacy exhibition featuring archival photographs, written and video messages from past and present members from around the world, and key milestones of Stoke Newington's six-decade journey. Organisers reported the attendance of more than 500 individuals, members and visitors alike.

This diamond anniversary was not simply a celebration: it was a declaration of who we are and who we are becoming. Like a diamond, our legacy has been forged under pressure and refined through time. We now shine ever brighter as we serve our community and deepen our spiritual mission.

Central to the celebrations was a series of outreach initiatives that reflected our enduring commitment to compassion and justice. The Community Kitchen provides hot meals and fellowship to vulnerable residents, offering nourishment and dignity in equal measure. The Gift of Giving Project extended support to families in need through coordinated donations of food, clothing and essential supplies. Our Community Street Singing Ministries brought joy and encouragement to local streets, care homes and public spaces, transforming ordinary moments into spiritual encounters. Meanwhile, the Vacation Bible School (VBS) programme served as a dynamic outreach tool, engaging children with Spirit-filled lessons, interactive storytelling and creative games designed to foster moral development and community awareness.

Messages of congratulations poured in from regional and civic leaders, affirming our impact. Pastor Eglan Brooks, President of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, commended the congregation for its steadfast commitment to spiritual growth and



outreach. In his message, Pastor Brooks highlighted our alignment with the wider mission of transformation across the United Kingdom. The Mayor of Hackney also issued a formal statement recognising our contributions to local cohesion, youth development and charitable service. Both messages were shared during the Friday Thanksgiving Service, adding a note of civic and denominational affirmation to the celebrations. Also in attendance were the present and former speakers of Hackney and Ann Swaby, South England Conference Treasurer.

Stoke Newington Church also shared its plans for phase two of the expansion of our two-storey building. The expansion aims to create a weatherproof, multi-functional space to support worship, education and outreach activities. Church leaders emphasised that the new structure is essential to meeting the needs of a growing and diverse congregation.

A commemorative book was also produced, featuring our history, articles on our founding members, messages from members, acts of kindness, photos and shared milestones.

As Stoke Newington Church enters its seventh decade, the diamond anniversary served not only as a reflection of the past, but as a beacon for the future. We are not only looking back; we are looking ahead. This is a legacy in motion, and we remain committed to shining ever brighter.

STOKE NEWINGTON EVENTS ORGANISERS

West Bletchley member awarded

Dr Robbie Addaih of West Bletchley Seventh-day Adventist Community Church in Milton Keynes received a stupendous award from Peter Thompson, an industrialist, coordinator and lead consultant for the BSSN (Building Spiritual & Social Network) Foundation, in appreciation for his indefatigable commitment and unquenchable service to the human race. The award was presented to Dr Addaih on 20 September 2025 at Harben House Hotel, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes. The event was put together by the Kerdos Fellowship executives in the UK and Europe, Dr Pastor Solomon Brobbey and Reverend Wisdom Deffor.

The Kerdos Fellowship, which is allied with the BSSN Foundation, is a global network with links in the USA, Canada, the UK, Europe and Africa. It promotes and develops potential talents, bringing communities together, collaborating unrelentingly with UK universities to enhance the skills of young people with an aptitude for social media.

DR ROBBIE ADDAIH





Tottenham Lighthouse – still serving our community with love

On Sunday 7 September the Men's Ministries team from Tottenham Lighthouse Seventh-day Adventist Church, led by Amos Ehiorogie, organised a community fun day. Despite the forecast for heavy rains, which resulted in one company turning down our request to hire a bouncy castle, the church prayed and the men stepped out in faith to continue planning the event. This included hiring a bouncy castle from another company and arranging with Mr Ugof, Manager of Forks & Greens Café, to use their power supply, a much-appreciated facility he has always granted. The Lord gave us the most glorious Sunday in September. The children, mostly from the community, enjoyed not only the bouncy castle in the park opposite the church, but also arts and crafts with Maureen Pollock and face painting with Angel Meguille Soyam.

At church, there were various activities: health checks by retired nurse Jacqui Denton-Ireland; foot massages by Marie Green-Dolan; and the barbecue, whose smell attracted locals and passers-by to come and join the feast. Faithful Lawanda Mansukani was there with a table, giving out literature and speaking to those who stopped by. Tottenham Lighthouse members had an opportunity to mingle with the community.

