WELSH MISSION NEWSLETTER

AMBASSADORS OF HOPE

MINGLING, MINISTERING, WINNING CONFIDENCE, TEACHING, INVITING TO FOLLOW

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

SUMMER BAPTISMS

Andy & Ania Nawrot chose to be baptised in the sea at **Aberyswyth** on 22 August.



Pastor Jeremy Johnson, Welsh Mission President conducted the baptism, supported by the Executive Secretary, Pastor Adriana Fodor.

Andy & Ania both come from Poland but their paths to faith were shaped by very different backgrounds and experiences. Although their journeys were inter-connected at times, God reached each of them personally in distinct ways.

Andy *grew up in an Adventist home and got baptised while he was still young but left the church when he finished university. Later he met Ania who became his life partner and they continued their journey together for over 20 years. Ania was a non-believer/ athiest, while Andy was a non-practising believer.*

For many years, Andy was far away from God, struggling to pray and read the Bible and not going to church. Then, after experiencing problems at his workplace, he went into depression.



Andy's turning point came during one of his visits back home to Poland where he attended a festival and learned about his school friend who had been diagnosed with brain cancer. The friend had only a few weeks to live, and Andy gave regular support to his friend. He was deeply impacted by this experience and decided "I need to change my life, I cannot continue like this." He started to read the Bible again and turned back to God. Then he started to keep the Sabbath along with his son, to the surprise of his wife Ania who was amazed by the sudden change in her husband's life. Andy's conversion back to God created an ongoing spiritual conflict between the two of them, as he continued to make changes in his life.



"Mum, don't you understand that above the Universe is God who created the Universe?"

***Ania** was raised in a traditional Catholic family, with no Bible knowledge but left the church in her teenage years. She often struggled with the Catholic beliefs and confessing her sins to a priest. No explanations were given to her questions and she was told she just needed to follow the traditions.*

A tragic accident happened during a school trip and the priest blamed the teenagers. She became a strong athiest due to her experiences with the Catholic church.

Over the years, Ania started to adopt lifestyle changes regarding health, a positive mindset, and she explored country living. The family later moved to Wales.

Andy continued to read the Bible and talk to her about it. She decided to read the Bible to find reasons to convince him against his beliefs. But instead, she found so much wisdom and relevancy for life in the Bible. While Andy prayed to God, Ania would pray to the Universe. One day, their son asked her: "Mum, don't you understand that above the universe is God who created the universe?" That made her re-think her logic.

She prayed to God and said "If you are true, show me the truth." After watching the series of 'Total Onslaught' she turned to her husband with great excitement saying, "I understand it now! Tell me more. What shall I do now? Shall I get baptised? "
That led to both of them preparing for baptism with the help of a pastor from Poland.

Ania was still very hesitant about attending any church but was happy to keep the Sabbath at home and have a relationship with the Lord away from the church. Before attending a Seventh-day Adventist church for the first time with Andy, she asked God to give her a sign and God spoke to her through a dream, giving her a sign when she first visited the Carmarthen church. God removed her fears and hesitation about church.
The family later became regular attendees at the Aberystwyth group where they were welcomed and supported on their spiritual journey.

***Newport church** also celebrated the baptism of three individuals on 22 August. The service was deeply personal and filled with meaningful moments.*

Evanique sang her favourite song alongside her mother, Lorna Green, and sister Lornique Green - a powerful family testimony of faith and unity.

Tyrese invited his twin brother to read his favourite Scripture, 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, highlighting the theme of new creation and reconciliation in Christ.

Elizabeth's Story

Elizabeth was raised in a strict Catholic home and first learned about Seventh-day Adventists through Bible studies with a friend. As she searched Scripture, she realised the teachings she was discovering were biblical and she "only needed Jesus Christ." Her walk with God deepened and she began striving daily for a closer relationship with Him.

She was warmly welcomed on her first visit to Newport church, and this marked a turning point in her spiritual journey.



Evanique Methuen, Tyrese Nyamayaro, Elizabeth Scarpato

She was deeply moved when Pastor David Rancic prayed for her and her mother, who was awaiting surgery for a potentially cancerous growth. She left the church feeling as though she had "come home," and when her mother's operation was successful, she saw it as a direct answer to prayer.

Over the years, Elizabeth experienced many struggles, especially with her children, but she testified that "Jesus carried me during this time," and the prayers of the church family sustained her. She expressed gratitude for the pastors who supported her journey, including Pastors David Rancic, Luca Zagara, Jovan Adamovic and more recently Sam Semakula and his wife Shola.