That Sunday evening, the Prayer Ministries team held the second session in its online Bible series, 'Is the Bible Still Relevant in the Twenty-First Century?' The speaker was Pastor Dr Robert Wright, Assistant Professor at the Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica. He looked at the evidence from history and archaeology to show without a shadow of a doubt that the Bible was still relevant and could be trusted. (The first session of the Bible series, held on Sunday 3 August, had been presented by Pastor Mohan Abbadasari. He gave an overview of the areas to be covered during the series – history, archaeology, prophecy and the power of the Bible to transform lives, as well as science.) For these two sessions members and non-members from the US, Jamaica and Canada joined us via Zoom. The following presentation in the series, on Sunday 5 October, was led by Dr Ivan Milanov, Senior Lecturer at Newbold College, who spoke on the role of prophecy in proving the authenticity, enduring relevance and trustworthiness of the Bible.

At Tottenham Lighthouse, we are on a mission to reflect God's good character to those around us as salt and light in the world, 'that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven' (Matthew 5:16, KJV).

MAXINE DONOVAN, PRAYER MINISTRIES

Tottenham Lighthouse celebrates Pastor's Appreciation Day

Sabbath 11 October was designated as Pastor's Appreciation Day, and the members of Tottenham Lighthouse Church were delighted to demonstrate their love for Pastor Dr Jude Jeanville, who has served the church faithfully for nine years and counting. Pastor Kwesi Moore, South England Conference Ministerial Association Secretary, delivered the day's message, and was joined by Sharon Platt-McDonald, British Union Conference Director for Women, Health and Community Services. She read a poem of appreciation for Pastors Jeanville and Moore, and was accompanied by her husband Denzle. Pastor Jeanville's daughter Melanie and her two children travelled from Birmingham to be part of the celebration.

Guided by Auldrea Onyemenem, the children expressed their appreciation using an acronym of his name. The pastoral team also showed their appreciation with a poem written by Judy Crowe. The seniors, led by Elder Bernadette Pond, gave Pastor Jude Jeanville a gift, and members gave their love gifts, which were placed in a beautifully decorated box and presented to him. Pastor Kwesi Moore was also presented with a gift.

Instead of the planned all-night prayer and fasting, Pastor Jeanville, taking inspiration from Isaiah 58:6-8, announced that for the next seven days the church would open its doors to the homeless and those in need, providing them with a warm space, soup, sandwiches, hot drinks and much love and attention. He told the congregation that the cost would be £35 each evening, and he was seeking seven volunteers to cover each night's cost. Many hands went up, including visitors, all eager to participate.

At Tottenham Lighthouse we are thankful and blessed to have Dr Jude Jeanville as our pastor. We strongly believe that he fulfils God's promise: 'And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding' (Jeremiah 3:15, KJV).

MAXINE DONOVAN, PRAYER MINISTRIES



A dedication and harvest at Exeter

On 11 October 2025, Talia Mumbere was dedicated at Exeter Church by Pastor Ian Lorek. It was particularly poignant as Talia had been born on 18 April 2024 but had spent the first ten weeks of her life in hospital. Members had prayed for her and her anxious parents, Paul and Nanganji, especially as Talia was moved from Plymouth Hospital to Bristol when she did not seem to be making progress at first. Photos of her development from hospital to developing at home into a beautiful toddler were screened at the church. Her sister, Mwansa, read encouraging texts from Scripture before Pastor Lorek offered the prayer of dedication. Gifts for Talia and the thankful parents were presented. It was wonderful to see an enlarged congregation as many friends and family attended the service.

It was also the Harvest Festival, and the church had been tastefully decorated for the occasion. The service included a variety of musical items, readings and harvest hymns arranged by Stella Jeffery. She gave a short talk reflecting on the theme, 'Life Is a Garden – Live It', based on a poster she had seen in a garden centre. She spoke



Left to right: Mwansa, Nanganji and Paul Mumbere (holding Talia) and Pastor Ian Lorek

about the perfect environment of the Garden of Eden and the way in which Jesus often retreated to solitary and peaceful places to pray, ending with the spiritual harvest of God's world field. After the service there was an opportunity to taste God's nourishing gifts at the delicious fellowship lunch.

The non-perishable food from the harvest display was donated to St Petrock's, a charity which helps homeless people. This charity appreciates the food donations from many churches in the area, and it does amazing work for the people in Exeter who have many needs.

STELLA JEFFERY

Humanitarian mission to El Salvador

From 18 July to 1 August 2025, volunteers from Woodford Green in the UK, part of an international group of approximately thirty-five, travelled to El Salvador. The diverse group included medical professionals such as dentists, dental hygienists, general practitioners and nurses, as well as teachers and young students. The oldest volunteer was in her eighties, while the youngest was approximately 10.