Following an unexpected message inviting her to join the baptismal Bible study, Scripture began to open to her in a new way, giving her "tunnel vision for Jesus" and helping her block out distractions. With conviction and joy, she declared that she has decided to follow Jesus as her Lord and Saviour and "there is no turning back."

BUC PATHFINDER CAMPOREE BAPTISMS

Six Welsh Mission Pathfinders publicly declared their commitment to Jesus through baptism at the '*Image Bearers*' British Union Conference's Camporee. Their baptism marked both a personal milestone and a shared celebration for the clubs and church family supporting their walk with Christ.



Pictured left to right: Mellinda (Cardiff International), Hannah and Velentina (Telford), Pastor Jeremy Johnson, Mitchell Jr (Telford), Seth (Newtown), Aneshe (Telford)

More on the Camporee can be found on page 8



Pastor Jeremy Johnson, had the joy of baptising 7 individuals at Carmarthen church on 26 September - Evans Onyango, Winnie Odhiambo, Nokuthula Mututa, Fadazi Mbofana, Reuel Nobela, Uchechi Okwudire and Davinelle Speid.

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

Mid & North Wales Youth Day

Telford Ghana church hosted the Welsh Mission's Mid and North Wales Youth Day on 18 July.

During Sabbath school, the young people divided into small groups to discuss the question: "Why are young people leaving the church, and what makes others choose to stay?" The discussion encouraged honest conversations between generations, helping churches to understand how they can better support young people in their faith journeys.

The Divine Service focused on the theme "*Tomorrow Starts Today*" highlighting how the choices, habits and priorities established today can shape tomorrow. The message encouraged young people to take responsibility for their spiritual growth and consider how their present decisions align with the future God has for them.



More on this story can be found on the website https://adventist.wales/news/mid-and-north-wales-youth-day-tomorrow-starts-today

Youth Congress Valencia

Young people from across the Trans-European Division (TED) gathered in Valencia, Spain, 4-9 August for a youth congress themed "Made for More"



The Welsh Mission delegation had opportunity to connect with young people from across the British Union Conference (BUC) and the wider Division, strengthening their sense of belonging to a broader community of young Adventists.

The Congress invited participants to reflect on the fullness of life God desires for them and to consider who they are becoming in response to His calling. Pastor Ivana Mendez led the morning devotions, exploring three themes: made for belonging, made for believing, and made for becoming, using the story of Abram to encourage reflection on identity, faith and spiritual growth. Morning devotions were followed by small-group discussions and a variety of workshops, allowing participants to explore the themes in greater depth and learn from one another.

More on this story can be found on the website
https://adventist.wales/news/ayc-valencia-made-for-more

STEWARDSHIP

Crystal Knight continues to promote the Grateful Living series as she visits churches. During the summer she visited Rhyl and Wrexham congregations.



Above - some members of Wrexham
Below - some members of Rhyl



As well as using the GC Stewardship Offertory videos and readings, Telford church have also been sharing treasury reports with their local church in the interest of transparency and collaborative working.

GC Stewardship Offertory videos have short stories or reflections on what God has done for us.

https://stewardship.adventist.org/youtube-offertory-videos

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP



The children were invited to dedicate their talents to the Lord and wrote their talents on leaves for a prayer tree.

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening

The Children's Day at Newport on 25 July facilitated by Jane Wells, Children's Ministries Sponsor and Josephine Dorh, Newport Children's Ministries leader, focused on the story of Samuel. The children performed the story of Samuel and spoke clearly and looked amazing in their Bible time costumes.

The aim of the programme was to encourage children to see themselves as loved, unique servants of the Lord who can join in the amazing task of telling others about Jesus.

The whole church participated in interactive prayers centred around dedicating our gifts to the Lord and praying for the start of new things in the community.

REAL HEROES

Children from the Aberystwyth church have been watching the adults give away Adventist literature in the High Street and asked if they could do their own book distribution to other children and adults.

They painted a banner with the name of the main book to be distributed, *Real Heroes*, which they fixed to the front of the book table. They set up their table on New Quay promenade next to a packed beach on a hot sunny day in August and gave away about 100 adult and children's books which had been bought from the Stanborough Press.

Many members of the public were happy to let their children choose books from the table.



The children also gave away soap and book markers which they had made.

PROVIDING BIBLICAL TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP

More than 60 Welsh Mission (WM) Pathfinders spent a week making friends worshipping, and enjoying adventure at the British Union Conference Camporee held from 28 July to 2 August. Alongside the excitement of gathering with fellow Pathfinders, the week offered opportunities to grow closer to Jesus and put faith into practice.



The Welsh Mission's Drum Corps and Drill Team had the honour of performing at the opening ceremony, with other WM Pathfinders helping lead proceedings.

In their burgundy berets and smart uniforms, beneath the 'Image Bearers' stage emblem, they represented the Mission with discipline and teamwork. Behind their performance were the time, preparation and commitment of both the young people and their leaders.

BUC PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

'IMAGE BEARERS'



There were opportunities for leaders to learn, too. Tamani Khuoge, a newly invested WM Master Guide, gained valuable experience working alongside seasoned BUC camporee organisers. Learning about the planning and service behind the programme gave her insight into the work that makes these gatherings possible.

Pastor Damian Chandra, a youth speaker from the United States, encouraged participants to deepen their relationship with Christ.

Speaking on the theme 'Image Bearers', he directed their attention to what it means to follow Jesus in daily life.

For six WM Pathfinders, that invitation to follow Jesus led to one of the week's most moving moments as they were baptised by Pastor Jeremy Johnson, WM President. See report on page 4

> "WM Pathfinders returned with memories to treasure and encouragement to relect Christ in their churches and communities."

Jonathan Nyengani, the WM Pathfinder Sponsor, also coordinated Roverland for more than 280 participants aged 16-19.

PATHFINDERS





During the last weekend of August, the Swansea Pathfinder Club participated in a Camporee held in Gower. The camp provided young people with opportunities to develop practical skills, teamwork, leadership, discipline and independence, while strengthening their spiritual growth and relationships with one another.

WORLD PATHFINDER DAY

Newport Church celebrated World Pathfinder Day with a vibrant display of youth leadership, community partnership, and answered prayer. Jonathan Nyengani, the Welsh Mission Pathfinder sponsor, preached for the special service and worked closely with Debra Mudimu, Newport's Pathfinder Director and her team to organise a meaningful day of worship and outreach.

Throughout the morning, heavy rain poured across Newport, with forecasts predicting continued rainfall during the planned afternoon community march. During the service, the Pathfinders prayed specifically that God would hold back the rain so they could go out, meet people, and share literature in the city centre. In a remarkable turn, the rain stopped, the sun broke through, and Newport's town centre quickly filled with people - creating perfect conditions for the outreach.



Thanks to the strong relationship Pastor Samuel Semakula has built with local policing teams, Newport Central and Newport East Neighbourhood Policing Teams provided support and an official escort for the march. The newly formed Newport Pathfinder Drum Corp made its debut.

The police and public response was encouraging and the police posted the following on their Facebook page.

Gwent Police - Newport Officers
20 September at 10:23 ·

🌟It was fantastic to see officers from Newport Central and Newport East Neighbourhood Policing Teams joining local young people from the Pathfinders group at the Seventh Day Adventist Church for a march through Newport city centre. 🚶‍♀️🚶‍♂️💙
The event helped raise awareness of important issues affecting our communities, including sexual offences, knife crime and personal safety. The young people showed great enthusiasm, confidence and commitment to sharing positive messages, helping to educate others and encouraging conversations around these important topics. 👏✨
It is always a pleasure to work alongside young people who are passionate about making a positive difference in their communities. Their dedication and willingness to raise awareness of current issues is inspiring and demonstrates the important role young people play in creating safer neighbourhoods for everyone. 🤝😊

A huge thank you to all those who took part and supported the event. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! 💙



PROMOTING SOCIAL INTERACTION WITHIN OUR CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES

Aberystwyth University Freshers Day

Members from the Aberystwyth church hired a stall at the Freshers Day at Aberystwyth University on 24 September.

Many of the students asked about the Daniel 2 image on their banner and they were able to offer a tract explaining this.

Students were curious to know who they were and many had questions about the Bible. One young lady had many questions about the Bible and took a Bible and some tracts.

A young man who had received a book during one of their distributions on Aberystwyth High Street, took several other books from them.



They also gave out fliers advertising the Creation Day they plan to hold in November.

PROMOTING SOCIAL INTERACTION WITHIN OUR CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES



On 9 August the Swansea church organised a sponsored walk to raise funds for the local Pathfinder Club. This initiative combined physical activity, community participation and fundraising in support of youth development. The event also provided an opportunity to promote fellowship.

Newport members visited Reene Court Care Home for the Sabbath School Day on 26 September. They sang hymns, offered encouragement, and spent time with residents. Residents asked for particular hymns to be sung and mentioned how som of the songs brought back fond memories of their childhood and family.