The volunteers were warmly welcomed by a team of twenty internal volunteers from the Asociación Paracentral Salvadoreña, who collaborated seamlessly with the international team, supporting both medical and evangelistic initiatives aimed at serving the community.

The volunteers provided comprehensive medical and dental care, distributed glasses, and offered free massages and natural remedies at ten designated medical sites strategically located within the churches surrounding the conference venue. In two weeks the volunteers attended approximately 1,150 medical consultations, including adults and children.

The evangelistic work was conducted at thirteen churches across the conference. The nightly sessions focused on Revelation. Guided by the Holy Spirit and supported by the volunteers, approximately 155 individuals were baptised.

Dr Bernard Lendor delivered informative lectures on natural remedies and lifestyle medicine, and Aliyah Henry-Edwards, a 16-year-old female student with aspirations of becoming a medical doctor, gained valuable experience working alongside the medical team. We also dedicated some time to exploring the country's rich history and natural beauty.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to God for the opportunities we have been granted to serve, and to those who have generously sacrificed their time to support our missionary endeavours. As we eagerly anticipate the imminent return of Christ, let us continue to support one another in spreading the Gospel and the health message throughout the world.

WINSTON WILLIAMS, WOODFORD GREEN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Train Them 2 Fish – team and volunteers

Hatina Guchu (1962-2025) d. 24 July.

It is with great sadness that the Barnsley church reports the passing of our dear sister, Hatina Guchu. One of ten children, Hatina was born on 8 March 1962 in Makoni District Rusape, Zimbabwe to Elizabeth Tsungo and Shadrack Nyawiri, whose devout faith as Seventh-day Adventists was a role model for Hatina in her youth and throughout her adult life.

She met her husband Israel in Nyazura and they married in 1982, to be blessed with three loving children – Sheba, Destiny and Tino – followed by six grandchildren.

Eventually Hatina and Israel settled in Barnsley, where she quickly became a ‘mother’ to many of the younger members of the churches in and around Barnsley. Her skills as a qualified teacher and social worker were enhanced by her love for people and her Lord. Hatina was someone who radiated kindness, humour, strength, love, faith, humility and patience to all those around her, and was well known throughout the church family as a prayer warrior, dedicated to sharing her love for Jesus with all she met locally and wherever she travelled to. People remember her and speak of her with great fondness and love. This was shown by the 300 or so people who travelled from across the British Isles to attend her funeral in Barnsley, and the many more who followed the service online. A ‘guard of honour’ consisting of Dorcas Society members dressed in their green uniforms lined the driveway and entrance of the church as a mark of the great respect and love that all had for Hatina. The service was conducted by Pastors Alan Hush, Derek Simon and Jairaj Kanakaraj. Many moving tributes were given by her family and friends, all attesting to Hatina’s compassion and concern for others, even when she herself was so ill.

It is hard to capture a life as vibrant and meaningful as Hatina’s in just a few words; but she leaves a legacy of love, joy and faith in Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, Hatina lost her battle with cancer, but we believe



she won her spiritual battles, and that we shall meet her again on that wonderful resurrection morning.

MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: NOKU GUCHU (GRANDDAUGHTER)

Ronald George Waldron (1935-2025)

d. 12 September.

Exeter Church members were very sad to hear of the death of Ron Waldron on 12 September 2025, just two months before his 90th birthday. Ron was Devon-born and bred. In his late teens he met his wife, Angela, who came from a small village not far from Exeter. They were devoted to each other and were married for over sixty years. They had two children, Michael and Nicola, who remained living near their parents even when they married. As Nicola said in her eulogy, her father prioritised the needs of others in the family. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Ron was a hard worker and a bricklayer by trade. For a while he also sold commodities to farmers and travelled widely. He was a keen gardener and maintained a neat garden filled with vegetables and flowers as well as lawns.

Ron and Angela became Seventh-day Adventists in the early eighties after attending a campaign by Pastor Derek Marley. Ron was appointed as a deacon and he often helped the ADRA agent to count the money. His wife was one of our star collectors, and he was very proud of her tireless work for ADRA. They both had compassionate hearts and supported a number of charities. They loved nature and animals. Ron knew his way around many nature walks and would lead out on church walks, which were very much appreciated by the members.

Pastor Ian Lorek conducted Ron’s funeral service at the Exeter Crematorium on 2 October 2025. He referred to Ron’s love of nature, which was reflected in the first hymn, ‘How Great Thou Art’. Pastor Lorek talked about summer turning to autumn with the plants dying back, echoing what the mourners were now facing. In life, nothing stays the same, and



the biggest change is the passing of a loved one. However, he pointed out that God does not change. He is our refuge and strength. Pastor Lorek read various scripture texts giving a promise of eternal life and said that Ron was now waiting for the resurrection call. Yet he stressed that Jesus understood our grief and He wept when Lazarus died, even though He knew He would resurrect him. Jesus was moved by the grieving people. Pastor Lorek later quoted from that story by reading John 11:25 (NIV): ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.’

The Exeter members pray that God will support Ron’s wife and family at this time, and they look forward to the day when Ron will be rejuvenated when Jesus returns.

STELLA JEFFERY

Messenger

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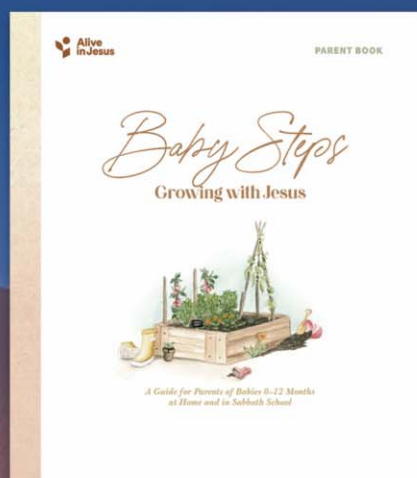
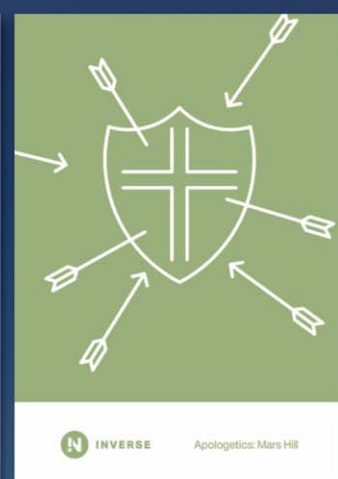
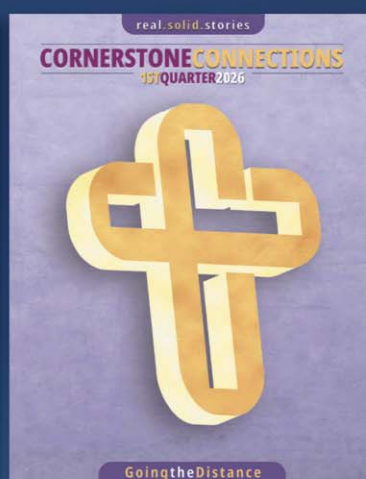
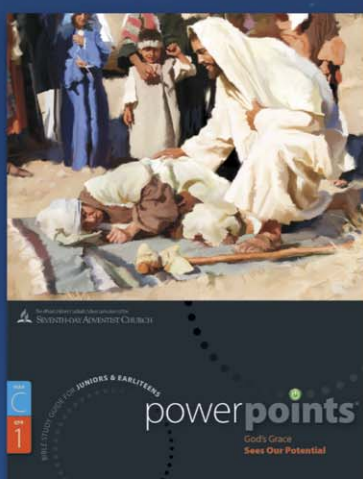
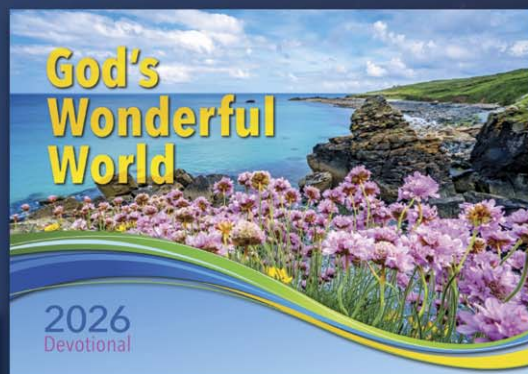
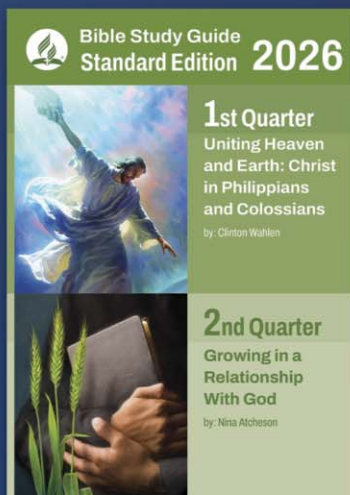


Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Dec 5	3.53	4.05	3.50	3.41	4.00
12	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
19	3.53	4.05	3.49	3.39	3.59
26	3.57	4.09	3.53	3.43	4.03
Jan 2	4.03	4.14	4.00	3.51	4.10

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