Dear Silverline and Team,

On behalf of everyone at the Reene House, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for taking the time to visit us and share your wonderful singing.

Your kindness, dedication, and willingness to come and perform brought great joy to our residents and staff alike. The music created a warm and uplifting atmosphere, and it was evident how much everyone appreciated the opportunity to listen, sing along, and enjoy your company.

Thank you for making such a positive difference to our day. Your support, generosity, and community spirit are truly valued, and we are very grateful for the effort you made to spend time with us.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the future.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation,

Egle

"Thank you for making such a positive difference to our day."

"Your kindness, dedication, and willingness to come and perform brought great joy to our residents and staff alike. The music created a warming and uplifting atmosphere."

PROMOTING HOLISTIC WELL-BEING

The Swansea church continues to provide a free breakfast service every week for members of the local community, with particular consideration for elderly individuals and those living alone.

This initiative offers not only practical assistance but also companionship, social interaction and a welcoming environment for people who may otherwise experience loneliness or isolation.

Weekly Free Breakfast

Free Weekly Community Exercise Classes

Free weekly exercise classes continue to be offered by the Swansea church to the community, encouraging participants to maintain active and healthy lifestyles. These sessions, led by Jackie Jones, promote physical fitness, social interaction and overall wellbeing. Open to people of different ages and backgrounds, participants build friendships, enjoy conversation and support one another in a warm and welcoming environment.



"Before joining the exercise class, I felt lonely and struggled with everyday activities, including going up and down the stairs at home.

Since becoming part of the fitness group, I have gained greater confidence, made new friends, and found something to look forward to each week."

The Friends and Neighbours Club continues to meet weekly at Swansea church, providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for community members to socialise and build friendship. The club plays an important role in reducing social isolation and fosters a sense of belonging among participants.

Weekly Friends and Neighbours Club

PROMOTING HOLISTIC WELL-BEING



The Newport Health Department, led by Mary Nyengani, took advantage of the yearly Pill Carnival, to set up a health stall which allowed the church to engage the community by offering free health checks and literature. They also sold vegan food, snacks and smoothies using the smoothie bike, which always attracts attention.

"We were able to encourage a lady who used to attend church, but blamed God when she lost her grandson to cancer. We encouraged her about God's love and were able to give her a broader perspective on the unseen war in the great controversy that she had not considered until our conversation."



YSTRAD MYNACH TASTING SESSION

The Ystrad Mynach church members came together for a food tasting session led by Loraine Harris on a sunny Sunday in August. The idea originated during a Sabbath fellowship lunch when members were asking to have the recipes for the dishes they enjoyed. The session started with an interactive quiz and discussion on different food items and seasonings found in the Bible. The table was laid out with a variety of delicious dishes which represented the multicultural make up of the congregation. Due to space constraints in the church, the food was prepared at home and brought to share with everyone, with each person describing how they made their dish.

Jane Wells shared how her dish came from a recipe book produced by the church many years ago. The proceeds from the sale of that recipe book were used to sponsor some of their young people to go on a mission trip overseas.



PASTORAL CHANGES
FAREWELL TO LAWRENCE OFEI



Pastor Lawrence Ofei left the Welsh Mission at the end of July to serve with the North England Conference. Lawrence joined the Welsh Mission in 2024, pastoring Wrexham and Telford Ghana during the past two years. We wish Lawrence every blessing in his new endeavours.

ADRA

What if your kindness could make a difference every single month?

Across the world, people face poverty, hunger, disasters and crisis that can change lives in an instant. Through our humanitarian and development work, ADRA responds to these needs, bringing hope, practical support and lasting change to communities around the world.

But our work does not stop when one emergency ends. Needs continue all year round, long after the headlines fade and the crises are no longer making the daily news.

That's where you can make a real difference as an ADRA Angel.

Who is an ADRA Angel?
An ADRA Angel is someone who chooses to support ADRA with a regular monthly gift. It could be £5, £10, £20 or whatever amount is right for you. No amount is too small or too large. You can choose the amount you're comfortable giving each month.

Your regular gift is powerful. It helps ADRA plan ahead, respond more quickly when emergencies happen and continue supporting people and communities long after the immediate crisis has passed.



Be the reason help arrives every month!

ADRA Angels

Thanks to all the pastors, sponsors, elders and local communication teams for your contributions to this report.

Special thanks to our assistant Communications Sponsor, Crystal Knight who, since April, has updated the Welsh Mission website adventist.wales with news articles and posters advertising events. She has also submitted articles to *The Messenger* so a wider audience can see what God is doing within Wales and the border counties.